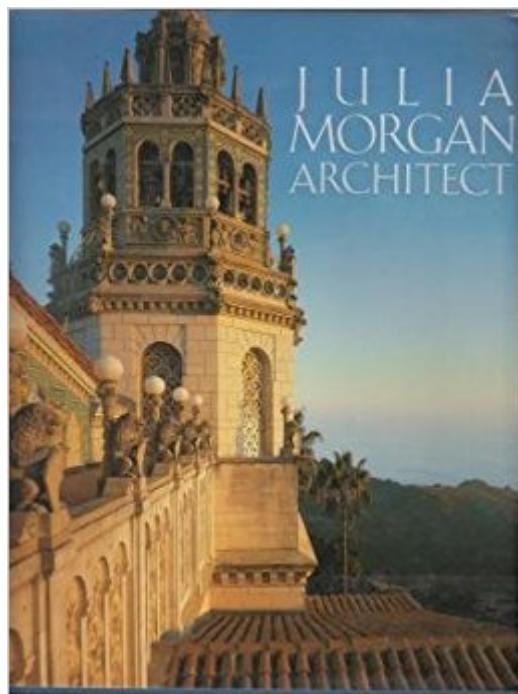


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# Julia Morgan, Architect



## Synopsis

William Randolph Hearst's dazzling "castle" at San Simeon, California, is famous world round, yet only the aficionado can name Julia Morgan as the architect who built it. For more than thirty years she worked with Hearst in a rare collaboration, creating not only his art-filled hilltop palace but also a fairytale Bavarian "village" known as Wyntoon and many other commercial and domestic structures. Yet the Hearst commissions, notable as they are, are not Morgan's only claim to fame. Given the sweep of Morgan's accomplishments, it is astonishing that this is the first substantial book ever devoted to her career. Painstakingly researched for more than a decade by Sarah Holmes Boutelle, founder of the Julia Morgan Association, this handsome volume lovingly documents Morgan's life and work. This is a remarkable book celebrating the achievements of a remarkable woman. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Morgan (1872-1957) was William Randolph Hearst's favorite architect, and the theatrical Hearst Castle perched on a hilltop in San Simeon, Calif., might be considered a monument to her client's pretensions and her own pliability. Fortunately, this reclusive woman, who shunned publicity, left behind 700 other buildings in a medley of styles. In cottages, schools, churches, houses and civic projects, she swung eclectically between Arts and Crafts, California Mission, Bavarian, medieval and Mediterranean styles. Her work became unfashionable as modernism took hold, yet today it has attracted renewed interest. Her experimental use of color and decoration, her concern for

indoor/outdoor living and for the relationship of structure to site all these make her buildings relevant to contemporary designers. In this biographical-critical study, Boutelle, an architectural historian, considers each building on its own terms. One-third of the 368 illustrations are in color; plans, sketches and photographs help us to appreciate many original touches. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

San Simeon, William Randolph Hearst's fanciful estate on the California coast, is famous worldwide, yet only a few know of its architect, Julia Morgan. Boutelle's book happily should correct that fault. Drawing from letters, photographs, sketches, blueprints, and reminiscences, Boutelle provides a fascinating look at Morgan's life and career. With degrees from Berkeley and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, plus good social connections, Morgan had no problems garnering commissions; her engineering expertise, eye for detail, and ability to work in a variety of styles rightfully made her one of California's most prolific architects. This handsome volume, with its breathtaking color photographs, is long overdue but well worth the wait. Highly recommended. H. Ward Jandl, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Very nice and informative book.

Good reading

Great! Product arrived promptly and in great condition. Many Thanks!

a great book with lovely photos!

Comprehensive with great photographs, this is a good place to start learning about Morgan's career.

I am always disappointed when I purchase a book and it feels like the binding will not be letting the book be one for the next generation.

This is an outstanding book on Morgan's life and work. Well written text, detailed history, biographical information, and quality photos of the many buildings are just a few of the book's strong points. Morgan designed hundreds of buildings during her over 50-year career, and the author deserves credit for covering so many of them. Of course, she is most famous for the projects

she did for Hearst, such as the "Castle" and Wyntoon, the Austrian/Bavarian style estate near Mt. Shasta in northern California, but she created many other important buildings also, which get discussed in detail in this fine volume. Also included are scans of the original plans. Out of all the books on Morgan, this one is by far the best, and well worth your time and money. A little side note here, I've done five different tours of the Hearst Castle over the years, so have had an opportunity personally to view one of her most important works. During one of the tours, the guide said that a few years ago they had a 6.4 magnitude earthquake there, but except for a few tiles that came off here and there, the castle sustained no damage. That's because despite the delicate looking surface ornamentation, underneath the building is steel reinforced concrete, with even thicker walls than necessary. As a result, the entire Hearst Castle sustained almost no damage during the quake, and no structural damage, and the only really dramatic thing that happened was the guide said that the quake shook things violently enough so that a lot of water sloshed out of the big Neptune pool. :-)  
One of the guides said some interesting things about Hearst's wealth. By the standards of the time, he was certainly very wealthy, earning \$50,000 a day back in the early 30s. But compared to the most wealthy people of the day, such as Rockefeller, who made one million dollars a day, this was relatively modest. Hearst was the 42nd wealthiest man in the U.S. at the time, his father, George Hearst, being 32nd, if I remember right. He spent 9 million dollars on the Castle, approximately one half a year's earnings, so percentage-wise, it was not that much money for him. But compared to the super-wealthy of the day, such as the Morgans, Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, etc, apparently it wasn't much. :-)  
Back in the financial panic of 1905, J.P. Morgan, one of the wealthiest men of his time, lent the U.S. government 20 million dollars of his own money, back when that was a lot more, so it could temporarily keep operating. When Morgan died, Rockefeller commented, "He accomplished a lot for a man who wasn't that wealthy." Anyway, just a few perhaps irrelevant comments on some of the history of the wealthiest individuals of the time. :-)

If you love architecture you will be familiar with Julia Morgan. Well, maybe not. Ever heard or seen Wm Randolph Hearst's castle, San Simeon? Ahhh, now you recognize the architect, Julia Morgan? Maybe not. Until I came across this beautiful book on Julia Morgan by Sara Holmes Boutelle I really didn't know much about the work of Julia Morgan. Just try and google or yahoo her name. There is frustratingly little written about this powerhouse of an architect. Morgan, according to Boutelle, was a versatile architect and according to the beautiful pictures in this book it proves the woman's talent. Because of this book I will seek out more of her still standing structures during my travels. This book will enlighten you to Julia Morgan's early childhood years and take you through

her groundbreaking entrance (1899) into the highly acclaimed Paris school, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, which relented a strict 'male only' code to include Morgan. There are enough pictures and information to make you want to seek out even more knowledge about this interesting lady. And that, and only for that, am I giving this book only four stars. I closed it disappointed that I didn't have floor plans to some of the pictures (those included were so small even a magnifying glass was useless). I yearned for more information on the hows and whys of what Julia Morgan created. And exact locations to finding her beautiful work would have been wonderful. Hey, I think there's a book there if someone is up to the exhaustive work. Still, I am very happy I purchased this book, I will treasure it and go back to it often. Julia Morgan, Architect is part of my architectural library and I highly recommend it for architectural enthusiasts, interior and exterior designers and those studying for the architectural field.

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