

The Urban Augmented Reality app shows the Amsterdam Stock Exchange by Zocher, which was demolished in 1903 to make place for the department store that now occupies the spot.



Don't have a smartphone yet? Whether you want to improve your workflow or just procrastinate in style, it's time to get one.

Text Katya Tylevich

There are conversion calculators and LEED acronym glossaries; there are apps to help the architect run a business, manage time, manage money, engineer, draft and draw. Technical apps that get fancy with CAD and do inches-to-metres brainwork: just think of all the lawsuits you and your engineers can avoid. Apps that do exactly what they promise to do. Apps with serious intentions and even more serious price tags. Apps geared to help you help others. Respectable apps comparable to the 'salad aisle' at the grocery store. But for every salad aisle, you'll find one filled with junk food; an app tailored specifically to the form of an architect's procrastination, it crowds the brain with architecture trivia, questionable 'facts', unnecessary details, shiny pictures and big ideas. Take ArchitectureTube, for example, an app that holds itself to be an 'architecture video lounge'; an architect's MTV of sorts, it narrows down the crap you find on the web to the crap you find on the web after googling 'architecture videos'. (Yes, the hits include music videos by a band called Architecture in Helsinki).

Among the numerous 'travel' apps are those comprising the Archimaps Digital series, which uses GPS to guide architecture aficionados through cities like Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, Paris, London, Moscow and Venice. The Bauhaus-Archiv app, courtesy of the Bauhaus Archive/Museum of Design in Berlin, doesn't even require users to travel to Berlin; it offers a narrated tour of the collection and the building (original design by Gropius) with all the benefits of sitting at home and not having to talk to anybody. Still other apps break news of the latest in modern architecture, even when the latest is less than inspiring. What follows are descriptions of seven of the more distinctive apps that beckon architects from both sides of our hypothetical grocery store. Some are simple and wholesome, some are loaded with additives, and some cause side effects – do you hear voices telling you what to do and where to go? Deep breath. That's just the GPS talking.

What follows is an extensive yet not all-inclusive list of architecture apps currently available from iTunes and Android Market. Unsurprisingly, iTunes has a much larger collection of apps that specifically target architects at this moment. Windows Marketplace and Blackberry App World have very little to offer for architects. By providing our readers with this list, we at *Mark* are neither recommending these apps nor promoting their purchase or use. However, the selection offers a good idea of the various types of apps that are for sale in their respective categories.

Engineering

Frame Design 2D © Dako

Free (Android Market)
Analyzes force distribution, deflection and tension in 2D structures.

Steel Design © Dako

Free (Android Market)
Determines the elastic stress at the top and in the middle of a beam. Axial force, double shear and double bending are included.

Concrete Design © Dako

Free (Android Market)
Determines the amount of reinforcement in a concrete beam for preliminary design.

BeamBuddy © 2010 Martyn Griffiths & James Adrian Adams S.E.

Free (iTunes)
Analyses 2D beam structural loading problems with 32 loading conditions.

Wood Beam Calculator © Frost Development

Free (Android Market)
Sizes wood members and checks stress and deflection.

inchCALC © River Studio

€1.59 (iTunes)
Foot-inch-fraction construction calculator.

Brick Dimension Chart & Calc+ © ArchiApps

€1.70 (Android Market)
Quantifies brick walls for ordering or estimating purposes.

A-Beam HD © 2011 Anan Ratanasethakul

€2.99 (iTunes)
Analyses 2D beam

structural loading problems with any combination of supports and loads.

Multi Scale © Core Signals LLC

€2.99 (iTunes)
Displays common architectural and engineering scales and takes approximate measurements from scaled drawings.

inchCALC+ © River Studio

€3.99 (iTunes)
Advanced version of the inchCALC construction calculator, with built-in triangle function.

Measure Master Pro © 2011 Calculated Industries, Inc.

€4.99 (iTunes)
€4.21 (Android Market)
Advanced version of the foot-inch-fraction and metric-conversion calculator.

