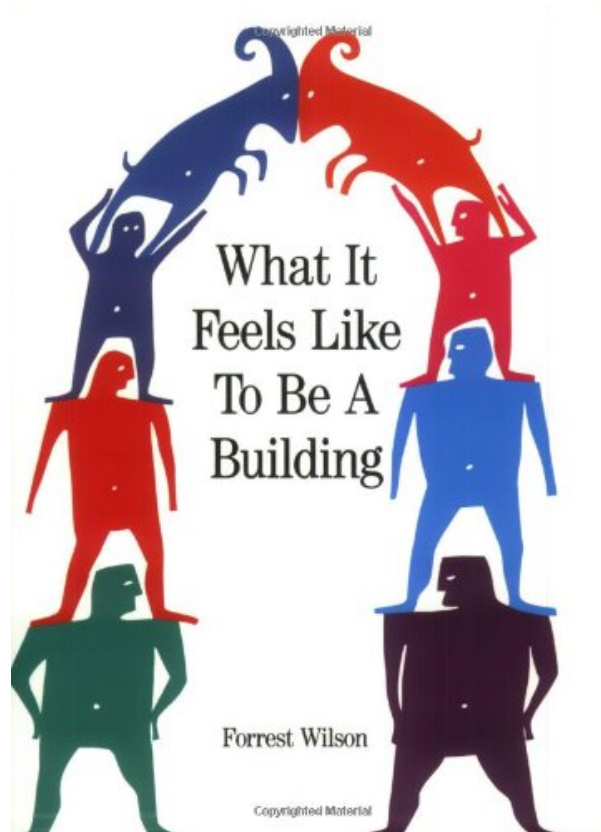
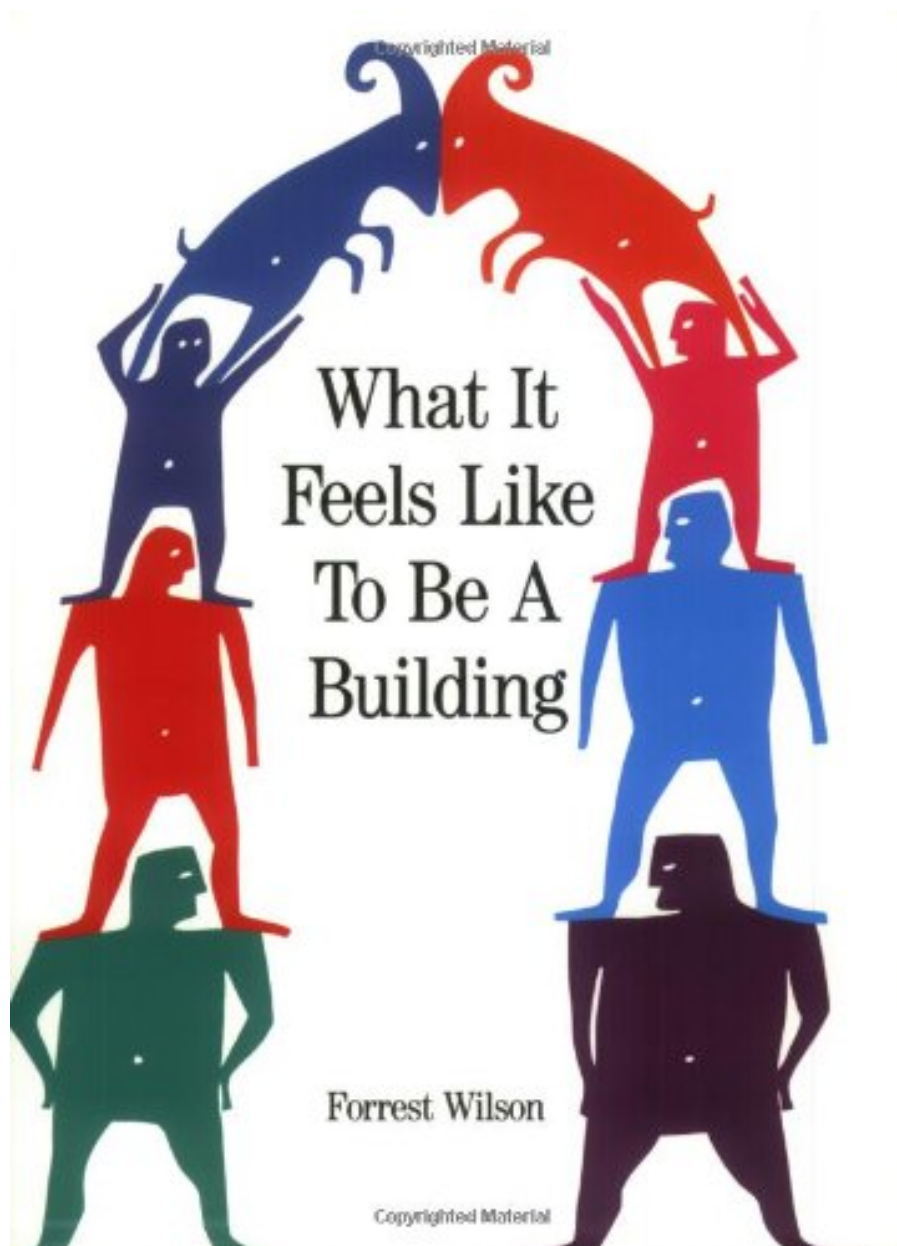


WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A BUILDING BY FORREST WILSON



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Review

What does it feel like to be a building? Well, if you are a column, "it feels like squash." And "it feels like multiple squash to be a wall, because being wider and longer than a column, a wall carries more of the building's weight to the ground." It feels like "squeeze" to be an arch and "brace" to be a buttress. In this children's book (ages seven and older), buildings are composed of little men who are squashed and squeezed, all in the service of architecture. The author, who has written extensively about building technology, wants his young readers to understand "building body language." "You feel gravity, wind, sun, and rain. Buildings feel the same stresses and strains that people do." This is an excellent idea, but this book is frequently confusing. Some of the sentences are likely to leave an adult reader puzzled and more than a few of the illustrations are hard to decipher. When the book works, it creates an image that explains a complex idea: A ram acts as a buttress, and a rain with wings is a flying buttress. One hesitates to criticize any book on architecture for children. There are so very few. But this book was first published in 1969, and since that time the work of David Macaulay (*Castle*, *Cathedral*, *Underground*, etc.) has set the standard for children's architecture books. By that standard, *What It Feels Like To Be a Building*, seems rudimentary. Still many readers will be charmed by this worthy book. -- From Independent Publisher

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WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A BUILDING BY FORREST WILSON PDF

Have you ever felt squashed? Squeezed? Pulled? Tugged? If so, then you know what it feels like to be a building! Here, with playful drawings and humorous text, award-winning author Forrest Wilson uses human figures (plus some dogs and rams) to show that architecture and people have more in common than you might have believed. This book will delight everyone who is fascinated with the buildings around us.

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A Favorite Book -- Anthropomorphic Metaphor for Structure

By Travis T Brown jr

This is a wonderful book. It's a perfect use of anthropomorphism (that is, a human body) being used to explain some basic mechanics and engineering. It's clever, clear, easy to understand and hugely entertaining. I gave it to my daughter when she 3 or 4 some twenty years ago. She used to beg to be read it before bedtime, in part because she would get out of bed and we would use our bodies to be compression arches, simple beams suspended between chairs, buttresses, etc, etc, sometimes to hilarious effect as "the structure" collapsed back onto the beds or floor. I more recently gave the book to an 8 year old boy as we toured the

National Cathedral in Washington, so he could "see" the structure underlying the visual complexity of the structure. Again, a big hit! So by all means BUY it and buy a copy for each kid you know ... it's a small gem.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Best book for visualizing forces

By wer

Best book to help students understand forces involved in construction. They can see visually whether forces are tension or compression. They can actually act out the structures. Good for introducing engineering projects like bridge building. I purchased additional copies as door prizes for teacher workshops. Too bad it is out of print.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By BV

Great introduction to Architecture for young people

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Review

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