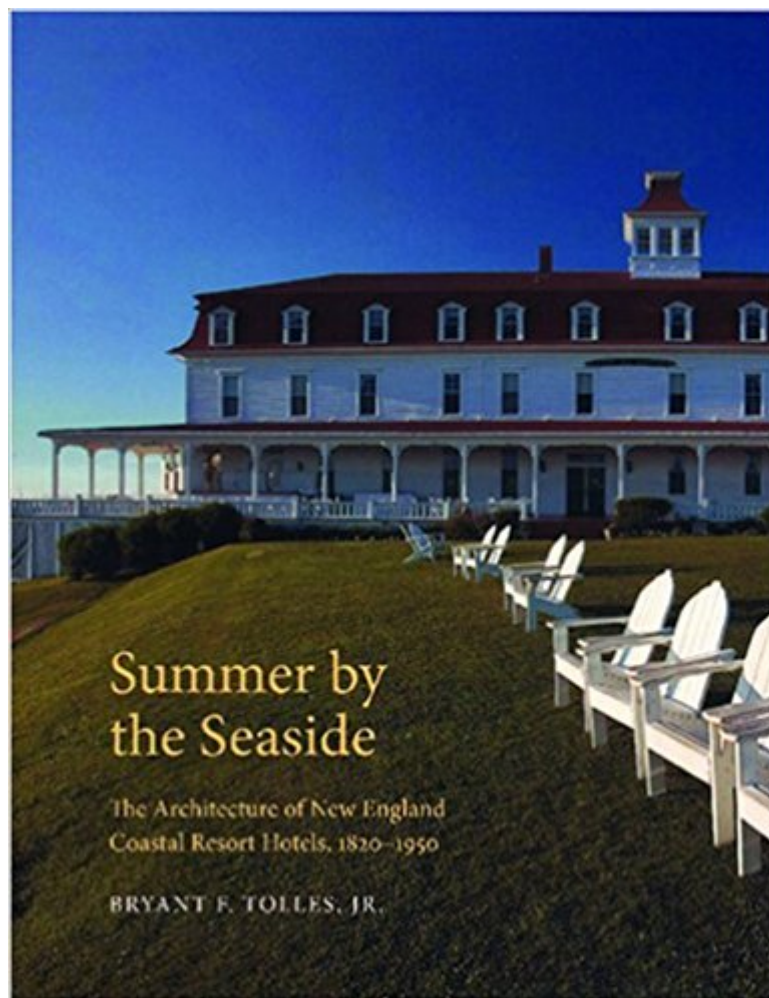




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# Summer By The Seaside: The Architecture Of New England Coastal Resort Hotels, 1820-1950



## Synopsis

Summer by the Seaside is a lavishly illustrated work on the origins, evolution, and gradual decline of the resort hotel phenomenon and its architecture along the New England coastline and on its offshore islands. In this indispensable, breakthrough volume, Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., the recognized expert in this popular field, examines the landmark hotels, extant and not, in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Together these hospitality enterprises helped define the upscale tourist industry and key aspects of New England social, cultural, economic, and architectural history between 1820 and 1950. Exhaustively researched and beautifully assembled, this stunning and informative volume is the definitive work on the history of travel and tourism in coastal New England during this period.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The illustrations in Bryant F. Tolles Jr.'s Summer by the Seaside: The Architecture of New England Coastal Resort Hotels, 1820-1950 give a powerful sense of what has been lost. Vintage photographs, etchings, and architectural plans whisk readers along the New England coast, past one elegant structure after another, some of them veritable Versailles, only in Queen Anne or Second Empire style, with verandas, shingled towers, and rows of top-floor dormers. It's enough to make a preservationist weep, particularly one familiar with what's replaced them." —[Down East](#)"A profusely illustrated work, including floor plans and photographs from the glory years, Summer by the Seaside is replete with text that examines the origins, evolution, and gradual decline of the resort hotel phenomenon and its architecture on the New England coastline, along with its

social, cultural, and economic history." —Antiques Journal

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—Down East

I imagine most readers will buy the book on the basis of its very tangible beauty. It is a lovely picture book, but it is also a solid, readable and first-rate piece of scholarship that will be a standard reference for years . . . the book is big and beautiful, and well done on all levels." —Maine Sunday Telegram

BRYANT F. TOLLES, JR., is Professor Emeritus of History and Art History at the University of Delaware, where he served as Director of the Museum Program from 1984 to 2006. He has written and edited many books, including *Resort Hotels of the Adirondacks* (UPNE, 2003), *Summer Cottages in the White Mountains* (UPNE, 2000) and *The Grand Resort Hotels of the White Mountains* (1998).

As an architect who grew up in a small coastal New England town that had a grand wooden hotel from the late 19th century, I appreciate Tolles' survey of what were once some very special places. Many of these buildings were significant as works of architecture, and were done by some of the best architects practicing at the time. Many were spectacular renditions of the Shingle Style, and others were done in earlier styles. They created the atmosphere of the seashore resort, and brought people to appreciate the natural beauty of the areas where they were built. It is unfortunate that so many succumbed to fire, but balloon framing (with its open vertical chases between studs) and the lack of sprinkler systems increased the risk of fire tremendously. This book, like Tolles' other books, is well-presented, with good period photographs and drawings.

Exactly what I was looking for.

This book describes how the famous hotels built during the great victorian era werebuilt along the New England Coast and the cliental who stayed there. Great readingfor students of both archetecture and lifestyle.

If you have any interest in the look and style of the Grand Hotel that once dotted the New England coastline, this is your best resource and guide. The written history of these areas is an added surprise.

I loved the quality of the pictures and descriptions with historical backgrounds to boot! Many days gone by represented. Don't miss it.

This is an excellent book for anyone to read that is interested in the resort hotels of New England of Bygone Era. Bryant Tolles Jr. has done some phenomenal research and there is a vast collection of fabulous illustrations, photographs, floor plans, postcards and detailed descriptions of various New England Resorts. This is not a glossy coffee table book to be picked up and and crooned over but rather it is a highly readable, informative book that you will leave you wanting to read more of the author's work. I highly recommend 'Summer by the Seaside' by Bryant F. Tolles Jr

I spent my summers visiting various coastal resorts in New England, so I enjoyed leafing through the pages of this book and revisiting some of my favorite haunts. While I can't appreciate the subtle architectural detail discussed in this volume, I did appreciate the historical background that was presented as a context at many points in the book. And, of course, the pictures are wonderful, from the coffee-table appropriate cover shot to the many black and white period photos that support the narrative.

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