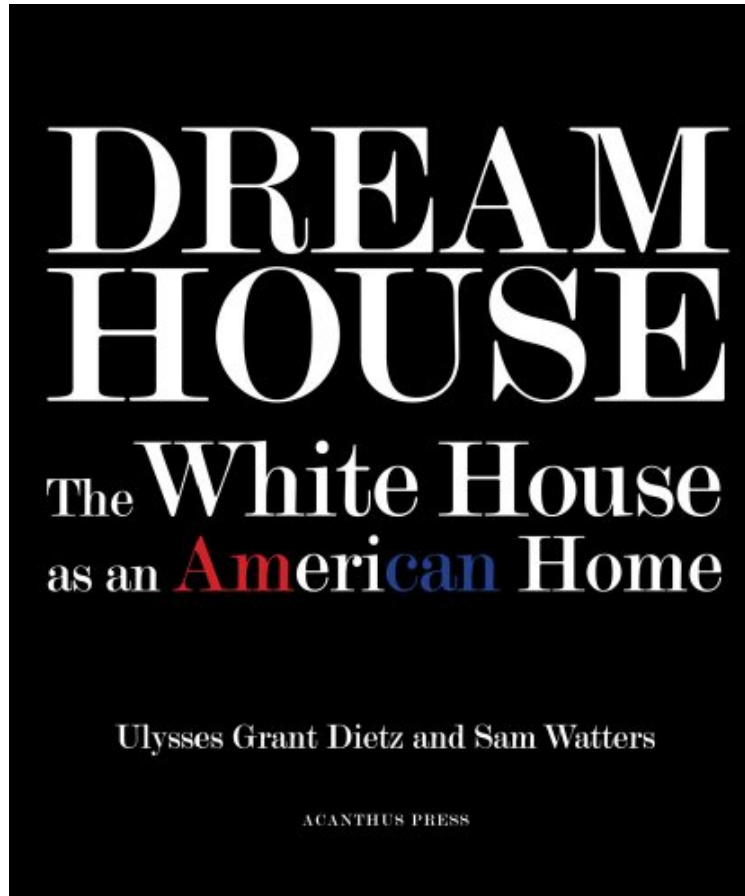


(Mobile book) Dream House: The White House as an American Home

Dream House: The White House as an American Home

Ulysses G. Dietz, Sam Watters

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Ulysses G. Dietz, Sam Watters : Dream House: The White House as an American Home before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dream House: The White House as an American Home:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lovely Coffee Table Book By Lightspring2000 My husband is very pleased with this book from .com. He has been watching it at a number of bookstores. Its great pictures of the changing White House interiors throughout numerous presidencies is very interesting. Many unique historical facts by Ulysses G. Dietz who is Ulysses S. Grant's great-grandson. We got it for a great price here at .com. It rests on our living room coffee table. Highly recommended. 5 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Dreams? By Jon Swift Poorly written, mostly cribbed from earlier books on the White House. Skips over a number of administrations, presidents and their wives. little that you couldn't find elsewhere. Very snide view of most of the decorating of the past and on going style. Seems like Newark, New Jersey is the ideal for style. Author is the many times descendant of one of the more forgettable presidents, Grant and even he and his wife are not documented all that well. A few new photographs, but many from previous volmes. A major disappointment from Acanthus Press and we have two more

volumes to suffer through. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The World's Most Famous House By Classicdude Authors Dietz and Watters have done an admirable job of presenting an interesting new Decorative Arts study of this beloved public and private landmark, known around the world simply as The White House. I have four other books on The White House plus numerous others such as those about McKim Mead White, Sister Parish, and Maison Jansen that partially feature it. And I particularly enjoyed all the new information, photos, and drawings that I had not seen before despite some of the inevitable over-laps in this book. But the main point of DREAM HOUSE, THE WHITE HOUSE AS AN AMERICAN HOME is the evolution of the building and how it influenced residential architecture of the day and vice-versa. Rejected designs along with comparisons of other stately homes are studied with the development of the building as house, reception venue, office building and museum. Chapters include the phases the White House has gone through as Country House, Villa, Mansion, Palace, Suburban Home, and Shrine. While not every administration is covered, major contributions -- and relapses -- by Presidents and First Ladies Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Polk, Fillmore, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, both Roosevelts, Wilson, Harrison, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Regan, and Clinton are among those shown. The last photo shows Michelle Obama and White House chef Sam Kass meeting with school children to plant a kitchen garden, returning to the early ideals of sustainability. The development and redevelopment of the 82 acre site are also presented, showing the changing gardens and greenhouses over the years. Various decorative schemes and furnishings make up a major portion of the book, with the many architects, designers, decorators, trade sources, department stores, and committee members discussed from Pierre L'Enfant and James Hoban to Kaki Hockersmith and Michael Smith. In addition, there are extensive notes, a bibliography, and an index. This is an attractive and impressive study of the world's most famous building, The White House, recommended for all who appreciate historic architecture and the decorative arts.

