

the architecture of american houses

the architecture of american houses offers a fascinating glimpse into the diverse cultural, historical, and regional influences that have shaped the way Americans live. From classic Colonial styles to sleek Modernist designs, the architecture of American homes reflects changing tastes, technological advances, and the unique needs of families across generations. This article delves into the rich history of American house styles, explores the defining features of major architectural movements, and examines how regional climates and materials have influenced home design. Readers will discover the stories behind famous house types, learn how form and function combine in American home architecture, and gain insights into current trends and future directions in residential design. Whether you're a homeowner, architecture enthusiast, or simply curious about the built environment, this comprehensive guide provides a detailed and engaging overview of the architecture of American houses.

- Understanding the Roots of American House Architecture
- Iconic American House Styles Through the Centuries
- Regional Influences on American Home Design
- Key Architectural Features of American Houses
- Modern Movements and Contemporary Trends
- The Future of American House Architecture

Understanding the Roots of American House Architecture

The architecture of American houses is deeply rooted in the nation's colonial history and the diverse backgrounds of settlers. Early American homes were influenced by the architectural traditions of England, Spain, France, and the Netherlands, each leaving a distinct mark on the landscape. Over time, these styles blended with indigenous building techniques and adapted to the local climate and available materials. As the United States expanded westward, new regions brought unique challenges and opportunities, leading to the creation of house styles that are uniquely American. The evolution of American house architecture is a story of adaptation, innovation, and the pursuit of comfort and utility.

Iconic American House Styles Through the Centuries

The architecture of American houses is characterized by a wide range of styles, each reflecting the era's values, technology, and aesthetic preferences. These iconic designs have become symbols of American culture and identity.

Colonial and Federal Styles

Colonial houses, popular from the 1600s through the 1800s, are known for their symmetry, simple shapes, and central chimneys. The Federal style followed, featuring more refined ornamentation, fanlights, and sidelights around the front door, and a stronger emphasis on balance and proportion.

Victorian and Queen Anne

During the late 19th century, Victorian and Queen Anne styles became prominent. These homes are recognized for their ornate trim, asymmetrical facades, towers, and vibrant colors. Innovations in manufacturing made decorative elements more accessible, resulting in visually complex and eclectic homes.

Craftsman and Bungalow

The early 20th century saw the rise of the Craftsman and Bungalow styles, emphasizing handcrafted details, natural materials, and open floor plans. These homes often feature low-pitched roofs, wide porches, exposed rafters, and built-in cabinetry, reflecting the Arts and Crafts movement's influence.

Ranch and Mid-Century Modern

Post-World War II America embraced Ranch and Mid-Century Modern houses, which prioritized simplicity, integration with nature, and indoor-outdoor living. Ranch homes are typically single-story with open layouts, while Mid-Century Modern designs feature clean lines, large windows, and innovative building materials.

- Colonial Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Cape Cod

- Contemporary
- Neo-Eclectic

Regional Influences on American Home Design

Regional differences play a crucial role in the architecture of American houses. Climate, geography, and cultural traditions have all contributed to the development of distinct regional styles, ensuring homes are well-suited to their environments.

New England and the Northeast

Homes in New England often feature steeply pitched roofs, wood siding, and central chimneys to withstand cold winters. Cape Cod and Colonial styles dominate, emphasizing practicality and resilience against the elements.

The South

Southern house styles, such as Greek Revival and Plantation, are designed for warm climates, with large porches, high ceilings, and tall windows to maximize airflow. Brick and stucco are common materials, reflecting Spanish and French influences.

The Midwest

Prairie and Foursquare houses are common in the Midwest, characterized by horizontal lines, low-pitched roofs, and open interiors. These homes are built to withstand harsh winters while providing spacious living areas for growing families.

The West and Southwest

In the West, Spanish Colonial, Pueblo, and Mission styles feature stucco walls, red tile roofs, and courtyards suited to arid climates. California Bungalows and Ranch homes are also popular, reflecting a relaxed, indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

Key Architectural Features of American Houses

The architecture of American houses is defined by a variety of distinctive

features that contribute to each style's character and functionality. Understanding these elements helps in identifying and appreciating different home designs.

Roof Shapes and Materials

American homes showcase a range of roof types, including gable, hipped, mansard, and flat roofs. Roofing materials vary by region and era, with options such as wood shingles, slate, asphalt, and clay tiles.

Porches and Entryways

Porches are a hallmark of many American house styles, serving as transitional spaces between indoors and outdoors. Entryways often feature decorative doors, sidelights, columns, and overhangs that reflect the home's architectural style.

Windows and Doors

Window designs range from double-hung sash to casement and picture windows, often arranged symmetrically in traditional homes or grouped expansively in modern designs. Doors may include transoms, sidelights, and paneling for added interest.

Interior Layout and Features

American house interiors have evolved from formal, compartmentalized rooms to open-concept layouts that encourage interaction and flexibility. Built-in cabinetry, fireplaces, and distinctive staircases are common features across various styles.

1. Fireplaces: Central to Colonial and Craftsman homes.
2. Open Floor Plans: Hallmark of modern and contemporary designs.
3. Natural Light: Emphasized in Prairie and Mid-Century Modern homes.
4. Ornamental Details: Found in Victorian, Tudor, and Revival styles.

Modern Movements and Contemporary Trends

The architecture of American houses continues to evolve, embracing new materials, technologies, and design philosophies. Modern and contemporary homes reflect changing lifestyles, environmental concerns, and advances in construction.

Minimalism and Open Concept

Minimalist design focuses on clean lines, uncluttered spaces, and a neutral color palette. Open-concept layouts eliminate unnecessary walls, creating flexible living spaces and enhancing the flow of natural light.

Smart Homes and Sustainability

Contemporary American houses increasingly incorporate smart technology, from automated lighting and climate control to energy-efficient appliances. Sustainable design emphasizes the use of renewable materials, solar panels, and eco-friendly building methods to reduce environmental impact.

Customization and Flexibility

Today's homeowners seek personalized spaces that adapt to their needs. Custom floor plans, multifunctional rooms, and modular construction allow for greater flexibility and individuality in home design.

The Future of American House Architecture

The future of American house architecture is shaped by innovation, sustainability, and changing lifestyles. As society continues to evolve, so too does the way homes are designed and built. Emerging trends include the integration of renewable energy, resilient construction for climate adaptation, and the use of smart materials for enhanced performance. The blending of indoor and outdoor spaces, emphasis on health and wellness, and the resurgence of local craftsmanship are also influencing the next generation of American homes. This ongoing evolution ensures that the architecture of American houses will remain dynamic and reflective of the nation's diverse heritage and aspirations.

Q: What are the most popular American house architectural styles?

A: The most popular American house styles include Colonial, Craftsman, Victorian, Ranch, Cape Cod, and Mid-Century Modern. Each style has unique

features and reflects different historical periods and regional influences.

Q: How does climate affect the design of American houses?

A: Climate greatly influences American house design. For example, homes in colder regions have steep roofs and central chimneys, while those in warmer areas feature large porches, high ceilings, and materials like brick or stucco to improve ventilation and durability.

Q: What is the difference between Colonial and Victorian architecture?

A: Colonial architecture is characterized by symmetry, simple forms, and minimal ornamentation, whereas Victorian architecture is known for its elaborate detailing, asymmetrical facades, towers, and vibrant colors.

Q: How have modern trends changed the architecture of American houses?

A: Modern trends emphasize open floor plans, minimalism, sustainability, and the integration of smart home technology. Homeowners now favor flexible spaces, energy efficiency, and designs that blend indoor and outdoor living.

Q: What defines a Craftsman-style house?

A: Craftsman houses feature low-pitched roofs, wide front porches, exposed woodwork, and handcrafted details. They prioritize natural materials and an open, functional interior layout.

Q: Why are porches common in Southern American homes?

A: Porches are common in Southern homes to provide shade, promote airflow, and create comfortable outdoor living spaces. This design helps homes stay cooler in the region's hot and humid climate.

Q: What is a Ranch-style house?

A: A Ranch-style house is a single-story home with an open layout, large windows, and easy access to outdoor spaces. It became popular in the mid-20th century for its simplicity and adaptability.

Q: How do regional styles differ across the United States?

A: Regional styles differ based on climate, geography, and cultural influences. For example, New England homes often use wood siding and steep roofs, while Southwestern houses feature stucco walls and red tile roofs.

Q: What are some key features of Mid-Century Modern houses?

A: Mid-Century Modern houses are known for clean lines, large glass windows, open spaces, integration with nature, and the use of innovative materials such as steel and concrete.

Q: How is sustainability influencing the future of American house architecture?

A: Sustainability is driving the use of renewable materials, energy-efficient technologies, and eco-friendly building practices in American house architecture. Future homes are increasingly designed to reduce environmental impact and support healthy living.

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The Architecture of American Houses: A Diverse Tapestry of Styles

American architecture isn't a monolithic entity; it's a vibrant tapestry woven from diverse threads of influence, reflecting the nation's rich history, varied geography, and evolving cultural landscape. From the colonial charm of New England to the sprawling ranch homes of the Southwest, this post delves into the fascinating evolution of American house styles, exploring key periods, regional variations, and the enduring impact of architectural movements. Prepare to journey through the blueprints of America's homes, uncovering the stories etched in brick, wood, and stone.

Early American Architecture (Pre-1800s): Foundations of a Nation

The earliest American homes were largely influenced by European traditions, adapting to the New World's climate and available materials.

Colonial Styles: A Reflection of Heritage

Colonial Revival: This style, popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, romanticized the earlier colonial periods. Symmetrical facades, multi-paned windows, and dormers were key features, often seen in grand mansions and smaller, charming homes alike. Key features included tall, narrow windows, gambrel roofs, and simple, elegant ornamentation.

Georgian: Characterized by symmetry, balanced proportions, and classical detailing, Georgian architecture reflected the elegance and order of 18th-century England. Homes frequently featured five-part facades, with a central entrance flanked by windows. Materials included brick, wood, and sometimes stone.

Federal: Emerging after the American Revolution, Federal style homes emphasized simplicity and grace. Features included graceful lines, delicate ornamentation, and fanlights above the doorways. Common materials were wood and brick.

Cape Cod: These compact, cozy homes, prevalent in New England, were known for their low-pitched roofs, central chimneys, and dormers. Their simple design was practical and well-suited to the harsh climate.

Early Vernacular Styles: Adapting to the Landscape

Beyond the formal styles, vernacular architecture—built by local craftspeople using readily available materials—flourished. Log cabins, characteristic of frontier settlements, exemplified resourcefulness and adaptation to the environment.

19th-Century Innovations: Expanding Horizons

The 19th century witnessed significant transformations in American architecture, driven by technological advancements, westward expansion, and evolving aesthetics.

Greek Revival: Embracing Classical Ideals

Inspired by ancient Greek temples, Greek Revival homes emphasized simplicity, symmetry, and classical proportions. Columns, pediments, and decorative friezes were prominent features, lending a sense of grandeur and monumentality.

Gothic Revival: A Romantic Embrace of the Past

Gothic Revival architecture, inspired by medieval European cathedrals, embraced pointed arches, intricate detailing, and verticality. Homes often featured steep-pitched roofs, elaborate ornamentation, and stained-glass windows. This style often incorporated asymmetry and dramatic lines.

