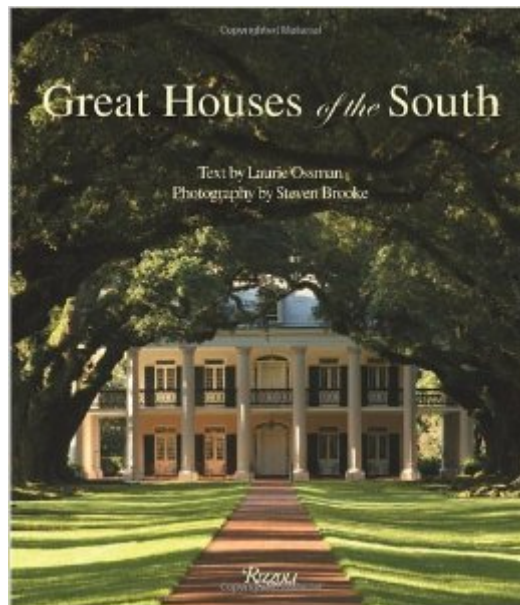


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Great Houses Of The South



Synopsis

An exquisitely photographed collection of the great houses and mansions of the South. In the tradition of Rizzoli's Historic Houses of the Hudson Valley and Great Houses of New England, Great Houses of the South features a stunning array of newly photographed homes that range over three centuries and are distinctive examples of the architecture of the region. While in popular imagination the "Southern Style" is embodied in the classic Southern plantation house with its Greek Revival detailing—its stately white columns, wide porch, and symmetrical shape—the houses themselves are much more various and engaging, as shown in this important volume. From stately Stanton Hall of Natchez, Mississippi, one of the most magnificent and palatial residences of antebellum America; to Longue Vue House and Gardens of New Orleans, the luxurious Classical Revival—style home of Edgar and Edith Stern; to the fabled Biltmore of Asheville, North Carolina, the opulent French Renaissance—inspired chateau and Gilded Age estate of George Washington Vanderbilt, this lavish volume is comprehensive in scope and a landmark work of enduring interest to homeowners, architects, architecture historians, and all those who love fine architecture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is intended as a living room conversation piece rather than a reference work or scholarly study. That, of course, does not diminish the supreme quality of the photography of this rather small selection of grand Southern houses. Let me make clear that the SELECTION is small, but the houses are most certainly not. The author treats us to gorgeous stops at Mount Vernon and the Biltmore House, Shirley Plantation and Whitehall. The book is arranged in chronological chapters,

beginning with 1700-1800 and ending with 1865-1940, so the majority of the book is dedicated to OLD structures. Think the framing essays for each entry are just filling material and you'd be seriously mistaken. The author creates the perfect balance of historical depth and reader accessibility. The writing is profound without being pedantic, and the book will be as interesting to architectural historians as it is to amateur enthusiasts. Here's something really nice: The building selection is limited to places that are open to visitors, so a reader can visit ANY of the houses s/he falls in love with from the book. My only regret is that this author's "South" does not include Texas. There are no examples from Texas, but there are several from Florida, Kentucky and Maryland. This is a big book printed on heavy gloss paper. Overall, it is one of the very best coffee-table books you can buy on this subject, and it's a nice travel guide as well. Exceptionally well done.

This beautifully written (and photographed) book is an engaging review of an almost forgotten part of our heritage -- the great homes of the South. Ms. Ossman's prose makes one want to take a "grand tour" of the South, and explore further its history. It is an elegant addition to the Rizzoli collection.

The witty and erudite text and stunning photographs of this beautiful book succeed at placing some of America's most historic, largest, and anachronistic homes in the context of an evolving narrative on life in the South as expressed in its premier homes. Ossman's incredibly well researched yet concise essays trace the evolution of the use of home architecture to provide signs and represent status of the owners from the earliest days of European settlement to the flowering of Colonial Revival in the mid-twentieth century. Seeking common threads in a disparate fabric of house high styles over centuries, Ossman links transplanted English Palladian forms with classic plantation style Greek Revival and later Beaux Arts and Colonial Revival homes through how each represents the aspirations of its creators within the Southern milieu. Brooke's stunning photography illustrates and complements the text to provide a panoply of gorgeous house settings and interiors from Key West to Baltimore, Charleston to New Orleans organized by progress in time. Each house is open to the public so readers can use these chapters to guide them on their own travels through the South's rich history.

This book rates a 5 star. It is extensive in the history for each home. The photographs leaves one in a state awe. Through the pictures I could almost feel the warmth and majesty of each home. I have visited several of the homes in this book, but reviewing the book makes me want to go back again

and pay closer attention to the detailed architecture and interior decorating. This is an excellent coffee table book. You will not want to keep this book on a shelf. It's too pretty to keep tucked away.

After visiting Oak Alley plantation during a trip to Louisiana, I developed an interest in southern plantations and mansions. This book did not disappoint! The pictures were breathtaking and the biographical history that accompanies them is an education that will stick with you. I was amazed at how modern some of the houses were, and how they were restored and maintained. There are now several more "great houses" I plan to visit....

Gave as Christmas Present to my mother. She only quickly looked at book while I was there but she seemed pleased with the item. I only looked at it briefly but it had a lot of history/information the houses pictured.

Laurie Ossman brings a skilled eye to reveal the inner workings of these amazing homes rich in history and beauty. Her writing style teaches and amuses us, while the beauty of the photographs makes you feel you are visiting as you read along. Read this book. Then hit the road to visit firsthand!

Bought this for my boss for Christmas. It was a smash hit. If you've got someone in your life who loves gorgeous architecture give them this book. You can't go wrong.

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