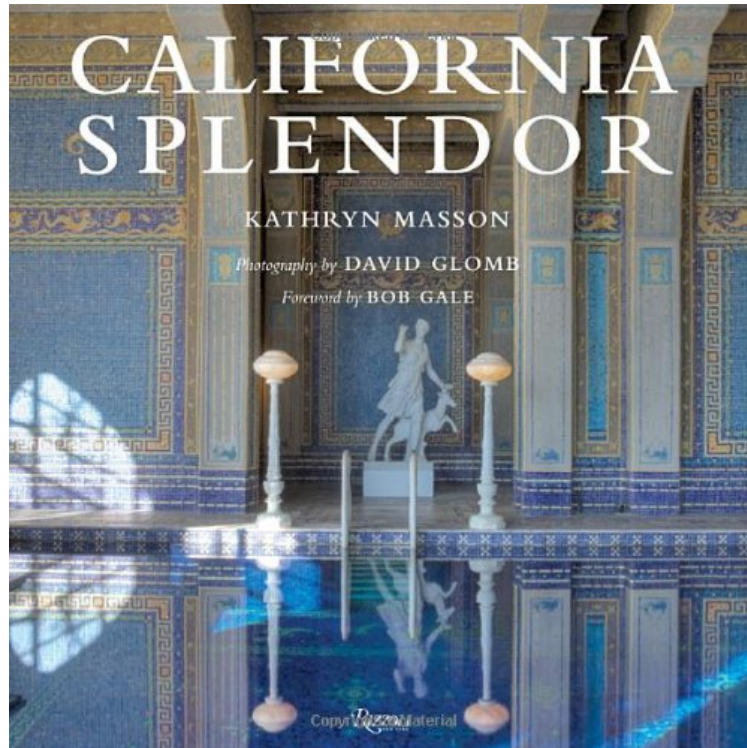


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## California Splendor

*Kathryn Masson*

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**Kathryn Masson : California Splendor** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California Splendor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful pictures re magnificent homesBy weekend crafterAlthough Hearst Castle is featured on the cover of this book, there are also segments devoted to Filoli, Greene Greene architecture and Carolands. Some of the houses are obscure to the casual reader but I learned about Filoli here and got a chance to visit this wonderful house over the summer. Beautiful pictures0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. terrific book!By archfanTerrific book. The way how these books should be: large clear pictures, informative texts, and extensive sample of gorgeous houses.4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Splendor in the author's eyeBy UrsiformWhile the first two mansions in this book date to 1857 and 1892, and the final, the Hearst Castle, was a work in progress until 1947, the core of this book is grand estates from the first three decades of the 20th century, in fact from 1905 to 1929. This was a period of growth and optimism, as well as a period where new design ideas swept the world of architecture. The author admits that the choices are based on her preferences, and others might make other choices. But the choices in this book are good ones. The Arts and Crafts movement is well represented by Green and Green and Bernard Maybeck. George Washington Smith is well represented, and other well known architects show up. The general format is a short written introduction to the estate, then many pictures. The prose is decent, but not soaring. The pictures are, likewise, lovely, but not of the very highest art of architectural photography. One, repeated, error bothered me. In the Table of Contents, a figure caption in the foreword, and on the

title page to its chapter, the Blacker House is listed as being in San Marino. It is not. As correctly noted in another figure caption, it is in Pasadena. While this might seem a minor point, it left me to wonder if there were other errors that I didn't know enough to catch. Be that as it may, this is a great picture book. It's not an important addition to architectural scholarship, but if you are looking for a nice coffee table book this one's a looker.

A luxurious presentation in all-new photography of the most splendid estates and mansions of the Golden State. California Splendor, a lavish, beautifully produced, large-format volume, presents iconic California houses dating from the Leland Stanford Mansion in Sacramento of 1857 to publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst's palatial castle in San Simeon, completed after decades of construction in 1947. The book is comprehensive in its treatment, presenting to the reader a rediscovery and fresh exploration of the state's great architectural offerings and showcasing the very best, in styles ranging from Spanish Colonial Revival, English Revival, and Mission Revival to Adobe, Monterey Colonial, and Italianate Victorian. Lovingly featured are such magnificent homes as the Arts and Crafts masterpiece of architects Charles and Henry Green—the Gamble House—a work of subtle refinement and mysterious charm built for a Cincinnati businessman who longed for warm summer breezes and the fragrance of orange blossoms. The reader also finds here the extraordinary Filoli House and Garden, the Henry Huntington Mansion, the Spreckels Mansion, Casa del Herrero, and Carolands, to name only a few. More potent and powerful in our imagination than any one house is the dream, the aspiration to happiness and grandeur embodied by them—all a dream brought down to earth and to which we have been invited in California Splendor.

About the Author Kathryn Masson is the author of numerous books, including *The California House*, *Stables*, *Hunt Country Style*, and *Santa Barbara Style*, among others. David Glomb is a widely published photographer whose work for Rizzoli includes *Palm Springs Modern* and *Palm Springs Living*. Michael Robert "Bob" Gale is an Academy Award-nominated screenwriter. Among other work, he cocreated, cowrote, and coproduced the acclaimed *Back to the Future* film trilogy.