Architect's Formulator © MultiEducator Inc

€7.99 (iTunes)
Over 400 formulas related to building engineering, electricity and acoustics.

A-Truss HD © 2011 Anan Ratanasethakul

€7.99 (iTunes)
Analyses 2D truss structural loading problems, with 19 types of standard trusses and custom truss feature.

Home Energy Performance Pro © Creative Medias Ltd

€9.85 (Android Market)
Generates an energy efficiency score directly related to specific regulations and green building standards.

BuildCalc - Advanced Construction Calculator © 42nd Parallel

€15.99 (iTunes)
€14.01 (Android Market)
Construction calculator that helps determine, among other things, the rise and tread of stairs.

Architactile Inception © Architactile LLC

€399.99 (iTunes)
Accelerates early project definition by developing preliminary scopes, conceptual budgets, bubble diagrams and total project cost analysis.

Drawing & Viewing

AutoCAD WS © Autodesk Inc.

Free (iTunes and Android Market)
App for viewing, editing and sharing DWG files with others.

TurboViewer © 2011 IMSI/Design, LLC

Free (iTunes)
Drawing viewer (2D and 3D) compatible with native DXF/DWG files.

Tracing Paper © Hesham Wahba

€1.59 (iTunes)
A translucent canvas with grid for use in tracing any photo in the background.

uSketchit+ © uSketchit+

€2.39 (iTunes)
Mobile viewing of drawings in BMP or JPG format, with 'butter paper' film and virtual tracing pen.

GraphPad © Robert Shawhan

€2.99 (iTunes)
Architectural drawing app with simple interface.

Architect XL © Marco Palazzetti

€7.99 (iTunes)
Facilitates precise floor-plan drawing in native DXF format.

SightSpace 3D © 2011 Limitless Computing Inc.

€11.99 (iTunes)
Mobile viewing of Google SketchUp design, with augmented reality engine.

TurboViewer Pro © 2011 IMSI/Design, LLC

€15.99 (iTunes)
Advanced version of the 2D and 3D drawing viewer, compatible with native DXF/DWG files.

iCad (iTunes) Red Stick Site CAD (Android Market)

© Spatial Pty Ltd
€37.99 (iTunes)
€35.51 (Android Market)
Measure with laser device or tape and let iCad create a 3D IFC file, compatible with all standard drawing programmes.

OrthoGraph Architect © 2011 ProFM Inc.

€39.99 (iTunes)
CAD app that lets users sketch and create a survey for the production of detailed floor plans.

Surveying & Punch Lists

D-Measures Free © D-Solutions

Free (Android Market)
Saves measurements on photos and includes ads (the paid version costs €1.99 and doesn't show ads).

SpeedPunch © 2011 Knockout Designs LLC

Free (iTunes)
Generates punch lists for construction projects.

'You've just been Zaha-ed'



Zaha Hadid
© Zaha Hadid/Woobius
Free (iTunes)

The 'official app' of Zaha Hadid Architects doubles as a battle cry for image control. Hadid will not stand idly by and have abridged, mangled versions of her Wikipedia entry serve as her ambassador within the dominion of half-baked architecture apps; instead, Hadid takes matters into her own hands with a squeaky-clean interface and ZHA info, courtesy of her offices, bypassing some kid who thinks he's architecture's Julian Assange. Hadid's app includes 'news', 'about us', and well-organized project descriptions and photos: info available on her website, of course, though it is notably more fun to scroll through images with only the tip of a finger. In its 'appier' moments, the software pinpoints a user's whereabouts in relation to ZHA works around the globe. When fully developed (not yet), the 'Your Zaha' section will allow the user to tour Zaha majors like MAXXI, the London Aquatics Centre, and Guangzhou Opera House using the smartphone as an interactive guide. This feature allows you to think you're curating your own tour of the buildings, when really you've just been Zaha-ed. Enjoy the manipulation. Reviews of the new app are certainly enthusiastic; most customer evaluations read something like: Greatest iPhone app ever. The Hadid app may eventually become one among many created by architecture firms, but for now it is unique. A taste of things to come, perhaps, when every architect in the world will be able to earmark your exact location and hold your hand while you tour his or her building: Oh no! You don't want to go in there! Check out the lobby instead. Can I recommend a nearby Starbucks while we're at it?

