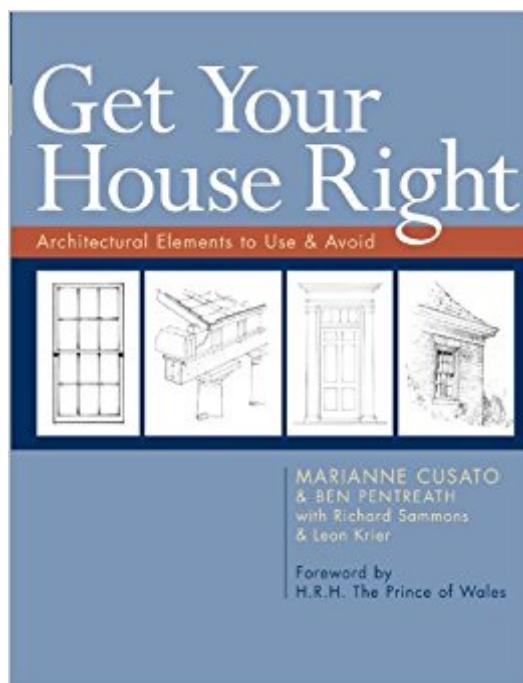


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Get Your House Right: Architectural Elements To Use & Avoid



Synopsis

Sick of McMansions? Marianne Cusato, creator of the award-winning Katrina Cottages, is a champion of traditional architectural principles: structural common sense, aesthetics of form, appropriateness to a neighborhood, and sustainability. She presents the definitive guide to what makes houses look and feel right, revealing the dos and don'ts of livable home design. Hundreds of elegant line drawings--rendering the varieties of architectural features and displaying "avoid" and "use" versions of the same elements side by side--make this an indispensable resource for designing and building a timelessly beautiful home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Get Your House Right:
"An important and much needed book." --Sarah Susanka, FAIA, architect and author of The Not So Big series and Home by Design
Marianne Cusato translates architectural language into the vernacular and, by doing so, into the reach of the average consumer, where such knowledge is guaranteed to do the most good. This 'Rosetta stone' of design will guarantee Cusato a place in the history of twenty-first century American architecture.
The Philadelphia Inquirer
"[Cusato] provides a vision of how we live together and build on our planet, and points out the consequences of flawed building practices not only to our environment, but to our spirit and our soul." --Michael Lykoudis, Dean, University of Notre Dame School of Architecture

Marianne Cusato has received international attention for her design of the Katrina Cottages: affordable, durable home kits created as an alternative to FEMA trailer housing to help the Gulf Coast rebuild. The cottage won the Cooper-Hewitt People's Design Award and has been written up in magazines and newspapers across the country, from Architectural Record and Cottage Living to Time and Forbes. She is the principal of Cusato Cottages, LLC, a New York-based firm specializing in traditional architectural design.

This is an easy book to understand. If you are looking to emulate a style pre-1900 (e.g. Greek Revival), it is perfect. It describes in great detail, not only the right way, but also the wrong. I can't complain. The rub is what the author considers architecture and not. The forward describes the "scourge" of modern architecture. Some of the best architecture out there is modern, although there is a lot of bad modern style. A book like this wouldn't work for modern, but there is 80 years or so between the end of the author's view of high architecture and the "scourge" of modern and it is severely lacking. Arts & Crafts, Craftsman, Bungalow, Prairie, etc. are all styles that have rules that need to be followed and quite honestly, I am shocked there is not one page mentioning them. The book keeps mentioning the need for vertical lines (important to styles pre-1840 or so) and specifically noting to avoid horizontal lines (the most important factor for Prairie). Bottom line: if you want a traditional style, this is a great book. If you want a style post-Queen Anne, not only is this book not helpful, it would actually discourage it.

good summary of classical orders. book is a little light on interior detailing -- only has a few pages on interior moldings. stupid treatment regarding gutters since it just says that the standard rectangular step-back gutter [which is ubiquitous on single family dwellings] is bad and the rounded gutter is mostly good. nevertheless, this book gives everything you need to look at houses and understand why the exterior of a building looks good or looks weird.

A must read for anyone about to build a house, whether you're a homeowner, builder, or designer (especially this person). This book makes it so easy to understand good architecture it'll blow your mind. You'll see residential architecture in a whole new light. This book is a great companion to the always awesome "American Vignola". Thank you, Marianne Cusato. No more McMansions!

This is a good book for people who are in to historical/classic home renovations & building. This book gives the reader lots of information about proportion in design, suitability, classic lines. It tells

what to avoid. This book deals mainly with the exterior. For someone wanting to build a very classic elegant home or someone renovating a older home - this is a great book. Sadly, most contractors will never read it - they should!

First up, if you're building a contemporary house, this book would be pretty useless. It deals mainly with traditional houses and how to make them look right. And it does that perfectly. I hardly ever write reviews, but this book deserves it: it shows what people often do, why it's wrong, and what you *should* do instead. Things that just don't look right, but you're not exactly sure why -- this book illustrates those faults, and how to correct them. For example, I had no idea panes (or "lights") in barred windows should all run vertically, and in the same proportions for each window. And that the faces of columns should line up with the roofline above (and not the column's header). If you're building a traditional house, this book is a bible. Don't hesitate.

The diagrams are beautifully drawn, very clear, and will be a valued addition to my library. There are points when the text is delivered "down the nose" and is somewhat off putting. For example this quote: "The higher the Order, the richer the level of detail. If you can't afford it or don't understand it use something simpler." I'm sure they don't really mean fine proportions are only for people smarter or wealthier than me. Overall its a great reference and I'm happy with my purchase. I will continue to reference the drawings and wont really need to read the text again.

Andres Duany's note on the dust cover of this certain classic says it all: "Ah! The splendor of clarity." If all stake-holders of residential buildings - designers, sellers, buyers, developers and builders - were to become familiar with the contents of this wonderful book the kitsch and crap characteristic of much of recent American residential "design" would disappear within a generation. This book contains the clear organization and nearly infinite detail necessary to eliminate what Leon Krier refers to in the book's preface as 'architectural analphabetism' common in current traditional residential buildings. This careful cataloging of architectural elements to use and avoid, illustrated with over a thousand beautiful sketches and drawings, is a major contribution to twenty first century designers, builders and owners, and a significant accomplishment for a practicing, award-winning young architect. Dean Lykoudis, you must be very proud. You have every reason to be.

Clear, easy-to-follow illustrations. Posits a thorough understanding of classical design principles and why modern houses are just so darn ugly. Great starting point for people interested in traditional

architecture.

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