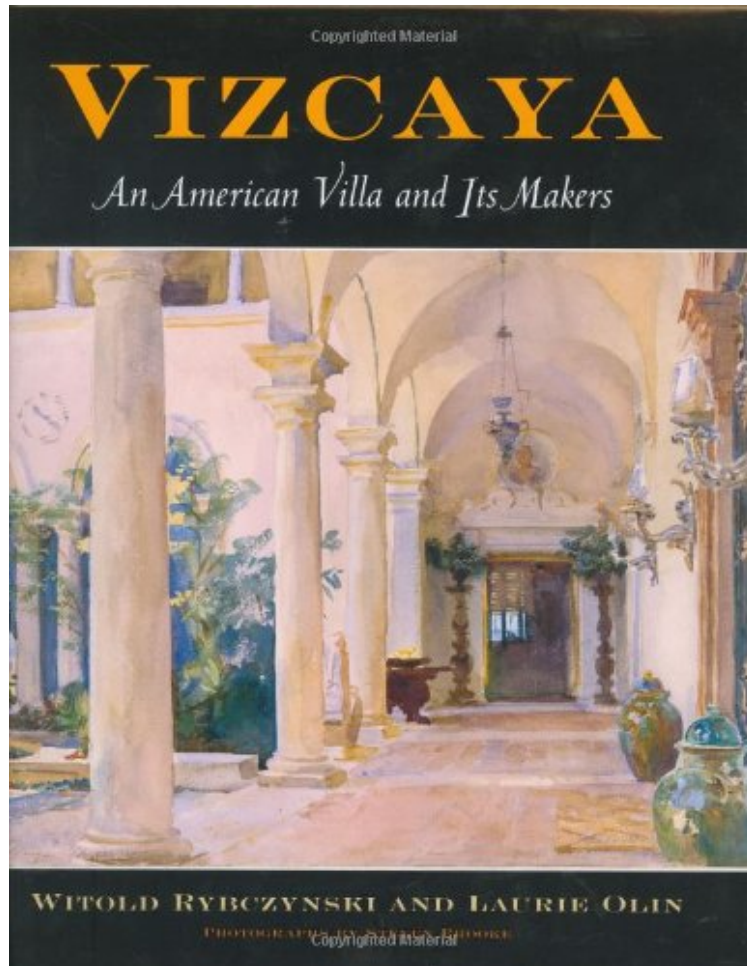


[Free] Vizcaya: An American Villa and Its Makers (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture)

Vizcaya: An American Villa and Its Makers (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture)

Witold Rybczynski, Laurie Olin
DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



#1273933 in Books University of Pennsylvania Press 2006-12-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.28 x .91 x 8.44l, 2.58 #File Name: 0812239512296 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Witold Rybczynski, Laurie Olin : Vizcaya: An American Villa and Its Makers (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vizcaya: An American Villa and Its Makers (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Two Best Writers By Robert Knight In my opinion, Witold Rybczynski is the best observer of architecture writing today. Laurie Olin is in the same class as an observer of landscape architecture. The chance to read the two of them writing about this estate is an unusual treat. This is the kind of book somebody might give you and although the cover is attractive, you give a small inward sigh, knowing you will never read it. Not with this book. The writing is simply vastly better than books like this usually are. If you are at all interested in the design process either in landscape or residential architecture you will not be disappointed in this

