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The Splendor Of Cuba: 450 Years Of Architecture And Interiors



Synopsis

An unprecedented tour of stunning and architecturally significant Cuban palacios, mansions, and private homes that have been meticulously preserved, previously un-photographed, and inaccessible to visitors. At a time when more travelers are rediscovering Cuba, this lavishly illustrated volume offers a different view of the island's cultural achievements. It presents not the Cuba of Castro's era, with its derelict buildings and peeling paint, but the opulent world of the Spanish Creole aristocracy of the colonial period, with its Mudejar craftsmanship and baroque palacios, the sugarcane plantations (ingenios) and coffee plantations (cafetales), and classically inspired grand mansions. Exceptional preservation work has kept these villas in the magnificent state in which they were first envisioned. The photographs, shot exclusively for this book, show examples in each area of the island—from the interiors and exteriors in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Pinar del Rio to close-up details of courtyards, balconies, galleries, balustrades, grilles, and louvered doors in Trinidad, Matanzas, and Holguin. One featured home is Finca Vigia (the Lookout House), the former residence of Ernest Hemingway.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"At a time when hope is in the air that travel to Cuba may soon be possible again for average Americans, *The Splendor of Cuba...* offers a different view of the island's culture." ~Cuba News

Michael Connors, an expert in Caribbean antiques, is a contributor to numerous publications, including Art & Antiques, Antiques and Fine Art, and The Magazine Antiques. He has written many books, including British West Indies Style and Caribbean Houses: History, Style, and Architecture.

Already have gifted The Splendor of Cuba to two friends one birthday and another on a special occasion. Both times book was an instant hit to the point that guests want to "borrow" it right away. Also received complimentary calls and emails with true expressions of joy. Almost never did I get this sort of sincere instant thank you with a gift. This book was loved by all. Will certainly purchase again for future gifts for all my Cuban friends.

Lately there has been a growing interest in publishing books detailing the splendor of Cuba's architectural heritage. This new publication is nothing short from being a visual feast. The book is thick and full of large fully colored photos revealing the different eras of Cuban architectural heritage. The photos are accompanied by a thorough and engaging text that explains each era and its specific features. Thus, placing the beautiful buildings illustrated into their social and historical contexts. This book succeeds both as a beautifully illustrated reference as well as a stunning coffee-table book, highly recommended.

So well done from the photos taken in places that most visitors won't get to see, to the well written historical backgrounds and current state of conditions of the properties. Having recently returned from a short trip, there is the obvious decay and poverty that is so often shown. Unesco and Cuba are beautifully restoring many important buildings and areas. This book is a must for anyone interested in the history and architecture of a unique place. This book exceeded my expectations.

Beautiful photographs, skillfully and artfully taken, of façades and interiors of private residences and public buildings throughout the island of Cuba. This book contains accurate historical data, and informational facts throughout, helping the reader get a more insightful knowledge and understanding of the colonial period of architecture in Cuba.

I just finished reading this book and found it to be a terrific overview of the historical architecture in Cuba. The text may have been a little light, but for someone such as myself who only wants to know the basics, it was perfect - and the abundance of rich photography more than made up for it. This will definitely have a permanent home on my coffee table.

I was born in Cuba and books like these bring back special memories!

This is a fantastic book of photography from a Cuba that is rarely seen or know about by many people who wonder about the island or if like myself are in exile and have only my parents stories and memories of my ancestor's country by wish to see it in all its splendor.

I gave this as a gift and the receiver loves it. The photos are absolutely beautiful!

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