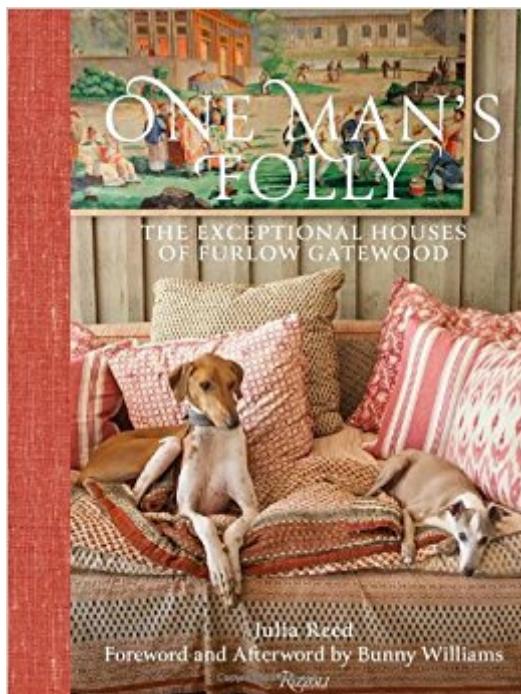


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# One Man's Folly: The Exceptional Houses Of Furlow Gatewood



## Synopsis

When it comes to interiors style, antiques, and Southern vernacular architecture, Furlow Gatewood is a one-of-a-kind classic-this book presents his magical private enclave for the first time. Antiques expert Furlow Gatewood's highly personal property in bucolic Americus, Georgia, where he has meticulously restored his family's carriage house and added intimate dwellings and outbuildings-several rescued from demolition-has evolved over decades to become a sublime expression of stylish living. The structures exemplify various architectural traditions-from mid-nineteenth-century Gothic to Palladian. He has collaborated with local craftsmen to create these follies and takes delight in designing the picturesque grounds and plantings and in devising comfortable areas for his beloved dogs and peacocks. A gifted designer and longtime associate of antiques dealer John Rosselli, Gatewood has a talent for discovering singular pieces with a poetic patina, composing custom paint finishes and subtle palettes, and knowing how to incorporate distinctive architectural elements. To accompany the book's atmospheric images, close friend Bunny Williams writes about the lessons she has learned from this master of discernment. Gatewood's seductive and hospitable Arcadian oasis, with its exquisite and timeless design, will have an enduring impact on the design community.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Four houses, fourteen acres and forty peacocks, along with a sweet menagerie of cats and dogs, gardens, and outbuildings (including a peacock hospital) compose Furlow Gatewood's compound in

Americus, Georgia. Furlow bought his first antique treasures, milk glass chickens, from his paper route earnings eight decades ago and hasn't stopped collecting since. This book features the splendor of his collections. His homes have been built to house his treasures including antique furniture, salvaged doors, mantels, windows and shutters. Furlow's four "follies" which we visually tour in this book include:<sup>\*</sup> The Barn or Carriage House ~ on the property initially and first renovated by Furlow beginning in 1950 when he was home from NYC visiting his mother, and foraging for antiques, and noted her carriage house was disintegrating. Original layout was a large center room with two wings. Furlow added porches, bedrooms and a dining room. This is Furlow's home base where he sleeps and dines with a view of dogs and peacocks.<sup>\*</sup> The Peacock House ~ started out as a house built around a fabulous door with Gothic window Furlow had found. So, obviously to accompany the door, you need a house. Furlow's carpenter Joe added a bedroom, bath, kitchen and back porch. Makes sense.<sup>\*</sup> The Cuthbert House ~ a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival dwelling formerly located in Cuthbert, Georgia. It was going to be demolished to make way for a church parking lot. Furlow moved it in two pieces to this property and added a kitchen, bath for first floor bedroom and back porch. We have seen some of the rooms in this home in magazines. Enchanting.<sup>\*</sup> The Lumpkin House ~ found in 2010. Furlow says he bought it for the front door and gingerbread trim.

That Furlow Gatewood is not the equivalent of a household name in the design world is soon likely to change with the publication of his new book. Of course, having the likes of Bunny Williams, Julia Reed, and John Rosselli behind him doesn't hurt either. I first became aware of Furlow Gatewood, a now-ninety-something year-old non-designer, former antiques dealer, and native Georgian, two decades ago when the historic Savannah house he co-owned with John Rosselli was published. It was memorable enough to grab my attention a year ago when the Cuthbert House, one of the "follies" on his Americus, Georgia property hit Veranda magazine. And then along came this book, the story of how a compound of buildings, each exquisitely built and furnished as an antidote to both over-buying and boredom, came to exist on his family farm. In touring the four houses and gardens presented, a portrait of Gatewood emerges: humble (the book is not about him, it's about his houses), plain-spoken with a droll and direct sense of humor, passionate for and about beautiful objects, and possessed of a wicked collecting streak. He confesses that once finished, his houses don't get much use because "the fun is in the doing." His style, intuitive and self-guided, has produced stunning results. Here are marvelous photographs of rooms filled with incredible and lust-worthy furnishings and objects, all put together with an unerring sense of scale, that never feel

cluttered. These are elaborate arrangements that mix the rare, the antique, and the unusual with the everyday and charming, and yet always feel fresh, light, and livable.

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