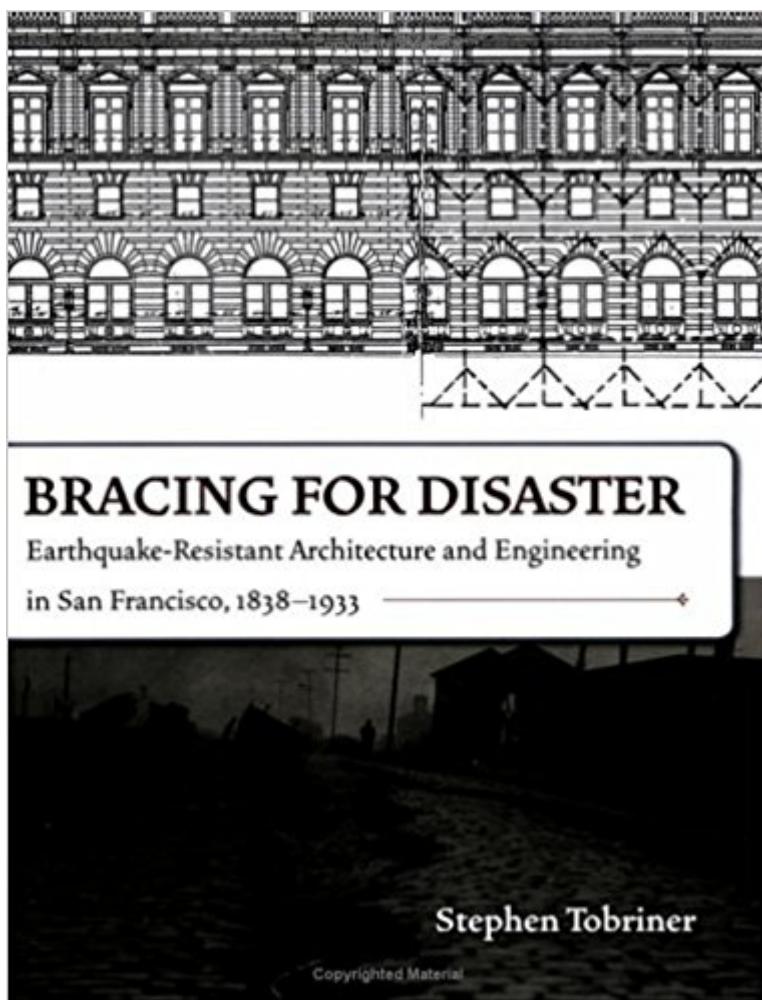


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# Bracing For Disaster: Earthquake-Resistant Architecture And Engineering In San Francisco, 1838-1933



## Synopsis

In 1906, San Francisco was destroyed not by the terrible earthquake of April 18, but by the fires that ensued. Yet journalists and historians then--and now--have been quick to point out the speed and supposed sloppiness with which architects and engineers rebuild San Francisco after every major earthquake. The conventional wisdom holds that corruption prevented proper seismic safety in new buildings. But those presumptions are far too sweeping, according to architecture and earthquake scholar Stephen Tobriner. In fact, for the past one hundred and fifty years, architects and engineers have quietly been learning from each quake and designing newer models of earthquake-resistant building techniques and applying them in an ongoing effort to save San Francisco. *Bracing for Disaster* is the first history of seismic engineering in San Francisco. In the language of a skilled teacher, Tobriner examines what really happened in the city's earthquakes--which buildings were damaged, which survived, and who were the unsung heroes--in a fresh appraisal of a city responding to repeated devastation. Filled with more than two hundred photographs, diagrams, and illustrations, *Bracing for Disaster* is a revealing look at the history of buildings by a true expert, and it offers lessons not just for San Francisco but for any city beset by natural disasters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Stephen Tobriner is a professor of architectural history at the University of California, Berkeley. He has written extensively on architecture and the history of reconstruction after earthquakes, and has

investigated damage in earthquakes around the world with teams sponsored by the United Nations, the National Science Foundation, the Earthquake Engineering Research Center, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

History of San Francisco's buildings in relation to their safety in earthquake and fire, documented by an impressive number of earthquake resistant features applied by architects, engineers and builders well before the first mandatory state earthquake code of 1933..It is well written and will surely fascinate readers interested in history of engineering and architecture of San Francisco...Author provides a re examination of the damage causes by earthquake and offers a new look at the building that survived...

This is a well researched and written book that dispels the myths about the 1906 Quake. Learn what was damaged in the quake and what was not from the real experts. Dispel the myth of what really killed the fire chief. Learn why SF City Hall really fell down, not the myths perpetuated by dramatists.

Excellent resource on the building design and architecture of older buildings in San Francisco. An important reference for the 1906 earthquake and fire. The book is filled with good photographs and illustrations.

BRACING FOR DISASTER: EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANT ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1838-1933 comes from a professor of architectural history at UC Berkeley who has written extensively on earthquake-resistant architecture and reconstruction, and who has investigated damage in earthquake areas around the world. His is, surprisingly, the first history of seismic engineering in San Francisco and considers what really has happened during the city's major quakes of the period - down to which buildings were damaged, which survived, and why. Over two hundred photos and diagrams compliment an expert's survey of events, which comes spiced with survivor and eyewitness accounts.Diane C. DonovanCalifornia Bookwatch

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