

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451321603321
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Titolo	Architects to the nation [[electronic resource]] : the rise and decline of the Supervising Architect's Office / / Antoinette J. Lee ; with foreword by William Seale
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 2000
ISBN	1-280-53043-X 0-19-535186-X 1-4294-0135-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (355 p.)
Disciplina	725/.1/0973
Soggetti	Public buildings - United States Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 297-325) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword; Acknowledgments; Contents; 1 Prelude; 2 No Blueprint for the New Nation, 1789-1851; 3 The Bureau of Construction and the Corps of Engineers, 1852-1865; 4 Alfred B. Mullett, 1866-1874; 5 The Supervising Architect's Office in the Gilded Age, 1875-1894; 6 The Tarsney Act, Its Passage and Postponement in Implementation, 1893-1896; 7 Proponents of "Academic Classicism," 1895-1925; 8 The Public Buildings Program in Eras of Affluence and Depression, 1926-1939; Epilogue: 1940-Present; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This text traces the evolution and accomplishments of the office, that from 1852 until 1939 held a virtual monopoly over federal building design. Among its more memorable buildings are New York City's neo-Renaissance customhouse, and the ancient adobe Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe.