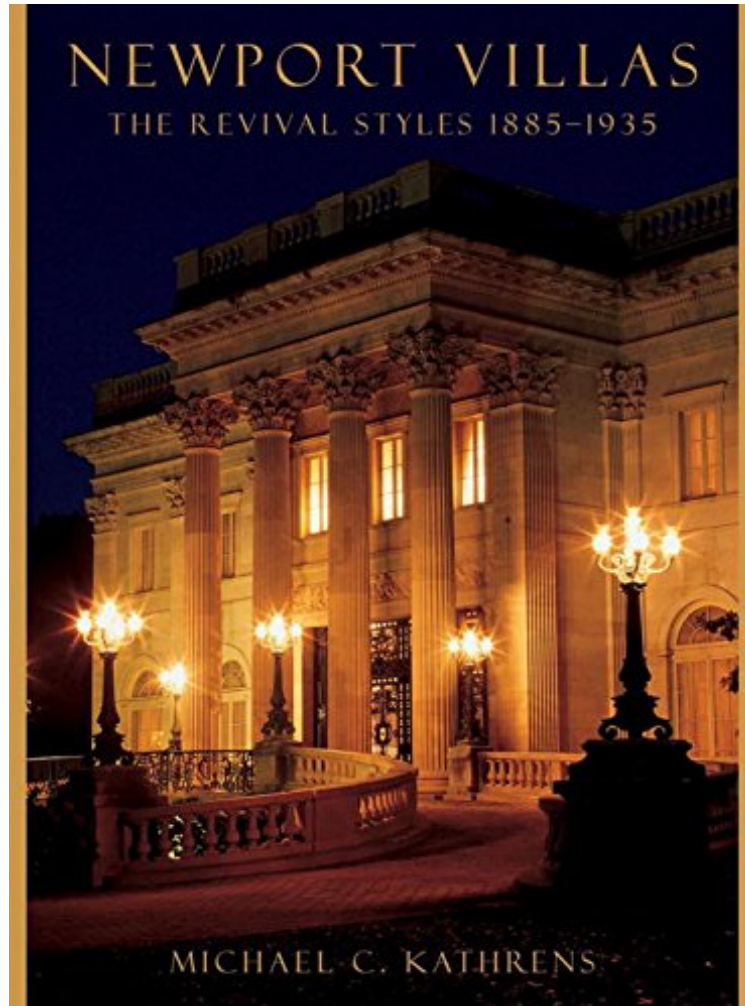


(Mobile ebook) Newport Villas: The Revival Styles 1885-1935

Newport Villas: The Revival Styles 1885-1935

Michael C. Kathrens

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Michael C. Kathrens : Newport Villas: The Revival Styles 1885-1935 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Newport Villas: The Revival Styles 1885-1935:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Social History and Architectural Gems in NewportBy Rob HardyIf you go to Newport, Rhode Island, you can find one of the most dramatic footpaths in the world. Look seaward along the three miles of Cliff Walk and you see the Atlantic Ocean and waves breaking on the rocks. Look landward and you see some of the greatest architectural whimsies of the Gilded Age, the vacation houses erected by the gentry when Newport was a fashionable spot for retreat. Not all the houses are there on Cliff Walk; some fancy ones are inland, and others don't exist any more. You can get an idea of all the finest ones in Newport Villas: The Revival Styles, 1885 - 1935 (Norton) by Michael C. Kathrens. The author is an expert in American residential architecture of those years, and having written The Great Houses of New York, he now looks at where the residents of those houses

