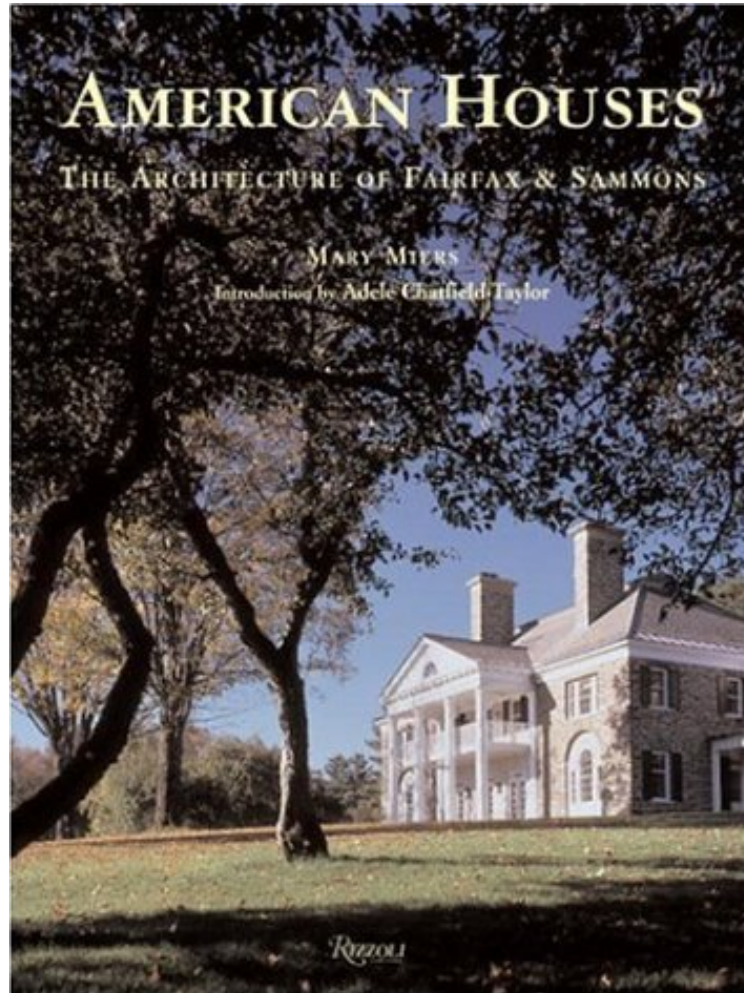


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## American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax Sammons (Classical America)

Mary Miers

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**Mary Miers : American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax Sammons (Classical America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax Sammons (Classical America):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Neo-Classicism done well By Jon L Albee This is a classic architecture monograph. The photography is excellent, and the text really serves to frame the photography and declare the design philosophy of the firm. The portfolio of structures is mostly residential rather than institutional, though Fairfax and Sammons have put together (and included in the book) a plan for Marion Square in Charleston that will probably never be executed but is still beautiful. The houses contained within are all luxury accommodations with

stunning classical details of delicate proportion. These architects practice a restrained neo-classicism that is both pure and original, and gives the neo-classical revival the quality it deserves. You're not likely to tire of these houses the way Robert A. M. Stern can leave you overwhelmed and then bored. Their work is like that classic song that fails to get your attention on first hearing, but becomes an all-time favorite after awhile. The work of Fairfax and Sammons reminds me very much of the classical masterpieces of Norman Davenport Askins. All the sites are located along the East Coast, where this type of architecture fits the historical context. The only reason I rated it 4 instead of 5 is that I find these books to be vastly overpriced, much the same way art folio are overpriced. Since books like this are meant to be browsed and enjoyed, and do not serve as technical manuals or textbooks, I find it hard to justify the prices. That said, if you can find this one for a nice discount and you appreciate fine neo-classical work, you'll enjoy this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. American Houses - in appreciation By Stephen C. Erskine If anyone wonders at the taste of contemporary architects, the darlings of media critics, this book is a breath of fresh air and a reminder that good taste never dies. Several recent commissions for private homes are reviewed with excellent photographs and narrative. The architects Fairfax and Sammons were unknown to me prior to this book, but I now wish I had the means to employ them. American Houses: the architecture of Fairfax Sammons is a book to enjoy again and again. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jerry Lee Martin I love this book. I find myself flipping thru it while doing other things

Anne Fairfax and Richard Sammons are at the forefront of a movement among architects today who draw inspiration from the wellspring of the classical traditions in architecture. They have developed a body of work that reflects and adheres to the long-held theories of proportion and order passed down through many past generations of scholarship and practice. The firm's office also served as the headquarters for Henry Hope Reid's Classical America, the only organization offering an alternative to modernist aesthetics until the establishment of the Institute of Classical Architecture in 1992. The twenty-four projects in this volume show the firm's consistent focus on classical architectural beauty, whether the chosen style be Palladian, Tuscan, Mediterranean, Georgian, Adamesque, Neo-classical, British or Dutch Colonial, Colonial Revival, or even East Coast Shingle Style, in all of which Fairfax Sammons are eminently proficient. The projects selected out of the firm's large body of work include country houses located in Connecticut, New York, Virginia, and Florida, including the renovation of town houses and apartments in New York City all presented in new color photography.

"A mix of renderings, gorgeous full-color photographs and concise, informative text, this book showcases 20 homes in all, including seven New York City apartments and seven majestic houses all within a two-hour drive of the city." -- 9/28/06 NEW YORK POST About the Author Mary Miers is Architectural Writer for the London-based journal Country Life. She lives in London and Scotland. Adele Chatfield-Taylor is president of the American Academy in Rome. She lives in New York City.