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Urban Augmented Reality
 © Netherlands Architecture Institute
 Free (iTunes and Android Market)

Among the most ambitious mobile architecture apps of its kind, UAR takes a page from Wikitude and allows users to pick up their smartphones, point at a project site and – wait for it – see a 3D image of a building presently under construction as it should look upon completion. UAR also shows buildings that once comprised an area, as well as buildings that could have: scale models and design drawings of buildings that were in the running for the site in question but were never realized. It's like walking through a city crowded with architecture ghosts and losers who just won't go away. (Please don't take offence; some of you are still winners in our book.) Quite amazing, really, and democratic as well: users can add buildings and anecdotes to the app and, if desired, connect it to Facebook. Among the more practical features of UAR are plans and historical photos of buildings and sites; it also has architect biographies on tap and suggested walking tours. The only requirement is a phone with a camera, compass and GPS. And you have to be located in the Netherlands, since the app is available only in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague, and Den Bosch (Utrecht and Almere are on the waiting list). Though limited by geography, the app is certainly worth mentioning, because it whets the palate for other cities: write to your local government representative and demand that an app like this one be available wherever you live or travel.

Camera Architect
 © Damjan Irgolic
 €0.79 (iTunes)
 Camera with integrated grid, ruler and protractor.

Planimeter
 © Core Signals LLC
 €2.99 (iTunes)
 Measures map distances and land areas.

My Measures & Dimensions
 © Mobile Software
 €3.99 (Android Market)
 Saves measurements on photos of rooms that have been surveyed.

Photo Measures
 © Big Blue Pixel
 €3.99 (iTunes)
 Saves measurements on photos of rooms that have been surveyed.

PunchList
 © Julian Clayton
 €5.49 (iTunes)
 Makes notes on architectural drawings for the purpose of inspection reports.

ArchiPad
 © Bigsool
 €479.99 (iTunes)
 Manages on-site meetings and sends reports, punch lists and drawings with item locations to the office.

Glossaries & Reference

Design Dimensions
 © Arc Mist LLC
 Free (Android Market)
 A visual database of commonly referenced, building-related items and their corresponding dimensions.

Pocket Architect
 © Pixid Ltd
 Free (iTunes)
 Quick reference guide detailing architectural elements and techniques.

ARCAT
 © Arcat, Inc.
 Free (iTunes)
 Building-product and manufacturers' info, as well as libraries for CAD details, BIM content and specifications.

Architectural Product Master
 © YKK AP America Inc.
 Free (iTunes)
 Detailed information on building products from Japanese fenestration manufacturer YKK.

Architonic
 © Architonic
 Free (iTunes; quarterly subscription available for €3.99)
 Database of building materials and products.

LEED® Checklist
 © 2010-2011 Goede & Associates
 €0.79 (iTunes)
 Assesses a project's LEED status.

Architecture Abbreviations
 © Little Apps
 €1.13 (Android Market)
 Study partner with quizzes, flash cards and a dictionary of over 567 abbreviations.

LEED® Acronyms
 © 2010-2011 Goede & Associates
 €1.59 (iTunes)
 Features over 200 of the most commonly used acronyms, abbreviations and organizations.

LEED® Definitions
 © 2010-2011 Goede & Associates
 €1.59 (iTunes)
 Provides over 150 definitions used throughout the building industry.

I.D. Wood
 © 2009-2011 Jordan Silberman
 €3.99 (iTunes)
 Contains images of timber, with descriptions and references, for use in identifying wood.

Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Oxford Dictionary
 © 2011 Handmark, Inc.
 €11.99 (iTunes)
 Dictionary of architecture with over 6,000 entries and more than 250 drawings.

