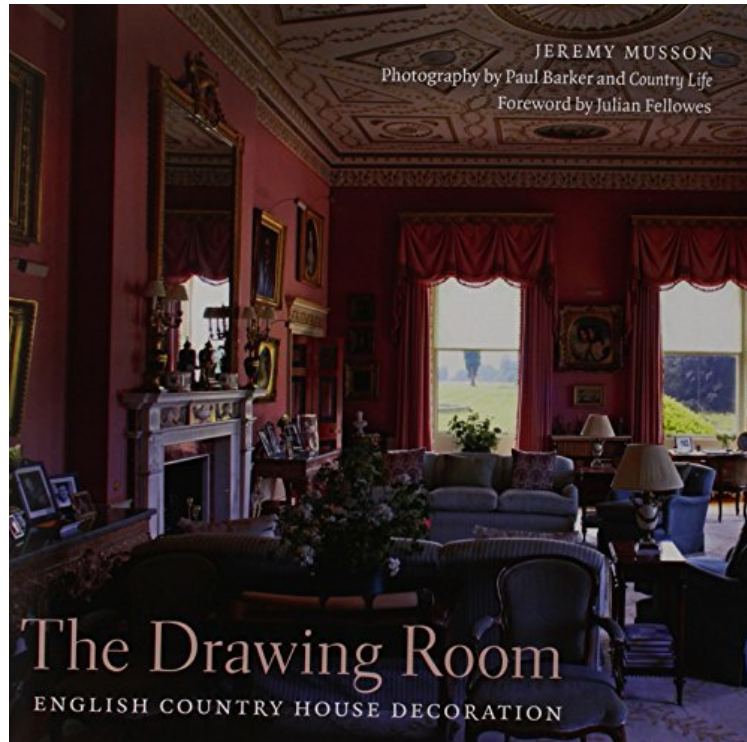


(Download free pdf) The Drawing Room: English Country House Decoration

The Drawing Room: English Country House Decoration

Jeremy Musson

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Jeremy Musson : The Drawing Room: English Country House Decoration before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Drawing Room: English Country House Decoration:

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Ravishing RoomsBy L. M. KeeferIf one of your favorite rooms in English country homes is the drawing room, you should enjoy perusing the images, and reading the narration, in this stunning book as it traces the evolution of drawing rooms from centuries ago to the present. Drawing rooms were known as the province of ladies, and as a room to which ladies withdrew from male society after dinner this book informs. The males stayed to drink, and converse, in the more masculine dining rooms until joining the ladies. Another masculine preserve, libraries, were often a counterpoint to the more feminine drawing rooms which were sometimes decorated to resemble gardens with floral prints, light colors and graceful furniture. Afternoon tea, which didn't require servants' continual attendance, was also served in drawing rooms where, without the servants, conversation could flow more privately and freely.The "petticoat influence" emanated from English drawing rooms Julian Fellowes describes in the introduction to this book. As we see in Jane Austen novels, drawing room activities included cards, singing, drawing and - in the case of Elizabeth Bennett - reading books.One amusing remembrance in this book is that of Beverly Nichols recalling 1930's dinners at Polesden Lacey house in Surrey with Winston Churchill in attendance holding forth after dinner: "his 'finest hour' was after dinner, when the ladies had left the table, with more than usually earnest entreaties that we (the men) should not be too long over our port, for they knew with bitter experience that when Winston was at the dinner table with a good cigar in one hand and a better Armagnac in the other, the chances

were that they would be left with cavaliers until nearly bedtime, and would have to spend the rest of the evening hissing at each other across acres of Aubusson." Aubusson rugs are some of the many delightful elements in over 30 drawing rooms showcased in this book. Other elements include: carved chimneypieces, family portraits by leading artists of the day, original plasterwork ceilings dating from the 1600's, silk wall hangings and tapestries, gilt-framed mirrors and chinoiserie Chippendale daybeds among others. You will read about the different architects, artisans and decorators who worked on drawing rooms from Robert Adam to William Morris to Nancy Lancaster to John Fowler. The drawing rooms of David Hicks and Veere Grenney are also included. Narrated by Jeremy Musson, former architectural editor at the British journal COUNTRY LIFE, with vibrant photography by Paul Barker and COUNTRY LIFE, you tour the drawing rooms from the following homes arranged by century and read about their storied occupants:

