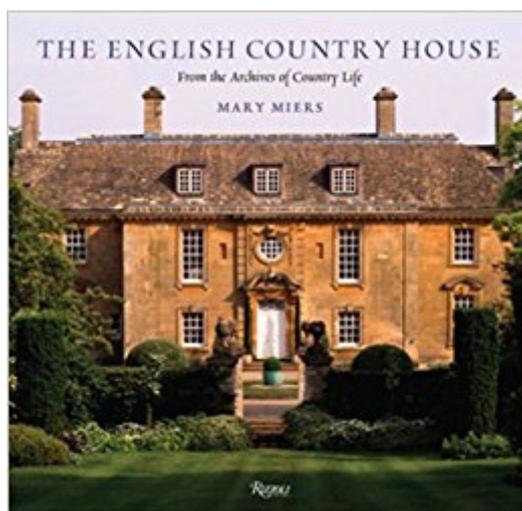


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# The English Country House: From The Archives Of Country Life



## Synopsis

The English Country House takes a look at the architecture and interiors of sixty-two stunning houses in a range of architectural styles spanning seven centuries—from the medieval Stokesay Castle to the newly built, Lutyens-inspired Corfe Farm—brought to life through the world-renowned photography library of Country Life. More than four hundred color and black and white illustrations provide an insight into the architecture, decoration, gardens, and landscape settings of these houses, which are set into their architectural and historical context by the accompanying text and extended captions. The book provides an entrée into the houses to which Country Life has had privileged access over the years, many of which are still private homes, often occupied by descendants of the families that built them. Punctuating the book at intervals in the form of booklets on rich, uncoated paper are six essays by leading British architectural historians that set the English country house into its social context and chart the changing tastes in decorating and collecting, the development of ancillary buildings, gardens and landscapes, and finally, its influence in the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An unprecedented look at quintessential English country house interiors and architecture, from the epitome of English Tudor to the twentieth-century manor house. "[The English Country House] is a feast of photos, and a tribute to the fine homes that have been featured in Country Life [and] is a gorgeous tour that's sure to inspire craving for a hot cuppa, if not a trip to the emerald isle."

Mary Miers is architectural writer, arts and books editor for Country Life. Her previous career was in architectural conservation, and she established and ran Scotland's Buildings at Risk Register in the 1990s. Her books include *The Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* and *American Houses: The Architecture of Fairfax & Sammons*. Her home is in the Highlands of Scotland. Marcus Binney is an architectural journalist well-known for his work in the British conservation movement. Tim Knox is director of Sir John Soane's Museum in London. Jeremy Musson is a former architectural editor of Country Life. Tim Richardson is a former gardens editor of Country Life. John Martin Robinson is the author of several books on British architecture. Geoffrey Tyack is the director of the Stanford University Centre in Oxford.

Anyone who is both an Anglophile (like me) and obsessed with beautiful historic houses, beautiful "things", history and architecture along with interior design will love this. A great Christmas or birthday present. Weighs a ton but you can pore over it for days - account of the history of England's historical "houses" (as they call them in Britain - here they'd be called "palaces") and fabulous color photos you will love. A "coffee table" book you will take out again and again - certainly worth the \$\$\$.

A further insight into the topic I am very interested in. These homes were more than just homey, they were humongous in comparison to the people working their lands. I liked the format.

A stunning collection of English country house vignettes. This is a lovely 'coffee-table' book, and much better than most in this genre. My only criticism is that I wish the black and white photos had been in color. Otherwise, this book is value for money.

The English Country House is a brilliant compendium from the archives of Country Life, the bible of the good life in Britain's late 19th and early 20th century heyday. Whatever your interest, be it interiors, exteriors and wonderful details or history, this will not disappoint. We are most fortunate to have the ability to be transported to a more genteel era and to be able to imagine just how the privileged lived and played before the Great Wars (WWI and WWII) changed life forever. While not an inexpensive buy, it is a worthwhile investment to any student of history.

This definitive book on the English country house will provide the reader with a generous and varied selection of beautiful homes to enjoy. It includes vintage and current photos, and presents exteriors and interiors in vivid color as well as black and white. The history and ownership of the homes are extensively detailed. Since the book is quite heavy, you may wish to keep it as a coffee table book. Or it can be kept on the night stand for a late night relaxing browse to encourage sweet dreams! The print quality is excellent and so is the quality of the paper on which it is printed. Mine was purchased used and arrived in stellar condition. This is the book that you will want to return to time and time again.

This is a brilliant book detailing a vast array of stunning English Country Houses. The houses are nothing short from being exceptional. All the major architectural styles are richly illustrated with gorgeous full page color photos. The photos also reveal the beautiful decorative elements and each property has both exterior and interior shots. The text is also very informative and easy to follow giving just the right amount of information regarding the property and its historical and architectural significance. There are also several short chapters written by expert scholars discussing the unique architectural and decorative motifs which distinguish the English country house. This is a highly recommended book for anyone interested in fine architecture and beautiful photography.

This is a superb, beautifully photographed book and very well put together. It is a large volume, with large color photographs throughout. It details many English manor houses, both in photographs and the written history of the houses and their owners. This is one of the nicest books of this type I own, and I have a large library. This book is great for merely an armchair traveler, or a person who actually researches these houses and then travels to see them. I highly recommend its purchase to anyone interested in the history of English manor houses.

This book should be considered an essential part of the library of any true anglophile or student of architecture. Although the structural details of these English country houses may prove excessive for anyone lacking in a deeply inquisitive interest in their architectural history, the sumptuous photographs of the buildings, grounds, and interiors will provide sufficient eye-candy to make this very large volume totally worth its rather high price-tag.

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