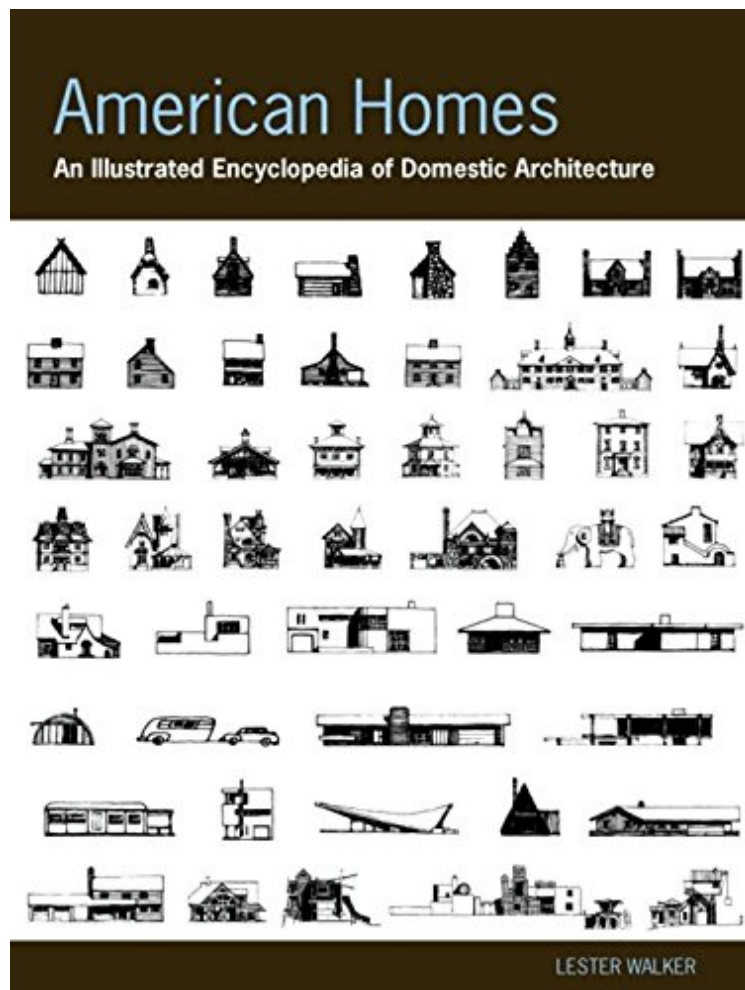


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## American Homes: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Domestic Architecture - A landmark reference with more than 1,000 illustrations, elevations, and plans

Lester Walker

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**Lester Walker : American Homes: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Domestic Architecture - A landmark reference with more than 1,000 illustrations, elevations, and plans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Homes: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Domestic Architecture - A landmark reference with more than 1,000 illustrations, elevations, and plans:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. American Homes An Illustrated Encylopedia of Domestic Architecture by Lester WalkerBy Peter F. LessesI found this book to be a valuable reference to American architecture

and was surprised to see that the author discovered and delineated so many sub groups of 19th century styles that are over looked. This is a particularly hard period to identify architecture accurately, and I see a correlation with the parallel furniture designs made in that century such as Regency, Shaker, Gothic, Cottage, Renaissance and Eastlake, which has more to do with interior details. My criticism would be that I have little interest in native dwellings and wish the book was entirely based on Western influences in North America, but, alas, it's an encyclopedia. I lived in New Orleans once and am certain that none of the remaining Creole cottages were built in the 1700s yet he claims that some were. I got tired with endless pages on the subtleties of bizarre modern homes and wish that more description could have been devoted to the major architects of the 20th century F. L Wright, , W. Gropius , Le Corbusier and L. M. Van der Rohe. I didn't think the chapters on Mobile Homes, Floating Houses, Dug Out, Earth, Inflatable and Space were so necessary. The Colonial Revival homes are hard to identify because they can be as different as night and day so perhaps more could have been included about them.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding resourceBy Thomas T. Vergal teach a High School architecture class and I highly recommend this book for several reasons.1) The black and white line drawings allow my students to focus on the specific details without being distracted by the colors of photographs.2) The drawings are highly descriptive of the elements of style that distinguish one period from another and one region to another.3) Walker breaks down the sections first by year and then by region.You are able to see how the styles changed over a period of years and focus on the phases of development.I especially liked that he devoted separate chapters to individual architects that made a significant contribution to the development of the distinct styles and Walker does a good job of picking houses that showcase these talented individuals.27 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A Splendid Architectural OverviewBy Robert I. Hedges"American Homes" by Lester Walker is a bargain at the price is charging. It is a lavishly illustrated (albeit in black and white) comprehensive work detailing every style of American home in drawings, sections, and elevations emphasizing the differences that make a certain home or style unique. In this way it is extremely useful for anyone with even a passing interest in architecture to learn about the varying styles of American homes.Mr. Walker does not visibly seem to favor any one style over another, and avoids editorializing for the most part. Instead he seems to love all the differing styles for what they are, in different ways, and for different reasons, depending of the particular house in question. In addition to specifics on certain examples and styles, Mr. Walker also gives the reader a historical perspective of housing developments in a developmental time frame, starting with Pueblo and Tipi styles to the Inflatable, Deconstruction, Brutalism, and Neomodern styles that are decidedly more recent. As a fan of creative contemporary architecture, I especially found the coverage of the International Revival movement, the quirky Silo and Yurt homes of the early 1970s, and Fantasy homes from the 1940s in the shapes of an elephant (Margate City, NJ), Mother Goose (Hazard, KY), and a pig (Los Angeles, CA), among others, to be delightful.This is a wonderful volume and I highly endorse it to anyone from architectural historian to collectors of Americana.

A landmark of architectural history, AMERICAN HOMES surveys over 100 American housing styles and illustrates them through nearly 1000 line drawings. Using his own unique combination of "exploded" diagrams and floor plans and easy-to-follow text, award-winning architect and author Lester Walker has created the definitive bible of home design, fully practical but wonderful, too, for armchair browsing and dreaming. Walker describes each style's signature features, and how, where, when, and why the style developed in response to the landscape. The full evolution of American residential architecture is represented, including Dutch Colonials, Log cabins, Southern plantation mansions, Carpenter Gothics, Neo-modern styles, and more. For anyone who has ever designed or owned a home--or just lived in one--AMERICAN HOMES is the quintessential reference to our country's dwellings, past, present, and future.

About the AuthorLester Walker is an award-winning architect and author of numerous books related to houses and architecture, including Little House of My Own, Housebuilding for Children and Block Building for Children. He has been a professor of architecture at City College of New York and has lectured and presented seminars at Harvard, MIT, UCLA, and the Rhode Island School of Design. His work has appeared in such magazines as House Beautiful, Time, House and Garden, Life, and Progressive Architecture. He lives in Woodstock, New York, where his architectural firm is based.