Kaplan Architecture Registration Exam (ARE) 4.0 Flashcards and Reference
 © 2009 Kaplan, Inc.
 €39.99 (iTunes)
 €33.99 (Android Market)
 Database of over 1,800 commonly used architecture terms.

Archiflash 4.0
 © 2011 Nalsa Publishing
 €109.99 (iTunes)
 Flashcard study for the Architect Registration Examination.

Rags & Tabloids

Architect Magazine Reader
 © RR Donnelley
 Free (iTunes)
 Magazine reader offering the same content as the printed Architect magazine.

Architect News
 © Hanley Wood, LLC
 Free (iTunes)
 News from the website of Architect magazine.

Architecture Quiz
 © Zuzertu
 €1.59 (iTunes)

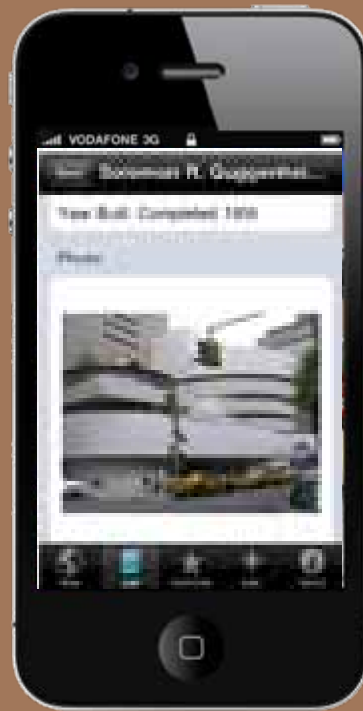
World Architecture Quiz
 © 2011 SageMilk
 €0.79 (iTunes)
 €0.89 (Android Market)

What is the Architecture Quiz app, if not a form of self-punishment for the masochistic architect? Zuzertu's multiple-choice questions on architecture vary in difficulty from 'Don't insult me' to 'I hate myself for not knowing this'. Buried in these questions is a regard for name-dropping, which forces the user to recall a canonical who's who of modern-day architects in order to answer correctly. It's a 'go big or go home' mentality that does earn you, after all, a 'Great work!' at the end of ten questions. Don't know when Frank Gehry won the Pritzker Architecture Prize? Well, then, 'Better luck next time'. Oh, and better luck keeping your small firm afloat, too, because your name certainly hasn't appeared as an answer to any of the questions. 'Who is the 2009 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate?' Not you. 'Which project won the RIBA Stirling Prize for Architect in 2008?' Not yours. 'What nationality was architect Alvar Aalto?' Seriously, why is this a question? 'In what civilization did the earliest recorded use of concrete occur?' Stop it. There is a less humiliating alternative for the architect who loves trivia: an app called World Architecture Quiz, which also features multiple-choice questions but is more pedagogic in its approach, offering flashcards, a glossary, and feedback by way of an e-mail 'quiz report card'. Still, there's something to be said for the tough love of Architecture Quiz, which barks only 'Correct!' or 'Incorrect!' and gives you the right answer as if you should have known better. It might remind some architects of grad school. Who's nostalgic?



'The app might remind some architects of grad school'

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4



Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings Locator
© MapMuse
€2.39 (iTunes)

In Los Angeles, tourists who know no boundaries can buy 'star maps', which spell out the exact locations of celebrity homes so that voyeurs, predators and super-fans may stalk those celebrities more readily. In the world of architecture, the equivalent of a 'star map' is the Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings Locator: an app that discloses the exact locations, brief historical synopses and photographs of Frank Lloyd Wright homes across the globe. It's very simple, really: Pop in the name or postcode (that's a 'zip code' in the USA) of whatever neighbourhood you happen to be driving your windowless van through, and instantly find out which nearby Mayan Revival Style has windows big enough to look into – I mean, has textile blocks worth analysing. Submit a comment or photo of the home for review, rate the place and check out others' ratings (hey, which asshole gave Hollyhock House only two stars?) and enjoy a detailed satellite-map view of the location in question.