Victorian Era Eclecticism: A Fusion of Styles

The Victorian era (roughly 1837-1901) was a period of unparalleled stylistic diversity. Victorian homes often blended elements from various historical styles, resulting in richly ornamented and visually captivating structures. Key features include gingerbread trim, towers, and asymmetrical facades.

20th and 21st Century Styles: Modernity and Beyond

The 20th century saw a dramatic shift towards modernism, characterized by clean lines, functional design, and a rejection of historical ornamentation.

Bungalow: A Simple and Functional Approach

Bungalows, popular in the early 20th century, offered a simple, efficient design well-suited for growing suburbs. Key features included low-pitched roofs, wide front porches, and a focus on practicality.

Craftsman: Celebrating Handcraftsmanship

Craftsman style homes, emphasizing handcrafted details and natural materials, reacted against mass production. Features include exposed beams, built-in furniture, and a focus on organic forms.

Ranch Style: Sprawling and Suburban

Ranch homes, popular after World War II, provided affordable, single-story living, typically featuring long, low profiles and attached garages.

Mid-Century Modern: Clean Lines and Functionality

Mid-century modern architecture emphasized clean lines, open floor plans, and the integration of indoor and outdoor spaces. This style prioritized functionality and minimalist aesthetics.

Contemporary and Postmodern Styles: Evolving Aesthetics

Contemporary and postmodern styles represent ongoing architectural experimentation, blending various influences and pushing boundaries. These styles showcase diverse materials, forms, and sustainable design practices.

Conclusion

The architecture of American houses is a dynamic reflection of the nation's history, culture, and environment. From the earliest colonial settlements to the contemporary designs of today, the evolution of American home styles reveals a fascinating narrative of adaptation, innovation, and aesthetic expression. Understanding this architectural heritage provides a deeper appreciation for the homes that shape our landscapes and communities.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between Colonial Revival and Georgian architecture? While both styles draw inspiration from colonial periods, Georgian is more strictly defined by its classical symmetry and proportions, whereas Colonial Revival encompasses a broader range of styles romanticizing the colonial era.

2. How did the westward expansion impact American house styles? Westward expansion led to the adoption of simpler, more functional styles adapted to the available materials and climates, such as log cabins and adobe structures.
3. What are some key characteristics of Craftsman style homes? Craftsman homes are characterized by handcrafted details, natural materials (like wood and stone), exposed beams, built-in furniture, and a focus on organic forms.
4. What is the significance of Mid-Century Modern architecture? Mid-Century Modern architecture marked a significant shift towards functionality and minimalism, emphasizing clean lines, open floor plans, and the integration of indoor and outdoor living spaces.
5. How is sustainable design impacting contemporary American architecture? Contemporary American architecture increasingly incorporates sustainable design principles, using energy-efficient materials, renewable resources, and environmentally conscious construction techniques.

the architecture of american houses: American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax & Sammons Mary Miers, 2006-11-07 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.

the architecture of american houses: American Houses Gerald L. Foster, 2004-03-09 American Houses is a historical guide to the architecture of the American home. While other architectural field guides show only façades, this book includes floor plans, showing how the form of a house arises from its function. Photographs and drawings of exteriors illustrate the significant field marks of each style and help pinpoint the key elements that can identify a house even when it has been remodeled beyond recognition. Beautifully illustrated, clearly written, and impeccably researched, American Houses is an essential reference for anyone interested in the history of American residential architecture.

the architecture of american houses: Under Every Roof Patricia Brown Glenn, 2009-10-19 This book is a delightful guide to understanding and identifying architectural styles for kids and their parents Why do houses look the way they do? Why do dome have small windows, while others seem to be all glass? Why do some hug the landscape, while others are tall with very steep roofs? Why do dome people live in mansions, while others live in mobile houses? Can you imagine a house that looks like an elephant or a shoe? Children and adults will learn about the history of domestic architecture, the styles of the houses we live in, and the terms for the architectural elements that compose the buildings. Use the pictorial field guide to investigate your own house, then take it along on family outings to identify different architectural details. Under Every Roof features more than 60 houses from 30 states and the District of Columbia that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places; many of these are house museums that are open to the public. Kids need to understand the house they live in, so the book also includes a wide variety of regional styles and architectural types.

The full-color, watercolor illustrations add a unique, gentle humor to the text.

the architecture of american houses: House Styles in America James C. Massey, Shirley Maxwell, 1999 This beautifully illustrated tour of America's houses begins in 1640 with the early roots of American style -- a combination of European skill and attitude combined with American know-how. This architectural journey continues on through the 18th and 19th centuries, through the Greek Revival, the Americanization of the Gothic Revival, and the early Colonial Revival. The houses of the 20th century are the main attraction as *House Styles in America* delves into the major movements in the Romantic Revivals of the 1920s and 1930s: English, French, and Spanish. Replete with 200 color photographs, this architectural journey is an essential and beautiful guide for realtors, tourists, and students of architecture.

the architecture of american houses: American Homes Lester Walker, 2015-03-10 *American Homes* is the classic work of American house architecture. From the Dutch colonial, to the New England Salt Box, to the 1950s prefab, this unrivaled reference and useful guide to 103 building styles pays homage to our country's housing heritage. *American Homes* opens the window onto the rich landscape of all the places we call home. Award-winning architect Lester Walker examines hundreds of styles of homes—more than any other survey of American domestic architecture—and helps us understand the history of each style, why it developed as it did, and the practical and historical reasons behind its shape, size, material, ornament, and plan. Hundreds of sequenced drawings illustrate the evolution of our most beloved housing styles, like the colonial English Cottage, which grows before our eyes from a simple square of posts and beams to a fully constructed home with hand-split cedar clapboards and an intricately thatched roof. There's also the Italianate, whose roof displays its intricate carved brackets and is topped with a cupola that serves to filter light to the interior of the home. Annotated floor plans offer insight into the structure of these homes, and with it, a good measure of inspiration. No wrought-iron railing, white stucco wall, or gingerbread gable goes neglected. Every idiosyncratic detail and decoration of each of these uniquely American designs is delicately drawn. *American Homes* is the perfect reference for enthusiasts of architecture, history, and American studies. It is also the ideal inspiration for anyone who lives in or dreams of living in a classic American home.

