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Lost Detroit: Stories Behind The Motor City's Majestic Ruins



Synopsis

Lost Detroit tells the stories behind 12 of the city's most beautiful, all-but-forgotten landmarks and of the people behind them, from the day they opened to the day they closed. While these buildings might stand as ghosts of the past today, their stories live on within these pages. The team behind BuildingsofDetroit.com brings you the memories of those who caught trains out of the majestic Michigan Central Station, necked with girlfriends in the balcony of the palatial Michigan Theatre, danced the night away at the Vanity Ballroom and kicked out the jams at the Grande Ballroom. As Detroit Free Press Architecture Critic John Gallagher said, the buildings in these pages held a central place in the story of Detroit's Auto Century. It was America's story, too. Detroiters lived, loved, toiled, played, celebrated and dreamed great dreams in these buildings and thereby helped shape a nation."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This really is a wonderful book. Why? Because it does something that so few books do. Each building has its own section. There is a lot of information. The early history of a building is detailed, as well as its great era, slow decline, and byzantine story about its ruination (I think each building has a byzantine ruination story). There are also lots-o-pictures. Again, showing each building in a pristine state - all the better to make you GASP at the current images. The book is VERY depressing but through no fault of the author. It's just simply tragic that we as a culture would allow the utter destruction of such architectural gems. This never fails to amaze me. It's heart-rending.

As a lifelong Detroit, I found this book to be not only informative but depressing as well. I am excited to see interior photos of buildings that I may never have been afforded the chance to see but it saddens me that the demise of these great buildings has gotten so desperate. The book tells the great story of the building and adds many details and information about what the building once appeared to be. This will be a coffee table book addition in my house!

This is an excellent book. While its immediate appeal would be to current and former Detroiters who are directly familiar with the buildings and neighborhoods, it also serves as a broader lesson on what can happen when a city enters into long-term decline. The writing is engaging, and the photographs are superb. To the authors: Please consider doing a "Lost Detroit: Part II"!

This book has some of the most wonderful photos of old Detroit, the forgotten, left to rot. There is such life in the photos in the book, I highly recommend this book,,, good info on what is being shown in the photos. If you are from Detroit, or just have an interest in this sort of thing, I cannot stress enough, 'GET THIS BOOK...' I stand and applaud the author and photographer. Well Done !! (Can I tag along on your next building adventure??)

I bought this book for my husband (born & raised in Michigan) and he was obsessed. He ended up buying one for his Dad, who appreciated the book even more since he was alive during the times when you could have actually gone inside many of the historic buildings depicted.

I like that the book provided before and after pictures. The pictures of the original structures being supplied from archives so I had the ability to see the buildings in their original grandeur. The information provided was somewhat insightful too. I think if someone was really into the history ie., dates, names, architects, etc., this would be quite interesting. The last chapter about The Woodward Presbyterian Church was a little too much information for me and I think many of the details were not important to the demise of the building itself. If that chapter would have been more of a summation there would have been room for another chapter on another sad, forgotten building on its way to extinction. My only other critique would be that I wish some of these books would include information in the index or at the end of the book's last chapter about how people can help to restore or keep these buildings from being destroyed. I know there are many people out there like me who would love to participate in some way to make this situation better.

This book should never be lumped in the "Ruins Porn" category. It is a poignant history lesson of one city at the end of the Industrial Age, and the failure of it's leaders to bring it into the next. Dan Austin's insight of his former city are tempered by what he has seen in other, thriving cities, and his facts are accurate. Sean Doerr's photographs are heartbreakingly beautiful. Having lived in the Metro Detroit area almost all my life, I can attest to the damage Corporate greed, corrupt education leaders, and political graft have on it's citizens.

Both pictures and text were very well done. This was a very nice book....too bad it wasn't hard covered. Unfortunately, did not package this and another purchased book very well. They were put loose in a larger box to rattle around. No protection for the dust jacket of the other book or for the corners of either book. Shame on you . Usually, your packaging is OK.

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