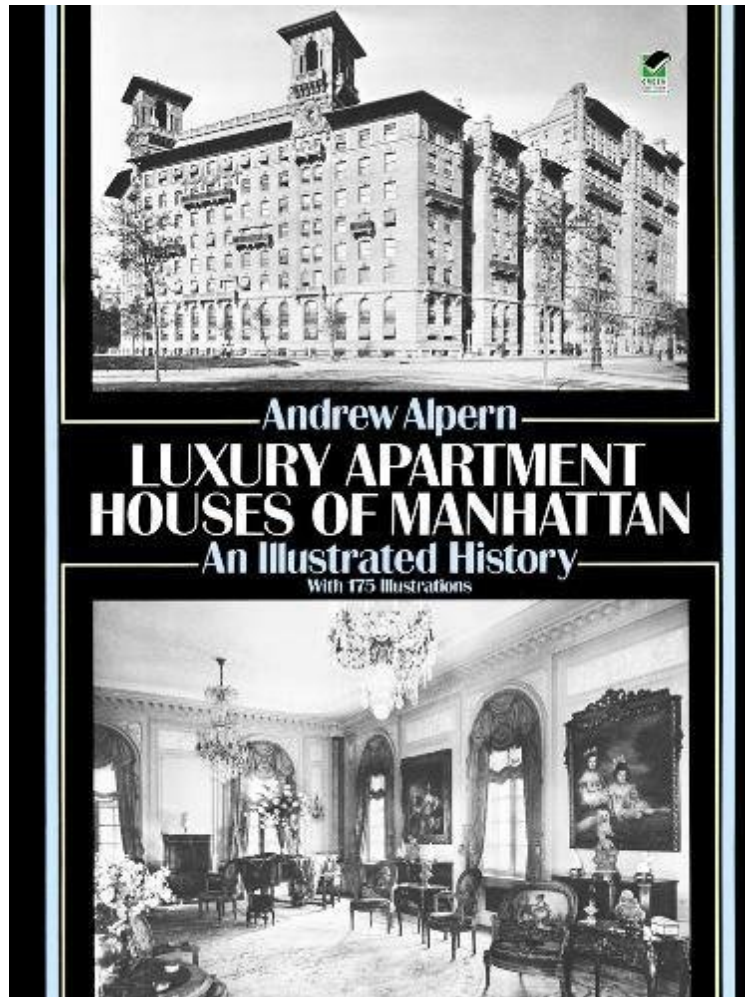


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Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan: An Illustrated History (Dover Architecture)

Andrew Alpern

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Andrew Alpern : Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan: An Illustrated History (Dover Architecture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan: An Illustrated History (Dover Architecture)*:

27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Good if you like history and building exteriors; academics only? By Barbara L. Pinzka *Luxury Houses of Manhattan* does a good job of explaining how the apartment/condominium/co-op style of living came to be: from Scotland, as far back as the 1400s, no less. Once this background is given, author Andrew Alpern jumps to the New York City of the late 19th-century and explains how

single-family living in Manhattan gave way to luxury apartment houses, a change hastened by lower personal income after the 1929 crash, surging property taxes, the scarcity of servants to properly run such an abode, and declining family size. From there, perhaps a quarter of the way through, I think only a serious student of architecture would be interested. For page after page the author clinically and thoroughly describes how developers acquired land and hired architects and contractors. While there is a wealth of photos of the exteriors of such buildings (which tend to look alike, at least to me), I doubt that there are a dozen photos of apartment interiors. At the very least, I would have liked a 50/50 balance of such photos, or at least floor plans. I think there are a handful of plans, of which one concerning former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller is fascinating, making the point all the more clear that something of the interiors of these buildings is needed to engage the reader. *Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan: An Illustrated History* 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Scholarly Study of New York Apartment Development By Sekmet This is really a work of love on Alpern's part: detailed, lavish with old photos (largely reproduced as well as could be, considering the age of the photos) and very skosh on floor plans for those of us who are Plan-atarians or Plan-aholics or whatever name you choose for those of us who love floor plans. It's a big disappointment in that regard. Only 4 floor plans. A MUCH better book with plans is his "New York's Fabulous Luxury Apartments." I must have really misread the reviews or gotten confused about the contents of this book... mea culpa, this is MY review. But Alpern is a scholar, and it's a very worthy book if your interest is in the reading of the history of Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan. I'm just glad I didn't spend too much money on this book. My disappointment is my own. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan* By PEGGY PARKER GRAUMANI gave the book to a friend who grew up in one of the buildings.... at 1185 PARK AVENUE... and she is having a wonderful time with it. Her mother remained there until her death a few years ago.

Handsome, superbly illustrated volume provides detailed mini-histories of some of New York's most luxurious lodgings: the stately Gramercy, the fashionably flamboyant Ansonia, the dramatic Hotel des Artistes, Joseph Pulitzer's palatial residence, magnificent Park Avenue apartments, and many others. 175 illustrations many from private sources depict both interiors and exteriors. Introduction. Index.