

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818973703321
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Titolo	The architects of America : Freemasons and the growth of the United States // Russell Charles Blackwell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Algora Pub., , 2012 ©2012
ISBN	0-87586-908-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 312 pages) : illustrations (some color)
Disciplina	366/.10973
Soggetti	Freemasonry - United States - History Freemasonry - Symbolism Freemasonry - Rituals Architecture - United States - History United States History
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Foundations -- pt. 2. Entrance -- pt. 3. Floor -- pt. 4. Roof.
Sommario/riassunto	Did the Freemasons consciously affect the geographical growth of the USA in order to invest the layout of the states with a deeper, symbolic meaning? The narrative concentrates on the development of Masonic ritual during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries-especially their description of the 'ideal building' or Temple-the concurrent construction of America and the role Freemasons played in it, and the emergence of a simple but highly symbolic mathematical formula that recurs regularly throughout the history of the Republic.