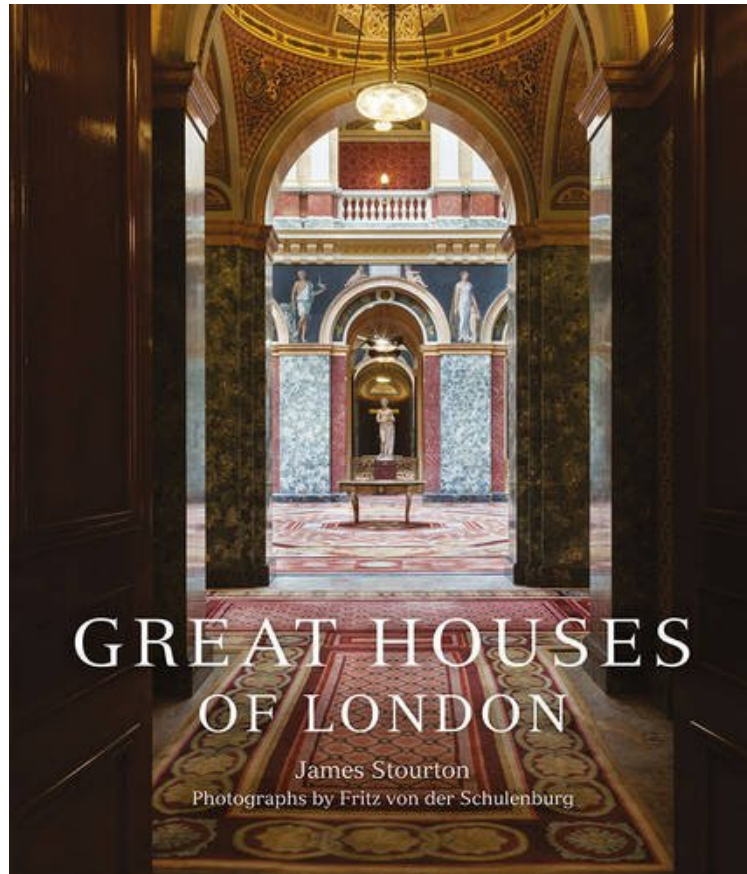


(Download pdf ebook) Great Houses of London

Great Houses of London

James Stourton

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James Stourton : Great Houses of London before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Houses of London:

38 of 38 people found the following review helpful. Great Houses of London By Lilly Ford The title truly speaks for the contents of this attractive book. It is large, very well bound and documents over 40 houses across London. Each house is given 4-6 pages with a brief text at the beginning summarizing the history and architectural significance of each one of them. The photos are the true star of this book, and it is generously loaded with hundreds of large bright color photographs showing the immaculate architectural details and rich interiors, all the houses get 1-2 external views as well. Most of the houses chosen rarely appeared before and the photos are specially commissioned for this book making it a beautiful addition to any architecture library and would also make a stunning coffee-table book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. English City Houses of London By L. M. Keefer The country homes of England overshadow their London cousins, the author of this book tells us. That is a relatively new phenomenon as the great London houses used to be more well-known and important in the centuries before. James Stourton, the chairman of Sotheby's, opens the door on over 40 houses discussing their architecture, history and occupants. Unlike their country counterparts, these great London homes, haven't had the continuity of ownership and use. Most of them have

succumbed to adaptation and change becoming clubs, hotels, museums, embassies and offices. Unfortunately, many great London homes succumbed to the London blitz during WWII and were lost to us. Those which remain are worth preserving. Stourton takes us on a chatty tour. We get to visit Spencer House, 10 Downing Street, Robert Adam's 20 St. James Square and Home House among others. The author describes how he was inspired to write this book: "This book is about three things: houses, architects and owners. The idea of writing it came to me one spring morning while walking through Green Park. At the eastern edge my eye roamed from Wimborne House down past Spencer House to Bridgewater House, Warwick House, Stornoway House, Lancaster House, and at the northern fringes to Coventry and Egremont, some more famous than others. How strange that there was no book that described them in their present circumstances. Their country cousins have consumed all the light and each year another book comes out which follows the same well-worn path.... This is a reversal of the position in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when London houses were generally better known than country houses." Six to eight pages are devoted to each house, with about two pages of text and four to six pages of lustrous photos of the houses by famed international photographer Fritz von der Schulenburg. If you enjoy English architecture, London, English history, then you should find this book of interest. The book is quality with thick pages and excellent color. It is a lively read of over 300 pages. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent By Paul Having been to London twice in my life, I often went by regal homes, and tidy facades, wondering what was inside. This volume takes you there. Of the many houses featured, there is ample text to explain the provenance of the place, and the photography is as outstanding as the magnificence of the architecture, the extreme detail, and the sheer beauty of staircases, dining rooms, drawing rooms and libraries. After looking at this book, you understand completely why Churchill was so adamant that he would not preside over the decline of the British Empire. Remove from your mind the ideas of property taxes and maintenance and simply enjoy what is presented in this wonderful work. The small purchase price of this great work is nothing in significance to the treats that will unfold before you. Highly recommend.

'This lavishly illustrated compendium suggest that the age of elegance endures' Mail on Sunday The great houses of London represent one of the marvels of English architecture and yet they are almost entirely unknown. They are for the most part disguised behind sober facades but their riches within are astonishing. There are many architectural wonders, among them Robert Adam's 20 St James's Square and William Burges's Tower House. Several - including Bridgewater House with its Raphaels and Titians - have held great art collections. These are houses that hold extraordinary stories: half the Cabinet resigned after breakfast at Stratford House; and on 4 August 1914, at 9 Carlton House Terrace, then the German Embassy, young duty clerk Harold Nicholson deftly substituted one declaration of war for another. Great Houses of London opens the door to some of the greatest and grandest houses in the world to tell the stories of their owners and occupants, artists and architects, their restoration, adaptation and change.

"This is a truly magnificent book. The wonderful text tells the story of the architects, owners and occupants, restoration, adaptation and change. And the photographs are exceptional." - Good Book Guide