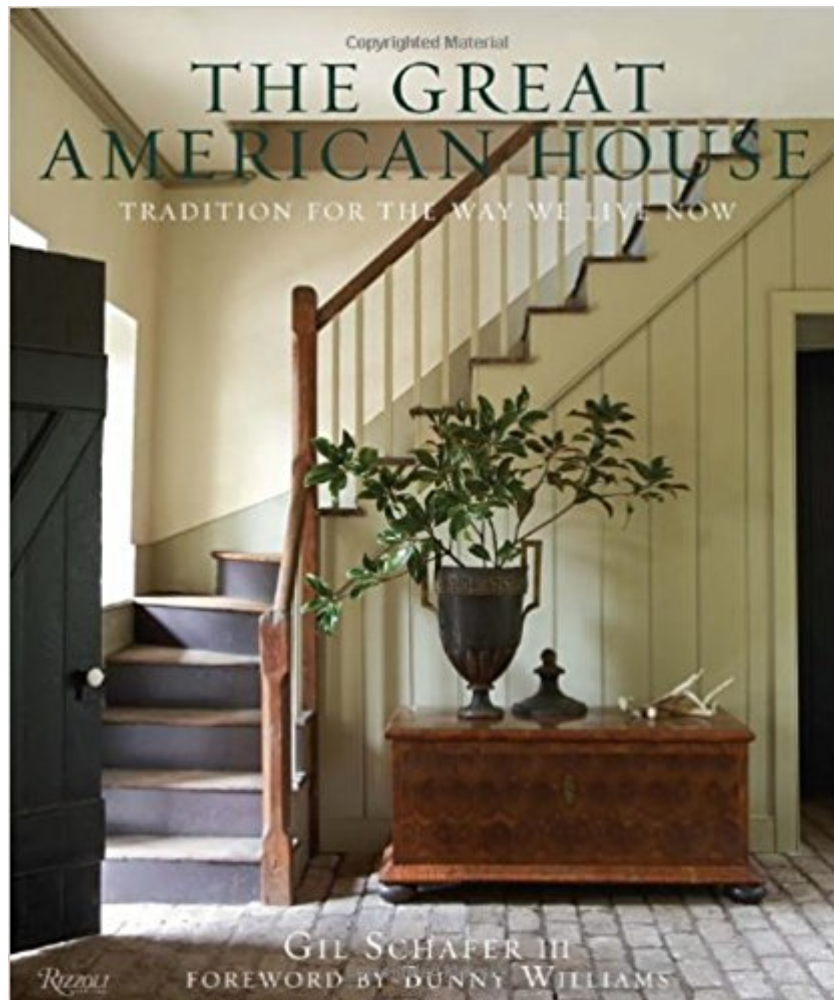




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# **The Great American House: Tradition For The Way We Live Now**



## Synopsis

Acclaimed architect Gil Schafer illustrates how he blends classical architecture, interior decoration, and landscape to create homes with a feeling of history. As a traditional architect, Gil Schafer specializes in building new "old" houses as well as renovating historic homes. His work takes the best of American historic and classical architecture—its detailed moldings and harmonious proportions—and updates it, retaining its character and detail while simultaneously reworking it to be more in tune with the way we live now—comfortable, practical, family-oriented.

In his first book, Schafer covers the three essential cornerstones of creating a great traditional house: architecture, landscape, and decoration. He discusses the important interplay between the interior architecture and the fabrics, furniture, and wall treatments. In-depth profiles build on these essays, including Schafer's own new "old" house in the Hudson Valley; the renovation of a historic home in Nashville designed by Charles Platt in 1915; and the restoration of a magnificent 1843 Greek Revival mansion in Charleston. Filled with hundreds of interior and detail shots, *The Great American House* is an invaluable resource for anyone who loves old houses and traditional design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...a stunning testimony to a life well-lived. His work melds the best of the past, present and future, with each home beautifully thought out, romantic and dreamy. Each of the 256 pages in this tome is an inspiration to build one perfect home in your lifetime." ~Papercity.com  
"These pages document

Schafer's love...and illustrate how thoughtful architecture can infuse the spaces in which we live with meaning." ~Veranda Magazine"I opened the book, and before I knew it, a few hours had passed. And really, I can't imagine a better way to spend a few hours than to read Gil's engaging text and pore over the big, beautiful photos of his work." ~The Peak of Chic"Anyone that has loved a house--or wants to fall in love all over again with their old one should get this book. Better yet-if you don't believe in Love- get the book, Schafer will convince you it can be found at Home." ~Littleaugury.com"This is a remarkably good book, "The Great American House", should be on your list." ~mrsblandings.blogspot.com

Award-winning architect and AD 100 member Gil Schafer is consistently recognized as one of the world's experts on contemporary classical architecture. From 1999 to 2006, Schafer served as president and then chairman of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America. His work has been featured in many publications, including Elle Decor and the New York Times. Bunny Williams is an acclaimed interior designer and the author of four books, including An Affair with a House.

