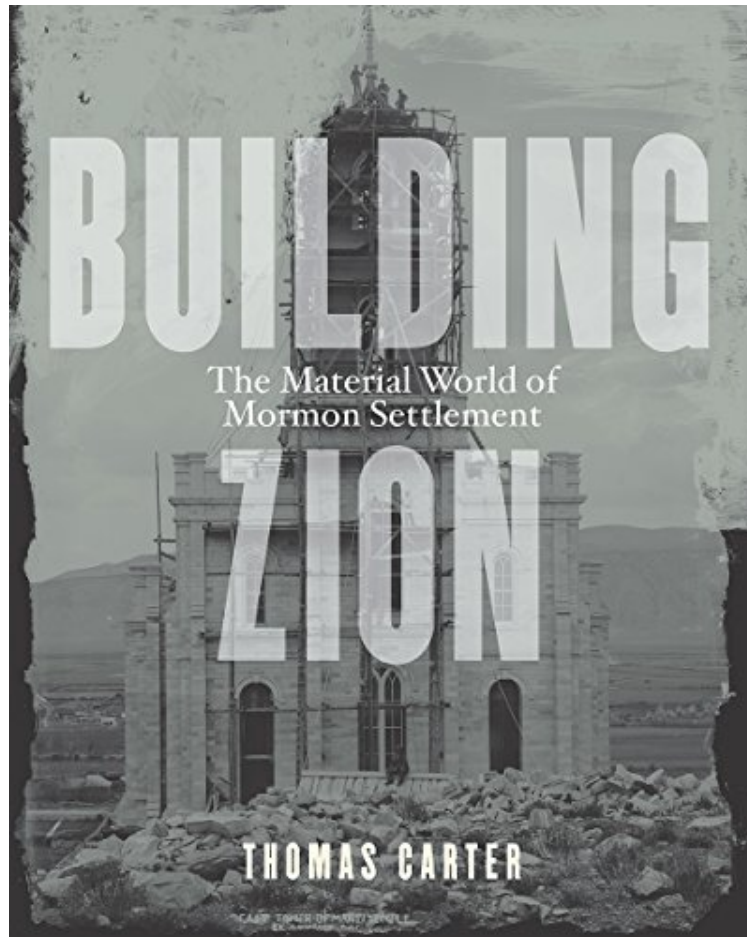


[Download pdf] Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement (Architecture, Landscape and Amer Culture)

## **Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement (Architecture, Landscape and Amer Culture)**

*Thomas Carter*

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**Thomas Carter : Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement (Architecture, Landscape and Amer Culture)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building Zion: The Material World of Mormon Settlement (Architecture, Landscape and Amer Culture):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Work and Foundation for Future StudiesBy David WrightBeing a member of the Church I wondered where Mr. Carter would take me, but I found he took a very thoughtful and balanced approach to reviewing the topic of the Mormon cultural landscape. I would not look to the volume as a spiritual guide, but I would look to it as an insightful way to learn more about the heritage of the built environment that surrounds me. I don't know of another book that has gone into as much depth as Thomas Carter's life work and study.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerA very sympathetic and comprehensive overview, yet told with academic integrity.

For Mormons, the second coming of Christ and the subsequent millennium will arrive only when the earth has been perfected through the building of a model world called Zion. Throughout the nineteenth century the Latter-day Saints followed this vision, creating a material world—first in Missouri and Illinois but most importantly and permanently in Utah and surrounding western states—that serves as a foundation for understanding their concept of an ideal universe. *Building Zion* is, in essence, the biography of the cultural landscape of western LDS settlements. Through the physical forms Zion assumed, it tells the life story of a set of Mormon communities—how they were conceived and constructed and inhabited—and what this material manifestation of Zion reveals about what it meant to be a Mormon in the nineteenth century. Focusing on a network of small towns in Utah, Thomas Carter explores the key elements of the Mormon cultural landscape: town planning, residences (including polygamous houses), stores and other nonreligious buildings, meetinghouses, and temples. Zion, we see, is an evolving entity, reflecting the church's shift from group-oriented millenarian goals to more individualized endeavors centered on personal salvation and exaltation. *Building Zion* demonstrates how this cultural landscape draws its singularity from a unique blending of sacred and secular spaces, a division that characterized the Mormon material world in the late nineteenth century and continues to do so today.

“*Building Zion* surpasses all earlier studies of the Mormon cultural landscape. Through his astute readings of the buildings and towns of Utah's Sanpete Valley, Thomas Carter offers a persuasive new interpretation of the Latter-Day Saints' formative years. This book is required reading to understand how the built environment contributes to historical understanding.”—Dell Upton, UCLA