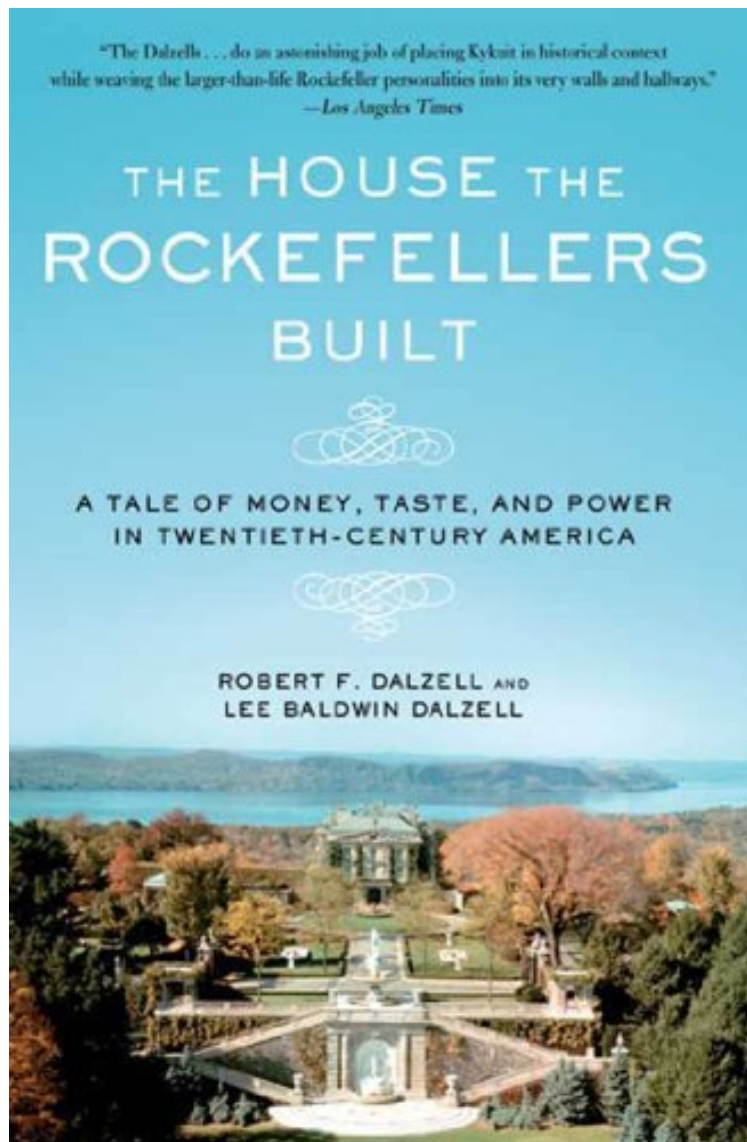


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The House the Rockefellers Built: A Tale of Money, Taste, and Power in Twentieth-Century America (John MacRae Books)

Robert F. Dalzell, Lee Baldwin Dalzell
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Robert F. Dalzell, Lee Baldwin Dalzell : The House the Rockefellers Built: A Tale of Money, Taste, and Power in Twentieth-Century America (John MacRae Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The House the Rockefellers Built: A Tale of Money, Taste, and Power in Twentieth-Century America (John MacRae Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy chris gallionLoved the book. It was well written

bringing many details together...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good to know!By Michael KerleyGreat insight into what, why, and how the Rockefellers built this amazing house! It was my favorite on a trip to the Hudson Valley!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A house-centric view of the RockefellersBy HistoryreaderThe heading pretty well sums up this book, which was probably the authors' intent. Much detail on construction and decorationof the 1910 Hudson River mansion built in the reign of the original Rockefeller, and then passed down to the 2nd and 3rd generations. Fair coverage of the 1st and 2nd generations through house references, but coverage of the 3rd generation(Gov. Nelson, banker David, etc) is sketchy. Only decent photo is on the dust jacket, with about a dozen pages of routine periodphotos inside. A map of the estate would have been helpful. Some of the narrative on decorating is overly long and fussy,but that's apparently the way the owners approached it. Long chapter near the end on negotiations to donate it is way too detailed;space could have been much better used to relate the character and accomplishments of 3rd generation. Overall, some interesting parts on a remarkable American dynasty.

