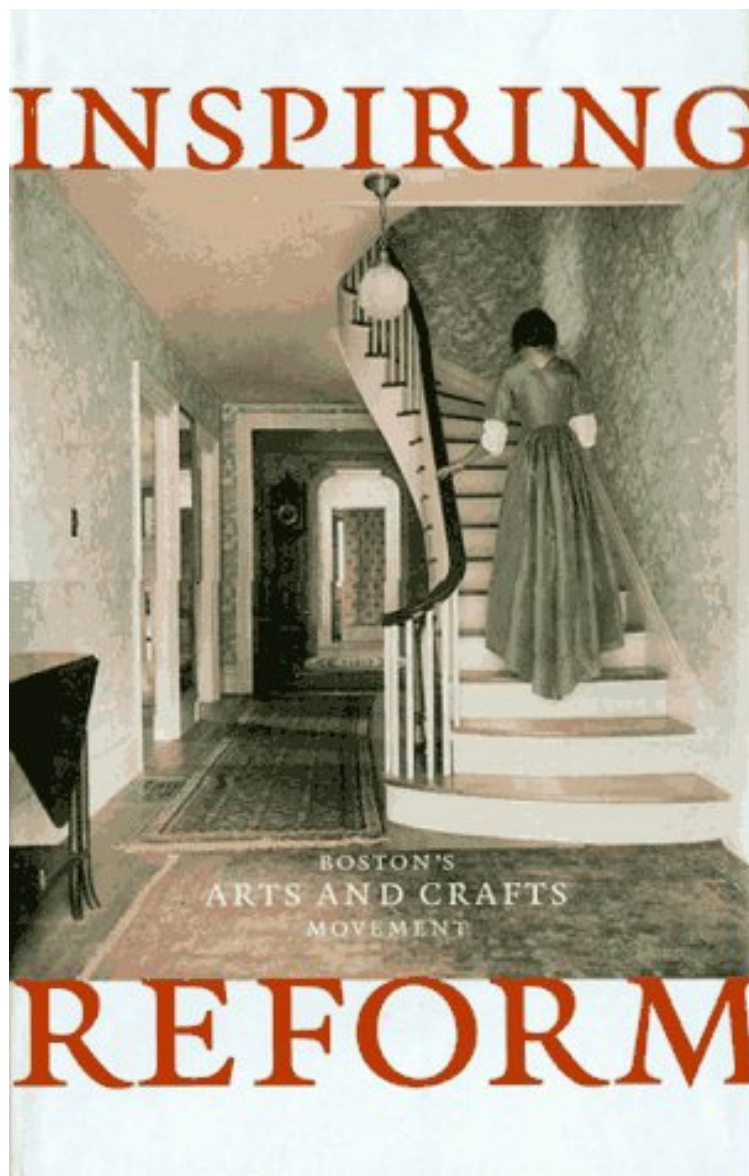


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## Inspiring Reform: Boston's Arts and Crafts Movement

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**From Brand: Harry N. Abrams / Davis Museum n Cultural Center : Inspiring Reform: Boston's Arts and Crafts Movement** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inspiring Reform: Boston's Arts and Crafts Movement:

Fine craftsmanship and handiwork, originality in design, aesthetic purity, and honest use of materials in both decorative and utilitarian objects were the ideals embraced by Boston's Society of Arts and Crafts. This book celebrates the organization's centenary with splendid examples of metalwork, jewelry textiles, furniture, ceramics, photography, and more. 273 illustrations, 52 in color.

From Library Journal These two excellent books are joined spiritually as they explore the Arts Crafts movement's quest for a retreat from the materialism of the Gilded Age as manifested on different sides of the continent. Inspiring Reform is an exhibition catalog from the Davis Museum and Cultural Center's centenary celebration of Boston's Society of Arts Crafts, which sponsored the earliest exhibition of Arts Crafts pieces in America in 1897. The Davis exhibit, which will also be at the Smithsonian, covers the years 1890-1930 and features 150 examples of furniture, ceramics, metalware, book art, prints, and very unique photography. More than 230 illustrations?40 in color?accompany the catalog's ten essays, all written by specialists in the field. Another essay collection, Toward a Simpler Way of Life, focuses on the variety of styles of Arts Crafts structures found in California. In their drive toward the anticommercial, the practitioners drew on the decorative schemes of English Tudor, Swiss Chalet, Japanese Temple, and Spanish Mission styles to evoke an earlier, preindustrial time. As expected, Bernard Maybeck, the Greene Brothers, and Julia Morgan are here, but so are many talented, lesser-known designers. The knowledgeable essays also give due attention to the builders, contractors, and artisans who contributed so much. The book will have a bounty of 365 period duotone photos, not seen by the reviewer. Important studies of this perennially popular style, both works are highly recommended for all art and architecture collections. ?Joseph C. Hewgley, Nashville P.L. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Informative essays explore pottery, woodcarving, furniture and jewelry making, metalworking and bookmaking. This elegant book, with its handsome design and more than 200 photographs, is itself an Arts and Crafts artifact. -- The New York Times Book , Robin Lippincott