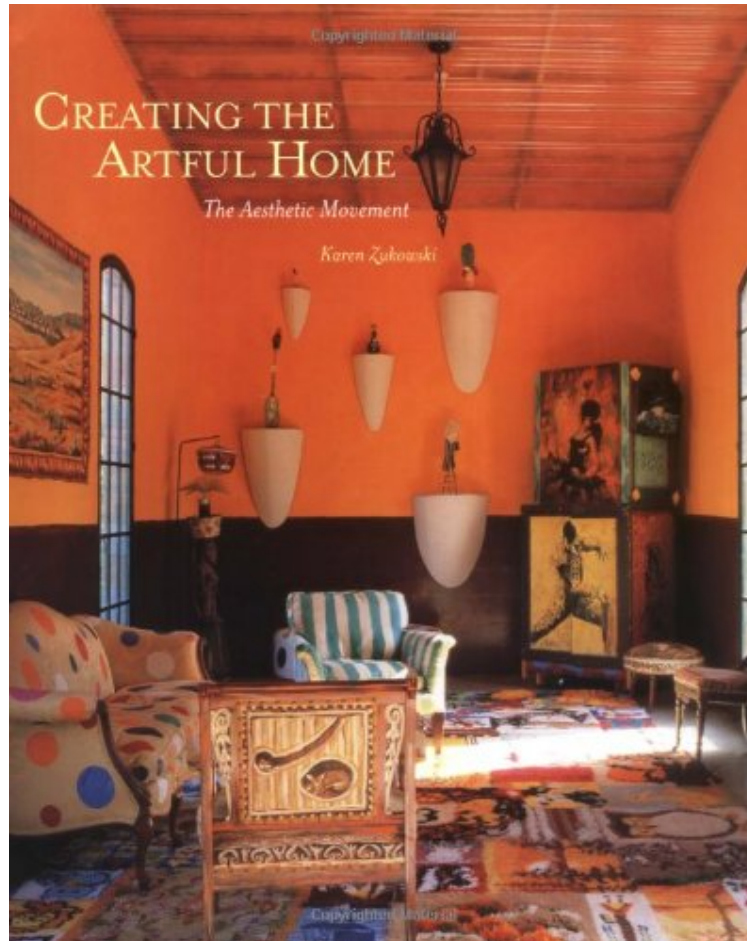


Creating the Artful Home: the Aesthetic Movement

Karen Zukowski

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Karen Zukowski : Creating the Artful Home: the Aesthetic Movement before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating the Artful Home: the Aesthetic Movement:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Jan Jvery nice book10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Taste is Not a Moral IssueBy DC Book AngelI admit to reading the book cover to cover one lazy winter afternoon. My first creative heroes were William Morris and others who taught themselves how to do so many different things in order to enact their vision in every element of the house-- tiles, fabric, furniture, and so on. The aesthetic movement changed the middle class American house and family life in urban areas, integrating family time and encouraging creative pursuits. It is a positive reading experience marred only the author's failure to catch some really awful misuse of words in the text (e.g. liable for libel and tenant for tenet), her belief that taste is a moral issue, her lack of awareness of the incredible positive impact of television and magazine house porn, and her belief that somehow two workers in a family adversely affects their aesthetic reach. The conclusion left a bad taste after a thoroughly interesting and informative ride through an era of incredible democratization of beauty and a DIY ethic

that continues today, and yet, no acknowledgement that the Kenners' lifestyle required phenomenal amounts of cheap labor by people who could only dream of having time, energy, space, and finances to host a pink luncheon. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A pick for some college-level arts collections

By Midwest Book Review

Creating the Artful Home: The Aesthetic Movement is, surprisingly, the first close examination of late 19th-century American home design and its culture, offering up details on how the Aesthetic movement left a legacy of houses, developments, and ideas which linger into modern times. Historians, collectors and home and garden readers will learn about the movement and its impact on home furnishing trends, offering many rare color photo views of past interiors and exteriors along with dozens of drawings not seen elsewhere. A scholarly tone is added with an analysis of gender roles and architectural history, but while this scholarly tone allows CREATING THE ARTFUL HOME to be a pick for some college-level arts collections, its more likely audience will be the public or general-interest lending library, which will find it a unique coverage.

