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VERANDA



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critical addition to every design library. This monograph, mindboggling in its profundity of detail from remarkable sources, may leave one wanting more—that is, a synthesis, a larger portrait, drawn from a century of decorating in such rarified realms.

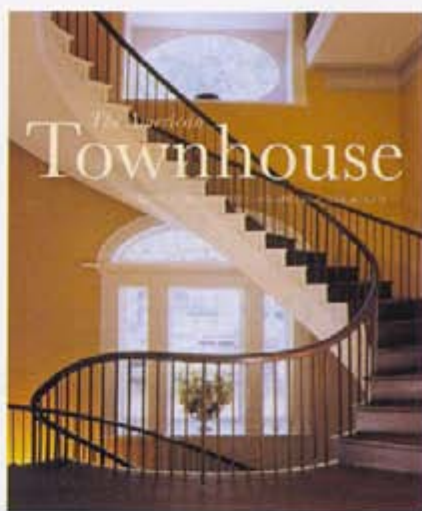
Of Palm Beach, Henry Morrison Flagler, the turn-of-the-century Standard Oil, East Coast railroad and real estate mogul, said, "Build it and the people will come." He did. And they did—that is, the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Cushings and the rest of the Social Register set. *Tiffany's Palm Beach*, by John Loring (Abrams, \$65), tells the

marvelous tale of the making of this exclusive resort: "Carrere and Hastings could design great public monuments for New York and Washington, D.C.; but it was Mizner who designed Palm Beach." It also shows how Palm Beach residents live there today in grand style, in grand old houses and light-filled new ones, with Tiffany & Co. tableware, *objets* and, of course, jewels galore.

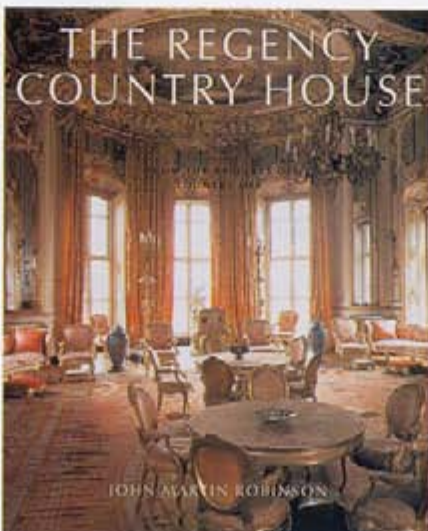
Jeffrey Smith is the current heir to Addison Mizner's role as architect of Palm Beach style, as *Palm Beach Splendor: The Architecture of Jeffrey W. Smith*, by Joyce C. Wilson, with photography by Kim Sargent and a foreword by Beth Dunlop (Rizzoli, \$75), convincingly and enticingly shows. Not only has Smith decoded the melting pot of design DNA that results in the great American house—with borrowed elements from French chateaux, Palladian villas and English country houses—he has come up with wonderful new splicing techniques for today's pleasure palaces. These techniques respect tradition and craft while resulting in marvelously livable and extremely lovely places.

Some books sing with imagination. *The Way We Live by the Sea*, by Stafford Cliff and Gilles de Chabaneix (Rizzoli, \$39.95), is one of them. It practically hums "by the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea"—without the stormy weather. Awash in interesting facts about the history of coastal and marine architecture and design, and alight with a catch of luminous ideas for marine-inspired décor and salt-air style, its chapters range from the necessary "Seaside Architecture," "Seaside Colours & Materials" and "Washed Up" to the less obvious "Life Afloat." Here's to time and tides the world over.

From rowhouse to brownstone, from party wall to freestanding, the vernacular architecture of America's urban neighborhoods developed differently from metropolis to metropolis. But city people



have always been just as house-proud as suburbanites or country people, as *The American Townhouse*, by Kevin Murphy with photography by Radek Kurzaj (Abrams, \$45), makes abundantly, beautifully and authoritatively clear. Murphy and Kurzaj visit twenty-five townhouses, documenting great surviving examples of urban houses. Colonial and Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and Brownstone, Queen Anne and other revival styles and their historic precedents are shown, from Philadelphia to Charleston to St. Louis to Rancho Sante Fe. Take the tour.



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