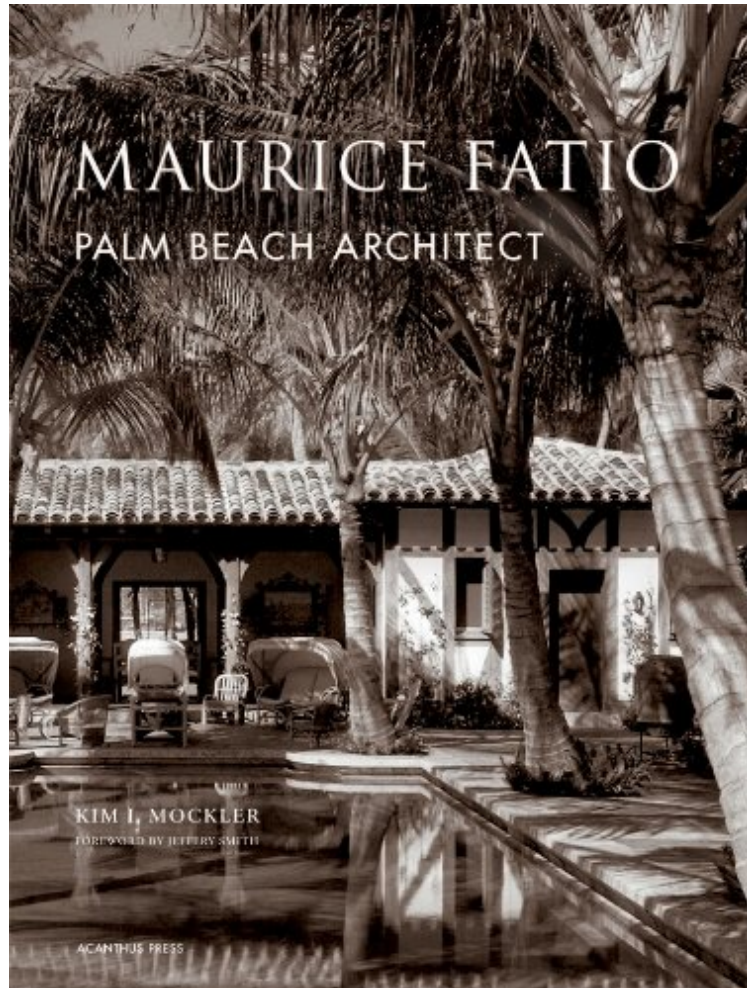


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Maurice Fatio: Palm Beach Architect (The American Architect)

Kim I. Mockler

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Kim I. Mockler : Maurice Fatio: Palm Beach Architect (The American Architect) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Maurice Fatio: Palm Beach Architect (The American Architect):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Palm Beach: it's not all about Addison Mizner. By Ulysses Dietz Another delicious, gorgeously illustrated book full of floor plans and stories from Acanthus. Kim Mockler has done an honorable job telling the tale of this hugely important architect who seems to have been cast in Addison Mizner's larger-than-life shadow. But surely Fatio's houses in Palm Beach are every bit as complex and interesting as Mizner's. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fatio book fabulous By Chip Martin This lavishly illustrated book by Kim I. Mockler is a wonderful addition to my library. It provides a nice history of one of the premier architects of his day and the following pages display Fatio's handiwork in South Florida. Mockler chronicles the diversity of Fatio's designs and how he was willing to undertake a variety of styles to please his well-heeled clientele.

The author's knowledge of his subject is thorough and his writing style has an elegance befitting such a book. Modern-day photographs nicely supplement historic photos, drawings and floor plans. Mockler is also good at explaining the current-day condition of the properties featured, most of which are in the hands of owners who have kept them in good condition and are respectful of the genius that was Maurice Fatio. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An amazing addition to my collection. By Paul T. Mcconnell As always, the quality of books published by Acanthus Press are without a doubt the best. As a collector of architectural monographs this book is a very important addition to my library. The quality of the book is exceptional and that includes the work of the author. I am pleased beyond words to have this book in my home.

The ultimate winter playground on a sun-drenched tropical island accessible only by the Florida East Coast Railway or ocean-going yacht, Palm Beach was created as an exclusive haven for the pursuit of pleasure. Developed mainly during the flamboyant 1920s, Palm Beach was different from the storied northern resorts, such as Newport, Bar Harbor or the Hamptons. It was exotic, extravagant, and ultra modern a place where bankers mixed freely with gamblers and bootleggers, plutocrats with Ziegfeld showgirls and society doyennes. The glamorous winter houses and exclusive clubs, designed by its early style-setting architects, provided a swanky backdrop for seasons of carefree recreation, parties, dinners, and dancing under the stars. MAURICE FATIO, PALM BEACH ARCHITECT tells the story of the prominent society architect whose many elegant buildings remain as much-admired Florida icons. Born and trained in Switzerland, Fatio (1897-1943) came to the United States to study American building and design methods in the early 1920s, and never left. Shortly after opening his practice in New York City, he was called to Palm Beach to design Mediterranean-style castles, British Colonial mansions, and modernist villas on spectacular sites with water views as far as the eye could see. Fatio built over 200 houses in Florida. MAURICE FATIO examines in detail 26 finest examples of the architect's designs, built between 1927 and 1939, including Otto Kahn's southern Oheka, Harold Vanderbilt's Eastover, Harrison Williams Blythe dunes, Consuelo Vanderbilt's Casa Alva, and E.F. Hutton's second Palm Beach house, Four Winds. Illustrated with 300 period and new photographs and multiple floor plans drawn especially for this work, the book also includes a catalogue of Fatio's nearly 160 residential commissions in the back. Brief narratives highlight the history of each building and the clients who commissioned them.

The descriptive text is crisp and clear, presenting architectural detail in a way that is at once knowledgeable, lucid and accessible to novices. Maurice Fatio: Palm Beach Architect is lavishly illustrated with a generous assortment of period photographs and new ones, as well as floor plans rendered especially for this gorgeously produced volume... In presenting 26 representative examples of Mr. Fatio's designs, Mr. Mockler incidentally provides us with a who's who in American society and culture... Mr. Mockler's descriptive narratives include intriguing biographies and family histories; vivid word portraits of the residences; details about ornamentation, interior design and furnishings; information about additions, renovations and successive including current owners. We learn about where stones were quarried, which local artisans (wrought-iron craftsmen, etc.) made contributions to the architect's vision and how the various residences were situated with respect to the ocean and to Lake Worth. --Philip K. Jason, Florida Weekly -- Philip K. Jason, Florida Weekly To read this book is to step into another era and into the lives of this country's early 20th-century moguls and tastemakers. Mockler's research is fastidious, his eye astute (and the bibliography is a savory reading list for a long, luscious winter). His descriptions offer plenty of architectural analysis and, even better, a good guided tour, house by house. --Miami Herald, December 12, 2010 (Fatio)... put an elegant and enduring stamp on the town, and his rich body of work, now chronicled in MAURICE FATIO: PALM BEACH ARCHITECT, is finally getting its due. (Fatio's) houses were so well known during his lifetime that composer-lyricist Cole Porter was inspired to write brightly in the late 1930s: I want to live on Maurice Fatio's patio... --Veranda, September 2010