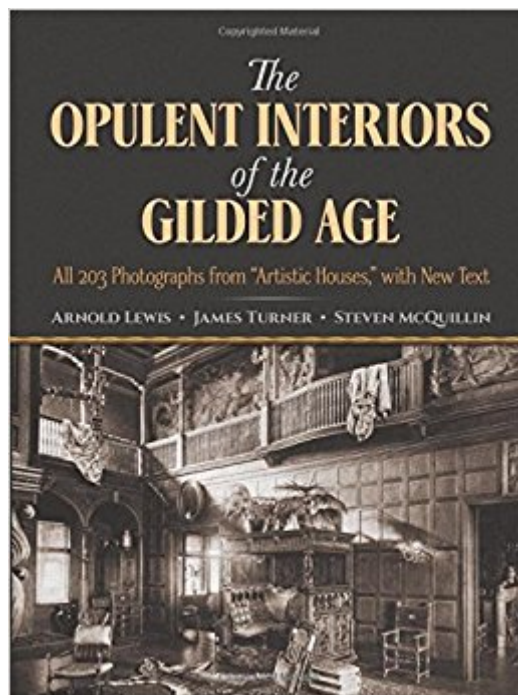




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The Opulent Interiors Of The Gilded Age: All 203 Photographs From "Artistic Houses," With New Text (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

Originally published in 1883 to 1884, *Artistic Houses* comprised more than 200 photographs of the interiors of the homes of the well-to-do, with commentary on the woodwork, wall coverings, color schemes, and other aspects of interior décor. Today, historians consider *Artistic Houses* the best source of information and illustrations for private houses in major Eastern cities in the early 1880s. Although its authorship is not certain, the text is generally attributed to noted author and art critic George William Sheldon. This volume retains all of the photographs from the original two-volume work; the text, however, has been replaced with a version specially written for this edition. In addition to an introductory essay on the period's social and esthetic trends, extensive captions for each plate include most of the valuable information from Sheldon's descriptions plus biographical comments on the homeowners and their families, comments on paintings and sculptures, present condition of the houses, and locations. Over 200 photographs of 97 grand buildings include rare photographs of the New York homes of Hamilton Fish and Ulysses S. Grant; multiple views of the Henry Villard house, now part of the Helmsley Palace Hotel in Manhattan; rooms from William H. Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue residence; interiors from J. Pierpont Morgan's Madison Avenue home; the Marshall Field house in Chicago, and many others. Here are richly paneled rooms that rivaled the baronial halls of European castles, miniature art galleries, magnificent tapestries, plush draperies, and brilliant chandeliers. With its thorough scholarship and wealth of detail, this impressive survey offers not only inside views of the homes of the rich and powerful families during the Gilded Age but also fascinating insights into the social history and architectural development of the United States.

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Customer Reviews

This collection of 203 black-and-white photographs of the interiors of late 19th century mansions originally appeared as *Artistic Houses*, a book published in 1883. Reprinted here, the pictures are accompanied by a new text and new captions, which give detailed information about the families these houses were built for and about the history of the structures in the past 100 years. Most of these 97 homes were located in the Northeast, and some of them and their owners are instantly recognizable. For example, there are shots of the interior of the Henry Villard house, now a part of New York City's Helmsley Palace Hotel, that show the landmark building in its original splendor. Sadly, many of the other structures are gone, and their charm and ostentation can be enjoyed only through photographs. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is exactly how I like my photograph books: About old architecture, with tons of hi-res pictures occupying the whole or most of the page, but an essential description to go with it. You see, you delight yourself, you learn. And you can watch them over, and over. I have to admit, all the pictures were new to me. Very good book which deserves to be bought by the Gilded Age interior decoration fan, and fans of that era's architecture.

You can't look at this book once and then put it down forever. I can't imagine anyone who wouldn't be impressed by the photos of the interiors presented here. A good collection, spanning different styles. Wow is not the word. I find myself picking this book up again and again just to get lost in these spaces.

A wonderful collection of vintage interiors!

I probably should have read the description better. All the pictures are black and white, so the interiors look a lot the same to me. Can't get a feeling for woodwork or other details in black and white. A lot of homes are included though.

I enjoyed this book, in the beginning, but then I was convinced that "the rich they are different" they

have no taste. Some of the rooms were horrible and some were great if you like entry halls, sitting rooms and dining rooms, with a table and 4 chairs, what's that about? This is the Opulent Gilded Age? It was overall OK.

Left me wanting a little more. Maybe I expected too much. It was hard to appreciate the beauty of the homes because of the very old black and white pictures.

Great product that works just like it was advertised for. I would recommend this to anyone needing one.

purchased as a gift for a friend, I have had a copy for years, excellent resource for period interior decorating

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