the architecture of american houses: New Classic American Houses Dan Cooper, 2009-10 Albert, Righter & Tittman Architects create finely crafted houses that pay homage to classic American house styles yet are adapted with skill, mastery and a good dose of irreverence to suit contemporary American life. At first glance, their Cambridge Cupola House looks like a typical mid-19th-century Greek Revival house, but on closer inspection, one realizes that nothing is quite where it should be. The grand, cupola-topped rotunda entrance, for instance, is located not in the front, but on the side of the house! The reason? To increase the living space for the inhabitants. Richly illustrated with specially commissioned photographs, as well as with plans, drawings and watercolours, this sumptuous volume celebrates AR & T's timeless, innovative designs and explores the historical styles on which they are based from Classical to Shingle, from Carpenter Gothic to Cape. Focusing on the superb craftsmanship and exquisite detailing of AR & T's exteriors, interiors and outbuildings, each chapter features one or more sidebars highlighting their inventive use of architectural elements, including columns, fireplaces, balustrades and moldings. It will be a trove of design ideas for professionals and homeowners alike.

the architecture of american houses: Identifying American Architecture John J. G. Blumenson, 1995 Have you ever been intrigued by a beautiful building and wondered when it was built? *Identifying American Architecture* provides the answer to such questions in a concise handbook perfect for preservationists, architects, students, and tourists alike. With 214 photographs, it allows readers to associate real buildings with architectural styles, elements, and orders. *Identifying American Architecture* was designed to be used--carried about and kept handy for frequent reference. Every photograph is keyed to an explanatory legend pointing out characteristic features of each building's style. Trade bookstores order from W.W. Norton, NY

the architecture of american houses: The Architecture of Country Houses Andrew Jackson

Downing, 1852

the architecture of american houses: Experiencing American Houses Elizabeth Collins Cromley, 2021-12-27 A well-illustrated, holistic overview of how American domestic spaces have changed over four hundred years, *Experiencing American Houses* encourages readers to think creatively about houses in terms of their function as opposed to their appearance. This captivating volume helps the reader step into the lived experience of the evolving American house: understanding, for example, why a nineteenth-century dining room might include a bed or why the kitchen as we know it did not evolve until the turn of the twentieth century. By carrying her study from the colonial period to the present, Elizabeth Collins Cromley makes the domestic spaces of the past feel like vital precursors to today's experience. Beginning with cooking spaces, Cromley examines how multi-use areas consolidated into dedicated rooms for cooking, from fires on an earthen floor to sleek modern spaces with twenty first-century appliances. Next, the author looks at ways social class, income, and local custom framed which kinds of spaces became suitable for socializing and entertaining, and what they should be called: sitting room, drawing room, hall, living room, family room, or parlor. Distinct from cooking spaces, Cromley discusses eating spaces, which morphed from multi-use areas to separate dining rooms and back again. The author covers spaces for sleeping, health, and privacy, as well as circulation--the ways that we move through a house--analyzing the functions of such little-studied features as hallways, back doors, and staircases. Finally, Cromley takes on the evolution of storage, which began mainly because of the need to store and preserve food. Clothing closets grew from oddly shaped afterthoughts to generous walk-ins, while increases in material wealth led to the need for storage outbuildings. This accessible volume, informed by up-to-date scholarship in vernacular architecture and disciplines far beyond it, provides students and readers necessary context to understand the development of the historic and contemporary houses they encounter.

the architecture of american houses: Houses from Books Daniel D. Reiff, 2010-11-01 Many homes across America have designs based on plans taken from pattern books or mail-order catalogs. In *Houses from Books*, Daniel D. Reiff traces the history of published plans and offers the first comprehensive survey of their influence on the structure and the style of American houses from 1738 to 1950. *Houses from Books* shows that architectural publications, from Palladio's *I Quattro Libri* to Aladdin's *Readi-Cut Homes*, played a decisive role in every aspect of American domestic building. Reiff discusses the people and the firms who produced the books as well as the ways in which builders and architects adapted the designs in communities throughout the country. His book also offers a wide-ranging analysis of the economic and social conditions shaping American building practices. As architectural publication developed and grew more sophisticated, it played an increasingly prominent part in the design and the construction of domestic buildings. In villages and small towns, which often did not have professional architects, the publications became basic resources for carpenters and builders at all levels of expertise. Through the use of published designs, they were able to choose among a variety of plans, styles, and individual motifs and engage in a fruitful dialogue with past and present architects. *Houses from Books* reconstructs this dialogue by examining the links between the published designs and the houses themselves. Reiff's book will be indispensable to architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and regional historians. Realtors and homeowners will also find it of great interest. A catalog at the end of the book can function as a guide for those attempting to locate a model and a date for a particular design. *Houses from Books* contains a wealth of photographs, many by the author, that enhance its importance as a history and guide.

the architecture of american houses: American Architecture Cyril M. Harris, 1998 Defines and illustrates architectural terms relating to building style, structural components, and architectural ornaments.