THE SIXTEENTH TO EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES: Loseley Park, South Wraxall Manor, Chillingham Castle, Newby Hall, Kedleston Hall, Althorp and Broadlands

THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY: Oakly Park, Attingham Park, Renishaw Hall, and Felbrigg Hall

THE LATER NINETEENTH CENTURY: Eastnor Castle, Knebworth, Alnwick Castle, Hutton in the Forest, Madresfield Court

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: Hillis House, Dyrham Park, The Yellow Room of Colefax Fowler, Deene Park, Lypiatt Park, Cholmondeley Castle and The Grove

THE TIMELESS DRAWING ROOM: Stanway House, Bradley Court, Wormington Grange, Whithurst House, Aynhoe Park, Thame Park, Knepp Castle and The Temple

Musson's narrative draws on letters, memoirs and quotes of individuals who saw these rooms. He describes the history of the homes, the families who lived there and information on the drawing room in particular. Each drawing room has about four large full-page color images devoted to it with a couple of smaller images on details of the rooms. Reading this book is like attending fascinating history lectures with color slides. I learned, for example, that Earl Grey was an actual Prime Minister, and not just a tea. If you can't visit these homes, studying the images of these rooms is immensely satisfying. Next, perhaps Musson and Barker will combine their formidable talents for books on libraries and bedrooms from these historical homes? In the meantime, we will withdraw in our imaginations and to this book, to these welcoming drawing rooms.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. elegantly written and beautifully photographed study of the evolution of the English Country ...

By Thomas Messel This is an informative, elegantly written and beautifully photographed study of the evolution of the English Country drawing room using examples drawn from a variety of this country's more interesting private homes.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... to read in a lazy afternoon for those who like the English style

By Diane Clement What a enjoyable book to read in a lazy afternoon for those who like the English style. It would make a lovely gift for someone. My, these houses in the book are wonderful to view. Just thumbing through the book is a pleasure, if you don't have time to read it all through at one setting. Thanks to Jeremy Musson for all his work on this book for the public to enjoy.

A highly detailed look at the most accomplished English country house interiors, exemplifying English decorating at its best. The English drawing room, a formal place within a house of status where family and honored guests could retire from the more public arena, is one of the most important rooms in an English country house, and thus great attention has been paid to preserving the decoration of this most elegant of spaces: the center of life in the English countryside and the epitome of English country house decoration. This book offers privileged access to fifty of the finest drawing rooms of country houses and historic townhouses many still in private hands including Althorp, Attingham, and Knepp Castle. Through these sumptuous rooms, readers experience a history of English decorating from the sixteenth century to the present day, including the work of design legends such as David Hicks, Nancy Lancaster, John Fowler, and David Mlinaric. Specially commissioned photographs capture the entirety of each room, as well as details of furniture, architectural elements, artwork, collections, and textiles, creating a visually seductive book that will inspire interior designers and homeowners interested in the widely popular classic English look.

The Drawing Room is a highly detailed look at the most accomplished English country house interiors. This book offers privileged access to 50 of the finest drawing rooms of country houses and historic townhouses, many still in private hands Editor at Large well worth the wait As tempting as it might be to ignore the text in favor of the book's beautiful photos by Paul Barker, don't. Musson's brief but illuminating surveys of each drawing room are chock full of architectural history, social history, and descriptions of furnishings and decor

Peak of Chic About the Author Jeremy Musson is the former architectural editor of Country Life, the cowriter and presenter of the BBC television series The Curious House Guest, and the author of many books, including English Country House Interiors, The English Manor House, How to Read a Country House, and The Country Houses of Sir John Vanbrugh. Paul Barker is one of England's premier interior and architectural photographers, whose books include English Country House Interiors, England's Thousand Best Churches, and English Ruins. Julian Fellowes is the creator of the hit series Downton Abbey.