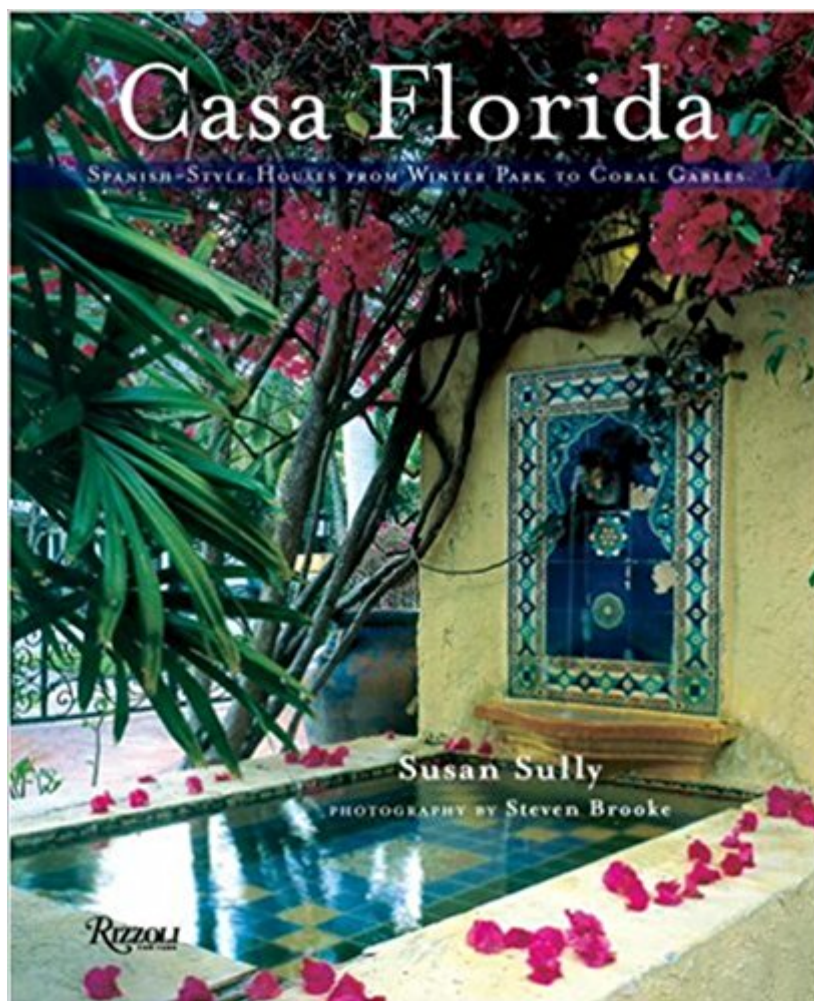


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# Casa Florida: Spanish-Style Houses From Winter Park To Coral Gables



## Synopsis

Florida's architectural history can be traced to the Spanish colonial settlement of St. Augustine in the mid-16th century, while the state's architectural development reached its mature stage in the 19th century. *Casa Florida* is an exuberant, full-color celebration of the enduring influence of Spanish architecture and design upon Florida's resorts, private houses, and gardens. *Casa Florida* explores the earliest influences of the Spanish style in the Sunshine State, its revival in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and its contemporary expression in architecture today, with a strong focus on the style's unifying concept of fantasy and Florida's unique tendency to inspire enraptured states of mind and spectacular built environments. Susan Sully provides colorful history and anecdotes that complement Steven Brooke's magnificent full-color photography of the region's signature style in examples representing the entire state and ranging from the charming to the splendid.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Susan Sully is the author of *New Orleans Style*, *Charleston Style*, and *Savannah Style*. A graduate of Yale University with a degree in art history, Sully lectures and writes for publications including *Southern Accents*, the *New York Times*, *Art and Antiques*, and *House & Garden*. Steven Brooke is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome and winner of the AIA National Institute Honor Award for photography. He is the author and photographer of Rizzoli's *Views of Rome* and *Views of Jerusalem and the Holy Land*, and the photographer for Rizzoli's *Napa Valley Style*, *Savannah*

Style, and Seaside Style. He lives in Miami.

In my hunt for more information on Spanish Style homes, (I own a bungalow in California), I have been frustrated at the limited amount of books out there. I work at a Library, and many of the patrons share the same frustrations. In order to be able to find books on these subjects, I have had to self-teach about the many surrounding subjects; ie, tiles, Mexico, Moorish, Morocco, Spain, etc. This book is one of the better ones. It has beautiful pictures on how to decorate and landscape. I learned that air-conditioning changed architecture in a substantive way. I had also never heard about concrete ceilings made to look like wood before, apparently a Florida staple, due to humidity. These houses are oh-my-Gorgeous! The only problem was that the author frequently discussed beautiful rooms and details of the houses, then didn't show pictures. Maybe/hopefully, they're saving those pics for a follow-up book on interiors and details? I agree with the previous reviewer, how about a book now on Florida Spanish bungalows?

The book itself is in great condition. The service, speed and condition of the book was excellent. I was disappointed in the content. The "homes" photographed didn't demonstrate locations that one could envision practical applications from and was not as inspirational as I had hoped. I would not have named the book "Casa Florida", a title that is indicative of a much less ostentatious show. I have visited some of the locations featured in the book, these are by no means "casas".

OK-- not great, not bad. Many of the photos are not Spanish Revival houses. Seems the author tried to copy the look and publisher of superior "The California Casa" which I also purchased. Casa Florida is smaller, lower quality and much lower quality photography. In hindsight I would not purchase again. See my review of "The California Casa" for a much better book on Spanish Revival architecture.

Excellent photographs and text. I love the coverage; only wish the book were larger to encompass more houses in each location. That would be a fantastic book. Each location - Coral Gables, Palm Beach, Winter Park deserves a book of its own.

GREAT PHOTOS AND TEXT - REALLY LOVELY BOOK FOR A FAN OF SPANISH/FLORIDA STYLE

If you have plenty of funds in your office library account this book might "make the cut."

Perfect!

The first town in the New World was in Florida and it was a Spanish town. Since then the Spanish influence on the architecture and culture of Florida has been large. In this book a selection of buildings has been carefully selected to illustrate the history of Spanish-style structures from across the state. From an age standpoint, there are some quite old (but certainly not run down) homes varying up through some modern homes built using traditional styling. A few commercial buildings such as hotels are also included. From a style standpoint, the homes of Florida seem to have been influenced more by a Mediterranean, even Moorish, look than the Spanish architecture houses more common in the Western States that have more of a Mexican influence. Beautiful pictures beautifully printed on a high quality matte finished paper add a warmth to the book that glossy magazine style printing imparts.

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