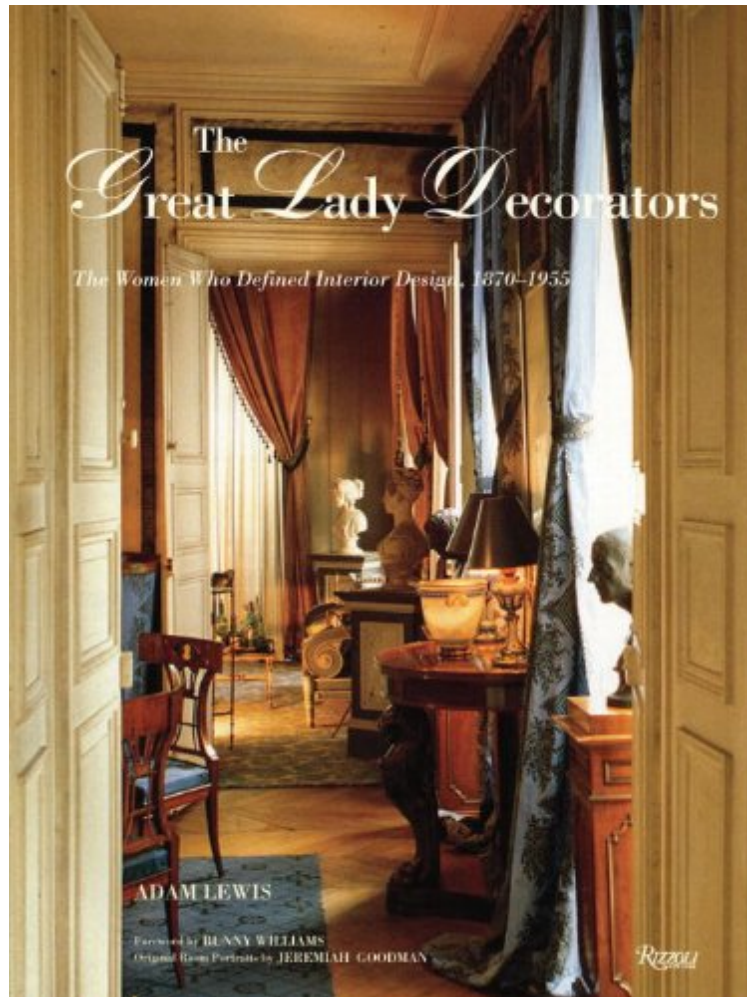


(Free pdf) The Great Lady Decorators: The Women Who Defined Interior Design, 1870-1955

The Great Lady Decorators: The Women Who Defined Interior Design, 1870-1955

Adam Lewis

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Adam Lewis : The Great Lady Decorators: The Women Who Defined Interior Design, 1870-1955 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Lady Decorators: The Women Who Defined Interior Design, 1870-1955:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You Can Do BetterBy Robert R.Fortunately, I checked this out from the library in San Francisco before buying it. The cover is much better than the interior of the book. You would be better off buying books on each of the women included here than this book. It's a dull, disappointing read, and as other reviewers have mentioned, the paintings of rooms by the designers leave a lot to be desired. Why not just actual photographs instead?I'd buy a more in depth book on Nancy Lancaster and Madeleine Castaing and call it a day, rather