summered. This is a big book that is devoted mostly to photographs, typically black and white ones of many decades ago. Some thirty homes all have their own chapters, describing the original builder, the architect, the subsequent owners, and the house's fate. Each chapter has floor plans to go along with the photographs and the description of the interiors and exteriors. The houses were for rich people at play, so they combine playfulness with a historic conservatism. This book is a lovely and loving look at a specialized but extraordinary architectural outpouring. Newport was the most fashionable of sites for an exodus of urban industrialists. Those who could afford to build rather than rent started building what were called "cottages", but this term must have been jocular, for a cottage might have seventy rooms. A season in Newport might cost such a family \$100,000, and there was competitive entertaining just as the houses themselves were competitive architecture. The opulence was not to last. Life sped up and other places became more fashionable, and the great hostesses who had held magnificent domestic entertainments could not live forever. Some of the houses depicted here proved as ephemeral as the Gilded Age social whirl, closed up and simply forgotten, or damaged by vandals, or razed to take advantage of lower tax rates on undeveloped land. When a commercial developer threatened in 1962 to destroy The Elms, preservationists rebelled, and "The Battle of The Elms" reversed the trend toward destruction. Newport remains a showplace. It is often strange to read how rich people behaved in this environment. James Van Alen eloped with an Astor girl, resulting in a happy but short-lived marriage. She died at age 28, and to console Van Alen, his father gave him a plot of land and instructions to build whatever sort of house he wanted. Wakehurst, a mock-Elizabethan manor, was the result. The magnificent Marble House was a fortieth birthday present for the wife of William Kissam Vanderbilt. The couple had two seasons in the cottage before they acrimoniously divorced in 1895. Miramar was a project of Mrs. George Widener to distract her from tragedy; she had been rescued from the Titanic, but her husband and son drowned. At Crossways, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish rebelled at the hours required to eat the typical eight-course meal of the time, and set a record with her meal that was served in less than thirty minutes: "Guests at that meal remembered having to hold the plate down with one hand while eating with the other in order to keep a footman from removing it." The wonderful photographs here depict the mansions outside and inside. The rich people who built them were conservative and their architects harked back to Europe for inspiration. Frederick Vanderbilt's Rough Point is from the Cotswolds with Arts and Crafts elements. The Harold Brown Villa has the rough, untamed look of Scottish baronial. There are Tudor beams in The Waves. Parts of Marble House look as if they came from Versailles, and the pavilion of Villa Rosa came from Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon there. Only a few of the houses show American historical architecture, like the Colonial Revival style shown at Crossways. Newport Villas is a tribute to all of these fine homes. Its photographs and detailed descriptions are a welcome documentation of a small but glittering part of American architectural and social history. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended By Lawrence B. Lufkin Having collected books on Newport's architecture for many years, I find this volume to be an indispensable treasure in that it includes not only the well-known mansions, but also important homes that have not previously been included in other work. An outstanding feature for me is that finally we have the plans of the third floor at The Breakers! Some of the many other villas and mansions and summer "cottages" include Wakehurst, The Crossways, Vernon Court, Claradon Court, Harbour Court, Miramar, Cherry Neck Bungalow, Sea View Terrace (finally we can examine floor plans of this huge home once used for exterior shots for the old "Dark Shadows" television series), Gray Craig, Champ Soleil, and many more. The volume contains a wealth of information and I rate it at the top of the list when it comes to books on Newport's incredibly beautiful and unique homes. In a selected catalog of works, the book illustrates many homes no longer existing - but so many have been preserved. As I write this, Indian Spring, designed by Richard Morris Hunt, has been wonderfully restored and is on the market for just under \$10 million. How fantastic it would be to say to guests, should you make the purchase, that your architect also designed great homes for the Vanderbilts! [...]

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Another Great Book by Kathrens By RWEI was looking forward to the release of Michael Kathrens newest, and I wasn't disappointed! Great overview of gilded age society and the role architecture played in defining their era. The author does an excellent job of contextualizing revival architecture, and thoroughly explores all of the revival styles found in Newport. The book is handsome - wonderful "period" views of rooms, good information about the houses, builders and occupants. Numerous plans, for me the most important part of the book. I was very pleased to find so many. His book on houses of New York only had plans for about half, which I found sad. After all, most of them are gone anyway, and I am sure there are extant plans. Why not publish them? Anyway, this book is great. I hope Kathrens continues to share his passion and wisdom for many years!

A survey of the Gilded Age mansions of Newport, Rhode Island, for all who love grand houses. Newport Villas describes the architectural and social development of this summer resort town, the nexus of wealth and fashion at the end of the nineteenth century. All the accoutrements were the best that money could buy, whether it was Parisian frocks, meticulously groomed thoroughbred horses, or meals prepared by imported French chefs. To properly mount their entertainments, Newport's elite built "cottages" that ranged in size from thirty to seventy rooms. The country's most accomplished architects designed these seaside villas, many of them rivaling the great houses of Europe. Pictured here in abundant archival and new photographs, with accompanying floor plans, the houses cover the gamut of revival

styles from Colonial Revival to Italian Renaissance Revival, from French Classical Revival to Georgian Revival. 350 black white photographs and plans; 25 color photographs

[A] treasure for those who are interested in the history and the architecture of the Gilded Age in Newport. - David Patrick Columbia, New York Social Diary [A] well-produced and organized book. Recommended for armchair architectural voyeurs. - Sacramento Book Its photographs and detailed descriptions are a welcome documentation of a small but glittering part of American and social history. - Rob Hardy, The Commercial Dispatch [M]ay be the most thorough and accessible guide to Newports Gilded Age mansions yet published. Newport Villas is a must-have. - The Providence Journal About the Author Michael C. Kathrens, an independent scholar specializing in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American residential architecture and interior decoration, wrote The Great Houses of New York 1880-1930. He lives in New York City.