the architecture of american houses: The Food Axis Elizabeth C. Cromley, 2010 Beginning with the earliest, and relatively simple, houses, the author traces changes in food spaces through the years, noting a steady escalation in the number of food-related rooms. Along the way, she considers

multiple circumstances that shed light on this evolution, including the role of gender in determining food-space design, the relation of food spaces to nature, and the telling ways in which people and food circulate through kitchens and dining rooms. Because Cromley is interested not only in how designed spaces look but how they are used, she cites a wealth of primary sources: autobiographies, travel journals, household diaries, letters, and inventories, in her exploration of the habits surrounding all aspects of food in the home. --Book Jacket.

the architecture of american houses: The American House Hannah Jenkins, 2018-10-15 - Unparalleled array of American architects and firms: widely known and under-the-radar, established and up-and-coming, large and small - Unparalleled variety in style and type: traditional, modern, and everything in between; grand villas and small cabins; posh seaside villas, rustic and remote cabins, urban townhouses - Unparalleled diversity in geographical range: from California to Hawaii and many states in between The American House is an exceedingly diverse collection of contemporary residential designs in the United States. This book follows the successful title *European House*, likewise a gorgeous collection of new residential architecture. The American House contains cutting-edge residential designs by leading architects from across the United States. Stunning color photographs and plans underline the sensitivity of today's architects to the natural environment, as well as the care and attention paid to interior design and everyday living. This new volume features an extraordinary variety in style, sophistication, affordability, site and landscape, with an emphasis on sustainability practices in both design and construction. Each project illustrates how architects adapt their signature styles to accommodate the challenges posed by local topography and variations in climate, along with a sharp focus on optimum strategies for sustainable living. A lively introduction by critic Ian Volner comments on the many trends, often contradictory, that characterize the architecture of houses in the 2010s. In its sweeping scope, this book considers the present and points to the future of residential design in the United States.

the architecture of american houses: The Abrams Guide to American House Styles William Morgan, 2004-11-09 A tour of the approximately twenty styles of domestic architecture common to the United States identifies and defines each style--including Colonial, Craftsman, Modern, and Deco--providing historical summaries, sample photographs, and regional information. 20,000 first printing.

the architecture of american houses: Great American Homes: William T. Baker William T. Baker, The Images Publishing Group, 2012 IMAGES' third monograph on the outstanding new classicist, William T. Baker.

the architecture of american houses: Latin American Houses Mercedes Daguerre, 2012-01-23 Critic and historian Mercedes Daguerre explores Latin America's evolving modernist tradition through the one-family houses of the region's leading contemporary architects. The book demonstrates the architects' diverse and rich interpretation of modernist principles through case studies of 19 homes built in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina. Architects featured include Paulo Mendes da Rocha, winner of the 2006 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

the architecture of american houses: Atlas of Another America Keith Krumwiede, 2016 Owning a home is a cornerstone of the American Dream, the ultimate status symbol in the land of the free. But is the dream in crisis? Mass-marketed and endlessly multiplied, the suburban single-family house has become an instrument of global economic calamity and ongoing environmental catastrophe. Never before have we been so badly in need of a reassessment of our cultural values from an architectural perspective.--Back cover.

the architecture of american houses: American House Styles John Milnes Baker, 1994 America has an abundance of fascinating and varied house styles, as fascinating and diverse as its people. This unique book will allow readers to recognize the architectural features and style of virtually any house they encounter.

the architecture of american houses: The American House Phaidon Press, 2008-10-15 Presents a guide to one hundred iconic houses, from the thirteenth century to the present day.

the architecture of american houses: Brat Pack America Kevin Smokler, 2016 From the

fictional towns of Hill Valley, CA, and Shermer, IL, to the beautiful landscapes of Astoria and Brownsville, OR, from the iconic suburbs of the San Fernando Valley to the seemingly scary inner cities of Chicago, '80s teen movies had one thing in common: locations mattered. Perhaps moreso than in any other decade, the locations of the '80s teen movies were monumentally important. In Brat Pack America, Kevin Smokler gives virtual tours of your favorite movies while also picking apart why these locations are so important to these movies. Including interviews with actors, writers, and directors of the era, and chock full of interesting facts about your favorite 80s movies, Brat Pack America is a must for any fan. Smokler went to Goonies Day in Astoria, OR, took a Lost Boys tour of Santa Cruz, CA, and deeply explored every nook and cranny of the movies we all know and love, and it shows

the architecture of american houses: The Iconic House Dominic Bradbury, 2009-10-27 The Iconic House features one hundred of the most important and influential architect-designed houses in the world.--Inside cover.

the architecture of american houses: A Field Measure Survey of American Architecture , 2021 Drawing from the nearly half a million photographs and documents comprising the Historic American Buildings Survey held in the US Library of Congress, this book constructs a fictional ?one-way road trip? across the United States, weaving north and south across the Mason-Dixon line while tacking west. In A Field Measure Survey of American Architecture, Jeffrey Ladd uses the HABS archive as a surrogate in order to manifest a portrait of his former country at a moment when its democracy seems imperiled.⁰⁰Inspired equally by the social documentary work of Walker Evans and the architectural interventions of Gordon Matta-Clark and others, Ladd embraces the muteness of photographs to create an ambiguous space where the sculptural, political, forensic, and fictional coalesce within a landscape of both beauty and fragility. What initially appears to be a single voice is revealed to belong to dozens of makers; what seems a description of the distant past is revealed to be closer to the present than expected. A Field Measure Survey sheds light not only on this remarkable archive but on the proliferate meanings that can be shaped from its images.

the architecture of american houses: The Houses We Live in Jeffery W. Howe, 2002 The Houses We Live In is a guide to the architectural styles of American houses. Highly illustrated with stunning color photographs and drawings to identify key recognition features, it covers a variety of architectural styles from colonial to modern American.

