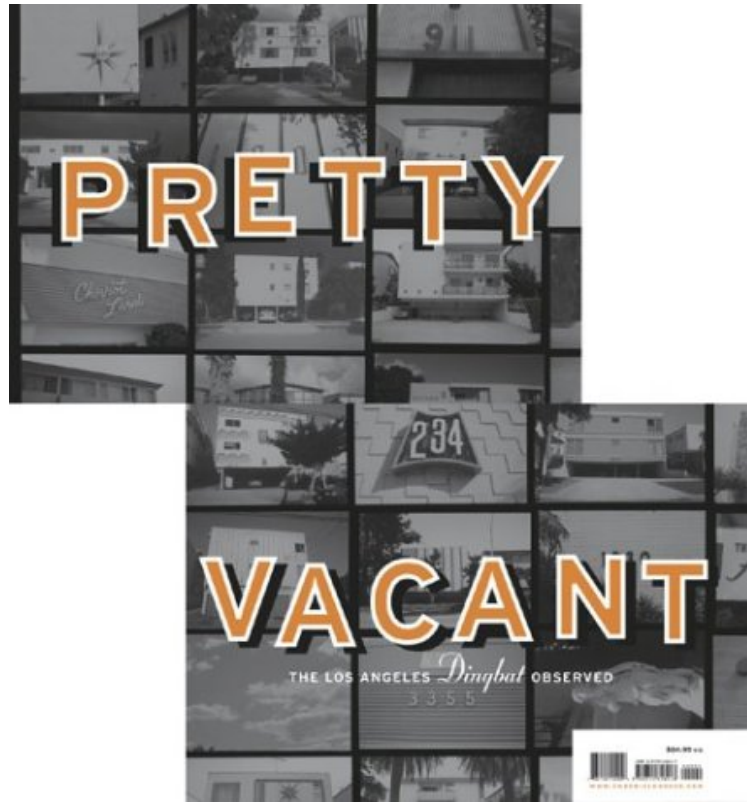


(Pdf free) Pretty Vacant: The Los Angeles Dingbat Observed

Pretty Vacant: The Los Angeles Dingbat Observed

Clive Piercy

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Clive Piercy : Pretty Vacant: The Los Angeles Dingbat Observed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pretty Vacant: The Los Angeles Dingbat Observed:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. celebrates the 'Dingbat' best. Great book By Clifford Enz The classic lines, the Grecian lines and Roman decoration, celebrates the 'Dingbat' best. Great book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dingbat yer eyes out! By thatDonOguy Old buildings. I cant get enough of them. Especially if theyre relics from the 50s, 60s and 70s; tiki, googie, themed restaurants, stone walls, desperately elaborate architectural dressings in the most mundane shops, large objects, etc. My personal drug of choice, if you asked me. In the early 90s, I got the idea to nab some roles of film and went on an urban safari to track em down and label them, as in taking pictures of them. I pretty much covered a chunk of the South Bay digging for local Tiki, googie and the lot. What was I going to do with these pictures? Not much, just save them like kids with Yu-Gi-Yo cards only without the matching t-shirt. British artist Clive Piercy took his collection he gathered when he first moved to LA and took it one step further, he got a publisher to let him put these slides into a small yet sizable thick book. Lucky bastard. The collection are of apartments, its decorations (unofficially called dingbats), the various styles, their name signage (like One Two Three California and The Ocean Aired Terrace) and, in an artistic angle, stages of decay. Theres no text information on these each of these buildings, though its not surprising as theres no general traceable information about its characteristics and those who created them. Still, for a building freak like me, the slight no nonsense layout, the un-

obstructing design and the sincere introduction dose offer a good visual tour. The author acknowledges that this is not a architectural book but a love letter, a visual poem to these quirky characters. As the last paragraph states, I return again and again to the same streets, just to make sure that these old friends of mine are still there, and I still feel a delicious sense of expectation when I turn on to a street and see an undiscovered dingbat in the distance. Yup, leave it to the British to explain and show affection towards our culture better than us lazy lethargic Americans. Lucky Bastard. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A brick of a book. By Robin The publisher's trade catalog for this book says 'The only thing better than one boring building is hundreds of them' and the photographer Clive Piercy says of his images 'This is not a book about architecture-or photography. It is a visual poem, a love letter and a simple attempt to help preserve these fantastic, quirky characters'. Well, maybe and this chunky little book delivers 480 photos of them. Piercy was struck by the LA apartment that has the design characteristic of having an open to the street ground floor parking space the width of the building. Flicking through the pages you get the impression that maybe the local builders have formed a cartel to make sure their efforts look as identical as possible, so to add a little bit of individual flavor to their apartments many owners have fixed large numbers or names to the buildings (set in appropriate typestyles: Atomic Bold Italic or Googie Casual Cursive) Piercy photographed many examples of this building detail and being a designer I found these fascinating. A thing I found rather disappointing though, was that nearly all the photos are in black and white and the reproduction makes them look rather grey (I wonder if they were originally transparencies?) so to break up this greyness color graphic elements are scattered through the pages, mostly type dingbats, how appropriate! Piercy is not the only photographer to celebrate the 'Pretty Vacant' style, Jeff Brouws in his lovely book of color photos, Readymades: American Roadside Artifacts has a chapter devoted to ticky tacky homes in Daly City, California, especially interesting because he sought out homes that were painted in bright colors. Lewis Baltz photographed pretty vacant commercial units in his famous The New Industrial Parks Near Irvine, California. I bet a copy of 'Pretty Vacant' will be popping up on the coffee tables of architects, designers and those interested in pop Americana. ***FOR AN INSIDE LOOK click 'customer images' under the cover.

The only thing better than one boring building is hundreds of them. Far from the glamorous and avant-garde architectural features that make Los Angeles justifiably famous are the humble apartment buildings known as "dingbats." But Pretty Vacant dares to elevate the low-rise, the boxy, the not remarkably well-constructed to the architecturally sublime. In this inexpensive brick of a book, through scads of photographs of these underappreciated gems, their boundless surface charms are soon obvious. Combining funky textures, streamlined sconces, and future-retro ornamentation, these buildings practically define LA vernacular in their optimistic mix of mid-century modishness and darling details. Clive Piercy's photographs provide a streetside glimpse into the curious lives of these buildings, with charming names that range from the regal (Kings Studios) to the space-age (The Galaxie). Assembled in a compact but weighty package with more than 480 images, Pretty Vacant provides a snapshot tour and kitschy homage to this underdog architectural form.

About the Author Clive Piercy, an associate at the design firm PhD, temporarily moved to Los Angeles from London 20 years ago and has been there ever since. This is his first book.