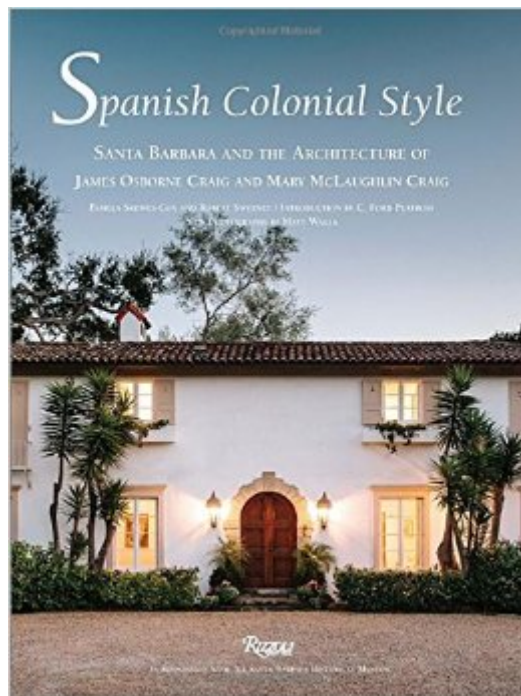


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Spanish Colonial Style: Santa Barbara And The Architecture Of James Osborne Craig And Mary McLaughlin Craig



Synopsis

An ode to the classic Spanish-style houses of Santa Barbara. Spanish Colonial Style celebrates an extraordinary tradition in architecture whose hallmarks include whitewashed stucco and plaster walls, wood-beamed ceilings, dramatic fireplaces, and, above all, mystery and romance. Homes in this much-loved style of architecture welcome the visitor and embrace the resident, and architects James Osborne Craig and Mary McLaughlin Craig, early proponents of the style and influential disseminators of it, were masters of the form. Their work, until now, has been largely underappreciated and little seen. The Craigs played pivotal roles in the development of the Spanish Colonial Revival and of other styles of architecture in Santa Barbara, and the influence of their work spread much beyond that. In addition to shining a long overdue spotlight on the rich career of these tremendously influential architects, Spanish Colonial Style also heralds Santa Barbara as the small city of international importance that it became in the first half of the twentieth century.

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent study of James Osborn Craig's designs in Santa Barbara. It is quite complete and well photographed. It is an excellent addition for those who are interested in Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture.

Spanish Colonial StyleThe Architecture of James Osborne Craig and Mary McLaughlin CraigAs a

retired Santa Barbara architect my shelves are full of beautiful books of traditional Spanish architecture of Southern California. However, none of them can compare to the new Spanish Colonial Style, beautifully published by Rissoli in association with the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, and authored by Pamela Skewes-Cox (granddaughter of the Craig's) and historian Robert Sweeney with new photography by Matt Walla. The book is a biographical and architectural odyssey of the development of the designs of James Osborne Craig and later his wife, Mary McLaughlin Craig. His designs in the late nineteenth and early twenties were the fountainhead of the architecture that established the quintessential character of Santa Barbara's Spanish style as an expression of Andalusian simplicity. In just a few years before his untimely death in 1922, James Osborne Craig had matured to be capable of designing El Paseo and the Hoffman House, architecture that is unmatched to this day. After his death, Mary his widow took up his practice and matured into a designer to match her husband's beautiful simplicity in her architecture for a row of houses facing Mission Santa Barbara, lovingly known as Plaza Rubio. Her practice continued into the 1950's. This is not the typical coffee table book of architecture. It is a carefully researched biography of the Craigs, a history of Santa Barbara society ;and the people and places in their lives, an exquisite collection of Osborne Craig's beautifully reproduced drawings and sketches and photography to match the excellence of their designs. The book reads easily, like a novel. Once I picked it up and started, I couldn't put it down until the last page. So will you. William Mahan, AIA Santa Barbara, California

Spanish Colonial Style is a new touchstone for Architects, Planners, and students of American architecture and history. After the outsized jubilation of the Panama-California and Panama Pacific Expositions of 1915, James Osborne and Mary McLaughlin Craig were joined by a host of architects and planners in the nitty-gritty work of transforming early 20th century Santa Barbara into a designed city unlike any other in the country. The Craigs were instrumental in forging Southern California's new Spanish Colonial Style, which was so successfully adopted and continued by their peers and successors that the Craig's early and formative contributions have been relatively overlooked until now. Like many Santa Barbara architects of their time, James and Mary Craig's work bridged the contemporary divides between the public, private, and commercial realms. Though James Osborne Craig's career was cut short by illness, his work has a unique vigor and inventiveness that is remarkable for both the brevity of his career and the compactness of his designs. After James died in 1922, Mary's work continued in Southern California and in other parts of the country. This book is thoroughly researched, superbly edited, and contains a wealth of

otherwise unavailable drawings and photographs. It brings light to what could have been a concluded chapter in American design. Happily, the Craigâ™s work in Santa Barbara continues to be inhabited, sought after, and emulated by the designers and inhabitants of their most fortunate city. Gabriel A. Zamora

For those who love Spanish Colonial Style architecture, as I do, this is a fabulous book. And for those who love the architectural style of Santa Barbara homes and buildings this is for you. The research is excellent. The photographs are beautiful. It is a wonderful history of two amazing people who influenced the style and beauty of Santa Barbara homes and offices.

Excellent well researched text...much new information on early Santa Barbara families. Historic photographs.

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