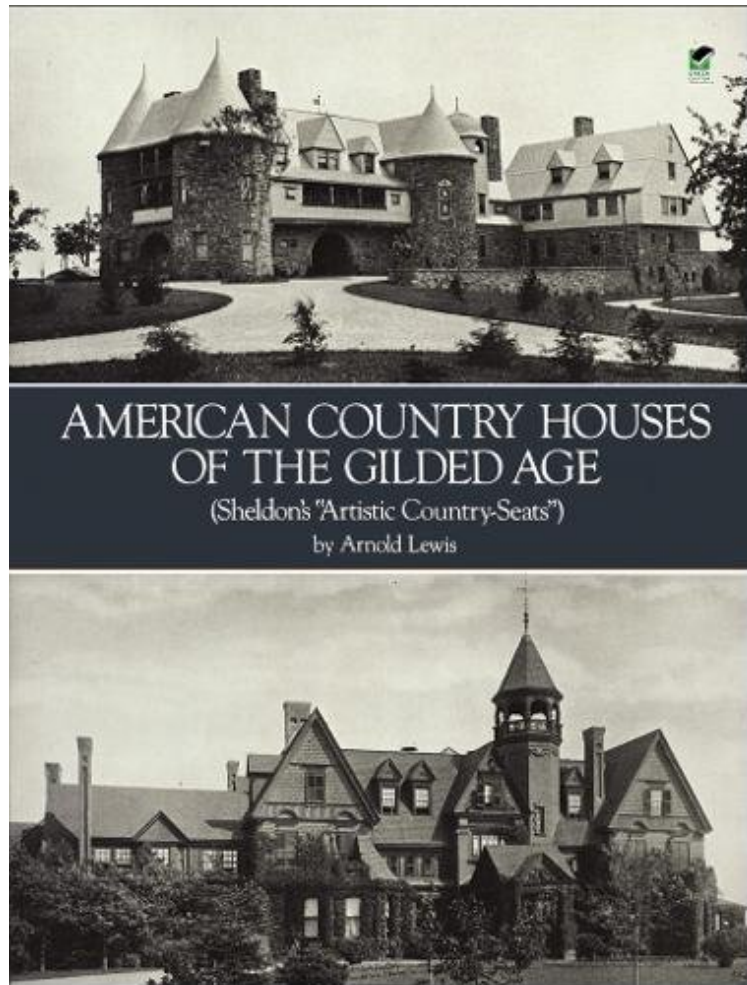


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Arnold Lewis

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#486452 in Books A Lewis 1982-12-01 1982-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.27 x .30 x 9.421, 1.03 #File Name: 048624301X128 pagesAmerican Country Houses of the Gilded Age Sheldon s Artistic Country Seats Dover Architecture | File size: 77.Mb

Arnold Lewis : American Country Houses of the Gilded Age: (Sheldon's "Artistic Country-Seats") (Dover Architecture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Country Houses of the Gilded Age: (Sheldon's "Artistic Country-Seats") (Dover Architecture):

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The opulent "country homes" of yesterday!By Angie2The author of this book refers to country homes of the Gilded Age as "Country Seats" (or "country cottages"). By the author's definition, these were homes of, "grandiose size and scale with imposing facades complemented by manicured gardens and with large and impressive reception rooms, halls, parlors, dining rooms, and other public spaces."George Sheldon