It really doesn't get any better than this. Gil Schafer's new book does everything that one hopes it will do, and with considerable polish. From his discussions of his background and design philosophy to descriptions of the planning and execution of the four projects presented, it's obvious that Mr. Schafer is a master of his craft and loves what he does. This volume showcases his incredible skill in handling 21st century spaces in a traditional American idiom, and his perception of the details that imbue new, functional construction with the look and feel of age and provenance. Aside from a typo in the book's forward mentioned by another reviewer, it's obvious that this one had a great deal of attention on its way to press. The presentation is neat and tight, the projects thoroughly photographed and, wonder of all, nothing is discussed in the prose that we can't see in the photos. Add to that the work of some first-string interior designers, and this is one book that I couldn't put down - and to which I have returned repeatedly with enthusiasm. From the comprehensive photography and floor and site plans, to the sensitive and expository text, the reader is only left wanting for a sequel. Hopefully Mr. Schafer won't keep us waiting too long.

this is by far the best book i have bought...perhaps ever.i have read the book from cover to cover several times.i have always had a great interest in architecture and thisbook really feeds the appetite. a book everyone who buys ahome in one of our suburban subdivisions should read prior to

purchase. i hope that gil schaefer will write another great book. p.h. reed

This book was a fabulous read. The classic style of architecture is timeless and Gil Schafer gives the houses a modern twist, without destroying the integrity and appeal. How refreshing to see an architect bucking the trend for McMansions. Whilst the designs and photos of the houses and gardens are really eye candy for me, the book took me away to another place for a while. The homes require a lot of land to make the impact they do in the book. Thoroughly enjoyed it and have recommended to a couple of like-minded classic/hampton style house groupies like me.

This is a beautifully photographed book, full of inspirational ideas and the common sense reasons behind how to layout a house for modern day living. A guide of how to get the feeling that it had been like that for generations. Lovely ideas for gardens also. This author is a classically trained architect his passion for working with other professionals to create the quality of yester-year is a refreshing change from the McMansions of today! Love it! Thank you for producing this lovely book. My home renovation will be all the more pleasing because of it.

I LOVE THIS BOOK and had seen it in the bookstores for some time. It is exquisitely done, and Gil Schafer's art shines throughout. HOWEVER, the moment I opened the copy sent to me, it was clear that the PRINTING and COLOR REPRODUCTION were inferior to what I had seen earlier. The book sent to me would appear to have been from a second- or third-rate print run. No wonder it was less expensive. Getting it at a reduced rate did not make it any kind of bargain, and I have returned it to TOTAL BOOKS. I won't be ordering from them again ... and now plan to pay FULL price for a quality copy of this lovely book in a local bookstore. My LOW rating has NOTHING to do with the book -- but rather with the quality of the fulfillment copy.

The fundamentals Gil Schafer teaches in this book spoke very deeply to me. It gave me a solid understanding of design principles that I had always appreciated, but had never fully articulated on my own. It also goes without saying that the photographs and the examples of his work are reason alone to buy this book. The best architectural book that I own.

The author presents several houses and describes each in detail. I especially enjoyed the detailed descriptions and his reasons for choices. This book will be one I read over and over for many years; the examples and advice are timeless.

Homes in the Greek Revival style are filled with modernized kitchens, and baths. The exterior design information is limited to a few elevation photographs but it's rich with interior design elements. The furnishings shown are beautiful, plentiful, and inspirational, but the rooms are over-furnished beyond practical living for a busy family, I think. The illustrations provided of interior wall designs are incomparable though, and, along with the stunning kitchens and baths, are the reason it gets five stars. The brief glimpses of the landscapes provided for the homes portrayed are equally beautiful. It's wonderful if you're looking for a source of interior design inspiration for traditional formal styled homes with the comforts of a country house.

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