the architecture of american houses: Radical Cities Justin McGuirk, 2015-10-13 What makes the city of the future? How do you heal a divided city? In Radical Cities, Justin McGuirk travels across Latin America in search of the activist architects, maverick politicians and alternative communities already answering these questions. From Brazil to Venezuela, and from Mexico to Argentina, McGuirk discovers the people and ideas shaping the way cities are evolving. Ever since the mid twentieth century, when the dream of modernist utopia went to Latin America to die, the continent has been a testing ground for exciting new conceptions of the city. An architect in Chile has designed a form of social housing where only half of the house is built, allowing the owners to adapt the rest; Medellín, formerly the world's murder capital, has been transformed with innovative public architecture; squatters in Caracas have taken over the forty-five-story Torre David skyscraper; and Rio is on a mission to incorporate its favelas into the rest of the city. Here, in the most urbanised continent on the planet, extreme cities have bred extreme conditions, from vast housing estates to sprawling slums. But after decades of social and political failure, a new generation has revitalised architecture and urban design in order to address persistent poverty and inequality. Together, these activists, pragmatists and social idealists are performing bold experiments that the rest of the world may learn from. Radical Cities is a colorful journey through Latin America—a crucible of architectural and urban innovation.

the architecture of american houses: Living Architecture Dominique Browning, Lucy Gilmour, 2010 When architects venture from commercial commissions to home design, there is a freedom to take more risks, often resulting in their stylistic and philosophic visions to be most fully realized. Here, former House & Garden editor-in-chief Dominique Browning presents a stunning

selection of America's most innovative and iconic houses of the 20th century, as crafted by these risk-takers and envelope-pushers. When forward-thinking art collectors John and Dominique de Menil needed a new home in the 1940s, they took a chance on a then-unknown architect named Philip Johnson. While initially a controversial structure for its minimalist, International Style, the home Johnson built for them near Houston has since become one of the country's most cherished cultural icons. In more than 130 illustrations, Browning highlights architecture's best in a range of styles and eras—from James Deering's Vizcaya, his 1916 Italian Renaissance-inspired villa in Miami, to postwar marvels by Bauhaus practitioners Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (Farnsworth House) and Marcel Breuer (Hooper House II), to more recent constructions, such as Marwan Al-Sayed's mirage-like House of Earth and Light in the Southwest desert. Featuring works that blur the lines between dwellings and art, *Living Architecture* is an excellent visual guide of cutting-edge architecture for both industry professionals and design lovers of all kinds. ILLUSTRATIONS 166 images

the architecture of american houses: A Place to Call Home Gil Schafer III, 2017-09-26 For award-winning architect Gil Schafer, the most successful houses are the ones that celebrate the small moments of life—houses with timeless charm that are imbued with memory and anchored in a distinct sense of place. Essentially, Schafer believes a house is truly successful when the people who live there consider it home. It's this belief—and Schafer's rare ability to translate his clients' deeply personal visions of how they want to live into a physical home that reflects those dreams—that has established him as one of the most sought-after, highly-regarded architects of our time. In his new book, *A Place to Call Home* Schafer follows up his bestselling *The Great American House*, by pulling the curtain back on his distinctive approach, sharing his process (complete with unexpected, accessible ideas readers can work into their own projects) and taking readers on a detailed tour of seven beautifully realized houses in a range of styles located around the country—each in a unique place, and each with a character all its own. 250 lush, full color photographs of these seven houses and other never-before-seen projects, including exterior, interior, and landscape details, invite readers into Schafer's world of comfortable classicism. Opening with memories of the childhood homes and experiences that have shaped Schafer's own history, *A Place to Call Home* gives the reader the sense that for Schafer, architecture is not just a career but a way of life, a calling. He describes how the many varied houses of his youth were informed as much by their style as by their sense of place, and how these experiences of home informed his idea of classicism as a set of values that he applies to many different kinds of architecture in places as varied as the ones he grew up in. Because while Schafer is absolutely a classical architect, he is in fact a modern traditionalist, and *A Place to Call Home* showcases how he effortlessly interprets traditional principles for a multiplicity of architectural styles within contemporary ways of living. Sections in Part I include the delicate balance of modern and traditional aesthetics, the juxtaposition of fancy and simple, and the details that make each project special and livable. Schafer also delves into what he refers to as "the spaces in between," those often overlooked spaces like closets, mudrooms, and laundry rooms, explaining their underappreciated value in the broader context of a home. Part of Schafer's skill lies in the way he gives the minutiae of a project as much attention as the grand aesthetic gestures, and ultimately, it's this combination that brings his homes to life. Part II of the book is the story of seven houses and the places they inhabit—each with a completely different character and soul: a charming cottage completely rebuilt into a casual but gracious house for a young family in bucolic Mill Valley, California; a reconstructed historic 1930s Colonial house and gardens set in lush woodlands in Connecticut; a new, Adirondack camp-inspired house for an active family perched on the edge of Lake Placid with stunning views of nearby Whiteface Mountain; an elegant but family-friendly Fifth Avenue apartment with a panoramic view of Central Park; a new timber frame and stone barn situated to take advantage of the summer sun on a lovely, rambling property in New England; a new residence and outbuildings on a 6,000 acre hunting preserve in Georgia, inspired by the historic 1920s and 1930s hunting plantation houses in the region; and Schafer's own, deeply personal, newly-renovated and surprisingly modern house located just a few feet from the Atlantic Ocean in

coastal Maine. In Schafer's hands, the stories of these houses are irresistibly readable. He guides the reader through each of the design decisions, sharing anecdotes about the process and fascinating historical background and contextual influences of the settings. Ultimately, the houses featured in *A Place to Call Home* are more than just beautiful buildings in beautiful places. In each of them, Schafer has created a dialogue between past and present, a personalized world that people can inhabit gracefully, in sync with their own notions of home. Because, as Schafer writes in the book, he designs houses "not for an architect's ego, but [for] the beauty of life, the joys of family, and, not least, a heartfelt celebration of place."

