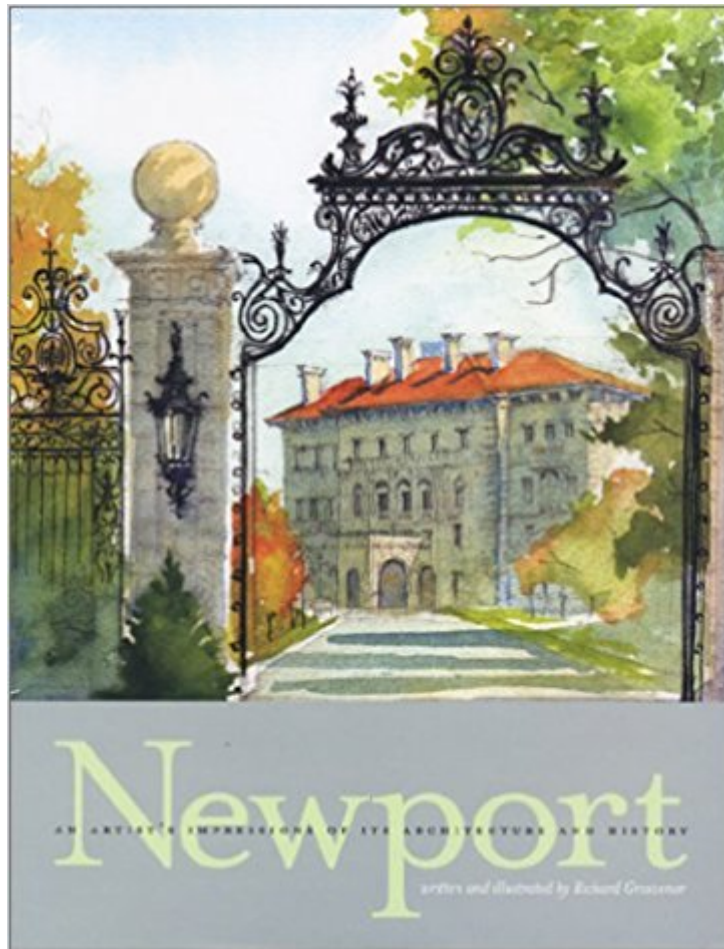




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Newport: An Artist's Impressions Of Its Architecture And History



Synopsis

An exploration of the architecture of Newport, Rhode Island, enhanced by watercolor paintings and architectural sketches.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"By weaving together random impressions, sketches and watercolors, [Grosvenor] asks us to see the place he has called home for nearly all of his 74 years as more than a muddle of architectural lines and shadings built up over more than three centuries. He offers us, in fact, a surprisingly rich and varied city, even more impressive than the one we thought we knew."

Excerpt from *Newport: An Artist's Impressions of Its Architecture and History* Written and illustrated by Richard Grosvenor The largest of the Newport Mansions, The Breakers (1892–95) was modeled after Genoese merchant palaces of the Renaissance. The plan—inspired by Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, includes a large central court, with rooms leading from it. Everything about The Breakers is large. The iron entrance gates are 30 feet high, carefully sculptured with scrolls and volutes including the wrought-iron initials CV (Cornelius Vanderbilt). There are seventy rooms, of which thirty-three were set aside for the staff. For all its immensity, however, this mansion occupies a relatively small lot. Its size may have been more of an affirmation for Hunt and his prowess as an architect. A monument of this size with its large interior space cannot help but be awe-inspiring. In 1973, the Preservation Society of Newport County purchased The Breakers from the Vanderbilts. Built in 1892 for William Vanderbilt, as a

present for his wife Alva, Marble House is as elaborate and costly as any Newport mansion. Its construction was as dramatic as it was expensive. The marble was rare and exotic; Sienna, Breccia, Numidian, and other varieties; most of it imported. The workmen were sequestered until the opening of the house to keep its splendor a secret. Marble House was designed to be an entertainment pavilion, with a ballroom of carved and gilded wood, great mirrors, and chandeliers. By contrast, the room adjoining presented the severe austerity of Gothic design with a coffered ceiling. The dining room was designed after the Salon of Hercules, in Versailles. The kitchen was remarkably large and equipped for all varieties of French cooking. Antoinette Downing, co-author of *The Architectural Heritage of Newport Rhode Island*, wrote: "One of the country's great turn-of-the-century classically inspired buildings, Marble House epitomizes the design principles of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. It emphasizes composition, symmetry, and forms derived from Greece and Rome; From its academic French classical exterior through its classically composed eclectic interiors; ranging from the Louis XIV mode of the Gold Ballroom and the rococo detailing of the library, to the faithful interpretation of the Gothic Room; Marble House reflects a high point in the historicism of the late nineteenth century."

This is a great book to have if you love Newport. Richard Grosvenor's illustrations are awesome as they show the architecture of Newport in a less technical manner depicting the history of the town through its structures. The illustrations are drawn in graphite and in detailed watercolors. If you're a fan of art, architecture and Newport, RI this book's for you.

Amazing book. Delivery wasn't great but the writer and artist are unmatched. Highly recommended, not from this seller (it was posted as "new" and the cover was ruined upon arrival)

Written and illustrated by a friend who knows Newport intimately. This book is wonderful for its illustrations - author is accomplished and celebrated artist - and provides a deep understanding of the town's architectural history.

As a native Newporter, this book was a revelation in art, of the wonders of architecture that surround me. I know Richard Grosvenor's work as an eminent educator at a local, nationally prominent Prep School, perhaps Newport's most prolific and acclaimed living artist, and also a highly regarded member of the Newport community as a whole.

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