

Xenotheka - A complete body of architecture

My book is technically ten smaller books combined into one. Therefore, it covers a lot of different topics and themes and as promised from the title, it should cover the whole field of architecture. This makes picking a similar book easy and difficult at the same time.

The one book which comes closest in terms of overall similarity must be “De architettura” by Marcus Vitruvius Pollio. Not only because Vitruvius attempted to form a complete body of architecture by dividing it into ten smaller books as well, but he did it before Isaac Ware who copied his approach. In addition, both books had high remarks in the architectural world and are considered some of the best books on this field to this day. I knew this already from previous research I did on my book for the other tasks. I still put the title of the book into the Alice search engine using the Xenotheka Library and it came up with 10000 search results. Most of which weren't useful since they only used one or two words from the actual title but out of context or were other books written by Isaac Ware. In some cases, his name was even just used as reference.

I tried to look for more books which didn't only have similarities to one chapter or one topic of my book. Since the whole book can be seen as a guide, dictionary, and documentation for any architect, I started searching in the Alice search engine with these three nouns (guide, dictionary, and documentation). I came across the book “A History of Architectural Theory” by Hanno-Walter Kruft who captured, analyzed, and described all the major architectural theories and statements over the last 2000 years. Compared to the other two books (De architettura and A complete body of Architecture) his book takes the standpoint of an observer respectively writer and not an architect like Ware and Vitruvius were.

I found looking for similar book on Xenotheka much harder than I thought it would be given that you don't get an abstract on the content of the book. Instead, you get a paragraph or sentence from the book where your search word is included. In order to find out if it has more similarities than just one word with your book you need to do a lot of additional research which can be frustrating if you always end up on dead ends.