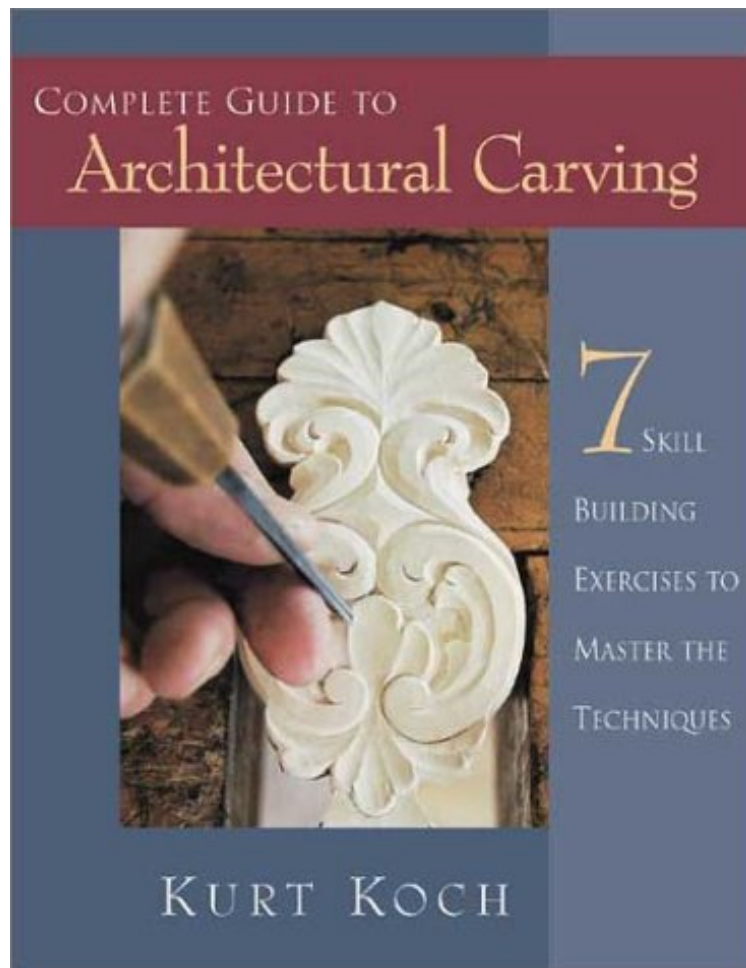


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## Complete Guide to Architectural Carving: 7 Skill Building Exercises to Master the Techniques

*Kurt Koch*

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**Kurt Koch : Complete Guide to Architectural Carving: 7 Skill Building Exercises to Master the Techniques** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complete Guide to Architectural Carving: 7 Skill Building Exercises to Master the Techniques:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NOT a Complete Guide! By Justin the Chef This is NOT a "complete guide" to architectural carving. It simply has some basic beginner exercises that focus on ornamentation. The strength of this book is its detail in showing how to technically approach the exercises in the book. I have not encountered any other books that goes into such step-by-step detail. The style of the book is basically "cut here, then cut here." One step will present three different views to show where to mark the wood to be removed, and then the next step will show the piece with the marked wood removed. It's easy to follow, but the book also has flaws. 1. The front and back

covers are misleading. Those projects are not included here. The book simply presents a series of progressively more challenging exercises, but I wouldn't consider any of them strongly composed or pretty enough to stand on their own. They are, as I said, just exercises.<sup>2</sup> The book says the "patterns are copied directly onto the wood," but gives no direction on how to do this. After some research, there are two methods. Option 1: Buy tracing paper and graphite paper. Trace the pattern in the book onto the tracing paper, then use the graphite paper to retrace the design onto the wood. This strategy is tedious, but works well and can get you carving quickly. Option 2: Copy or trace the pattern onto a sheet of paper, then glue it to the wood with wood glue or general purpose spray adhesive. (This is how Chris Pye does it, but you've got to wait for the glue to dry.)<sup>3</sup> No information on how to secure the wood for carving. If you don't have a workbench with clamps and dogs, then you'll need to clamp it to something else. I've seen some people place the wood on nonskid rubber mats without clamps.<sup>4</sup> The book gives no information about which gouge to use where, or how to use the gouges correctly. It strangely includes a cross section of many different gouges on page 4, almost as an after thought. I don't think a gouge is included in a single photo in this book. Only the before and after of where to cut. Since we are copying a fixed-size pattern from the book, it would seem the author should already know approximately the size or type of gouge to use for each cut. More helpful direction could have been given here, but wasn't.<sup>5</sup> Project 1 is terrible and confusing, in my opinion. I would just skip it entirely. Your first project should be carving a donut, and learn about the "donut rule." Acanthus Carving has a good explanation of the "donut rule." Then I'd pick back up on the second project, which is a simplified C-scroll. If you're checking out this book, you may want to check out Twenty Decorative Carving Projects in Period Styles, which blows this book away in every aspect. I'd definitely check out Frederick Wilbur's books as well, which you'll probably find more interesting. See Carving Architectural Detail in Wood: The Classical Tradition and Carving Classical Styles in Wood. The directions are not quite as detailed, but the projects in those books would make a great advanced study once you conquer this book. Wilbur's books include directions on carving moldings, corbels, column capitals, etc., which is probably what you're really looking for if you're reading about this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By John Evans  
This book gave great insight into the beginnings of classical carving. It displays much in the way of beginning on a smaller level.  
9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. carving skills By Alicia Estradapaniagua  
I was searching for architectural carvings and thought this book would be perfect, but it turned out too elemental for my needs. This book is perfect for beginners. Nevertheless there are plenty of interesting tips.

Learn to carve the architectural ornaments that adorn mantles, seatbacks, archways, and more with this skill-building guide. Beginning with simple exercises such as carving with and against the grain and moving on to more advanced such as carving swoops, swirls and rosettes, the author guides you through the process each step of the way. By working your way through the entire book, you will have skill to carve architectural ornaments with confidence and style.

From the Back Cover **CREATE STUNNING ARCHITECTURAL ACCENTS FOR YOUR HOME WITH THIS SKILL BUILDING GUIDE.** Inside you will follow Master Carver, Kurt Koch, through a variety of progressive carving exercises- each one designed to teach a specific skill. You will start with simple exercises such as carving with and against the grain, and proceed to the more advanced techniques used to carve and elaborate flower banner. By the time you have completed this book, you will be able to tackle any architectural carving project with skill and confidence. **GREAT FOR ADDING DETAIL TO: \*Archways \*Chairs \*Doors \*Frames \*And Much More**  
About the Author Kurt Koch is a master woodcarver from Germany and the inventor of the Koch Sharpening System. He is the author of many internationally acclaimed books on carving and has produced training videos for beginning and master carvers.