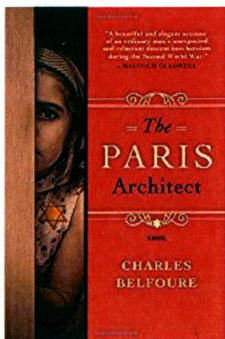



**3 Easy Steps**

1. Click "Continue"
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3. Open new Tab

**Paris Architect (Belfoure)**

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**The Paris Architect**

Charles Belfoure, 2015

Sourcebooks

384 pp.

ISBN-13: 9781402294150

**Summary**

*A beautiful and elegant account of an ordinary man's unexpected and reluctant descent into heroism during the second world war. —Malcolm Gladwell*

In 1942 Paris, gifted architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money—and maybe get him killed. But if he's clever enough, he'll avoid any trouble.

All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs the money, and outwitting the Nazis who have occupied his beloved city is a challenge he can't resist.

But when one of his hiding spaces fails horribly, and the problem of where to hide a Jew becomes terribly personal, Lucien can no longer ignore what's at stake. *The Paris Architect* asks us to consider what we owe each other, and just how far we'll go to make things right.

Written by an architect whose knowledge imbues every page, this story becomes more gripping with every soul hidden and every life saved. (*From the publisher.*)

**Author Bio**

- Birth—1954
- Where—suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- Education—Pratt Institute; Columbia University
- Awards—from the Maryland Historical Trust (*see below*)
- Currently—lives in Westminster, Maryland

An architect and architectural consultant by profession, Charles Belfoure's area of specialty is historic preservation. He graduated from the Pratt Institute and Columbia University and has taught at Pratt, as well as at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland.

Belfoure has published several architectural histories, winning multiple awards from the Maryland Historical Trust, as well as a Graham Foundation Grant for research. Those works include *Monuments to Money: The Architecture of American Banks* (2011) and *Edmund Lind: Anglo-American Architect of Baltimore and the South* (2009). He is the co-author of *Niernsee & Neilson, Architects of Baltimore* (2006) and *The Baltimore Rowhouse* (2001).

*The Paris Architect* (2015) is Belfoure's foray into fiction.

In addition to his books, Belfoure has been a freelance writer for the *Baltimore Sun* and *New York Times*. He lives in Maryland. (*Adapted from the publisher and the author's website* (<http://www.charlesbelfoure.com>) .)

**Book Reviews**

All novelists are architects. But are all architects novelists? Charles Belfoure in his impressive debut seems to have brought us the best of both worlds. Here is a novel to read alongside the latest Alan Furst. I hope there will be more.

***Alan Cheuse - NPR***

Architect and debut author Belfoure's portrayal of Vichy France is both disturbing and captivating, and his beautiful tale demonstrates that while human beings are capable of great atrocities, they have a capacity for tremendous acts of courage as well.

***Library Journal***

A thrilling debut novel of World War II Paris, from an author who's been called "an up and coming Ken Follett".... There's plenty of detail to interest architecture buffs, too.

***Booklist***

During the Nazi occupation of Paris, an architect devises ingenious hiding places for