It's a satisfyingly interactive app, which must thrill those people living in Frank Lloyd Wright homes to no end. Oh, that's right; sometimes it even says who those people are. Yes, we've established that the FLW app is of interest to various sickos and perverts, but we also assume that it is of interest to architects, because architects, we further assume, are interested in Frank Lloyd Wright. This app is a wonderful device for showing off an encyclopaedic knowledge of a legendary figure, especially in the presence of people who don't design for a living. A particularly nice tool for dazzling companions on a road trip across the United States. They'll love it when they ask you to pull over at a rest stop, and you take them to a privately owned Usonian instead. LOL.

It's an interactive app, which must thrill those people living in Frank Lloyd Wright homes to no end'

WAN Latest News
© World Architecture News
Free (iTunes and Android Market)
News in architecture from around the world.

SkyscraperCity Forums
© End of Time Studios, LLC
Free (iTunes and Android Market)
App allowing access to the eponymous architecture forum.

de Architect interieur
© 2011 Sdu b.v.
Free (iTunes)
A single-edition, bilingual (Dutch-English), interior-architecture publication made for the 2011 Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan.

Builder News
© 2011 Hanley Wood, LLC
Free (iTunes)
News, design and product articles from Builder magazine, based on builderonline.com.

Abitare
© Abitare
Free (iTunes)
Magazine reader. In-app purchase of one issue costs €2.39.

Monu
© Tri Active Media 2011
€14.99 (iTunes)
Magazine reader offering the same content as the printed Monu magazine.

Gluttony

Integral City
© Tesoc Hah
Free (Android Market)
Game on the occasion of the Game + Interactive Art Exhibition in the Museum of Art at the Seoul National University from March to April 2011.

Quake Builder
© 2011 Stormystudio
Free (iTunes)
Game in which you design a tower of blocks that can withstand an earthquake.

Architect Quotes
© Narble Games
Free (Android Market)
Famous quotes from famous architects.

Architecture, Mysticism and My.
© Apps Publisher
€0.72 (Android Market)
Ebook version of Architecture, Mysticism and Myth by William Lethaby.

Architect QuickQuotes
© Attogear
€0.79 (iTunes)
Over 380 quotations attributed to famous architects.

Architects
© Architory 2011
€0.79 (iTunes)
Biographies of over 125 influential architects who have made their mark in Western history.

Inspiration for Architects
© 2010 Feather & Moor, Ltd.
€0.79 (iTunes)
A regularly updated collection of the world's 'most amazing' architectural designs.

Weird Architecture
© 2010 AppCore
€0.79 (iTunes)
A collection of the world's 'craziest architectural masterpieces'.

The Fountainhead (by Ayn Rand)
© 2009-2011 Folium Partners
€7.99 (iTunes)
Interactive read (the unabridged book), games, extras, 32 hours of narration.

Travel

Rietveld
© 2010 Centraal Museum, Utrecht
Free (iTunes)
Complete catalogue of Gerrit Rietveld buildings, including 200 photos, texts and maps.

Buildings
© Openbuildings Inc
Free (iTunes and Android Market)
An encyclopaedia of more than 40,000 buildings across the globe.

Japanese Architecture Navigator
© 2011 Behavior
Free (iTunes)
Navigational travel guide featuring famous Japanese buildings.

Villa Le Lac - Hakoniwa
© 2011 Suak Inc.
€1.59 (iTunes)
Virtual reality 3D walk-through app of the house Le Corbusier built in 1923 in Corseaux, Switzerland, for his mother.

AIA New Orleans Architecture Guide
© AIA New Orleans
€2.39 (iTunes)
Tour New Orleans aided by high-res images and online and offline maps.

The Prairie Architect Around Chicago
© 2010 Sagamore Apps, Inc.
€2.39 (iTunes)
Visit 30 Frank Lloyd Wright sites in Chicago – all of which are open to the public and allow interior photography.