book. And if you like this book, check out the two books I have linked to which are classics. *The Perfect House: A Journey with Renaissance Master Andrea Palladio Across the Open Field: Essays Drawn from English Landscapes* (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture) 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. *Vizcaya*, by Rybczynski and Olin. By Jacobin Girardin. This book by two architects that is the story of Vizcaya, the James Deering Estate built in the early twentieth century in Miami as the lavish and sumptuous expression of the great wealth of its tractor-manufacturer owner, is an exceptionally first-class literary production from every point of view that could have a bearing on its subject. Written in the technically precise phraseologies appropriate to architecture and interior decoration, its prose is free of and stands above the contamination that abounds in the otherwise usual debasement of modern literature, and it is illustrated with a landslide of stunningly magnificent photography in both color and black-and-white. But something else with which it is illustrated is what recommended this book to me. I am neither an architect nor an interior decorator, nor has the stuff of those callings ever engaged much of my attention, but as soon as my eye fell on the watercolors painted of Vizcaya by John Singer Sargent when he was a guest of Deering's there in 1917, while I turned the leaves of a friend's copy of the book, I knew immediately as one with a profound attachment to watercolor painting that I must own this book for myself. For although I have held perhaps a hundred Sargent watercolors in my hands in the Metropolitan, Brooklyn and Boston Museums, and seen many more besides in other books, I had never before seen these, as they have lain quietly in private collections without ever being published to my knowledge until now, and they are among the finest examples of Sargent's amazing wizardry in this medium, which defies belief that a human being could have painted them. And the rest of the book is a plus even for one not particularly attracted to matters of residential design or interior decor, for it is a record of an era of refinement, gentility and taste, a belle poque in American history that is gone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **great THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF VISCANA IS A REAL** By E Wray Williams **great THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF VISCANA IS A REAL TREASURE**

The Miami estate of Vizcaya, like its palatial contemporaries Biltmore and San Simeon, represents an achievement of the Gilded Age, when country houses and their gardens were a conspicuous measure of personal wealth and power. In *Vizcaya: An American Villa and Its Makers*, a celebrated architecture critic and writer and an award-winning landscape architect explore the little-known story of Vizcaya, an extraordinary national treasure. Witold Rybczynski and Laurie Olin use a rich collection of illustrations, historic photographs, and narrative to document the creation of this stunning house and landscape. Vizcaya was completed in 1916 as the winter retreat of Chicago industrialist James Deering. The cosmopolitan bachelor, who chose Miami for its warm climate, enlisted the guidance of artist Paul Chalfin, with whom he traveled throughout Italy to survey houses and gardens. With the assistance of architect F. Burrall Hoffman, Jr., and garden designer Diego Suarez, the 180-acre site on Biscayne Bay was transformed into a grand estate, complete with lagoons, canals, citrus groves, a farm village, a yacht harbor, and a 40-room Baroque mansion. The lure of this architectural and landscape masterpiece, named for a Spanish Basque province, is undeniable. John Singer Sargent planned a short visit in 1917 but stayed for several months, producing an inspired series of watercolors, many of which are reproduced here for the first time. The book is further enriched by archival material and by the color images of noted photographer Steven Brooke, paying homage to Vizcaya as a lens through which readers learn about architecture, landscape and garden design, interior decoration, and art.

"Vizcaya . . . retells and interprets the fascinating story of the great American dream made real." *Miami Herald* "Vizcaya, long thought of as a wealthy man's folly, has finally gotten the critical consideration it has so richly deserved in this eminently readable book." *Architecture in Print* "Mr. Rybczynski and Mr. Olin judge the villa as they find it today and in the context of the historical process that produced it, rather than through a filter of modernist criteria. . . . An admirable job of conveying the history of Vizcaya." *Wall Street Journal* "On every page the authors breathe life into the plastered stone walls of the estate, and photographer Brooks captures the sunny, light-filled ambiance of the locale in splendid photographs, many in color. Altogether the very model of a major monograph on an important great estate. Essential." *Choice* About the Author Witold Rybczynski is the Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor of Urbanism at the University of Pennsylvania and the author of many books, including the award-winning biography of Frederick Law Olmsted, *A Clearing in the Distance*, and the best-selling *Home: A Short History of an Idea*. He has written on architecture and urbanism for the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Slate*, and *New York of Books*. Laurie Olin is Practice Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and Principal of the Olin Partnership, a landscape architecture firm in Philadelphia. He is the author of *Across the Open Field: Essays Drawn from English Landscapes* and a coauthor of *La Foce: A Garden and Landscape in Tuscany*, both published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.