

A Book Review

Carefully Placed Lines on Paper

by Architect John Walters

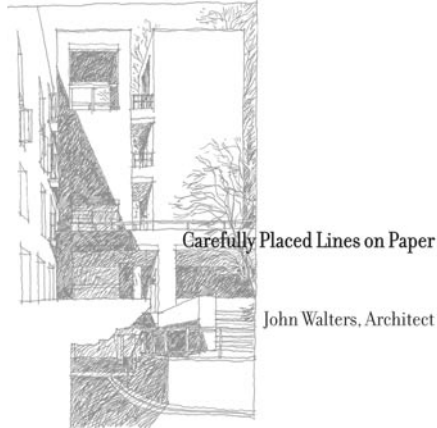
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Book cover image: Kamphoefner Hall, North Carolina State University.



MAIN STREET, OLD SALEM
WINSTON SALEM NC

JWALTERS 95

Plate #49 - Viewed from the campus of Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC, 100 North Main Street (originally named Wachovia Center) was, at the time this sketch was drawn (1995), the tallest building in North Carolina, outside of Charlotte. The granite domed tower, designed by architect Cesar Pelli, takes design cues from the nearby Moravian settlement of Old Salem, including the Moravian arch motif in the dome and entrance, and the Moravian star pattern in lobby marble mosaics.

The Art of Architecture

by Steve Wong

Noted architect John Walters of Tryon, NC, has published *Carefully Placed Lines on Paper*, a 230-page book with 100 of his sketches of buildings that are works of art, visited by him over the course of his 45-year-old career.

"I think, when properly executed, architecture is an art form," Walters said. "In choosing the subjects for these sketches, most were chosen because they were examples of art and architecture merging as a successful example of both." The sketches were created while Walters was traveling for either business or pleasure, and he came upon buildings that appealed to him. The sketches were made onsite, often with finishing touches added later.

In the book's introduction, Walters said: "As an architect, sketching is a normal part of the design process. Clients are frequently amazed as I sketch an idea while they watch, especially with the prevalence of the computer. Did my sketching ability help develop my architectural skills or did my architectural skills further develop my sketching? I believe they go hand in hand."

The 100 images were culled from more than 400 that date back to 1978. They are arranged in chronological order and each is presented on a two-page spread with the image on the right side and the short description on the facing left side. All but two are of buildings in the USA, and several are in Tryon, where he now lives and continues to work. The Tryon buildings include, among others, Spanish Court on Melrose Avenue and Tryon Elementary School. He has designed several notable local build-

ings, including the Smith-Payer Hospice House, The Landrum Depot Renovation, The Polk County Early College, and most recently, the addition to the Tryon Fine Arts Center and the addition to The First Baptist Church of Tryon.

"I feel that drawing a building provides a better way to understand it," he said. "Drawing a building forces one to see every detail, many of which are missed by simply taking a photograph." In his introduction, Walters notes, "The few seconds spent taking a photograph are rarely remembered, but I will always remember the circumstances and time spent drawing these images."

A native of Greenville, SC, Walters moved to Tryon in 2002 after an extensive career in Charlotte, NC, with several architectural firms. He is a 1973 and 1976 graduate of Clemson University where he studied architecture. In Tryon he has been active with several community, civic, and government organizations related to art, planning, and development.

Walters started compiling his book in 2018 and was able to give it more time when the COVID-19 pandemic locked down much of the world's businesses. "I started off thinking this would be a nice gift to my children and grandchildren, as a record of some of my work, but as I developed it further, I felt it might appeal to a larger audience," he said.

"Why did I choose these subjects to sketch?" Walters asks in his introduction. "A memory of a particular trip... an architectural detail... or perhaps the discovery of an image that I felt would make a pleasing composition. While the reader may recognize many of the buildings, others are unknown, utilitarian structures that

continued above on next column to the right

simply appealed to me."

Printed with only black ink, *Carefully Placed Lines on Paper* measures 8.5 x 8.5 inches and sells for \$24.95 plus tax and shipping. It is available through Walters' website at (www.jwaltersarch.com); his office at 70 Pacolet Street, Tryon; or locally at retail outlets The Book Shelf in Tryon and The Garage on 25 in Fletcher, NC.

