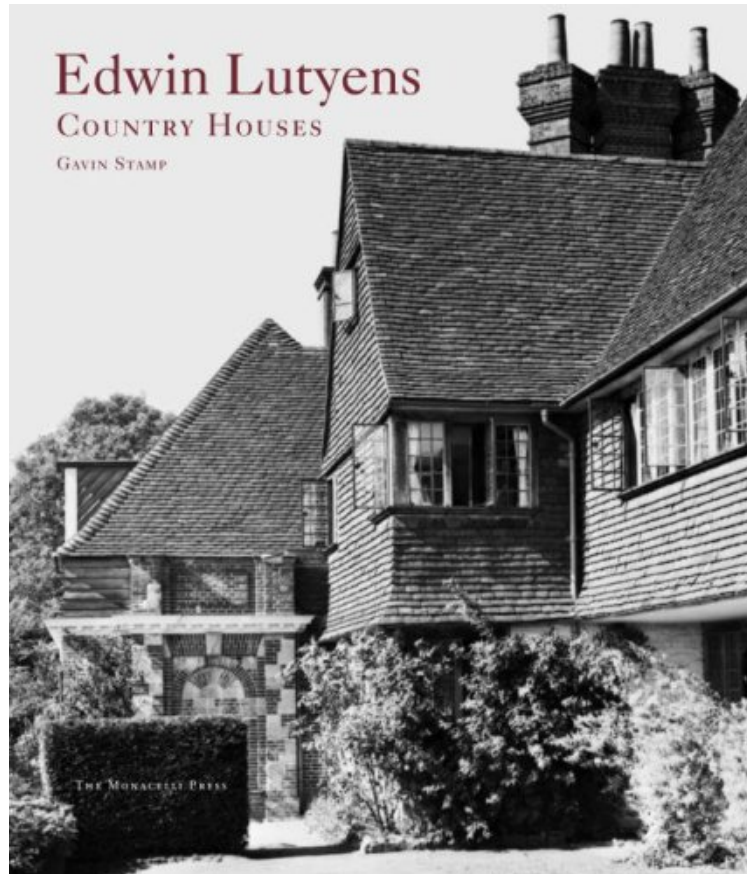


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## Edwin Lutyens: Country Houses

*Gavin Stamp*

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**Gavin Stamp : Edwin Lutyens: Country Houses** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edwin Lutyens: Country Houses:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Big Talent, Big Book, Big DreamsBy James EllsworthAlso Big Houses! Those looking for country cottages might get a detail or ten from Lutyens but his architecture is wholly in the service of large commissions and persons of taste with big budgets. Gavin Stamp, aided by the photographers working for England's 'Country Life Magazine', have put together a breathtaking book. Stamp's prose is well crafted, his content informative about the period and about Luytens' major country houses. Some of them are little-known in America but Heathcote (gardens by his collaborator Gertrude Jekyll), Castle Drogo and Folly Farm are better known here. Deanery Garden is a wonderful showplace that Luytens designed for Edward Hudson, the founder of 'Country Life.' In all, twenty-two of Luytens' projects are given special attention in this volume. All photography seems to have been done 'back in the day' when the houses were recently completed and the landscaping well-established. Both furnished interior and exterior images are presented in crisply clear black and white photos, each of which is of a generous size. The Monacelli Press (Random House) offers a superb production in this printing.The book provides a

record of the work of a major turn-of-the-nineteenth century architect whose work built on the ideas of Norman Shaw and Phillip Webb, proponents of a return to vernacular 'Home County' elements in built forms. Lutyens' designs for exterior elevations are considered to be both referential to traditional forms and creative and fresh. He was not wedded to a particular 'look'; rather he was interested in volumes and presence in his structures. In keeping with the spirit of the times, he also planned to fit the built form to its landscape. Had this book included plan views showing how spaces worked together or had each project been presented more completely in photographs of the exteriors, I would have given the book 5 stars. Of course, 'Country Life' would not have intruded so comprehensively on the privacy of the residents of these mansions and Stamp has had to be content to work within the limitations of his sources. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Rah Kee Young Excellent 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By D. Henebry The Book was an excellent addition to my Library. The book was in the condition it was stated to be in and shipped promptly.

Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944), perhaps the greatest British architect of the twentieth century, was introduced by garden designer Gertrude Jekyll, his celebrated collaborator, to Edward Hudson, the founder of the great British magazine *Country Life*, in 1889. Hudson thereafter did all he could to promote the work of a man he admired without reservation, commissioning Lutyens to design the magazines offices in Covent Garden in 1904, as well as three country houses. *Country Life* published articles about virtually all his buildings shortly after their completion, recording them as the architect intended, creating an unparalleled visual archive which is the source for this selection of outstanding photographs of Lutyens's domestic architecture. Gavin Stamp's authoritative introduction places Lutyens firmly among the giants of architecture: an architect of rare genius and humanity. His selection of twenty-two houses, representative of all the phases of Lutyens's career, illustrates the architect's dual achievements as a renewer of both vernacular tradition and of the Classical language of architecture. Debate continues about Lutyens's place in modern architecture, but his legacy of some of the most inventive and romantic examples of British domestic architecture is unquestionable. There are superb examples of his Surrey vernacular style (with its gables, timber, and sweeping planes of tiled roof), such as Fulbrook House, one of his earliest masterpieces; Deanery Garden, designed with the garden in mind for Hudson; early Arts and Crafts houses, such as Goddards and Little Thakeham; his carefully composed Classical houses, such as Heathcote, and his grandest country house of all, Middleton Park, built between the two World Wars. Here, too, are examples of his brilliant enlargements and alterations to existing buildings, such as Lindisfarne Castle, and his creation of the epitome of castle style: Castle Drogo. This pictorial survey culminates in Lutyens's most famous creation: Viceroy's House in New Delhi, one of the greatest buildings in the world. Founded in 1897, *Country Life* from the outset published remarkable photographs, and the huge influence the magazine exerted was nowhere more apparent than in its unprecedented championship of Edwin Lutyens, whose buildings it promoted for almost fifty years. For this book, two hundred photographs have been beautifully reproduced from the *Country Life* archive and, combined with Gavin Stamp's illuminating essay, provide a unique survey of one of Britain's foremost architects.

"A monograph that is the finest type of book one might imagine." *The Huffington Post* About the Author Gavin Stamp, born in Bromley four years after Lutyens's death, is an architectural historian and writer. He taught at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art from 1990 until 2003 and is now an independent scholar. He was one of the organizers of the Lutyens Exhibition held at the Hayward Gallery in 1981-82, and served as Chairman of the Twentieth Century Society, where he is now a trustee. Among other writings, his books include *The Changing Metropolis: Earliest Photographs of London 1839-1879*, *The English House 1860-1914*, *Alexander Greek Thomson*, and *Telephone Boxes*.