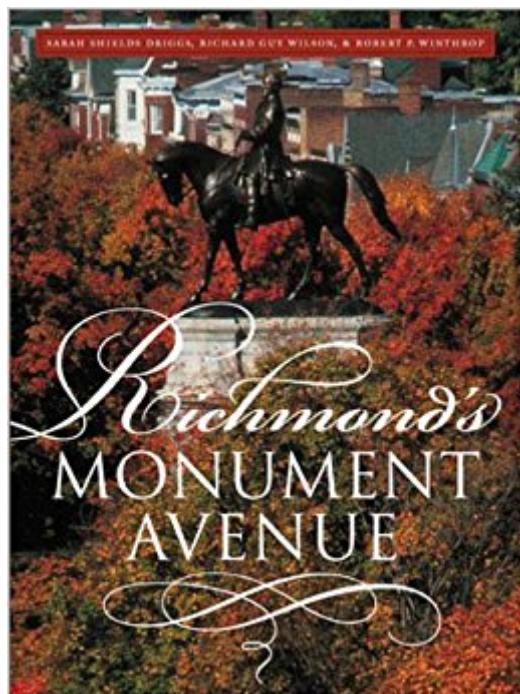


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Richmond's Monument Avenue



Synopsis

Long hailed as a supreme example of American city planning, Monument Avenue is home to some of Richmond, Virginia's, most prestigious houses and distinguished architecture--and to the unique procession of statues from which the street takes its name. Initially planned in 1890 around a memorial to Robert E. Lee, over the next four decades the avenue evolved into a parade of statues honoring heroes of the Confederacy. In the mid-1990s, however, the dedication of a controversial memorial to African American tennis player Arthur Ashe signaled that Monument Avenue's meaning had broadened beyond commemorating the Lost Cause. This book traces the history of Monument Avenue, of its buildings and statuary, and of the people who helped create one of America's great streets. Enriched by more than three hundred photographs, plans, and drawings, it chronicles the avenue's development, captures architectural details and city preservation efforts, and places the avenue's story in local, regional, and national context. Built to reflect the hopes and attitudes of Richmonders at the turn of the last century, Monument Avenue exists nearly intact today as the centerpiece of a flourishing neighborhood, even as its meaning continues to be redefined.

Book Information

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; First Edition edition (April 30, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807826073

ISBN-13: 978-0807826072

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,274 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning #130 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #182 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture

Customer Reviews

A major contribution to Richmond history and US architecture and sculpture scholarship.

("Choice") This lavishly illustrated coffee-table book offers in-depth looks at the statues and the grand houses of the neighborhood. ("America's Civil War") This large pictorial and narrative history is, in a word, superlative, both for its study of urban design and for its attention to historical detail.

("Richmond Times-Dispatch") This fine study of Monument Avenue is a splendid illustration of how such solid scholarship on a narrow subject can yield important understanding of much larger topics. ("Virginia Quarterly Review") Virtually every page of "Richmond's Monument Avenue" gives evidence of how the Confederate capital's statue-lined thoroughfare has reflected changes in Richmond, and in the South as a whole, since its conception in the 1880s. ("American Heritage")

[The] photography of Monument Avenue is spectacular. It is a wonderful demonstration of how a skilled photographer can create fresh, stunning images of a much photographed subject. . . . A splendid discussion of monumental statuary structured around the story of each of the monuments from concept through dedication. . . . This fine study of Monument Avenue is a splendid illustration of how such solid scholarship on a narrow subject can yield important understanding of much larger topics. It is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the development of the New South and the American city.--Virginia Quarterly Review Through stunning photographs and richly detailed narrative, Richmond's Monument Avenue depicts the saga of one of America's great urban places. The authors show how post-Civil War Richmond created an avenue of grand spaces, opulent architecture, and heroic statues that embodied the transformation from Old South to New South and Virginia's renewed place in the reunited nation. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in America's cities and the making of the New South.--Catherine W. Bishir, author of North Carolina Architecture Richmond's Monument Avenue is a beautifully illustrated, meticulously researched, and well-written book.--Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians Virtually every page of Richmond's Monument Avenue gives evidence of how the Confederate capital's statue-lined thoroughfare has reflected changes in Richmond, and in the South as a whole, since its conception in the 1880s.--American Heritage This lavishly illustrated coffee-table book offers in-depth looks at the statues and the grand houses of the neighborhood.--America's Civil War A major contribution to Richmond history and US architecture and sculpture scholarship.--Choice This large pictorial and narrative history is, in a word, superlative, both for its study of urban design and for its attention to historical detail.--Richmond Times-Dispatch Sumptuously illustrated with photographs by John O. Peters, this wonderful work narrates and celebrates Monument Avenue's role as shrine to Confederate heroes and as showcase of turn-of-the-century Richmond's finest homes. . . . Richmond's Monument Avenue is not so much a photographic journey through a Southern city's past, but a metaphoric meditation on the past and how we Americans choose, then venerate our heroes. It's an exercise worthy of all of us.--Blue & Gray Magazine

lots of old pictures of Monument Ave. If you have ever visiting this area, you need this book.

An incredible documentation of the only street in America to have its own National Landmark status. The authors did their research on this fascinating piece of Americana, and the street comes alive in beautiful photographs and fascinating description. A MUST for anyone's coffee table!!

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