published a book around 1887 documenting this surge in architectural creativity (expressed via country seats) and called his book : "ARTISTIC COUNTRY SEATS". Therefore, this book in review, called, AMERICAN COUNTRY HOUSES OF THE GILDED AGE, (by Arnold Lewis) was written to show the homes photographed in the Sheldon book, and to update the information provided by Sheldon, so that we can better understand what the Architects and structures' owners were trying to express. For a long time, I have been interested in seeing what the opulent homes of the Gilded Age must have looked like, especially those that were available before they were all torn down or destroyed by vandals, fire, etc. Since I was not too familiar with "country seats" I wanted to find a good book on this specific topic. Well, by buying this book by Arnold Lewis I think I was able to get a better feel for these "country seats" of the wealthy (aka: "country cottages" of the rich). The "country cottages" owned by the wealthy class shown in this Lewis book, are mostly from 1880 to around 1889. Also included in this book are a few selected Casinos from the same period. Reason for the Casinos being included in the Lewis book is probably because the same famous Architects that designed some of the opulent private cottages also designed Casinos located in vacation spots visited by the wealthy class. In addition, some of the Casinos bear a striking resemblance to the styles of the country seats shown in this Lewis book. Anyhow, when reading this book, I would advise that the reader reads the INTRODUCTION thoroughly because it explains the role that Sheldon had, in describing each structure. In other words, before jumping right in (as many of us often do) and looking at all the photos, I would recommend reading the entire INTRODUCTION, because it puts the photos in complete perspective. For instance: The author of this book has researched the Sheldon photos (and reviews) and then re-vamped the descriptions so that they are more understandable to a reader from our Era. The photos are large and the reader can see all the details so clearly. In fact, it's amazing that photos taken in the 1880's can be so clear! The black and white photos, have an almost sepia tone to them, making them even more enjoyable to admire. Each structure's photo has a clear explanation of the Architect of the structure, and also a brief description of the date of production and a background of the actual owners, and also, when the structure was finalized. The photos include a reproduction (in black and white) of the "blueprint" of the first floor of each structure. As other commentators have pointed out, the book does not show "blueprints" of the second or third floors, however, the author does attempt to describe the upper floors within the photos' description. Each Architectural style is described in detail in the INTRODUCTION. However, if you are a novice as to specific Architectural styles of the past, then I would recommend becoming briefly acquainted with Architectural styles (and the elementary Architectural vocabulary) before attempting to fully understand the structures' actual styles. For example, to a novice, a structure that looks like a "snow white castle" may be misunderstood, unless the reader has a brief knowledge understanding of why the early Victorian and/or Queen Anne homes were designed with so many gables and filligrees and turrets. I should also mention that this book's INTRODUCTION mentions the COST of each home, specifically at the time of the home's finish. So, I think that the readers will find this fact also very interesting, especially when comparing each home to each other (eg: why did some homes cost \$6,000, while others cost \$200,000.00?). Also included in the INTRODUCTION are descriptions of where each home was once located (by State), and also which Architectural firm designed each home. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fast service By lindap-0909a good copy at a fair price was delivered quickly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... Houses of the Gilded Age - is just a wonderful book. I recommend it to every one - ... By WillBoy American Country Houses of the Gilded Age - is just a wonderful book. I recommend it to every one - beautiful detail photos of each home, the history of who built each home and their owner - the building cost is noted - and the real treat of this book is that first floor plans are shown - I regret that the upper floor/s is not shown also. Each and all will enjoy the history of these homes - I look forward to other books from Arnold Lewis.

The "Gilded Age," the three decades following the Civil War, were years of astounding economic growth. Vast empires in oil, shipping, mining, banking, lumber, transportation, and related industries were formed. It was an era in which fortunes were made and lost quickly, almost easily; a period that encouraged nearly demanded the public display of this newly acquired wealth, power, and prestige. It was during these heady, turbulent years that a new type of domestic architecture first appeared on the American landscape. Called the "country seat" or "cottage," these houses were grandiose in scale imposing facades complemented by manicured gardens, with exceptionally large and impressive reception rooms, halls, parlors, dining rooms, and other public areas. Intended exclusively for the very well-to-do, these buildings were designed by some of the finest and most influential architectural firms in America: McKim, Mead White; Bruce Price; Peabody Stearns; Theophilus P. Chandler, Jr.; Lamb Rich; Wilcox Johnston; and many others. The first, best, and most exquisite documentation of this surge of architectural creativity was the 1886 publication of George William Sheldon's *Artistic Country-Seats: Types of Recent American Villa and Cottage Architecture with Instances of Country-Club Houses*. It presented exceedingly fine photographs, clearly detailed plans and elevations, as well as Sheldon's own commentary for a total of 97 buildings (93 houses and 4 casinos). Most structures were located in new England and the Middle Atlantic states, and embraced the full spectrum of architectural and artistic expressions. This present volume reproduces all of Sheldon's fascinating and historically important photographs and plans, and adds a new, thoroughly accurate text by Arnold Lewis (Professor of Art, the College of

Wooster, Wooster, Ohio) that includes the most useful information supplied by Sheldon and also reports on the present condition of each house or casino, providing analyses of elevations and plans, observations about family life in the 1880s, and brief biographical comments about the clients and architects. Sheldon's photographs connect us with a time and style of living that today increasingly seem more the realm of fiction than fact. Yet, in the pages of this important collection, they are brought fresh to life as they appeared when they were new and times were very different.