the architecture of american houses: *Early American Houses* Norman Morrison Isham, 2013-02-19 An intriguing examination of classic colonial houses, this fact-filled foray explores with remarkable concision the medieval period of American architecture. The treatise takes for its examples the first houses built along the Atlantic coast in the seventeenth century. While these early structures were usually based on traditional English and Dutch styles, their design and methods of construction soon acquired a unique character of their own. Geographically remote from the stylistic restrictions of Europe, American architects used new plans and construction elements to create fresh new dwellings with individual beauty and charm. *Early American Houses* includes over 100 photographs and illustrations that highlight the architecture of young America, with a particular focus on the Tudor and late Gothic styles that ultimately shaped the distinctive house designs of today. Original floor plans and sketches abound — including interior and exterior treatments, elevations, and framing — partnered with detailed descriptions that breathe life into each construction. Accompanying this work is a comprehensive Glossary of Colonial Architectural Terms. Originally published separately, it provides definitions for everything from arch to wainscot, and it is reprinted here to enhance the overall value of the companion volume.

the architecture of american houses: *This American House* Jason Loper, Michael Schreiber, 2021 Long before designing his signature Usonian houses, Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned an earlier series of affordable models for the middle class: The American System-Built Homes. He developed seven floorplans of varying size and layout, standardized so that materials could be precut at the factory to reduce costs. Only a few years after the project began, the United States entered World War I, and all home construction was stalled due to lumber shortages. Wright then turned his attention to other projects, and with fewer than twenty built, the American System-Built Homes were all but forgotten. In 2011, Jason Loper and Michael Schreiber purchased the only American System-Built Home constructed in Iowa, the Meier House, which set them on a course of refurbishing and researching their new residence. In *This American House*, Loper and Schreiber trace the history of the Meier House through its previous owners, and shed light on this underexplored period of Wright's oeuvre. With a preface by John H. Waters, the Preservation Programs Manager of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, *This American House* addresses what it means to be the stewards of a piece of history.

the architecture of american houses: *Great American Houses and Their Architectural Styles* Lee McAlester, Virginia McAlester, 1995-01-03 A sumptuously illustrated, authoritative introduction to the principal architectural and decorating styles of the American house, from Colonial times to the mid-twentieth century. In this lavishly produced volume, authors Virginia and Lee McAlester explore outstanding landmark houses that exemplify America's major architectural and interior design styles from Colonial times to the mid-twentieth century. These twenty-five houses are illustrated with more than 350 specially commissioned full-color photographs of interior and exterior views, 125 black-and-white line drawings and floor plans, historical paintings, and vintage photographs. The text not only discusses the houses architectural innovations and design elements but also profiles the architects and their clients. The featured houses were built by many of the country's leading architects—from Alexander Jackson Davis, Richard Morris Hunt, Henry Hobson Richardson, and McKim, Mead and White to Frank Lloyd Wright, the Greene brothers, and Walter Gropius—and owned by some of its most celebrated citizens, including Thomas Jefferson, Mark Twain, Thomas Edison, Jay Gould, the Guggenheim's, the Phippses', and the Vanderbilt's. As a result,

the book is as much a cultural history as it is an architectural study. The authors also include an informative discussion of each style as it can be seen in vernacular versions around the country. Located all over the United States, most of the featured houses are open to the public, and the book provides their addresses and other helpful information for visitors. *Great American Houses and Their Architectural Styles* will be irresistible to all house lovers, architects, and designers, and will give readers a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich architectural heritage.

the architecture of american houses: The Modern House Jonathan Bell, Matt Gibberd, Albert Hill, 2015 The modern House reflects upon the complicated relationship architecture has with the terms Modernist, Modernism and Modern specifically in relation to the potent concept of the home, reflecting in part the narrative of how some of the most important examples of Modern houses were commissioned and built in the UK. These special examples of British Modernism include such progressive experiments on communal urban living as London's Isokon Building, completed in 1934 by eminent architect Wells Coates, and Berthold Lubetkin's Highpoint, which is today considered one of the most prominent examples of the early International Style. Compared with these urban enormities are private houses, such as the Laslett House in Cambridge, 1958, by the architect Trevor Dannatt, or the Winter House, designed by John Winter as his own residence. Included are an extended introductory essay by acclaimed architectural journalist Jonathan Bell, former architecture editor for *Wallpaper** and contributing editor at *Blueprint*, and projects such as those designed by renowned architect Carl Turner, responsible for the low energy Slip House, a cantilevered sculptural abode of translucent glass, steel and concrete. With images of yet to be seen interiors and restorations, *The Modern House* illuminates the convergent characteristics of functionalism, truth to materials, flowing space and natural light within the Modern home as a space for living.

the architecture of american houses: Houses Phaidon Editors, 2019-05-08 The world's most innovative and influential architect-designed houses created since the early 20th century Throughout history, houses have presented architects the world over with infinite opportunities to experiment with new methods and materials for domestic living. *Houses: Extraordinary Living* celebrates the incredible diversity and beauty of the house as never before, from Modernist icons to feats of technological, material, and spatial innovation in the 21st century. Explore the creative imaginations of hundreds of internationally renowned architects past and present, as well as dozens of awe-inspiring houses by lesser-known and emerging talents.

