

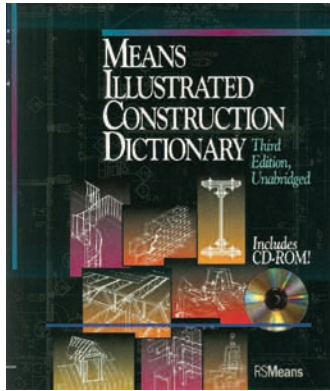
BOOK REVIEW: *Means Illustrated Construction Dictionary* (3rd edition, unabridged)

By Mary Greene, Managing Editor — Reviewed by Anita Finley

Architectural Record calls *Means Illustrated Construction Dictionary* “the most comprehensive we’ve seen.” In it there is an exhaustive coverage, with nearly 19,000 construction terms, phrases, and concepts from every area of construction. In addition, there are more than 1,200 enlightening illustrations, including large, detailed graphics on the CD-ROM; also, it is up-to-date, with the latest products, processes, and technology. It’s truly the perfect resource for both the seasoned professional and the novice... and an invaluable tool for office staff preparing project documents and correspondence.

In its 790 pages, this illustrated construction dictionary is written in the language used by the construction trades and professions today, and it uses many slang, regional, and colloquial terms. Whenever possible, words or phrases are explained in non-technical language. Areas that have been significantly expanded and updated include building automation, energy and environmental issues and historic preservation. There is a companion CD-ROM that comes with this new edition which adds more features: large detailed graphics, expanded definitions and the dictionary’s reference section includes a valuable listing of key professional organizations.

You may wonder why we have reviewed a book of this nature. The RSMeans Company and we believe that many lay people are now remodeling homes and trying to save money when “things don’t work.” Also,



with the new “green” buildings and methods, this book will be very helpful for the new owner and the builder. Over the past few months, we have had the privilege of reviewing many of their books in which we have had readers complimenting us about incorporating these reviews. For example, our family lives in a home over 22 years old and many of the appliances are beginning to give us trouble, so we are now able to understand what may be wrong and even fix it ourselves. That saves us money and time waiting for maintenance people.

This book, organized from definitions “A to Z” is a reference book and invaluable for architects, contractors, and facility owners and managers, as well as insurance and real estate professionals, attorneys and anyone who needs to understand construction terms.

Since its founding in 1942, RSMeans, a division of Reed Construction Data, Inc., has become the construction industry’s leading publisher of cost and reference books and electronic products, as well as its foremost provider of seminars and consulting services. They are located in Kingston, MA and can be reached by calling 800-334-3509.

(To purchase *Means Illustrated Construction Dictionary*, go to www.rsmeans.com and refer to the Means catalog No. 67292A.)

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