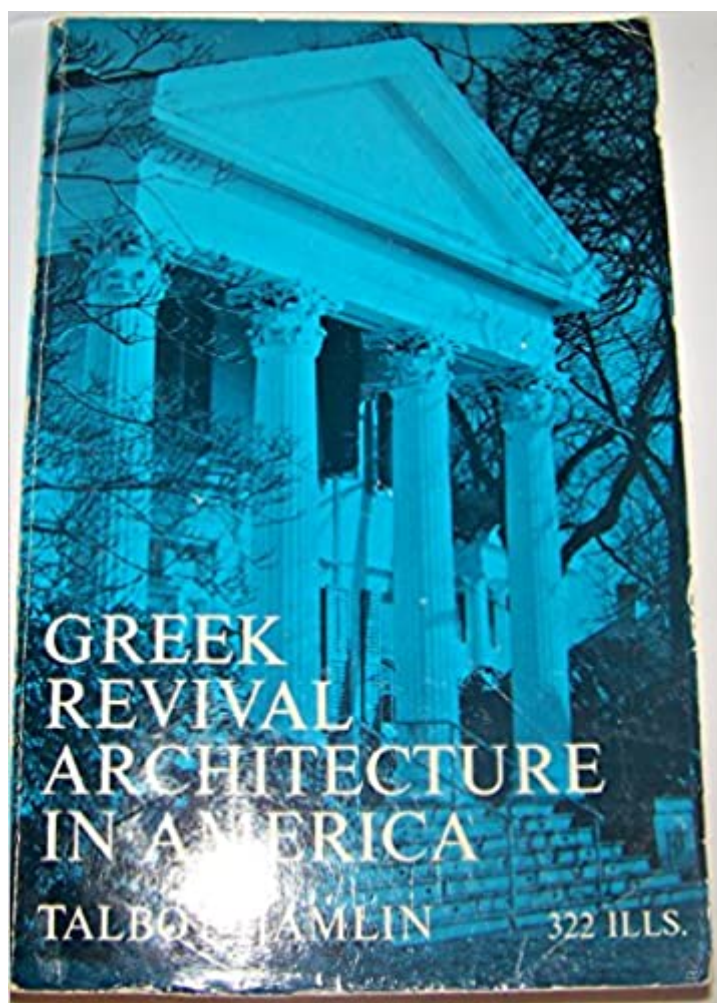


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Greek Revival Architecture In America



Synopsis

An illustrated history of Greek Revival architecture in America by Talbot Hamlin. 489 pages, paperback. Published by Dover Publications.

Book Information

Paperback: 479 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (June 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486211487

ISBN-13: 978-0486211480

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #920,199 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Art & Photography](#) #9435 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture](#)

Customer Reviews

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Recommend it

Detailed review of Greek Revival architecture in the first half of the 19th century including origins and a survey of significant buildings in this style. Thorough and professional, this reference is itself now a historical view of the thinking, circa 1944, a century after construction of the buildings included in this book. Many drawings and photos, though in black and white, serve to illustrate the text.

If you have ever been curious about Greek design elements in American architecture, particularly early American architecture, this is *the* book for you. It has an articulate forward by Leopold Arnaud, then dean of Columbia University's architectural school, and a number of b/w photo examples as well as floor plan models. The chapters cover the background of the Greek Revival, including its impact on post-colonial architecture and Jeffersonian architecture, its role as America's

first true style, its role in maturing American architecture, its presence in cities like Philadelphia, Boston, and New York, its presence in regions like New England, the South, the Gulf Coast, and the Pacific Northwest. The book also explores the reasons why the Greek Revival fell out of fashion and has two appendices discussing additional styles inspired by the Greek Revival and some relevant articles published about the Greek Revival prior to 1851. Please be advised that while this book is highly comprehensive, its focus is on the first half of the 19th century and architecture's changing shape during the Civil War is therefore not discussed. The photos, ornaments, illustrations and figures are too profuse to count. Though they are all in black and white, you are certainly getting a good value by the sheer number of photos alone. If you are at all interested in architecture pertaining to Classicism, Neoclassicism, Early Americana, and certainly, the Greek Revival, this book is a must have.

The text presented in the book is extremely descriptive and in depth. The book flows through the time in chronological order describing the details and purpose of the the main periods in architecture. The book takes off talking about primitive architecture of our distant ancestors. It then takes a turn to the early architecture of the western world featuring Egyptian, Asian, and Mediterranean architecture. The classical ages of the Greek and Roman empires is explored as well as its conquering history. Castle building during the Feudalist medieval times features byzantine, romanesque, and gothic forms of architecture. The European renaissance and its artistic intentions is presented before it gets into the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century progression. The classic revival and then the architecture of today conclude the book of its journey through this unique yet strong art form. Based on the Flesch-Kincaid readability test it is a harder read with a score of 12.0. This book would be of great use in the hands of someone majoring in a form of architecture and i would not recomend it as a leisure read.

I was very disappointed with the lack of notice towards the public library marks on the pages. I would not have bought the book with this information.

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