than buy this book. It took me about 20 minutes to flip through the pages and with few exceptions I was bored, bored, bored. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The total picture
By Judith B. Harnsberger
You read it to appreciate what the backgrounds and lives of these women and how they began the decorating profession. 9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Leading Ladies of Interior Design
By L. M. Keefer
If you love interior design, this is a comprehensive and engaging overview of the legendary women decorators who pioneered the decorating field. In this luxurious and picture-filled book, author Adam Lewis has distilled the essence of the lives and innovative work of the leading ladies of interior design. In chapters which read like rich mini-biographies, Lewis describes the personal and cultural currents which drove the decisions and actions of the first women design entrepreneurs who birthed the interior design world. You see similarities which united them, but also creative divergences based on their personalities and life experiences. You can't help but fall in love with this lively assortment of ladies, as Lewis affectionately sketches them deftly depicting their strengths and eccentricities. It's intriguing to see their personal evolution as designers over time within the development of the greater design world. The book offers a combination micro and macro perspective as they influence, and are influenced by, the design universe. You get to feast on their words and learn from their original design philosophies and admonitions regarding interior decoration. One can imagine a play--Lewis??--in which they all come to dinner and have a spirited discussion regarding their diverse design tenets. There might even be some throwing of dishes by a few when they disagree. The wardrobe alone would be worth the price of admission. As Albert Hadley succinctly said, design is an expression of personality. The author first captures the diverse and colorful personalities of these design legends through his very readable words, and then you get to see how their personalities are played out and displayed in photos from Dorothy Draper's color and theatricality, to Frances Elkins' classicism and touch of modernity, to Rose Cummings' and Madame Castaing's romanticism, to Sister Parish's warmth, charm and whimsy. Designer Bunny Williams wrote in one of her books that she takes pencil and paper with her when she visits rooms around the world to sketch interesting furniture arrangements. I enjoyed seeing the room arrangements pictured in this book as well as viewing the world class furnishings of chairs, tables, desks, chaises etc.... It's said that taste is about exposure, and the rooms featured in this book are a great collection under one cover to train your eye regarding what the early taste-makers thought was beautiful, suitable and stylish. You also learn about the discipleship and apprenticeship of the designers who worked with them and who are still working today. The book is interestingly a kind of social history as you see how these creative women responded individually and idiosyncratically to world events of their day from the World Wars to the Great Depression to the birth of the affluent modern world. It is an indispensable resource to have in every design library. Based on the heart-warming experience reading this book, I look forward to Lewis's and Albert Hadley's collaborative new book on Billy Baldwin coming out fall 2010, and now want to read his previous books. Lewis writes with insight, knowledge and passion about his design subjects in an informative and entertaining style that delights. This book is a treat for the eyes, mind and heart.

Mixing gorgeous interiors with sparkling social history, this is the first book on the visionary women whose work gave us the timeless, essential principles of modern interior decorating. In 1904, Elsie de Wolfe was given a contract to design the interiors of the Colony Club. Their success launched de Wolfe's career and the entire field of professional interior decoration. Soon other women followed, known collectively (for their privileged backgrounds) as the Lady Decorators. This book focuses on the extraordinary, glamorous interiors of these influential designers, as well as their decorating theory and maxims, from Rose Cummings' electric color combinations ("Parrots are blue and green. Why shouldn't fabric be?") to Nancy Lancaster's refined English-country-house look ("She liked for the sun to get to . . . materials. She wanted them to go shabby and live a life of their own."). A witty and readable treatise on the principles of decorating, as well as a luxurious visual resource, this book will be an essential addition to every decorating library. Also including: Dorothy Draper, Elsie Cobb Wilson, Ruby Ross Wood, Frances Elkins, Eleanor Brown, Sister Parish, Syrie Maugham, Madeleine Castaing.

"The Great Lady Decorators: THE Women Who Defined Interior Design, 1870-1955 profiles a dozen pioneers, including Elsie de Wolfe, a former actress with a flare for 18th-century-inspired rooms; Dorothy Draper, who brought Hollywood glamour to her interiors; and Sister Parish, who virtually codified American country style. The book's many photographs are supplemented with watercolors by Jeremiah Goodman." ~Elle Decor
Adam Lewis has a fabulous new book for Rizzoli called The Great Lady Decorators. The women who invented interior decorating were full of big advice." ~House Beautiful
"Through a mix of period photographs and color interiors painted by Jeremiah Goodman, the book tells the design stories of these twelve legendary and influential women, sharing their decorating maxims and theories. Even if you are not familiar with everyone on the list, there is a great deal that can be learned from looking at the work of women who helped shape modern day interior design as an industry and as an art form from 1870-1955." ~StyleBeat.com
"The Great Lady Decorators is a beautiful addition to every library as an essential visual resource as well as an authoritative history of legendary women who paved the way for the field of design today." ~Romantic Homes
About the Author
Adam Lewis is an interior designer and the author of Van Day Truex: The Man

Who Defined Twentieth-Century Taste and Style and Albert Hadley: Americas Preeminent Interior Designer.
Jeremiah Goodman is Americas master illustrator of rooms. His work is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Bunny Williams is a world-renowned interior designer, author, and garden expert.