What it was like to be as rich as Rockefeller: How a house gave shape and meaning to three generations of an iconic American familyOne hundred years ago America's richest man established a dynastic seat, the granite-clad Kykuit, high above the Hudson River. Though George Vanderbilt's 255-room Biltmore had recently put the American country house on the money map, John D. Rockefeller, who detested ostentation, had something simple in mind—at least until his son John Jr. and his charming wife, Abby, injected a spirit of noblesse oblige into the equation. Built to honor the senior Rockefeller, the house would also become the place above all others that anchored the family's memories. There could never be a better picture of the Rockefellers and their ambitions for the enormous fortune Senior had settled upon them. The authors take us inside the house and the family to observe a century of building and rebuilding—the ebb and flow of events and family feelings, the architecture and furnishings, the art and the gardens. A complex saga, *The House the Rockefellers Built* is alive with surprising twists and turns that reveal the tastes of a large family often sharply at odds with one another about the fortune the house symbolized.

From Publishers WeeklyThis closely researched history of Kykuit, the Hudson Valley mansion built to make the Rockefeller name and fortune stand for something other than unbridled greed is too narrow in scope for most readers. The Dalzells (George Washington's Mount Vernon) cover five generations of Rockefellers, focusing on the patriarch (called Senior here) and his son (Junior), at least as far as the mansion is concerned, while taking a stab at linking it to issues surrounding American country houses of the Gilded Age. What was different about Kykuit, the Dalzells claim, was the Rockefellers' moral aspirations, their insistence that the house be not only useful and fashionable, but good. Clean prose keeps things moving, but only the most serious Rockefeller devotees will pore over long passages detailing the process of drawing up blueprints, hiring interior decorators and strategizing housekeeping. The Dalzells chronicle every tussle over control of the house's planning between Junior and Senior and, later, between Nelson and his four brothers over Nelson's overflowing art collection. Several fine biographies exist to satisfy readers' curiosity about the Rockefeller family, and it's questionable whether there's nearly as much inherent interest in Kykuit as in Mount Vernon, the George Washington home that draws 20 times as many visitors. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistDespite his immense personal fortune, John D. Rockefeller was by all accounts a modest man who detested displays of ostentation. So it is ironic that the Rockefeller "family house," built above the Hudson River a century ago, has evolved into a 3,500-acre estate with ornate landscaping and a multitude of statues, making it comparable to the great aristocratic homes of Europe. The Dalzells have traced the origins of the house as well as the various additions and remodelings over a century and encompassing three generations of the Rockefeller family. Kykuit, the main house, was built for John D. Rockefeller Sr., but it was constructed under the guidance of his son, John Jr. Although the elder Rockefeller envisioned a "simple, humble" residence, his son was determined to sacrifice nothing to construct an elaborate dwelling based on high standards of taste and beauty. This book will appeal to art historians as well as general readers interested in the tastes and foibles of a family dynasty. Freeman, Jay "This is a book about a great house, to be sure, but more about the conversations taking place inside it, which the Dalzell's have recovered with perfect pitch — conversations about what to do with the greatest fortune in American history." —Joseph J. Ellis, author of the upcoming *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic* "The creation of a house is not unlike the raising of a child. Lee and Robert Dalzell have brilliantly brought to life the complexities, constraints, and compromises that underlie the drama surrounding the building of Kykuit and have continued the story through the years that followed with equal finesse." —Pauline C Metcalf, author of *Ogden Codman and the Decoration of Houses*