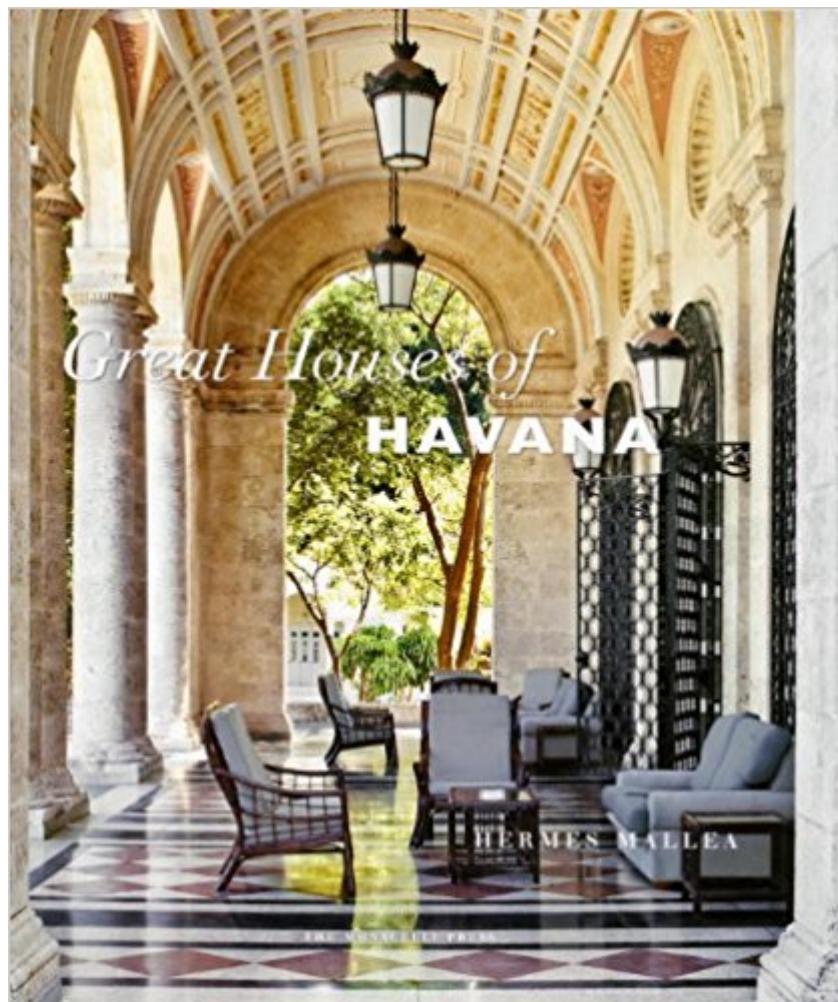


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# Great Houses Of Havana



## Synopsis

Great Houses of Havana celebrates one hundred years of creativity, design, and style that made the city "the Paris of the Caribbean." For four hundred years, Havana was the center of Spanish trade in the western hemisphere. With the expansion of the sugar industry, independence from Spain, and North American investment, Havana became a city of great wealth, great style, and great houses in a vocabulary that was a unique amalgam of European, American, and Caribbean elements. *Great Houses of Havana* traces the evolution of the Cuban home from the classic, Spanish colonial courtyard house to the "Tropical Modernist" villas of the 1950s. *Cuba's* social history is woven throughout the book. Vintage photographs illustrate Havana's sophisticated lifestyle—the masked balls, yacht club picnics, and dynastic weddings of fashionable Cubans and their international guests. Popular cafes, hotels, theaters, and weekend resorts are also featured, creating a view of the privileged life inside the gated mansions of the city's grandest neighborhoods.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Its glossy pages pay tribute to the island nation's glamorous mansions and elaborate interiors . . . The result of two years of research and multiple on-site explorations, Mallea's work brings to light exquisite Beaux Arts palaces, modernist mansions, and even a spectacular beach house (now used as a restaurant)." *Architectural Digest*"Hermes Mallea's

Great Houses of Havana is one of several books on that city to appear this season, but it may be the most personal. . . . For Mallea, a Cuban-American architect who is based in New York, the book grew out of a longstanding fascination with his family's history. What you will see is a selective survey of elegant Havana houses, from the traditional Spanish Colonial courtyard house of the 19th century to the Modernist-influenced houses of the 1950s." •The New York Times Style Magazine" With photographs archival and new, the book documents the astonishing ways in which the prevailing styles of the day were adapted to the island's distinctive climate and culture. Here, originality ruled." •Veranda" Documents the evolution of Cuban design through a fantastic mix of contemporary and historical images." •New York Magazine

Hermes Mallea is an architect and a partner in M(Group), a design firm based in New York. A longtime collector of vintage Cuban photographs and a member of a Cuban-American family, Mr. Mallea has traveled to Cuba frequently to do research and to lecture on historic preservation.

This is an ample title to a fantastic book. It depicts a group of really beautiful historic houses where the interiors and the architectural details are immaculate. The book is large and loaded with fully colored photos of the highest quality. Every house is given multiple shots of both the exteriors and the interiors as well as some close-up shots revealing the fine architectural details. The text accompanying the photos is brief but informative and easy to follow and it gives just the right amount of information regarding the history of both the property and its owners. Highly recommended for all lovers of fine architecture.

What a gorgeous book! Meticulous in accuracy and the photos! Oh, the beautiful photos!! It's now proudly displayed on top of my coffee table books. I devoured it as soon as it arrived.

If you have been to Havana you will love this book and if you haven't been, you will want to go! Hermes has captured the essence of upper class Havana in a well written and researched survey of the most opulent residences of old Havana. The photos are superb as well. This book makes a wonderful gift for anyone interested in architecture and Cuba!

Simply amazing photography and very good text. Cuba's incredible architectural past is brought to life. I recommend to Cuban-Americans who, like me, left without fully knowing what they had yet to see of their patrimony. I recommend it to all lovers of beauty.

This is a beautiful book. I bought it to prepare for my trip to Cuba next year. This makes me excited to see all that is Cuba.

I gave this book as a Valentine gift, he loved it.

We purchased this book as a gift for a friend who had lived in pre-Castro Havana. She loved the opportunity it gave her to revisit these long lost beauties and to share some of her memories with her family. We who were missing those associations still found this to be a beautiful book.

A beautiful book, full of mansions that we had, and history of the people who lived in those houses, including lots of Americans and foreigners.

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