



Title: The Architect

Director: Matt Tauber

Publisher: Magnolia Pictures

Cast: Anthony LaPaglia, Viola Davis, Isabella Rossellini, Hayden Panettiere, Sebastian Stan

Publication Year: 2006

Reviews: (List each source, the review, and link to article/Google drive)

[Variety](#) In "The Architect," director Matt Tauber's clunky think-piece about race, class and living spaces, an affluent white architect is confronted by a black activist, who lives in a housing project he designed. Stage-to-screen transition stumbles, however, when the concept of "home" no longer provides an evocative offstage metaphor but, instead, becomes a thudding on-screen presence.

[The New York Times Movie Review](#) describes the film as well acted but suffers in the translation from the play by Scottish writer David Grieg to the big screen. They state that the movie is overcrowded with good intentions and underdeveloped characters placed in soap-operish situations.

Film Discussion Inclusion:

The [Dexter District Library](#) in Michigan chose the film for their 3/8/22 "Reel Talk Movie Discussion Group: Let's Talk!" They chose adult films that provide the opportunity to explore diverse and complex films. They advise potential participants that the film has adult content and mature themes and viewer/participant discretion is advised.

Recommendation for action:

Customer [REDACTED] is requesting that the library label this DVD "Adults Only" or remove it from the catalog.

Although this film was largely panned in reviews, the library nevertheless purchased it and made it available for customers. It's likely the stellar cast weighed heavily in this decision. There is currently one remaining DVD copy in the system, and it has been checked out 169 times. The disc looks very worn, and it will likely be discarded for condition soon. The film is available on streaming platforms that might continue to make it available to library customers.

[REDACTED], wrote that he was concerned that the title was misleading and thought that the film would have more to do with architecture. We cannot remove a film from our collection based



on this concern as it's a creative process to title a work, not a contract indicating the subject matter. The synopsis on the DVD case reads:

The Architect: Anthony LaPaglia stars with Viola Davis and Isabella Rossellini in a harrowing and ultimately human story of two very different families. Leo Walters (LaPaglia) is an idealistic architect and patriarch of an affluent, suburban Chicago family living with his troubled wife (Rossellini), blossoming daughter (Hayden Panettiere), and conflicted son (Sebastian Stan). Tonya Neely (Davis) is a pragmatic activist who is trying to keep her family together while living in one of the city's most drug and crime-infested housing projects. As part of her ongoing campaign to have the projects torn down and decent housing built in its place, Tonya decides that the one signature she needs more than any other on her petition is that of the projects' original architect, Leo Walters.

This synopsis makes it very clear that the film is about the human condition, not architecture.

██████████ also states that the movie is not entertaining, is unnecessarily shocking, and is depressing. He is worried that someone watching the film may feel conflicted because of the suicide that occurs in the film. While ██████████ concerns are valid, they are not criteria for the removal of materials for the catalog.

As to the request that we label the DVD "Adults Only", we do not add such qualifiers to DVDs. The Motion Picture Association of America rated this film "R" Restricted, which is clearly indicated on the DVD case.

The inclusion of this DVD in our collection does not violate our collection Management policy and should be retained.