Today it is the most famous building in the world, recognizable to millions as a symbol of the American presidency. But the White House was not always an iconic monument it was first an American home. From 1800 until 1960, the president's house kept pace with changing ideals of the perfect American house and garden. It began as George Washington's dream of a country estate; a century later, when robber-baron palaces came into fashion, it became the imperial seat of the larger-than-life Theodore Roosevelt. In the 1950s, Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower enjoyed the middle-class life in the capital city, barbecuing on the roof of the curving south portico. That ended when Jacqueline Kennedy redecorated the White House as a museum to upper-class taste. Dream House: The White House as an American Home looks at the president's house in the context of American house design and decoration. Hundreds of historic photographs, plans, and drawings compare the president's residence to other American houses, gardens, and interiors, showing the White House as it changed through decades of interior renovation, rebuilding, and landscaping. The nation's finest decorators, garden designers, architects, and retailers Herter Brothers, Sister Parish, Beatrix Farrand, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., and McKim, Mead White helped first families realize personal, and yet always American, dreams of how presidents should live. As Americans we think we know the White House, from the Red, Green, and Blue rooms to the Oval Office. What we know is only part of a much bigger story . . .

Dream House: The White House as an American Home is 304 pages of cold comfort for those who think 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is immune to charges of ghastly taste. Ulysses Grant Dietz, the Newark Museum's curator of decorative arts and the president's great-great-grandson, and Sam Watters, an architecture critic, began with the premise that the White House once mirrored national trends and aspirations in domestic design: Jefferson inhabited an Anglo-aristo country estate; Jackson, a genteel villa enshrining democratic values; Franklin Roosevelt, a suburban crib with the design integrity of a midprice hotel chain. The evolution ended with the Kennedys, Mr. Watters said, saving his most withering criticism for Jackie: The idea is that she restored it as it was under the early presidents, he said, when in fact, she restored it to how she thought they should have lived. --The New York Times, October 1, 2009 Perhaps the most intriguing chapter is the last, where the authors take on the legend that is Jackie O. As midcentury modernism took off, Jacqueline Kennedy revered the past, embraced antiques and famously redecorated the White House with the zeal of a museum curator. Though her refined taste made her an icon, the authors argue that Kennedy turned the White House into a shrine -- not a living, breathing, evolving home that reflected a changing nation, but rather a locked-in-time fantasy of how the American upper class lives. --The Los Angeles Times, December 19, 2009 Great book...The White House is the symbol of the American presidency, its a museum and its a family home, and Dream House covers all of them. --Today Show, December 15, 2009 About the Author Ulysses Grant Dietz, a great-great grandson of Ulysses S. Grant, has been the curator of Decorative Arts at The Newark Museum since 1980, and Senior Curator since 2007. He received his BA from Yale in 1977, and his MA in Early American Culture from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in 1980. Mr. Dietz restored the centerpiece of the Newark Museum, its 1885 Ballantine House. He has published numerous articles on decorative arts and books on the Museum's Studio Pottery, Art Pottery and 19th century furniture collections. Sam Watters lectures and writes on the built environment within the context of American culture. Educated at Yale, the University of Marseilles and at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, he is the author of Houses of Los Angeles, 1885-1935 and the Lost LA column for the

Los Angeles Times. Mr. Watters is preparing, with the Library of Congress a book on the early 20th century garden photographs of White House photographer, Frances Benjamin Johnston.