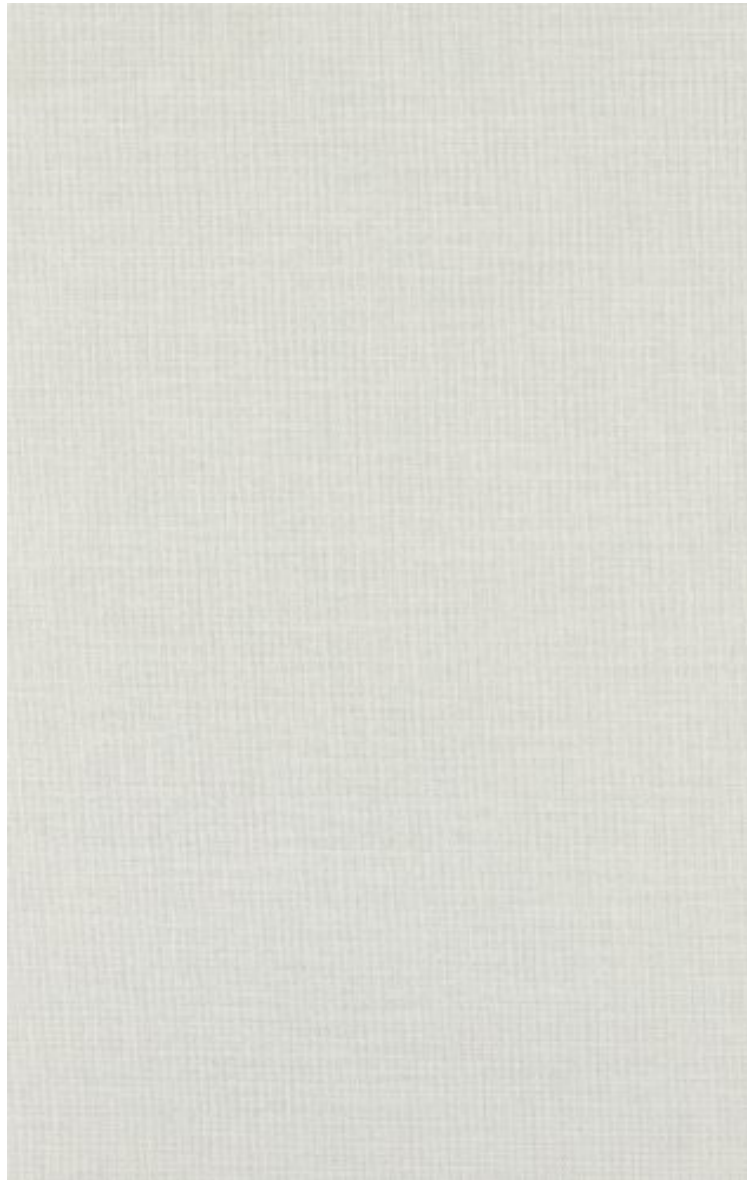


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Houses of Bostons Back Bay: An Architectural History, 1840-1917 (Belknap Press)

Bainbridge Bunting

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Bainbridge Bunting : Houses of Bostons Back Bay: An Architectural History, 1840-1917 (Belknap Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Houses of Bostons Back Bay: An Architectural History, 1840-1917 (Belknap Press):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Reason for the Back BayBy Moe MeeEven if you don't own property in the Back Bay but just love walking it's streets, you'll find this book a real treat. I first bought it when I was selling real estate in the area during the 1980's and it helped me immensely to understand the evolution of the neighborhood(s). I lost it during a move and was so happy to find that it was still in print. I only wish that it included more city areas.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy LyndaAs advertised and speedy shipping.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully detailed!By Sally J. NottageIf you love Back Bay architecture, this is a must for your collection.

This superbly illustrated book records the development of Boston's Back Bay during the period of its greatest growth. Bainbridge Bunting focuses his study on one particularly significant architectural form—the town house. He chronicles, both pictorially and verbally, the first appearance, evolution, and eventual discard, during the era, of every local architectural style, all of which later gained national acceptance. He shows how architectural styles were affected by such developments as the electric light, changing preferences in materials, machine production of such interior parts as woodwork and mantels, new fire laws and building restrictions, and rising labor costs. He also provides an extensive account of the pivotal role played by members of the Boston Society of Architects in the growth of the profession throughout the country during this formative period. These Back Bay homes, Bunting points out, reflect to a striking degree the social and cultural attitudes of the community and, in the process of reconstructing the life that was led in them, he offers an absorbing and perceptive commentary on Boston society and its mores.

This truly fascinating book is a detailed chronicle of a district rich in meaning for architect, planner, historian, sociologist and lover of Americana ... With it all, insights are gained into the mores of those marvelous Bostonians and their equally marvelous city. (American Institute of Architects Journal)Here is an excellent book. Although parts of residential Back Bay are now a century old, surprisingly little has been written about this brightest jewel in Boston's crown. So the book is twice welcome. Mr. Bunting...writes with authority yet with a clarity of style that makes for delightful reading. (Edgar Packard Dean New England Quarterly)Bunting has made a distinguished contribution to cultural history in his perceptive use of domestic architecture to reflect and interpret the customs, ideas, and interests of an American generation in a setting peculiarly favorable for such a study. (Madeleine Hook Rice Journal of American History)An immensely detailed but never tedious account of the development of a district celebrated for the intellectual and financial eminence of its inhabitants. (Royal Institute of British Architects)From the Back CoverThis superbly illustrated, informative, and engaging book records the development of Boston's Back Bay during the period of its greatest growth.About the AuthorBainbridge Bunting was Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission's Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge.