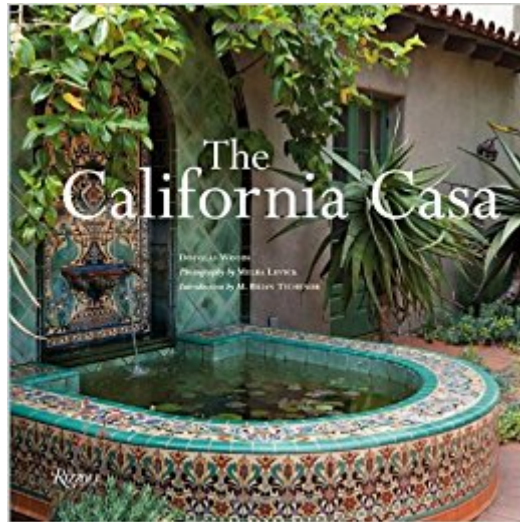




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# The California Casa



## Synopsis

This sumptuous and comprehensive volume embraces one of the most beloved house forms, the Spanish Colonial Revival, presenting at once a lavish portrait of the style as well as the definitive statement on the subject through more than three hundred color photographs. The Spanish style in architecture encompasses facets from a vast array of traditions, many of which are in evidence in these extraordinary houses. Elements include thickset, whitewashed stucco walls, deeply recessed doors, lushly planted courtyard gardens, intricate and colorful tile work, telescoping towers inset with Juliet balconies, elaborately traced wrought-iron window grilles, and richly appointed interiors heightened by drama in light and shadow cast by moody pendant lamps and low-burning fires. The houses featured are the very best of the type, both famous and little-known, and showcase the work of architects such as George Washington Smith, Bertram Goodhue, Wallace Neff, and Paul Williams, from the early twentieth century, to the work of contemporary practitioners, including Marc Appleton, Michael Burch Architects, and others. These homes are a fantasy for living made real in the Southern California sun.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In The California Casa, Douglas Woods has authored a love letter of sorts to Spanish Colonial Revival. The book showcases several exceptional homes through more than 300 photographs, revealing the elements unique to the beloved architectural form." ~The Daily News  
"This book bestows upon its audience the privilege of feeling like welcomed guests inside these beautiful abodes." ~Sonoma Index-Tribune

Douglas Woods, a Los Angeles native, is the author of *Classic Homes of Los Angeles*. Melba Levick is a widely published and exhibited photographer whose work for Rizzoli appeared most recently in *Classic Homes of Los Angeles*. Brian Tichenor, a principal at Tichenor & Thorp Architects, is an architect and historian based in Beverly Hills.

The California Casa is a "must have" for those who appreciate the rich inventory of incredible Spanish Colonial Revival houses in Southern California. The book is filled with lesser known houses designed by some incredibly talented lesser known architects, as well as some of the well known ones as well. The appropriately done superb interior decoration in the majority of the houses is also a joy to see in the very professional and artistic collection of both interior and exterior photographs in the book. Several of the houses have their original kitchens and the current owners have optimized their charm with paint colors and accessories. As a collector of books on California architecture I was definitely impressed with this book and would highly recommend it to all who are interested in architecture.

This book is literary a treasure to own. It is loaded with hundreds of glorious color photographs depicting a group of beautiful historical houses throughout California. What makes this book special is its depiction of some lesser known houses rarely or even never published in other books covering the same subject. Each house is given a brief historical background, then the houses are shown through a series of shots revealing both the interiors and exteriors especially the beautiful gardens and fountains. All in all a highly recommended book for all fine architecture enthusiasts and would make a beautiful gift or an attractive coffee-table book.

A handsome and wide-ranging book.....some very good restorations of classic Southern Ca Casas and the photos are excellent, especially of tile work and architectural detailing. Some mistakes: Fornasetti Chandelier is actually Fortuny-the Fornasetti bureau on the previous page was the obvious reference, a dining room called a living room, etc. Niggling but sloppy. Worst problem, not not the author's fault: almost every house had mediocre garden design and poor maintenance thus not showing the houses to best advantage. Even more disastrous: without exception every house needed the talents of a good interior designer. All those beautiful rooms saddled with poor colors, fabrics, furnishings. Even for the sake of staying in "period" much more needed to be done with scale, placement, style

I love this book because it has lots of good color photos to illustrate the text. It is a good look at a regional style of architecture suitable for people who like the style and beautiful photographs depicting the subject. I would think more serious students of architecture would also find this book useful too.

I've purchased several books hoping to find exactly what I'm looking for and I've found it. California Casa is the most beautiful book. It has pages and pages of gorgeous Spanish revival homes and gardens. This book is mostly photos and a small amount of text---EXACTLY what I was looking for. Anyone who is interested in this architectural style should have this book!

The California Casa is a Spanish home lover's dream! It is filled with pages, and pages of colorful Californian home interiors. I have spent hours just pouring over it. It will be a wonderful edition to your home library. I recommend it if you are an architect buff.

This is a fantastic book! I just purchased a "California Casa" property and will use this book as my guide to sort out the decor. Why this book does not have more reviews is beyond me. It is classic California style at it's very best. Love it.

Great review of the Spanish influenced houses of Southern California.

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