

The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, 10 January 1794.

JOSEPH CLARK
Architect of Annapolis

PROPOSES to PUBLISH by SUBSCRIPTION, POLYMATHY: or The AMERICAN BUILDER. A Work calculated equally to edify and entertain the Gentlemen, Farmer, Surveyor, Builder, and Mechanick.

This work will contain various opinions of the best writers on Architecture, Arts, and Science: together with experiments and accurate notes of observation, by the author; being the result of thirty years of study and experience in his profession.

It will also contain an alphabetical account of the quality and value of the various kinds of materials, and numerous species of Labour, expended on buildings.

Exemplifications, to ascertain the quantities of materials and labour necessary to complete, almost, every part in a building, of whatever dimenions.

An account and explanations of all the terms and phrases, used in ancient and modern architecture and building.

To persons inclined to build, it will afford an opportunity of regulating their plans withing the compass of their finances, and prepare them to prevent impositions from tricking vendors of materials, and extortionate workmen—To mechanicks, who cannot, for want of experience, calculate the value of their respective labour, and materials expended in their particular branches of building, this work will afford an opportunity to estimate, with facility and accuracy, any job done, or intended to be done, either in the aggregate or the minutiae.

It will contain many curious and valuable receipts, to make fine and coarse varnishes, for preserving roofs or houses, barns, palings, troughs, pipes, &c.—Receipts to make various glues and cements; receipts to make compositions for figures and incrustations, to endure the weather in any aspect; receipts to make stucco compositions, for floors, malt-houses, distilleries, hearths, linings for cisterns, &c. Tables to ascertain the scantling of different species of timber, necessary to perform their respective functions, in proportion to their various asperations introduced in different edifices, as doors, windows, chimnies, skylights, stair-cases, &c. in proportion to their different uses and intentions, whether for beauty of utility: A concise mode to take, and square the dimensions of all kinds of artificers' work belonging to buildings, and to ascertain the cubical or superficial contents thereof: Observations of the doctrine of echo and sound: A dissertation of the philosophy, doctrine, and construction of chimnies, to void, or emit the smoke. Propositions and receipts to cure smoky chimnies: Observations on the instability of the edifices heretofore, generally, erected in America: Suggestions of modes to pursue in buildings here, that will, without additional expense, tend more to their durability than heretofore, commonly, constructed: Descriptions and proportions of the general and particular members of various orders in architecture: viz. the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite, Chinese, Attic, Gargatic, Arabesque, Moresque, Gotesque, Saracenic, Rustic, Antique, Antique-Modern, Gothic, and Brittanic: Many curious historical accounts of various wonderful buildings in different parts of the world: Many curious and original accounts and eulogiums on Free Masonry.

This work will be printed in two octavo volumns, each to contain upwards of 400 pages, on fine paper, of elegant letter press: The price to subscripers, in boards, five dollars: two and a half dollars to be paid on the delivery of the first, and two and a half dollars on the delivery of the second volume. Mr. Clark assures the public, that he will literally perform all that he hath set forth in these proposals.

Gentlemen inclined to promote this work, by subscribing thereto, are requested to write, post paid, to Mr. Joseph Clark, at Annapolis, authorizing him to annex their names to the subscription list.

The Printers, throughout the United States, are solicited to give these proposals, occasionally, a place in their respective news-papers which will lay under a great obligation their obedient servant.

JOSEPH CLARK

Annapolis, January 1, 1794