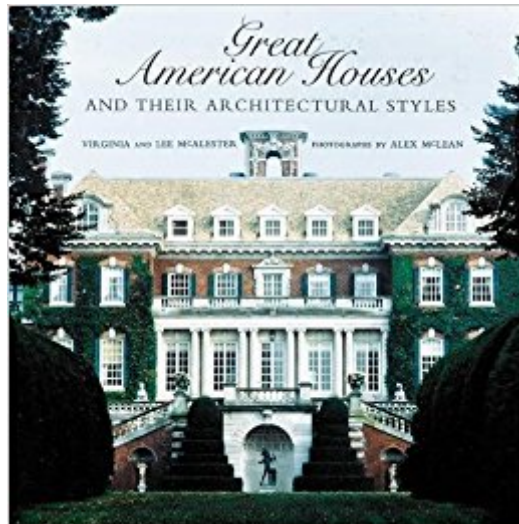




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# Great American Houses And Their Architectural Styles



## Synopsis

A sumptuously illustrated, authoritative introduction to the principal architectural and decorating styles of the American house, from Colonial times to the mid-twentieth century. In this lavishly produced volume, authors Virginia and Lee McAlester explore outstanding landmark houses that exemplify America's major architectural and interior design styles from Colonial times to the mid-twentieth century. These twenty-five houses are illustrated with more than 350 specially commissioned full-color photographs of interior and exterior views, 125 black-and-white line drawings and floor plans, historical paintings, and vintage photographs. The text not only discusses the houses architectural innovations and design elements but also profiles the architects and their clients. The featured houses were built by many of the country's leading architects—from Alexander Jackson Davis, Richard Morris Hunt, Henry Hobson Richardson, and McKim, Mead and White to Frank Lloyd Wright, the Greene brothers, and Walter Gropius—and owned by some of its most celebrated citizens, including Thomas Jefferson, Mark Twain, Thomas Edison, Jay Gould, the Guggenheims, the Phippses, and the Vanderbilts. As a result, the book is as much a cultural history as it is an architectural study. The authors also include an informative discussion of each style as it can be seen in vernacular versions around the country. Located all over the United States, most of the featured houses are open to the public, and the book provides their addresses and other helpful information for visitors. *Great American Houses and Their Architectural Styles* will be irresistible to all house lovers, architects, and designers, and will give readers a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich architectural heritage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Architecture buffs and decorators will enjoy visiting these 25 noteworthy American houses, selected partly because they are open to the public. What at first glance appears to be a coffee-table title turns out to be a useful guide to the various architectural styles of the American home, replete with floor plans for each dwelling and schematic diagrams that point out representative architectural characteristics of the style in question. Each chapter also includes a tour of the interior of its house, with significant illustrations of interior detail highlighted. About half the homes are located in the Northeast, and most of the rest can be found east of the Mississippi; Monticello is the most famous house represented. Rounding out the book is a section explaining how to arrange a visit to any of these splendid residences. The McAlesters (A Field Guide to American Houses, LJ 8/84) are columnists for Country Home magazine; McLean is a freelance photographer. Recommended for architecture collections and large public libraries. Edward B. Cone, New York Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

&#151; A Book-of-the-Month Selection "Architecture buffs and decorators will enjoy visiting these 25 noteworthy American houses, selected partly because they are open to the public. What at first glance appears to be a coffee-table title turns out to be a useful guide to the various architectural styles of the American home" — " — • Library Journal

As an avid architecture and design enthusiast, I consider this book to be one of the seminal volumes on the American vernacular in my library. The authors explore 25 grand houses--ranging from Monticello to Mark Twain House to Vizcaya--and the changing tastes in housing design over a period of over 300 years. The book is divided into four main sections and within each they introduce, in chronological order, each of the grand mansions that illustrate the evolution of a principal style. For example, under the Colonial section, Georgian, Federal, Classical Revival, French Colonial and Spanish Colonial are each examined. The format provides a narrative of the progression of that style, photography and the historical cultural aspects contextualize its development. Each style is then deconstructed in a double page spread featuring illustrations highlighting the design elements. What I most enjoy about this book is its versatility for anyone interested in architecture. This book is for the novice and informed alike. It can be used as a quick reference tool or as a visual dictionary of architectural terms or as a more in depth volume on the development of the stylistic

elements that comprise the great American house.

This book is going to be used as my guest book as my wedding for the guests to flip through, choose a page, and sign. It's a beautiful book and I look forward to having it on my coffee table to read and reminisce about my wedding!

great book and in very good condition!

I bought it as a gift for my dad -- he loves it --said it is a beautiful book

beautiful pictures, excellent text, works as a beautiful companion to "Field guide to American houses" and helps demonstrate concepts in full-color that are only touched on in the Field Guide

Has been an excellent reference book for visiting many of these houses in the U.S.

informative as I collect architectural books

Spine was broken.

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