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The Swedish House



Synopsis

The spectacularly beautiful Swedish countryside, characterized by sweeping coastline, sheltering forest, and historic township, is the setting for the equally spectacular tradition of Swedish residential architecture. The numerous historic domiciles in all regions of the country are priceless records of bygone building styles and skilled artisanship. Magnificent castles, simple cottages, stately manors, rustic farmhouses, even seaside bathing huts and military residences: all are shown in this volume with exquisite photographs and detailed architectural and historical information. Among the buildings shown are SÃfÃrby mansion, with its intact eighteenth-century painted-linen wall coverings; the numerous residences of the De la Gardie family, including LÃfÃckÃfÃ Castle, founded as a bishop's stronghold in the thirteenth century; Gunnebo, a lavish wooden interpretation of an Italian villa built for wealthy merchant John Hall; and several buildings associated with the great Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus: RÃfÃshult, his childhood home; Sveden, the site of his wedding; and Hammarby, his adult home, complete with study, lecture pulpit, and collection cabinet. A celebration of a centuries-old design history as well as a source of design inspiration, *The Swedish House* captures the special qualities of a unique building practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A celebration of the beauty of wood in bygone houses and a source of design inspiration, *The Swedish House* captures the special qualities of a unique building practice.

Ingall Snitt is an internationally renowned architectural photographer. Among her books are *The Swedish Room* (with Lars Sjöberg), *The Dream of San Michele*, *From Rectories to Beach Huts*, *Retour en Suède*, and *Splendori di Sicilia*. Lars Sjöberg is a curator at the National Museum in Stockholm, an educator, and an expert in the restoration of historic houses. He is the author of several books, including *The Swedish Room* and *Making Swedish Country Furniture and Household Things*, and specializes in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century building culture.

This is a remarkable book. The photos draw one in. The text provides rich historical background on the houses and Swedish architecture. I was especially pleased to see a section on Swedish Churches. Of course, I wish this section had been larger, with more photos -- as chapels are a bit of a passion of mine. I couldn't be more pleased with the book overall. The author is passionate about preservation and restoration. And laments the loss of so many treasures through the century. I resonate with those sentiments.

Great book! Sent on time. Thank you.

I'd hoped for more "Swedish" and "House." The compositions of aged paint and abandoned objects in natural light are beautiful, but not necessarily "Swedish." It's mostly rooms. With some shots of fenestration, it contains only about 20 large photos showing the exterior of a whole "house."

Sjöberg is the quintessential art historian and his book captures the history and soul of Swedish architecture beautifully. The photos and related text guide you through a brief history of the traditional houses and building styles found in Sweden. By looking thoughtfully at the photos, you'll get a clear view of how these houses are constructed and why they are still standing today after years of abandonment and neglect. If you ever visit Sweden (and go beyond Skansen in Stockholm), you'll see these "silent houses" throughout the countryside. Sjöberg brings them back to life with his deep understanding of their history and relevance to the 21st Century.

The Swedish (original) edition is titled "Swedish wooden houses" which is quite an essential piece of information for a buyer. That's what's linking the humblest farmers hut with a grand manor in this book. The emphasis is on interiors and a few are more than slightly deteriorating into a romantic peeling-paint-and-wallpaper inferno, but mainly it's a fair selection of different types of rooms. Exteriors are also presented and I think there is a good balance. Photographs are excellent as

always when Ingall Snitt provides them.

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