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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

"Every building in Detroit has a story." And, thankfully, Dan Austin and Sean Doerr are the storytellers. ... This amazing book tells the tales of 12 of Detroit's most stately structures. --Time magazine's Detroit Blog"Every chapter attempts to tug on the hearts of its readers with narratives brief enough to hold readers' attention, but long enough to explain the journey." --The South EndOf Dan Austin, "a colleague calls him encyclopedic." --Michigannow.orgWith Detroit's buildings, "some is gorgeously intact, some isn't. But the duo shows equal passion for all of it." --Model D"I was absolutely glued to the book. Glued. It captures the spirit of so many of Detroit's buildings."

Dan Austin is a journalist at the Detroit Free Press and a historian of the city's landmarks. He began researching and writing about Detroit's architectural wonders in 2006. His first book, *Lost Detroit: Stories Behind the Motor City's Majestic Ruins*, "tells the stories behind the boarded-up windows of Detroit's most spectacular abandoned buildings. He runs HistoricDetroit.org."

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 former Detroiter, I liked the depth of the histories and the stories about each building. I probably made a mistake in reading this on a Kindle because all of the photos were B&W and of reduced size so that much of their detail was lost. The book could have benefited from a more standardized set of recent photos of each building - by that I mean front, back, sides of each plus an overhead shot of the building and area to show the buildings' layout on the property and proximity to other buildings and neighborhoods; a map of each area would also have helped. This would have made it easier to understand the narrative. Pictures of the original buildings are of course limited to what's available and those are excellent, but a detailed format for new pictures would have helped my understanding and enjoyment of the stories.

As a lifelong Detroiter, 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!

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 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 it's 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 books 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.

Another great book of really, really sad beautifully shot photos. After viewing this book and others like it, readers are left with such sadness. How could civilized society let once grand building to simply rot via the ravage of mother nature AND vandals that break in to unsecure or unattended buildings only to further destroy tributes to man's ability to think, design, and build incredible buildings. Be prepared to be saddened but also maybe angry.....angry at those that left these building defenseless against time, mother nature, and worse of all.....the SOB's that break in and for nothing other than boredom....destroy them.

"Detroit's architecture is recognized as being among the finest in the U.S. with the National Trust for Historic Preservation listing many of Detroit's skyscrapers and buildings as some of America's most endangered landmarks. Detroit also has one of the largest surviving collections of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings in the U.S." In addition, the pictures show how the city is attempting to protect their endangered landmarks.

Wonderful book that shows what an incredible city Detroit was at one time. What a tragedy to see it now. It has crumbled, beautiful homes and communities turned into slums that are unsafe to even drive through. The incredible department stores at one time were full of marble with unbelievable architecture has been blown up in order to bring them down. In Europe and other places, these incredible buildings would have been preserved for future generations. In America, we tear them down. I love our country, especially Detroit. It is heartbreaking to see such a wonderful city brought to ruin. Perhaps someday it will be revived, but not in my life time.

Good resource for my office library

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