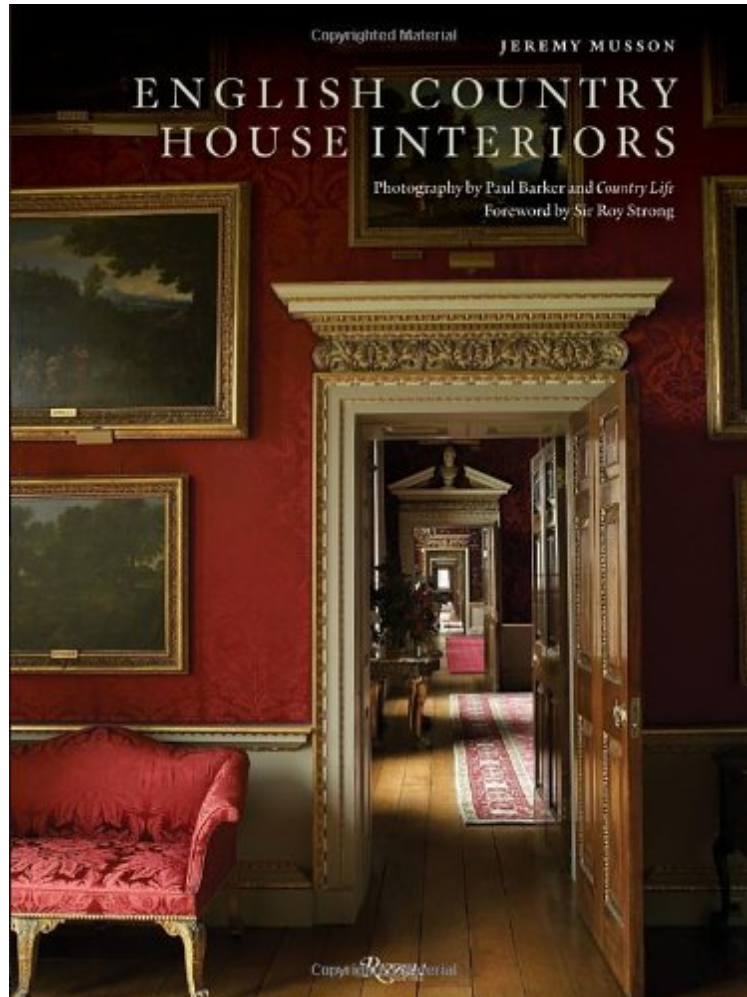


English Country House Interiors

Jeremy Musson

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Jeremy Musson : English Country House Interiors before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised English Country House Interiors:

28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Exquisite By L. M. Keefer Exquisite. Simply exquisite. On lovely, thick pages fourteen iconic English Country Houses are featured celebrating diverse styles beginning with the Jacobean, traveling through the Baroque, Palladian, Regency, Gothic Revival to the Victorian. In the foreword of this book, the English country house is described by Sir Roy Strong: "They are never showy on the outside. Exteriors are always concerned with sobriety and silhouette, which only heightens the revelation when the door is thrown open and the visitor enters to be astonished by the dazzling opulence within." The rooms in this book ARE a revelation--there are about 15 full-page and half-page photos of each home featuring rooms, details of rooms, chapels and noteworthy

paintings, carvings, and sculpture in the homes. There is also an exterior view of each home. The book explains that the English country house had a purpose beyond meaning to impress. They were, in the words of Strong, "cultural oases where it was possible to see Old Master paintings, antique sculpture, assemblies of rarities and substantial libraries, as well as collections of drawings, engravings and manuscripts." As England was ruled by a King/Queen subject to Parliament, the country house was more than a refuge for the owner, it was his power base. The King came to the owner's home, and stayed in the house's state rooms, not vice-versa. There is a detailed history of each home from their inception to the present day by author/historian Jeremy Musson. You may want a timeline of English Royalty and a map of England to mentally place the homes as you read. A veritable dynasty of architects and designers worked on the homes from Inigo Jones, to William Kent, Robert Adam, Chippendale, John Fowler, David Hicks and David Mlinaric. The photography is sublime by Paul Barker and from COUNTRY LIFE magazine files. It's a gorgeous volume which exceeded my expectations. The homes are museums of the finest furniture, tapestries, art and architecture throughout the history of England. The chapters may leave you feeling wistful, wishing to see more of each home. I wanted to see every room from the bedrooms to baths, to the kitchens and servants quarters. You may want to learn more about the English Country House interiors after studying this book. I did. The cover is a beguiling view into what is inside. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Another Excellent Rizzoli Publication By Vernon Lynn Bell The houses covered are all famous, fabulous and anyone with an interest in historic English homes will certainly be familiar with all. That being said, I would probably not give this book a 5; however, as with all Rizzoli publications, the photography is stunning and shows details of each house that normally would not be shown in a book of this genre. The text is engaging and covers the interior decor as it occurred through the ages. Beautiful addition to my collection. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. English Country House Interiors By Dear Reader For lovers of Palladio and Adam, English Country House Interiors is a real feast. It is a must-have reference for those of us who can only dream of living in such rich interiors. It is wonderful for fireside reflections. I have stacks of books on the English Country House, and this is by far the best.

