



American House Styles: A Concise Guide (Quantitative Applications in the)

By John Milnes Baker

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How and where did different architectural styles develop?

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.

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Editorial Review

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From early colonial to "pretentious" postmodern, Baker's guide achieves its goal of defining and clarifying American architectural styles introduced throughout various periods of home construction. Baker considers the changes occurring in house design by elaborating on, and providing links between, general historical incidents, pertinent architectural history, and influential figures who participated in the development of distinctive house styles. Baker creates a basic house plan, then manipulates it to include designated elements of design integral to the various period styles discussed. The finished book--set to contain a glossary, reading list, and 100 elegant black-and-white line drawings--should prove to be an engaging historical account and an attractive, practical resource. *Alice Joyce*

From the Back Cover

"Colonial", "Victorian", "Neoclassical", "Modern" - what distinguishes one architectural style from another? How and where did these different styles develop? America has an abundance of fascinating and varied house styles, as fascinating and diverse as its people. When we explore our neighborhoods and travel around the country, how do we recognize the kind of architecture we see? Even people interested in houses can rarely identify the style of their own homes with any precision. This unique book will allow readers to recognize the architectural features and style of virtually any house they encounter. To create this guide, architect John Milnes Baker designed a simple, two-story house with four bedrooms. From it he developed the basic plan for each historical style - from the steeply pitched roofs of Early New England Colonial houses to the turrets and grand porches of the Queen Anne style, the austere geometry of the International style, and today's Postmodern multiple eclectisms. By starting each drawing with the same plan and adding the essential characteristics of each style, Baker ensures that the reader does not become confused by additions and later embellishments to the buildings. Each section of American House Styles begins with a historical overview of the period, followed by a concise commentary on each style. The author then highlights the specific design details that distinguish one style from another. He shows how different styles developed and what influenced their development. His beautifully wrought elevation drawings, each with a floor plan, illustrate the details of style clearly and with precision. Through an understanding of earlier styles, we develop insights into the architecture of our own era. Not only is it fun, but the study of architecture also nurtures a critical sense and allows us to make informed judgments about what is being built today.

About the Author

John Milnes Baker is an architect specializing in residential design. He is also the author of *How to Build a House with an Architect*.

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