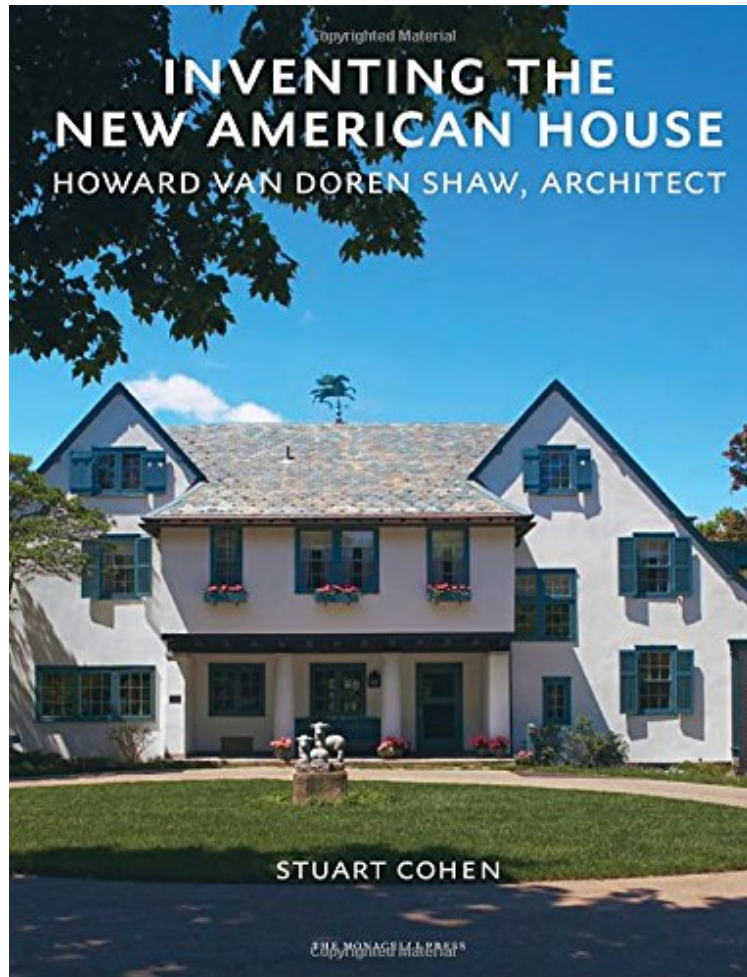


[Free pdf] Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect

# Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect

Stuart Cohen

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**Stuart Cohen : Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. This book is wonderful. The author has judiciously examined 30 of Shaw's ...By RWEThis book is wonderful. The author has judiciously examined 30 of Shaw's domestic commissions. With a few exceptions all are located in the greater Chicago, Illinois area. There are a few from Wisconsin, one each from Minnesota, Ohio, and Missouri. All are superb representations of Shaw's style. The text is both informative and well written. The photos are primarily archival and very good. There are some more contemporary views of some interiors, etc.. Nice illustrated chronology Shaw houses in the back. One of the best things about the book are the floor

plans for just about all of the selected houses. Many with second floor plans. When combined with great text and wonderful pictures floor plans allow us to experience the architect's work most fully if we can't actually visit the site. If you are at all interested in the American Country Place, this is a must for your architectural library. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great architect; beautiful book By Paul T. Mcconnell Howard Van Doren Shaw is one of our nations best architects and this book is a worth recognition of that skill and talent. Great plans and historical perspective make this a must purchase. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Meh-Don't Expect Much By William Walkington Pretty disappointed overall. Based on his own home, Ragdale, and a few other examples of his work, I was anticipating seeing more of Howard Van Doren Shaw's artistry. Instead this is a big book of big houses that all pretty much look alike. And the photos do little to help. They are mostly bw exterior shots that look like the author had no access to the homes except for viewing them from the street. Even the descriptions are thin and leave you wanting more. Not a single house in the book had anything like the charm and artistic wit of Howard's own home.

Howard Van Doren Shaw designed stately country houses in and around Chicagofrom affluent Lake Forest, Illinois, and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Indianafrom 1894 to 1926, a period in American architecture that spanned the Gilded Age, the adoption of Beaux-Arts classicism as the ideal for civic architecture, the invention of the skyscraper, and the beginning of modernism. Born in 1869, he worked for the leading industrialists of that period, including Reuben H. Donnelley of printing fame, newspaper giant Joseph Medill Patterson, Edward Forster Swift, the meatpacking king, and Edward L. Ryerson of Ryerson Steel. A contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright, Shaw explored many of the same ideas as the Prairie School Architects within the forms of traditional architecture. Though he was recognized as one of the leading country house architects of the early twentieth century, his name was largely forgotten after his death. Like many traditional architects practicing today, Shaw was skilled at adapting historic precedents to suit contemporary living, in particular the easy flow of interior space that became a design hallmark of the period for traditionalists and modernists alike. For the new and fashionable suburb of Lake Forest, Shaw created Market Square, the town center, which was lauded for its design as both a unique town green and the first American shopping center designed to accommodate automobiles. This timely reappraisal of Howard Van Doren Shaws work features many previously unpublished images from the Shaw Archive in the Burnham and Ryerson Library at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago History Museum, rare construction drawings, and new color photography as well as a catalogue of Shaws residential work. His legacy includes substantial houses in prosperous communities, many of which are still standingincluding Ragdale, once Shaws own summer house in Lake Forest, now home to the prestigious artists community; the Becker Estate on Chicagos North Shore; and The Hermann House overlooking Lake Michigan.

"Inventing the New American House reminds me of those sumptuous and highly dignified monographs that architects published in the 1920s. Altogether a superb publication." Robert Bruegmann About the Author Stuart Cohen is a partner in the firm of Stuart Cohen Julie Hacker Architects and professor emeritus in the department of architecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago. A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, he is the author of Great Houses of Chicago and Houses of the Lakefront Suburbs.