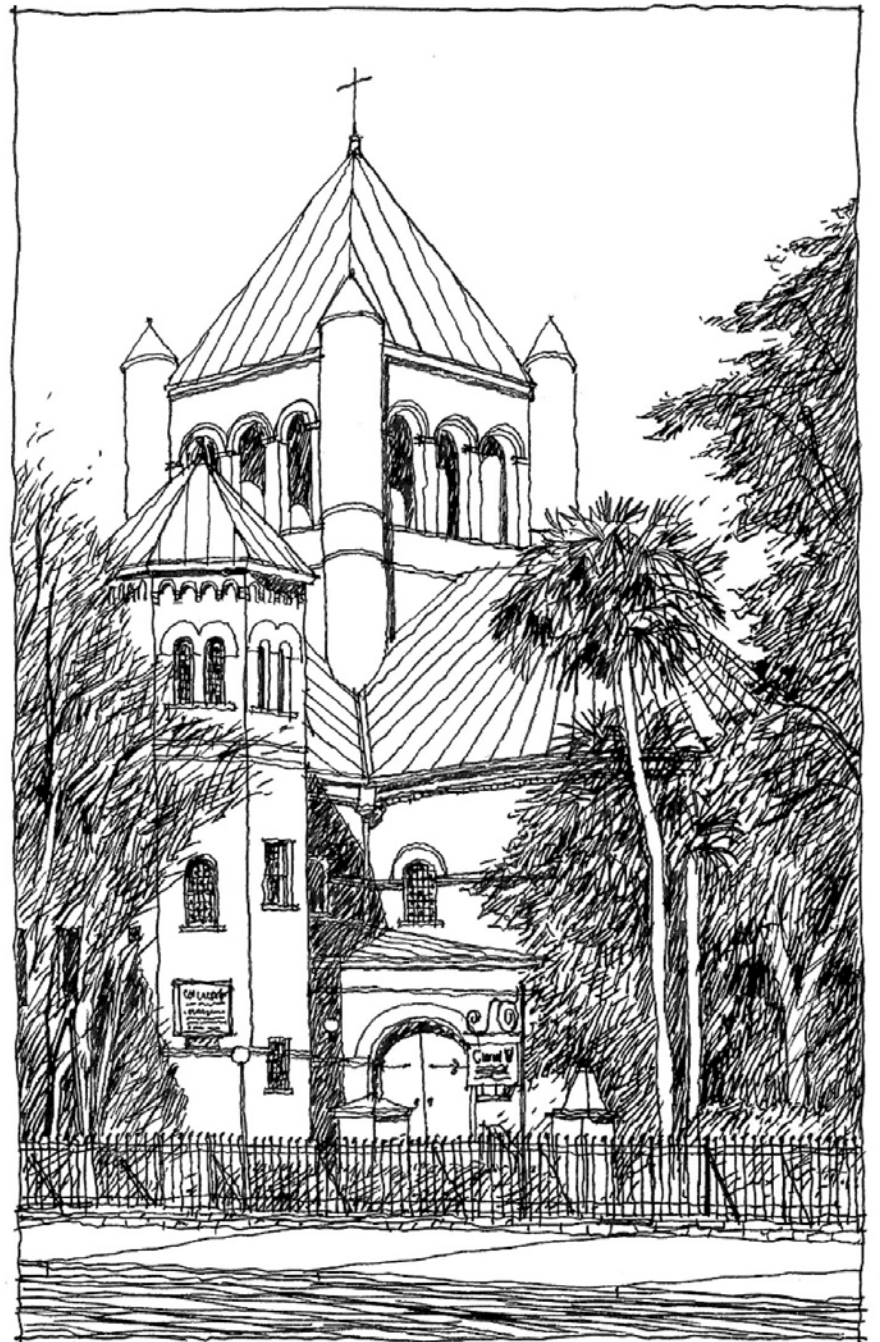
Editor's Note (Tom Starland): When I first heard of this book and its title I expected a book full of loose sketches, but was surprised to find, what I would call, more detailed drawings - with lots of detail and lots of info.

Having driven around many of the cities and towns in both North and South Carolina in my delivery days, it became

a game as to how many of the structures I have seen, including the big rocking horse in Tryon, which I used to park under almost every month. I've also seen a few of the structures which are outside of the Carolinas.

I also loved the short descriptions of the structures, giving a little history, naming the architects and sometimes dates when they were built and dates when they were drawn. Time marches on and change is always in the wind. Some buildings have had varied lives throughout time.

This book makes a great gift or resource for someone who has traveled around the Carolinas or is looking for ideas or reasons to travel. At \$24.95, its a great flip through book on rainy days.



CIRCULAR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
150 MEETING STREET
CHARLESTON SC

JWALTERS 11

Plate #93 - Circular Congregational Church is located at 150 Meeting Street in Charleston, SC. This Romanesque Revival building dates from 1892, after an earlier church was destroyed by fire. The term "circular" actually comes from the form of that earlier church, designed by architect Robert Mills, architect of the Washington Monument. The current church was designed by the New York architectural firm of Stephenson and Greene. Drawing date 2011.

Hampton III Gallery

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isn't an ocean sunset, a marsh, a hillside, or a tree, but time and a place that's real. It's an effort to feel what the artist felt, the artist is trying to express feelings in the hope someone else can feel the same."

A member of the American and National Watercolor Societies, McNickle's work has been shown in countless museum and gallery exhibitions. Museum collections include the Butler Institute of American Art, the Gibbes Museum of Art, The Hoyt Institute of Fine Art and the Morris Museum of Art among others.

Since 1970, the mission of the Hampton III Gallery has been (and continues to be) supporting professional living artists and the estates of professional artists who are in or from South Carolina, ranging



Work by Thomas McNickle

from post-World War II to the present. For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 864/268-2771 or visit (www.hamptoniiiigallery.com).

Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work at the next festival taking place in the Carolinas or do you want to know who the new director of an art museum in the Carolinas is - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).