A highly detailed look at the English country house interior, offering unprecedented access to England's finest rooms. In this splendid book, renowned historian Jeremy Musson explores the interiors and decoration of the great country houses of England, offering a brilliantly detailed presentation of the epitome of style in each period of the country house, including the great Jacobean manor house, the Georgian mansion, and the Gothic Revival castle. For the first time, houses known worldwide for their exquisite architecture and decoration--including Wilton, Chatsworth, and Castle Howard--are seen in unprecedented detail. With intimate views of fabric, gilding, carving, and furnishings, the book will be a source of inspiration to interior designers, architects, and home owners, and a must-have for Anglophiles and historic house enthusiasts. The fifteen houses included represent the key periods in the history of English country house decoration and cover the major interior fashions and styles. Stunning new color photographs by Paul Barker--who was given unparalleled access to the houses--offer readers new insights into the enduring English country house style. Supplementing these are unique black-and-white images from the archive of the esteemed Country Life magazine. Among the aspects of these that the book covers are: paneling, textile hangings (silks to cut velvet), mural painting, plasterwork, stone carving, gilding, curtains, pelmets, heraldic decoration, classical imagery, early upholstered furniture, furniture designed by Thomas Chippendale, carved chimney-pieces, glass, use of sculpture, tapestry, carpets, picture hanging, collecting of art and antiques, impact of Grand Tour taste, silver, use of marble, different woods, the importance of mirror glass, brouille work, English Baroque style, Palladian style, neo-Classical style, rooms designed by Robert Adam, Regency, Gothic Revival taste, Baronial style, French 18th century style, and room types such as staircases, libraries, dining rooms, parlors, bedrooms, picture galleries, entrance halls and sculpture galleries. Houses covered include: Hatfield - early 1600s (Jacobean); Wilton - 1630/40s (Inigo Jones); Boughton - 1680/90s (inspired by Versailles); Chatsworth - 1690/early 1700s (Baroque); Castle Howard - early 1700s (Vanbrugh); Houghton - 1720s (Kent); Holkham - 1730s-50s (Palladian); Syon Park - 1760s (Adam); Harewood - 1760s/70s (neo-Classical); Goodwood - 1790s/1800s (neo-Classical/Regency); Regency at Chatsworth/Wilton/C Howard etc - 1820/30s; Waddesdon Manor - 1870/80s (French Chateau style); Arundel Castle - 1880s/90s (Gothic Revival); Berkeley Castle - 1920/30s (period recreations and antique collections); Parham House - 1920s/30s (period restorations and antique collections). The range is from the early 17th century to present day, drawn from the authenticated interiors of fifteen great country houses, almost all still in private hands and occupied as private residences still today. The book shows work by twentieth-century designers who have helped evolve the country house look, including Nancy Lancaster, David Hicks, Colefax Fowler, and David Mlinaric

About the Author Jeremy Musson is a leading commentator and author on the English country house. He was architectural editor of Country Life from 1998 to 2007, for which he wrote hundreds of articles on country houses and is still a contributor. As a former National Trust assistant curator he redecorated state rooms at Ickworth Park and curated Anglesey Abbey. Musson is the author of several books including The English Manor House, Plasterwork, How to Read a Country House, The Country Houses of Sir John Vanbrugh, and Up and Down Stairs: The History of

the Country House Servant. A contributor to World of Interiors, The British Art Journal, and Cornerstone, he has interviewed many figures in the world of heritage, arts, and interior design, and he co-wrote and presented The Curious House Guest, a BBC2 series on important country houses in 2005-2006. Art historian Sir Roy Strong is the former director of Londons National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Paul Barker is one of the U.K.s leading architectural photographers.