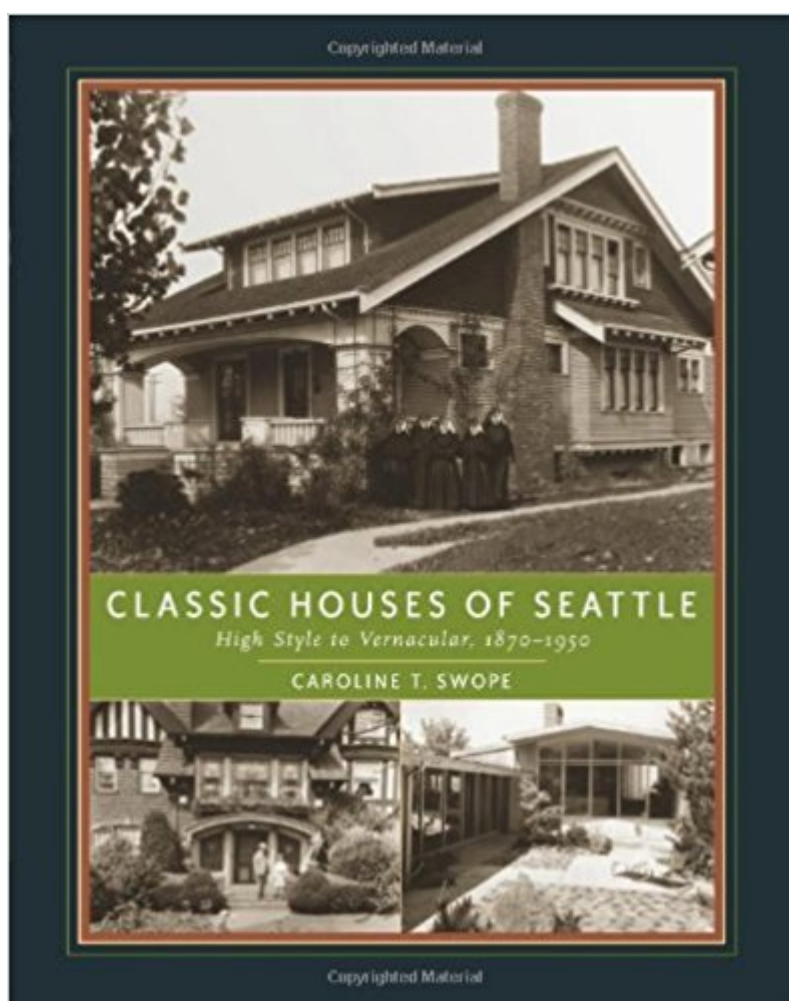


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# Classic Houses Of Seattle: High Style To Vernacular, 1870-1950 (The Classic Houses Series)



## Synopsis

Home owners, history and architecture buffs, and visitors to the Pacific Northwest will all find a treasure trove of information within these pages. With 300 photographs and illustrations, both historic and contemporary, this text provides a comprehensive overview of the city's major residential architectural styles, including Victorian, Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Modern. The homes featured range from the showplaces of the wealthy to humble cottages and bungalows in residential neighborhoods. Beginning with a historical overview and continuing through descriptions of the 120 featured houses, organized by chronological era, this is the first-ever comprehensive guide to Seattle's historic homes. Checklists of houses by neighborhood and style make this useful for walking tours by residents and visitors alike. Anyone interested in preserving Seattle's architectural treasures will find this an essential resource. *Classic Houses of Seattle* is a vibrant portrait of the city's development, an important chapter in the story of American residential architecture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...a thorough guide to the architectural styles of Seattle's residential neighborhoods, a trove of histories of individual dwellings, and will be a welcome companion on your next stroll around town."

Lawrence W. Cheek, *Sunset* March 2007

Explores in detail more than 120 historic Seattle houses depicted in 325 spectacular period photos, many never before published. Photographs are supplemented with historic house plans and original

architectural drawings. Includes a how-to guide for researching the history of your house.

Understand: this is a book destined to help readers understand the different types of classic houses they see in Seattle neighborhoods. The book shows readers that... yes, that house across the street is an Italianate from the Victorian Era... and the one down the block is a Seattle Four-Square. But for those looking for an extensive collection of pictures... before and after... in black-and-white and in color... with examples of restoration and even "saved from the brink" stories... this is NOT the book you're looking for. Given there was nothing like this book, beforehand, a lot of credit has to be given for all the work that went into this book... from the collection of early photos, to the information on each house, and the general attempts to understand each style. Classic American house styles (and not just in Seattle) had become a forgotten art form in the States, until the 1970s, when a young architect named Bob Vila, launched a seminal program on PBS for the restoration of old houses. And creating a boom both in the interest in America's family home patrimoine/heritage... but in the home restoration industry! Given the interest and knowledge people have, a book such as this fits right into the general need to appreciate and understand house styles. This is a very good book for understanding, in general, the different house styles. Of course, the term "classic" means those houses which had some sort of architectural movement attached to them. So don't expect anything looking at the earliest houses of Seattle (which may or may not still exist) from the Civil War era, which were simple, Nordic-inspired clapboard, frame houses, for example. Highly recommended for anyone who loves Seattle, and wants to have an understanding of the houses standing around in the classic neighborhoods of the city.

Seattle has a look defined by single-family homes of distinctive architectural styles. The author pins these down well. As of 2013, the more central of its neighborhoods such as Capitol Hill, First Hill, and Queen Anne are changing fast as high density condos and apartments are built, with relaxed height limits and parking space requirements. The Seattle look is endangered. The book helps define what the city has that should be protected. Complaint: the addresses of the homes in the photos is not on the page, and even finding it in the back of the book is difficult because of poor organization.

This book is beautifully made and extremely informative. If you are interested in the history and neighborhoods of Seattle and well as the various architecture this is your book. My only con is that it didn't include as many floor plans as I thought it would, but overall a good book.

This book is a great guide to period houses in Seattle. Lots of specific information. Note that the book helps identify the house and its time and style. It is not a remodelling resource.

Great overview of the unique and varied architectural styles in Seattle. Good illustrations and history of the styles and the architects that transformed this city.

I'm the third owner of a 1908 house in downtown Seattle that has survived relatively unmolested. I was looking for details of how the house should have been decorated in the period and how I could make small changes to the house to make it functional, yet remain honest to the period. The book is great at showing the history and architecture of each period with nice photo examples inside and out. I only hoped there would be a little more detail about how to find an architect that specializes in restoring these types of homes.

This book covers the basic styles of homes seen in the SEATTLE areas, from around 1879 to around the 1950's. Many of the earlier homes have since been destroyed, so the author had to rely on archival photos. All those photos are, of course, in black and white. Then the author did a wonderful research job by showing the following architectural styles from the early 1900's to the 1950's. The reason that I give this book a 4-star, rather than a full 5-star rating, is because I wish the author had shown more photos of the LATER homes discussed, & that are still available in Seattle. Instead, the author showed one photo (mostly) of the later homes, when she surely could have included a few more photos of the LATER homes, since they are still available for photo-taking. The photos of the available (modern) homes, are all in black and white also ---not in color. I suppose the author wanted to show continuum throughout her book, so she chose to show all the book's photos (even the modern photos from 2004-2005) in black and white.

...particularly about homes and the growth of communities, obviously here it would be Seattle. Not a "coffee table" book though, limited photos, most not of a size or quality that make it an indulgent book.

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