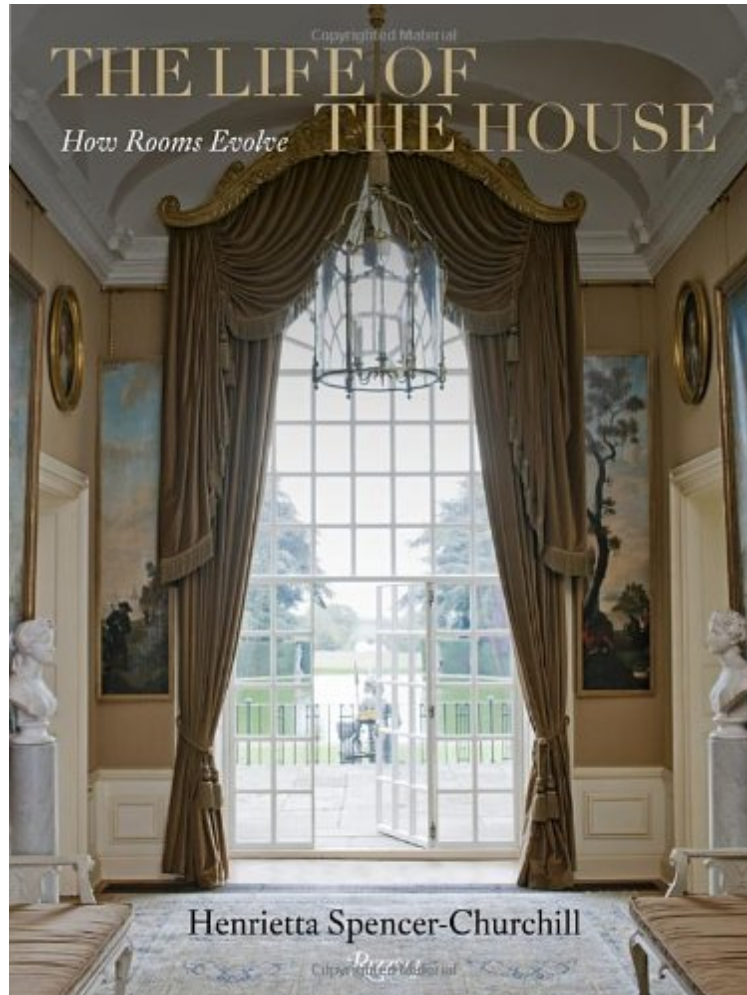


The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve

Henrietta Spencer-Churchill

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1342918 in Books Rizzoli 2012-10-02 2012-10-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.32 x 1.09 x 9.281, 3.70 #File Name: 0847838560224 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Henrietta Spencer-Churchill : The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve:

31 of 33 people found the following review helpful. This should have been a great book. It is not. By R. MacI am quite vexed. This book is, sadly, disappointing. Based on the distinguished lineage of the author, I had high expectations, as presumably the author would have access to remarkable houses and many dusty archives not normally available to mere mortals. While the book is, yes, filled with luscious color images of remarkable and stunning interiors...there is a large disconnect between the title and the contents. From the subtitle (How Rooms Evolve), I expected, for example, to see a 1780s painting of a dining room at X country house in Britain. This would be followed by an image of the room redecorated in the Victorian era. Then, a dashing image of a glamorous late 1920s white-on-white makeover. Then, an image with the room transformed into a dormitory during WWII, followed by an early 1950s image, in pale

color, of the same room now furnished, sparsely, as a drawing room. Then, an image in rich color of a recent, glorious, and lush redecoration. And so on. While the limited text discusses the idea of how rooms have evolved over time, none of this is represented in the images, save four on pages 98 and 99 - Redecorating a Jacobean Hall - and there are but a handful of archival images in the entire book (even though archival drawings, painting, and images abound for many great country houses in the UK and the US, and the many evolutions of the rooms therein). Another inexplicable consideration is the choice of images. For example, on page 75, a stair hall is pictured from a new home in Atlanta. The stair majestically sweeps up in a classical curve. At a glance the interior and its architecture are lovely, but even a brief study changes this initial assumption. The stair is oddly thick and offers none of the grace normally evident in flying staircases (one of the great architectural creations of all time). The molding on the walls stops, strangely, several feet short of the horizontal molding above, while on the lower walls the molding is, well, skimpy. An arched door uncomfortably collides with other molding. And so on. How is it that the author could include such an image in a book filled with many Great Houses, such as evident on page 80 (the drawing room at Easton Neston)? I assume this same new home in Atlanta is also featured on page 96 - another awkwardly detailed and decorated room, this time a circular drawing room. One only need glance over to the next page (a drawing room at Petworth) to appreciate the scale, brilliance, masterly detailing, and comfort lacking in the former. The book goes on to lavishly display many images of a new house in Dallas, and I assume all these images are of the same house. The living room is splashed across two pages (110 and 111) and is painful to look at. Moreover, WHAT does this image have to do with how rooms evolve? One fairly shrieks at the difference between the dining room at Holkham Hall (page 138) and the new Dallas dining room on 141. The author is also an interior designer. Did her firm create these stiff, nouveau riche-like interiors? Does that explain their inclusion? Please do not get me wrong. I have nothing against new classically styled houses but the author overlooked every single brilliant architect practicing the classical language in America. It is disturbing that the author seems unable to distinguish between the brilliant and the mediocre. To get a better idea of, well, how good can be regarding new classical homes in America: New Traditional Architecture: Ferguson Shamamian Architects: City and Country Residences American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax Sammons Peter Pennoyer Architects: Apartments, Townhouses, Country Houses The Great American House: Tradition for the Way We Live Now 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well done! By Sally King I loved the concept and the execution of this design book. I am planning to update a traditional home and found the ideas expressed relevant and appropriate. The illustrations were lovely. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By M. S. Gift Gorgeous book

Respected author and designer Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchills newest book inspires us to incorporate time-tested design principles into modern living. A noted authority on period homes and historic styles, Henrietta Spencer-Churchill celebrates the life of great rooms over the years and the evolution of their architectural features and interior decoration. Featuring a stunning selection of historic homes in both England and the United States, *The Life of the House* reveals the best of architectural and furnishing details from the last three hundred years, with ideas on updating these spaces for modern times. The book is organized by room, including the living room, from formal reception rooms to the modern-day family room; the library, once a gentlemen's retreat and now often a home office or den; the dining room, once a formal status symbol, now frequently a casual open-plan room; and the kitchen, once a servants area, now a multifunctional family space. Chapters on creative modern uses of such traditional rooms as ballrooms and conservatories are also included. With photographs of exquisite interiors from every important historical period and Spencer-Churchills fascinating text revealing life behind the scenes in these houses, this book is filled with creative ideas on incorporating traditional style into contemporary settings.

"The book describes the best of both architectural and furnishing details in a selection of historic homes in England and the United States from the last 300 years as well as ideas on updating these spaces for modern times." ~Houston Lifestyles Homes About the Author Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill runs the design firm Woodstock Designs, has recently launched her own furniture line with Maitland Smith, and writes a regular column on design for the Financial Times. She is the author of *Blenheim and the Churchill Family*, *Classic Interior Design*, *Classic English Interiors*, and *Classic Design Styles*.