About this Translation

Joseph Stübben initially published City Building (Der Städtebau) in German in 1890 as part of a handbook on architecture (Handbuch der Architektur). This Handbook was published in Germany by Durm et al. (1890) between 1883-1933. Stübben subsequently published completely revised versions of Der Städtebau in the 1907 and 1924 editions of the handbook. The 1890 edition is still published in Germany as a reprint.

In 1911 Adalbert Albrecht translated the 1907 edition of Der Städtebau into English. This translation is available in the MIT rare books collection, and as a typescript at the Frances Loeb Library at Harvard University. It contains all chapters except for Part V. However, a translation of a summary of this part exists elsewhere.

It should be noted that this translation is not exact (e.g., some sentences are not translated literally but rather in terms of their general meaning). Further, the translator was not a native English speaker and the original as well as translated texts are over a hundred years old. For these reasons, the text is written in old-fashioned “German English” and thus often not easy to read. In this book we publish Albrecht’s translation basically unrevised, as a historical document, with all of its flaws.

The typescript did not contain any figures. Since the value of the book depends heavily on the large number of figures referenced in the text, we added these to the translation (except for the majority of fold-outs). The German reference edition for both text and figures is available as a free e-book. This edition can also be used to access the missing content in Albrecht’s translation, such as the fold-outs and bibliography.

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6 Available at https://archive.org/details/derstdtebau00stgoog.
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