AIA/LA Design Awards 2011
© In-D media, LLC
€7.99 (iTunes)
Review all entries submitted to the 2011 AIA Los Angeles Design Awards.

Neutra VDL Studio and Residences
© 2011 Plasmatic Concepts
€7.99 (iTunes)
Explore one of Neutra's famous designs assisted by photos, texts and rotating 3D models, plans and sections.

Wright Guide
© William Allin Storrer/Azara Apps
€7.99 (iTunes)
Complete catalogue of Frank Lloyd Wright's built works, including photos, texts and maps.

Architecture Pocket Guide
© Makayama Media
€2.39 (iTunes)

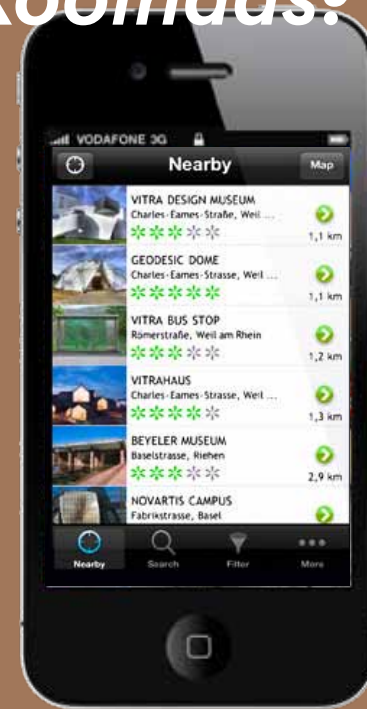
Mimoo
© Mimoo
Free (iTunes)

As if anyone really needed further confirmation of the fact, the Architecture Pocket Guide alerts you straight up that it knows exactly where you are at the moment. But it comes in peace, and what it really wants to do is to list the modern architecture in your vicinity before ranking it for you by miles or kilometres (your preference) in ascending order of how far you will have to travel to the site in question. Click on any name on the list provided to get quick facts about the building, including photos, address, architect, year built and links to more detailed information. The app's worldwide collection of over 600 buildings is edited by a Dutch architecture professional who plans to add about 400 more. Though it has its share of inaccuracies (specific buildings are incorrectly attributed to the wrong city, for example), it's an excellent travel companion for the discerning architect on a quick business trip or layover in a new city.

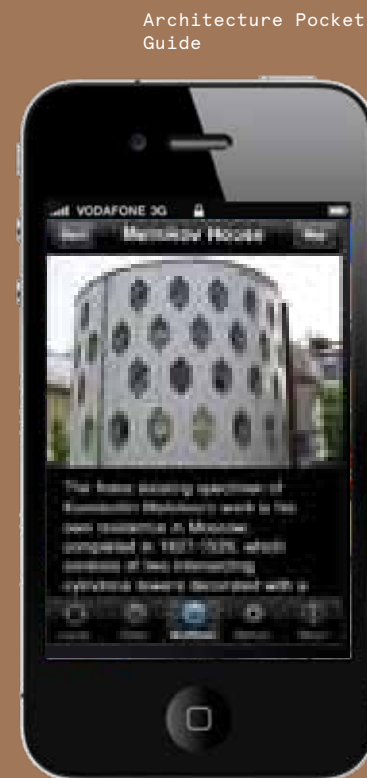
The Mimoo Modern Architecture Guide – an app created by two architects who also happen to be Dutch – features a database that expands daily, owing to the Mimoo user-generated website. Though the 'update content' option may need a bit of time to load, patience does not go unrewarded: the architecture 'to do' list seems to expand before your eyes. But regardless of the app you choose for your next trip, it's certain to be more interesting in filling you in on the modern architecture what-what than your concierge. Concierge tweets about how pretentious you are with your 'Where's the nearest Koolhaas?' questions, anyway. These apps might do that, too, but that will cost you extra.

'Concierge tweets about how pretentious you are with your "Where's the nearest Koolhaas?" questions'

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Mimoo



Architecture Pocket Guide