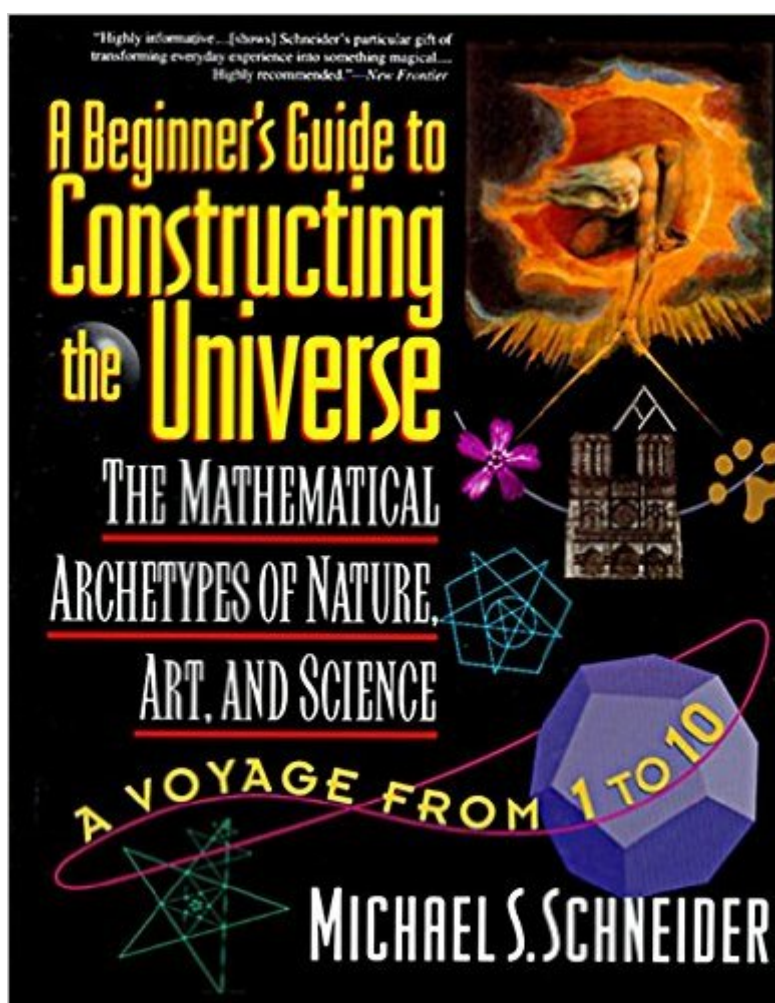


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A Beginner's Guide To Constructing The Universe: Mathematical Archetypes Of Nature, Art, And Science



Synopsis

The Universe May Be a Mystery, But It's No Secret Michael Schneider leads us on a spectacular, lavishly illustrated journey along the numbers one through ten to explore the mathematical principles made visible in flowers, shells, crystals, plants, and the human body, expressed in the symbolic language of folk sayings and fairy tales, myth and religion, art and architecture. This is a new view of mathematics, not the one we learned at school but a comprehensive guide to the patterns that recur through the universe and underlie human affairs. A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe shows you: Why cans, pizza, and manhole covers are round. Why one and two weren't considered numbers by the ancient Greeks. Why squares show up so often in goddess art and board games. What property makes the spiral the most widespread shape in nature, from embryos and hair curls to hurricanes and galaxies. How the human body shares the design of a bean plant and the solar system. How a snowflake is like Stonehenge, and a beehive like a calendar. How our ten fingers hold the secrets of both a lobster and a cathedral. And much more.

