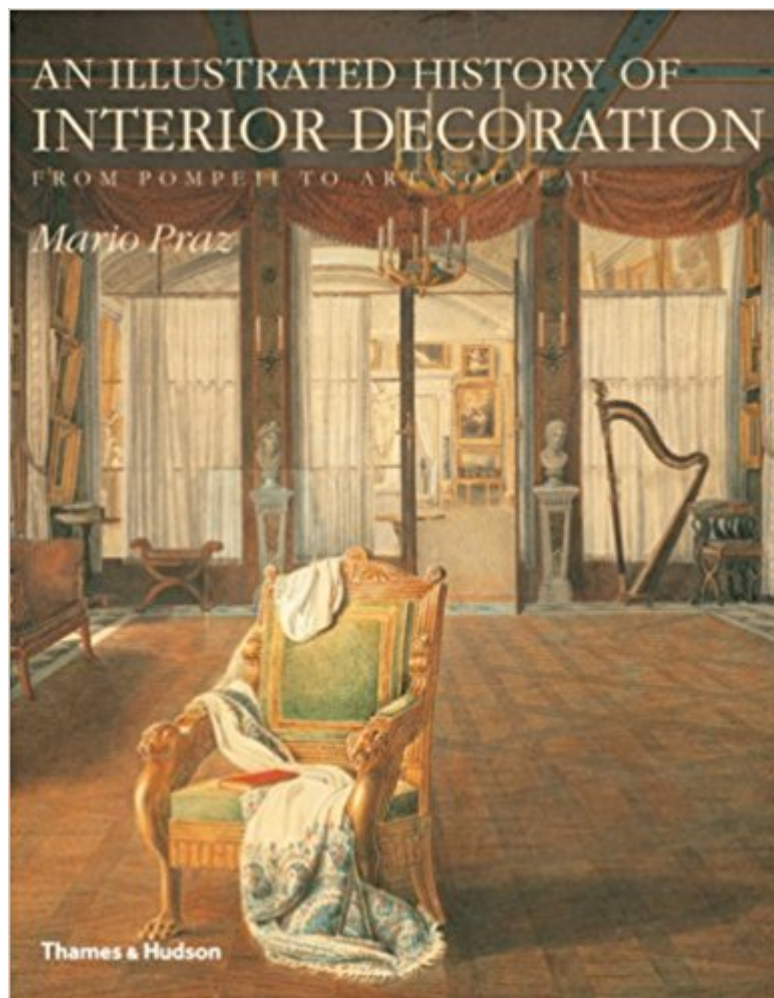




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# An Illustrated History Of Interior Decoration: From Pompeii To Art Nouveau



## Synopsis

“This prize book on the subject of domestic decoration . . . enchantingly informs us about the evolution of taste and comfort.”

**Art & Auction** The appeal of this extraordinary book lies in its rapt obsession with the details of the domestic interior, borne out in a wonderfully rich collection of pictures. These charming paintings and watercolors, mostly dating from 1770 to 1860 and coming from all over Europe, Russia, and America, record with faithful accuracy the shape of a room, the pattern of a carpet, the furniture, pictures, fabrics, and wall coverings, the hang of the curtains and the fall of the light they admit. The pictures find their place in a complete survey of domestic interiors portrayed in art from the ancient world to the late nineteenth century, and including works by Vermeer, Hogarth, Durer, Degas, and Vuillard. The text goes beyond scholarly commentary to present an evolving picture of men and women in relation to domestic surroundings, full of human interest, wit, and wide-ranging cultural references. Mario Praz (1896–1982) was Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Rome. The most celebrated of his many other books is *The Romantic Agony*. 400, 64 in color

## Book Information

Hardcover: 396 pages

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Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Furniture Design

## Customer Reviews

Illustrated is an understatement; Praz uses 400 pieces of art to present his 1982 history of furniture and decorations from olden days to modern times. An unusual but interesting history of the subject. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

“A lush, captivating book, overflowing with sumptuous illustrations.” - Chicago Tribune  
“A most wondrous treasure trove....The entertaining and scholarly...its interest is almost inexhaustible.” - House & Garden  
“Illustrated is an understatement; Praz uses 400 pieces of art to present his 1982 history of furniture and decorations from olden days to modern times. An unusual but interesting history of the subject.” - Library Journal  
“The true subject is not interior decoration but ruminations and memories, the visions and fancies, prompted by paintings of interiors.” - New York Review of Books  
“A legend...a richness of literary and cultural detail.” - Vogue  
“Delightful yet erudite...perhaps the most charming lesson on interiors ever written.” - Washington Post  
“The sweep and quality of [Praz’s] mind raises this book far above the level of most others on this well-explored topic.” - New York Post

Of the 400 illustrations in this excellent book, only 64 are in color, & most of those are less than a page in size. At least that’s true of my 1981 Thames & Hudson used hardback . I was quite disappointed by that when the book arrived, so want to warn other enthusiasts in advance. I’ve been looking but so far haven’t found a possible later edition with more color. Still, I’m glad I own this mostly black and white copy!

The review that was meant for this Mario Praz book was put on "The Romantic Agony" -- but they are both very fine books and actually my review has similarities for both. This one is better for reference if you are researching objects, the other better for the Zeitgeist.

Very centered on Victorian, English interior decoration, so disappointing as content not as implied by title

This book covered everything I was curious about relating to design as a lay person. Through redecorating my own home, I became very curious about furniture, molding, fabric and other details and kept wondering what the differences were really about between all the styles and their history. Most of us laypeople just get a sense when a room "works" or "does not work" but lack the historical perspective. Beautifully illustrated, the book itself is visibly the work of a master and passionate soul - I read on Wikipedia that Mario Praz started collecting chairs when he was 13 years old or so!

If you want to get an excellent idea about the history of the domestic interior, this is the book for you. Every type of dwelling is to be found, with exquisite detail. From the very simple, to the palatial, one finds great delight in these wonderful watercolors. Culled from the domestic interiors of Europe, the Continent, Russia and America, these historic records give the reader an extraordinary glimpse into the past. It is an accurate record of the most minute details, from the floors to the paintings on the walls. Scholarly enough for students of Interior Design? Yes; but why should they have all the fun?

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