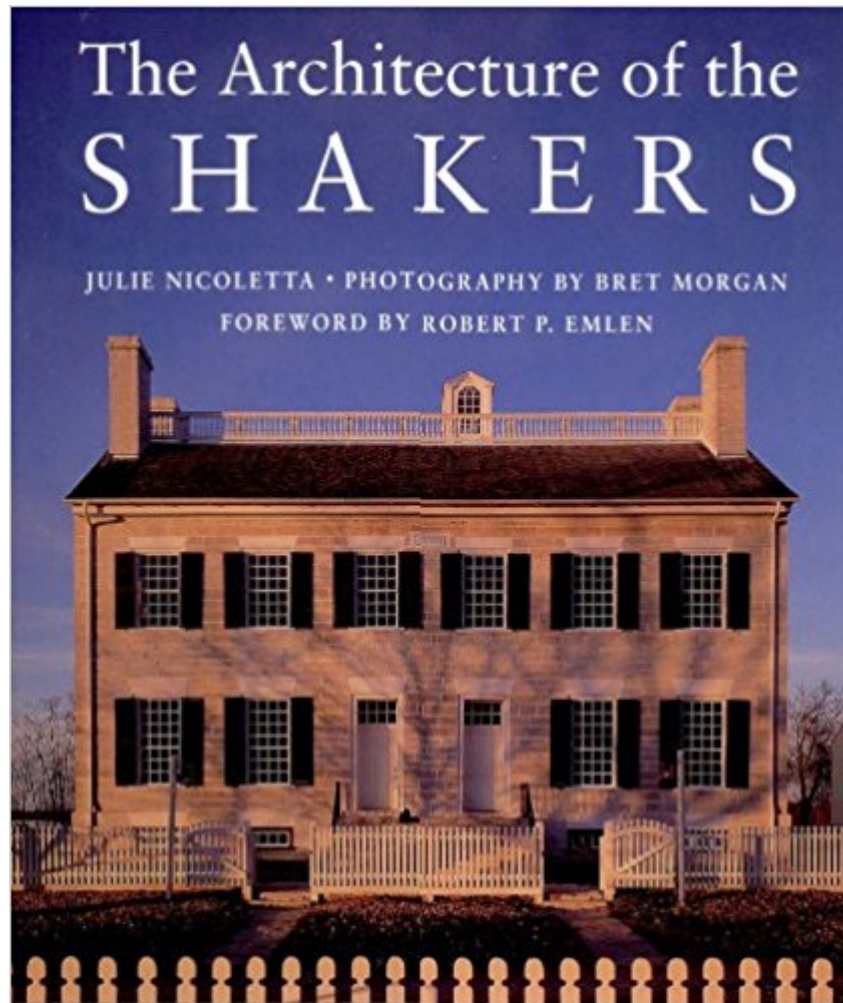




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# **The Architecture Of The Shakers**



## Synopsis

During the nineteenth century, the Shakers conducted America's first successful experiment in utopian living. From Maine to Kentucky, they built communal villages whose unique buildings were designed to accommodate hundreds of inhabitants unified in the common purpose of work and worship. Julie Nicoletta's perceptive text and Bret Morgan's striking photographs illuminate the austere beauty, regional variations, and functional and stylistic evolution of Shaker buildings over the course of two centuries, evoking a visual and literary survey of Shaker design and its impact on our culture at large. Despite the fact that Shaker communities are almost extinct, an appreciation for their legacy continues to grow. Architects, designers, curators, collectors, and an ever-widening public have sought inspiration in Shaker art and architecture. *The Architecture of the Shakers* is a book for all those who wish to learn more about these remarkable buildings and how the rich cultural legacy of the Shakers continues to resonate within them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historian Nicoletta presents Shaker architecture as a function of the sect's spirituality, celibacy, and industriousness and examines its evolution from the beginnings of religious revivalism to the decline of Shakerism in the 20th century. The 22 communities, once bustling, have long since been abandoned (with the exception of Sabbathday Lake, Maine), and the author shows how the rise and fall of Shakerism influenced the construction and renovation of their structures. Nicoletta also discusses the effect outside influences had on Shaker architecture, especially as members began to

leave the communities. This work is more substantive than Paul Rocheleau and June Sprigg's *Shaker Built: The Form and Function of Shaker Architecture* (LJ 2/1/95) because here Nicoletta focuses on how the different construction styles served the Shakers' unique lifestyle. And although he does not offer the plans that Herbert Schiffer included in *Shaker Architecture* (1979), Nicoletta presents color photographs of communities that have since been renovated. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries with strong Shaker or vernacular architecture collections. Julie C. Boehning, "Library Journal" Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Highly recommended. -- Library Journal  
Julie Nicoletta's thoughtful history enables the reader to situate the splendid architectural achievements of Shaker builders in their proper religious and social context. -- Witold Rybczynski  
While not the first book to treat American Shaker utopian villages and facets of their building heritage, this new volume does so in a more comprehensive, in-depth, and analytical manner than any previous work to appear in print on the subject. . . Outstanding. -- The New England Quarterly

A thorough and discerning book. Nicoletta's matter-of-fact prose is a welcome antidote to the nostalgia and sentiment that creep into more reverential treatments of the Shakers. Like any other history, Shaker history turns out to be complex and messy, not simple and sweet. How interesting to see Shaker buildings of the Victorian era, with floral wallpapers, clunky furniture, and primitive telephones.

Nicoletta's book is intelligently and clearly written and boasts Bret Morgan's gorgeous photographs of Shaker buildings. The only book on Shaker Architecture you will ever need--and the best. Michael Kucher

This book delves inconsistently into shaker architecture, but the style is very pedantic and unfocused. By the way, Kucher, who wrote the first glowing review is Nicolleta's husband. So take that review with a grain of salt.

i like and use the "look inside" feature all the time. if a publisher cant give me more than one page or two to get a feeling of what is on the inside,,then they dont want to sell them all that badly.i guess they use the "look inside" thing as a ploy that they dont take seriously,to bad for the writer, because i do.and another thing,i wish i knew if what the other guy said about the first reviewer being the

writers husband was true.. if it is true,and what he wrote,a glowing review,, being biased and saying anything to sell a book dont cut it with me.i cant stand dishonesty. if its true,,, i dont care how good it is,i wouldnt buy it. i hate being thought of as a sucker. that said,i think i have bought nearly every other book on the shakers that is sold on this site.

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