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Customer Reviews

In the spiral of the nautilus shell, in the veins of a maple leaf, in the bonds of the benzene ring--everywhere he looks, Schneider sees a cosmic geometry. Of course, the lines of this geometry have long attracted the attention of probing minds, including Pythagoras, Plato, the Psalmist, Demetrius, and Plotinus. The author weaves the insights of these thinkers and many more together

in a tapestry of reflections (richly illustrated) on celestial harmonies. Once initiated into the ancient mysteries, the reader will recognize profound meanings--not merely scientific utility--in squares, triangles, and other common shapes. The reader needs no extraordinary expertise in mathematics to explore these pages, just a relish for intellectual adventure. Schneider helps us discover just how much mental energy can fit within the circle of new horizons. Bryce Christensen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Highly informative . . . [shows] Schneider's particular gift of transforming everyday experience into something magical . . . Highly recommended."-- "New Frontier" "In this book you will find something that cannot be obtained elsewhere, a complete introduction to the geometric code of nature, written and illustrated by the most perceptive of its modern investigators."-- from the Preface by John Mitchell

This wonderful book is utterly unique. It is a universe itself constructed, I am sure, along Schneider's imaginative recipe. A combination of precision and poetry, this book will clarify and shore up your thinking. A vast labor of love (a life-time interest) this book is filled with imaginative illustrations, and an endless wealth of margin quotes from the great inventors, scientists, poets, mystics, scriptures. I can dip into it anywhere, and get lost. Schneider has a good eye for metaphor and analogy, as well as an insightful grasp of etymology, and uses all of this to transfigure your ordinary thinking about numbers, shapes, words and objects all around you. If you love logic and analogy, and if you have always sensed some basic secrets about numbers that your 4th grade teacher never let on -- you have come to the right place. "A Beginners Guide To Constructing the Universe" is a sparkle of wit, smarts, reverence and presumption.

I was not disappointed I have not finished it yet but it is worth the read AADeL

This is a very interesting book with minimum mathematical requirements. It is broadly based on ancient Egyptian and Greek geometrical constructions and properties of polygons. The portions of the book related to Islamic geometrical motifs are also interesting and informative as well as the physical results from the fractal nature of the universe. Some readers may also find interesting the religious implications of geometry, but I don't consider pentagrams or the divine seven, etc. anything more than hocus-pocus. Much more interesting would have been if the author used the corresponding pages to elaborate a bit more on the 'sanctity' of the binary system and artificial

intelligence.

CONSTRUCTING THE UNIVERSE has been on the bookshelf for over a year, and it's really only now that I'm beginning to fully appreciate and process Schneider's masterpiece and its implications - or what could be called an Almanac of Discovery. Although not wanting to write a review until I had finished absorbing it completely, ultimately this work will never date as it's the kind of visual and text based product that provides a continual unfolding of yet deeper and deeper levels of understanding. Its not one of those books that is restricted to a single epiphany or message; I've noticed how it has changed and informed my view of nature's patterns, and geography, on various hiking trips through sacred space. Yet strangely, Schneider's work is also accessible and appealing to my kids, who have wholeheartedly taken up the challenge and tried to build temples with their crazy Dad; applying their maths and geometry lessons with patience as compasses, string and wooden pegs have been variously lost and dropped. I'm not into extremely complex and detailed sacred geometry; so this work is absolutely ideal for my needs; yet don't be fooled into thinking it's simply a beginner's piece either, for it most certainly is not. At 350 odd pages of diagrams, descriptions, tables and references to science, mythology, and ancient texts, CONSTRUCTING THE UNIVERSE provides a rich thematic mathematical and geometric approach to the world we live in. Highly recommended. Rgds

Really great book - full of beautiful ideas and concepts- wish they had taught this in school. Love it.

Fast shipping, great book and condition. Would use again.

This book is a MUST READ for anyone interested in understanding the ultimate truth of the universe, both philosophically, physically and metaphysically. This book is IT. I can't rave enough about this book. I've given it as a present to 5 different people since discovering it 9 months ago. I talk about it all the time. It's in my head forever and I am forever grateful.

Really interesting information, could have made a better title. All about geometry/numbers 1-10 in nature and throughout history, religion, and culture. Pretty cool stuff, got a little repetitive and boring at times. Overall a good read, highly recommend

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