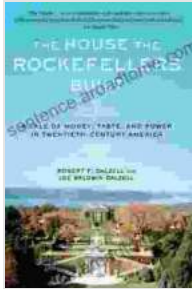


Unveiling the Secrets of the Rockefellers' Architectural Legacy: A Comprehensive Review of "The House the Rockefellers Built"



The House the Rockefellers Built: A Tale of Money, Taste, and Power in Twentieth-Century America (John MacRae Books) by Robert F. Dalzell

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1009 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 353 pages



Nestled amidst the picturesque Hudson River Valley, Kykuit, the opulent estate of the Rockefeller family, stands as a testament to the grandeur and architectural brilliance of the American Gilded Age. *The House the Rockefellers Built*, a captivating and meticulously researched work by author Kathryn K. Oberly, takes readers on an unforgettable journey through the history and legacy of this iconic residence.

Oberly's comprehensive narrative delves into the vision of John D. Rockefeller, the oil tycoon who commissioned the estate, and the renowned architects who brought his dream to life. Through captivating anecdotes and insightful analysis, she illuminates the architectural significance of

Kykuit, showcasing its innovative design, opulent interiors, and sprawling gardens.

The Architectural Masterpiece

Designed by renowned architect Grosvenor Atterbury, Kykuit embodies the Beaux-Arts style that dominated the Gilded Age. Its majestic facade, adorned with intricate stone carvings and sweeping terraces, exudes an aura of both opulence and refinement. Oberly meticulously describes the estate's grand halls, adorned with rare artwork and exquisite furnishings, and explores the hidden nooks and crannies where the Rockefellers retreated for privacy and relaxation.

Beyond its architectural grandeur, Kykuit boasts a breathtaking landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Oberly delves into the meticulous planning that went into creating the estate's sprawling gardens, intricate pathways, and stunning views of the Hudson River. She highlights the importance of Olmsted's naturalistic approach, which seamlessly integrates the house into its natural surroundings.

The Rockefeller Legacy

Oberly meticulously traces the Rockefeller family's generations-long stewardship of Kykuit. She reveals the personal stories and anecdotes that shaped the estate's character and illuminates the role it played in the family's philanthropic and cultural endeavors. From John D. Rockefeller's visionary leadership to the conservation efforts of his descendants, Kykuit emerges as a living embodiment of the Rockefeller family's legacy.

Preserving a National Treasure

In recognition of its architectural and historical significance, Kykuit was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. Oberly explores the painstaking efforts undertaken by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to restore and maintain the estate's grandeur. She reveals the challenges and triumphs faced in preserving the Rockefeller family's legacy for future generations.

A Captivating Read for History and Architecture Enthusiasts

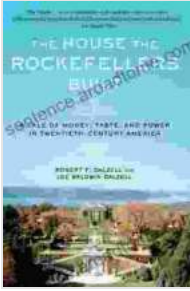
The House the Rockefellers Built is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in American architectural history, the Gilded Age, or the legacy of one of America's most influential families. Oberly's engaging writing style and meticulous research make this book an immersive and unforgettable read. Through detailed descriptions and stunning archival imagery, she brings Kykuit to life, allowing readers to experience the grandeur and history of this iconic estate.

Kathryn K. Oberly's *The House the Rockefellers Built* is a triumph of architectural storytelling and historical preservation. It offers a comprehensive and captivating exploration of Kykuit, an estate that symbolizes the aspirations and achievements of the American Gilded Age. Whether you are an aficionado of architecture, history, or simply appreciate the beauty of a well-preserved landmark, this book is an essential addition to your library.

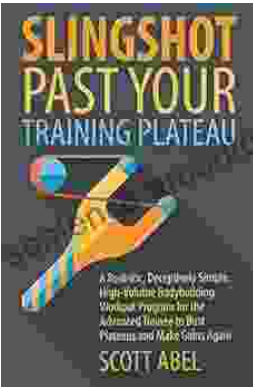
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