the architecture of american houses: Manifest Destiny Jason Griffiths, 2011 On 18 October 2002 Jason Griffiths and Alex Gino set out to explore the American suburbs. Over 178 days they drove 22,383 miles, made 134 suburban house calls and took 2,593 photographs. In *Manifest Destiny*, Griffiths reveals the results of this exploration. Structured through 58 short chapters, the anthology offers an architectural pattern book of suburban conditions all focused not on the unique or specific but the placeless. These chapters are complemented by an introduction by Griffiths and an afterword by Swiss architectural historian Martino Stierli.

the architecture of american houses: A House is Not Just a House Tatiana Bilbao, 2018 *A House Is Not Just a House* argues precisely that. The book traces Tatiana Bilbao's diverse work on housing ranging from large-scale social projects to single-family luxury homes. These projects offer a way of thinking about the limits of housing: where it begins and where it ends. Regardless of type, her work advances an argument on housing that is simultaneously expansive and minimal, inseparable from the broader environment outside of it and predicated on the fundamental requirements of living. Working within the turbulent history of social housing in Mexico, Bilbao argues for participating even when circumstances are less than ideal--and from this participation she is able to propose specific strategies learned in Mexico for producing housing elsewhere. *A House Is Not Just a House* includes a recent lecture by Bilbao at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, as well as reflections from fellow practitioners and scholars, including Amale Andraos, Gabriela Etchegaray, Hilary Sample, and Ivonne Santoyo-Orozco.

the architecture of american houses: New Traditional Architecture Mark Ferguson, Oscar Shamamian, 2011-03-22 This beautifully illustrated volume presents Ferguson & Shamamian's finest

work, including new houses, apartments, alterations and additions, and unbuilt design plans.

the architecture of american houses: *Timeless* Patrick Ahearn, 2017-11 *Timeless* reveals how Patrick Ahearn's historically motivated, human-scaled designs have advanced the art of place-making in some of America's most affluent and storied destinations. Whether carefully restoring century-old landmarked townhouses in Boston's Back Bay or creating new homes that reimagine the local vernacular of Martha's Vineyard, Ahearn demonstrates an unparalleled ability to combine the romance of traditional architecture with the ideals of modernism. With his work, he sensitively balances preservation with innovation to make buildings that feel truly timeless.--Jacket.

the architecture of american houses: *From Bauhaus to Our House* Tom Wolfe, 2009-11-24 After critiquing—and infuriating—the art world with *The Painted Word*, award-winning author Tom Wolfe shared his less than favorable thoughts about modern architecture in *From Bauhaus to Our House*. In this examination of the strange saga of twentieth century architecture, Wolfe takes such European architects as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, and Bauhaus art school founder Walter Gropius to task for their glass and steel box designed buildings that have influenced—and infected—America's cities.

the architecture of american houses: *The Houses of Irvington* Steven M. Reiss, 2014-08-19 *The Houses of Irvington- Architecture of An American Village* by Steven M. Reiss presents a unique perspective on the residential design of this small coastal Virginia community. Reiss has built on the villages' selection in 2000 into the National Register of Historic Places by examining its wide range of unique and well-preserved architectural house styles. Reiss sees Irvington as a living example of the chronology of American residential design. He believes that the history of any community can be better understood through the architectural lens of its homes constructed over time. The book offers a visual history of the evolution of American house design using photographs of over 40 Irvington homes and nine distinct home styles. The book examines each of these house styles in detail beginning with Irvington's oldest house, the 1740 Colonial designed Wilders Grant and takes the reader through the next several centuries of American houses up to and including a number of contemporary houses in Irvington. Using historic and current photographs and pen and ink sketches of each house style by the author the book frames the houses of Irvington from the mid-1700s through the Steamboat Era to the picturesque Irvington of today." A special section of the book is titled Yesterday and Today, which looks at a number of photographs of Irvington buildings and compares them with photographs from when they were first built.?The Houses of Irvington reinforces how a community's character is deeply rooted in its past and that while structures can not always be saved, they should be remembered as their stories are told and retold through time.

the architecture of american houses: *The Architecture of Maritz & Young* Kevin Amsler, L. John Schott, 2013 *Maritz & Young* built more than a hundred homes in the most affluent neighborhoods of St. Louis. This book features more than two hundred photographs, architectural drawings, and original floor plans of homes built in the early twentieth century--Provided by publisher--

the architecture of american houses: *A Field Guide to American Houses* Virginia Savage McAlester, 2015-07-29 The fully expanded, updated, and freshly designed second edition of the most comprehensive and widely acclaimed guide to domestic architecture: in print since its original publication in 1984, and acknowledged everywhere as the unmatched, essential guide to American houses. This revised edition includes a section on neighborhoods; expanded and completely new categories of house styles with photos and descriptions of each; an appendix on Approaches to Construction in the 20th and 21st Centuries; an expanded bibliography; and 600 new photographs and line drawings.

the architecture of american houses: *The Houses of Louis Kahn* George H. Marcus, William Whitaker, 2013 A stunning celebration of the architect's residential masterpieces Louis Kahn (1901-1974), one of the most important architects of the postwar period, is widely admired for his great monumental works, including the Kimbell Art Museum, the Salk Institute, and the National Assembly Complex in Bangladesh. However, the importance of his houses has been largely

overlooked. This beautiful book is the first to look at Kahn's nine major private houses. Beginning with his earliest encounters with Modernism in the late 1920s and continuing through his iconic work of the 1960s and 1970s, the authors trace the evolution of the architect's thinking, which began and matured through his design of houses and their interiors, a process inspired by his interactions with clients and his admiration for vernacular building traditions. Richly illustrated with new and period photographs and original drawings, as well as previously unpublished materials from personal interviews, archives, and Kahn's own writings, *The Houses of Louis Kahn* shows how his ideas about domestic spaces challenged conventions, much like his major public commissions, and were developed into one of the most remarkable expressions of the American house.

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