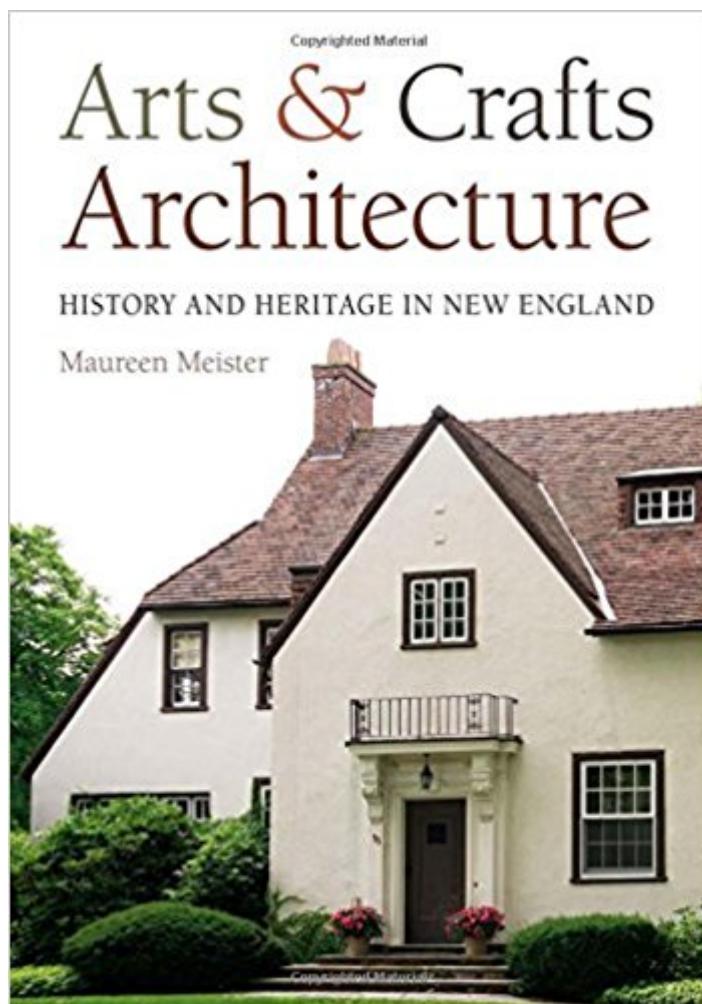


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Arts And Crafts Architecture: History And Heritage In New England



Synopsis

This book offers the first full-scale examination of the architecture associated with the Arts and Crafts movement that spread throughout New England at the turn of the twentieth century. Although interest in the Arts and Crafts movement has grown since the 1970s, the literature on New England has focused on craft production. Meister traces the history of the movement from its origins in mid-nineteenth-century England to its arrival in the United States and describes how Boston architects including H. H. Richardson embraced its tenets in the 1870s and 1880s. She then turns to the next generation of designers, examining buildings by twelve of the region's most prominent architects, eleven men and a woman, who assumed leadership roles in the Society of Arts and Crafts, founded in Boston in 1897. Among them are Ralph Adams Cram, Lois Lilley Howe, Charles Maginnis, and H. Langford Warren. They promoted designs based on historical precedent and the region's heritage while encouraging well-executed ornament. Meister also discusses revered cultural personalities who influenced the architects, notably Ralph Waldo Emerson and art historian Charles Eliot Norton, as well as contemporaries who shared their concerns, such as Louis Brandeis. Conservative though the architects were in the styles they favored, they also were forward-looking, blending Arts and Crafts values with Progressive Era idealism. Open to new materials and building types, they made lasting contributions, with many of their designs now landmarks honored in cities and towns across New England.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In her portrait of a group of architects who practiced in Boston while promoting the English

Arts and Crafts movement a century ago, Maureen Meister weaves sensitive descriptions of construction details and materials that convey her intimate familiarity with the subject. "For scholars of New England architecture, Meister's book is invaluable; for residents of the area, it is a wonderful guide to our physical environment." "Design New England, distributed by the Boston Globe" "This useful illustrated guide to the movement that flowered from 1890 to 1920 puts into context Radcliffe's Fay House, the McLean Hospital campus, Phillips Brooks House, and many iconic homes. "Meister's fascinating look at the origins and influences of arts and crafts architecture in New England is as finely crafted and detailed as the works it explores. . . . The book is filled with fine portraits of the architects highlighted and many of the notable buildings they created, a number of which stand today. This volume should delight scholars and other academics as well as enthusiasts of American architecture and should be found in libraries with a concentration of decorative arts, architecture, and architectural history." "Library Journal" "A thorough scholarly work. . . .

Recommended. "Meister provides plenty of history, written in clear language that details myriad aspects of the Arts and Crafts influence on the area." "Newport Daily News" "This volume is lively and readable, and is also richly illustrated. While amply footnoted and exhaustively researched, it's not just a book for academics, but one for any aficionado of one of New England's most important architectural movements." "Art New England" "Building on [Meister's] 2003 biography of H. Langford Warren, the book establishes her as the area's premier authority on the architectural expression of Arts and Crafts in New England. . . . Especially interesting is the way Meister connects the influence of important Boston thinkers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Eliot Norton, and Louis D. Brandeis to the kinds of buildings erected in New England during and after the Arts and Crafts movement." "Northshore Magazine"

"American Arts and Crafts architecture was uniquely responsive to its setting, resulting in work that varied widely across the country. As Maureen Meister demonstrates in her authoritative account, the architects who led Boston's Society of Arts and Crafts created designs rooted in English and Anglo-Colonial precedents drawing on the best of the past to address the challenges of the early twentieth century." (Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, professor of architecture, University of Washington) "Maureen Meister crafts an engaging portrait of a network of architects whose work reflects a shared ideal, rich intellectual underpinnings, respect for the past,

fine craftsmanship, and carefully chosen materials. Proponents of both the Gothic and Colonial Revivals, they were equally inspired to invent new building typologies suited to a burgeoning region and a progressive era. This thematic overview is compelling, thoughtful, and delightfully readable. (Beverly K. Brandt, professor in the School of Design at Arizona State University) "Finally, the architecture of the Arts and Crafts years in Boston has been given the serious study it so richly deserves. The period produced an extraordinary flowering of architecture in New England," writes Maureen Meister in a statement that could not have been taken seriously a generation or two ago. Her broad and deep revisionist discussion substantiates the truth of that assertion, and plugs a great hole in the published history of American architecture. (James F. O'Gorman, professor emeritus of the history of American art, Wellesley College)

There was hesitation on my part before making this purchase and I am so glad I moved forward and added this work to my collection. A great story of a unique architectural style that deserves to be celebrated. Great text, pictures and very informative. Well worth the purchase.

Review of Arts & Crafts Architecture

Amazing that this is the first book to engage with such a fascinating topic — the architecture of the Arts & Crafts movement in New England! The author, Dr. Maureen Meister, traces the beginnings of the movement from the 1897 exhibition at Copley Square featuring over 1000 objects and the importance of the active involvement and interchange of craftsmen as well as architects. The book is richly illustrated, engaging for all interested in this rich period of New England history and you can still head out to see many of these sites! A wonderful read or gift for anyone interested in the Arts & Crafts movement, especially in the Boston area. While the book is the result of in-depth research and provides a scholarly foundation for this subject, it is also accessible to all interested readers. Read, think and then plan some walks or drives to see some of these standing buildings in the Arts & Crafts movement in New England!

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