Diane C. Donovan
California Bookwatch

Creating the Artful Home: the Aesthetic Movement and Its Influence on Home Decor covers the history of a movement that emphasized "art for art's sake"-and the influence it had on home decor. The Aesthetic Movement in America lasted just a few decades (1870-1900), and served mainly as a bridge between the high Victorian sensibility and the radical shift to the Arts Crafts style. The movement germinated among artists who used opulent color, decorative patterning, and lavish materials simply for the aesthetic effects they could evoke. It was commonly held that a home that expressed an artful, harmonious soul would instill high aesthetic and moral merit in its inhabitants. The Aesthetic Movement in America helped to popularize the idea that everyone should be able to enjoy beautiful, well-made homes and furnishings-not just the very wealthy. Artful homes could be composed from brilliant antique store finds, discriminating department store purchases, and gems hand-made by the ladies of the house. It was the moment when people embraced the idea that only a beautiful home could be a happy home. Karen Zukowski delves into the movement's establishment, evolution, and main characters, and shows how today's homes can incorporate Aesthetic principles: Through suggestion rather than statement, sensuality, massive use of symbols, and synaesthetic effects-that is, correspondence between words, colors and music. How influential designers such as Clarence Cook and Charles Eastlake popularized the idea that beautiful homes with tasteful furnishings could be available to practically everyone

How today's designers, manufacturers, and retailers deploy the very same stylistic markers of the Aesthetic Movement: rich color, layered pattern and texture, mixtures of historical motifs

From the Inside Flap

Creating the Artful Home: The Aesthetic Movement is the first in-depth look at late-nineteenth-century American home design and its cultural context. Average housewives transformed the radical premise of the Aesthetic movement-art for art's sake-into lush, nurturing homes. They believed that artful homes made people better, families happier, and society stronger. As it flowered in America, the Aesthetic movement became not so much a style as a process. The Aesthetic movement left us a legacy of Queen Anne houses and tidy suburbs, and its influence is now felt as Americans embrace the more-is-more philosophy of home furnishings. The Aesthetic movement grew out of the ideas and the products of English reformers, such as William Morris, and was flamboyantly promoted by Oscar Wilde in an 1882 lecture tour across America. Tastemakers rallied-Louis Comfort Tiffany became an interior designer while his father's firm, Tiffany and Company, produced Japoniste silver. Eastlake furniture invaded fashionable shops like Cottier's, and Oriental stores appeared even in small towns. Graphics transmitted the new design overtly through advertising and subtly through products like ubiquitous Staffordshire tableware. This book takes a thorough look at household furnishings, from the lavish productions of the Herter Brothers to humble Minton tiles. This volume will intrigue collectors, historians, and homemakers. Dozens of never-before-published illustrations, including rare color views of 1880s interiors and exteriors, shed new light on American houses. The author gives thoughtful insights into gender roles and the development of architecture as a moral imperative. Collectors will appreciate the thorough examination of historic architecture and furnishings and the glimpses of modern objects that show the same aesthetic. Most of all, the book gives modern homeowners insights into how American houses of the past have shaped our houses today-and how we might create our own artful homes in the future.

About the Author

Karen Zukowski is an independent historian of late-nineteenth-century American visual culture, with a special interest in interiors. She holds a PhD from the City University of New York. She was the curator of Olana State Historic Site, one of the finest surviving Aesthetic Movement houses in America, built by Frederic Edwin Church, the Hudson River School painter. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Museum Studies department of New York University, and the Cooper Hewitt/Parsons MA program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design. She is an active member of several professional organizations for historic houses, and lives in New York City.

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All things considered, the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 was unsettling for Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. True, the United Kingdom had made an impressive showing at the fair, making up 6,861 of the total 13,937 exhibitors. England out shown any other country, even given its natural advantage as the host. The structure for the fair was a miraculous achievement: a vast glass-and-iron many-armed greenhouse designed by Joseph Paxton, ornamented with a coherent color scheme by Owen Jones. Such expanses of light-filled halls had never been

built. The visitor wandered among raw materials like minerals and foodstuffs, among historical artifacts and zoological specimens, and among the multifarious products of the modern world, from armaments to writing inks. A great many of the exhibits were everyday products that the viewer might buy: fabrics, furniture, and small domestic goods, from coal-scuttles to cutlery. The developing power of industry was impressive. But, the homemaker in search of simple but attractive furnishings was confounded.