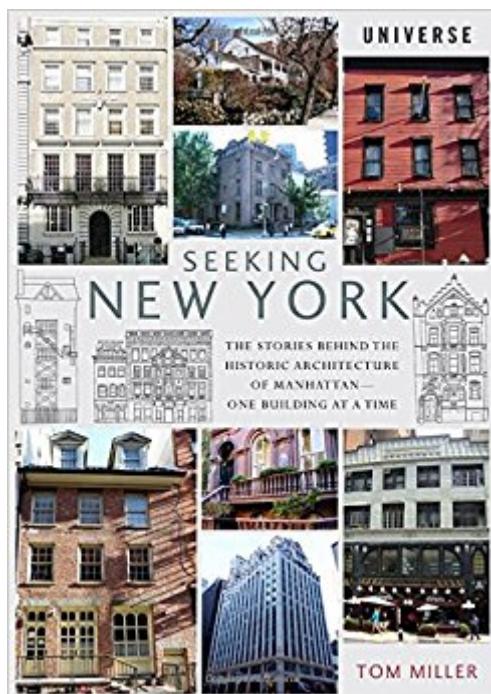


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# Seeking New York: The Stories Behind The Historic Architecture Of Manhattan--One Building At A Time



## Synopsis

Beautifully illustrated with line drawings and photographs, engagingly presented, and richly detailed, this charming guide traces the architectural and social history of Manhattan one building at a time. The island of Manhattan has been through remarkable architectural and social change throughout its history. Organized roughly by neighborhoods, this book explores the seemingly never-ending depths of architectural, personal, and social history of Manhattan, building by building. Follow the family feud that led to the construction of the luxurious Waldorf Astoria, or trace the decay of a once proud home to an increasingly humble storefront, delving into the surprising, sometimes scandalous, often touching stories of the people who lived there along the way. Alongside the details about each architect, dates, and styles, author Tom Miller reveals the joys, tragedies, and scandals of those who lived within. In addition to iconic structures, the book includes many off-the-beaten-path buildings that most guidebooks overlook, as well as notable buildings that no longer stand but remain key to Manhattan's architectural history. Beautifully researched, engagingly presented, and richly detailed, *Seeking New York* is truly a must-read for anyone interested in the story of New York and how it got that way.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Universe (March 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0789329174

ISBN-13: 978-0789329172

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.9 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #75,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Regional #48 in Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > Mid Atlantic #50 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning

## Customer Reviews

(No, I am NOT Tom Miller's Mom!) I have loved Tom's blog "Daytonian in New York" ever since I discovered it a few years ago. He has the most wonderful write-ups and fabulous photos of probably thousands of buildings around Manhattan, mostly all residential. Anyone who says, NYC is all built up and modernized and nothing of old NY is left any more is .... WRONG. Just go to the blog and

sample the gems he writes about , a new one every day (except Sunday.) Amazing work. Then you will be inspired to BUY this book. The book is divided into sections, by neighborhood and covers a lot of ground. Each entry tells when the building was built and details about its creation. Then the writing goes on to explore ANY tidbit, the juicier the better, connected with the place. Some houses have a riches-to-rags story going from high society dinners and fancy weddings, to a second life as a boarding house or apartments. Then the stories are often fantastic, burglars, suicides, clever criminals, dumb suitors, fires, bad renovations ... anything that happened at that address. It's all so fascinating and well written. The accompanying photos are a real treat and give details of the structure you could never see by just glancing at the building. They really are quite surprising in the care they are executed with. And, like I said, every day a new one. Ok, so that was about the blog, but the book is a really nice reproduction of (only) 50 of the pieces from it. It fits nicely in your hand, the photos are well done and the book is clearly organized. If you like NYC history, current architecture (these are buildings that STILL exist - well, mostly, some are sadly labelled 'lost') interesting stories and excellent photography you will like this book!

This book is incredibly informative, the photos are terrific, and the write-ups are all quite thorough and very interesting. For those of you in metro NYC, the author will be giving a slide show lecture on Monday (June 22) - at 6:30 p.m. - at the Mid-Manhattan Library (Fifth Avenue at 40th Street).

I stumbled on this book quite by accident after seeing mention of a blog that sounded interesting--"Daytonian in Manhattan." I live in the South but find architecture anywhere in this country fascinating, and this book showcases New York architecture to a fare-the-well. The book is divided into neighborhoods but no matter----it is one of those books one can pick up and read several chapters about the architecture and the wonderful backstories behind the buildings---put the book down and then pick it up when one has a yen for more architecture. It is amazing that one person, the author Tom Miller, could have amassed all this wonderful history of NY, and might I add that the photography is outstanding also. Even though the theme is NY architecture, believe me this book would "play in Peoria" or any other city for those who love historic buildings.

As a history and architecture geek I would love this book under any circumstances, but the fact that my sister in law, Alice Lum, took all of the modern photographs in the book makes me so proud. She brings Tom's fascinating and even haunting stories to life, and you simply don't know what a rich resource Alice is as a NYC expert until you let her plan your long weekend. I return tired but

knowing NY like you wouldn't believe. Buy this book, pretend you're walking New York's streets with Tom and Alice, and you'll know what I mean. It's a wonderful book.

Charming and quirky guide to some of the lesser known architectural treasures of New York City -- and lesser known stories about some of the famous buildings. The text is well written and informative, and the line drawings that accompany each entry are delightful.

There is no better way of exploring and enjoying a city than walking its streets, looking at its buildings and knowing the stories behind each one. This last step is possible with this book. My only complaint is that it isn't bigger! But as an architectural and urban history author myself, I know covering every interesting building is impossible. And I also loved that Miller, as I do myself in my books, concentrates on the more low-profile buildings and that makes this book unique.

I am Chicagoan and I read the author's blog nightly. In his book, he deftly weaves the history of New York, its citizens (famous and infamous ) and its architecture. He sets the tone for the periods the buildings have survived through and their fascinating residents. The book opens with a simple map of New York, its boroughs, and the featured homes within each. I think it would make an excellent resource for a walking tour of the city.

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