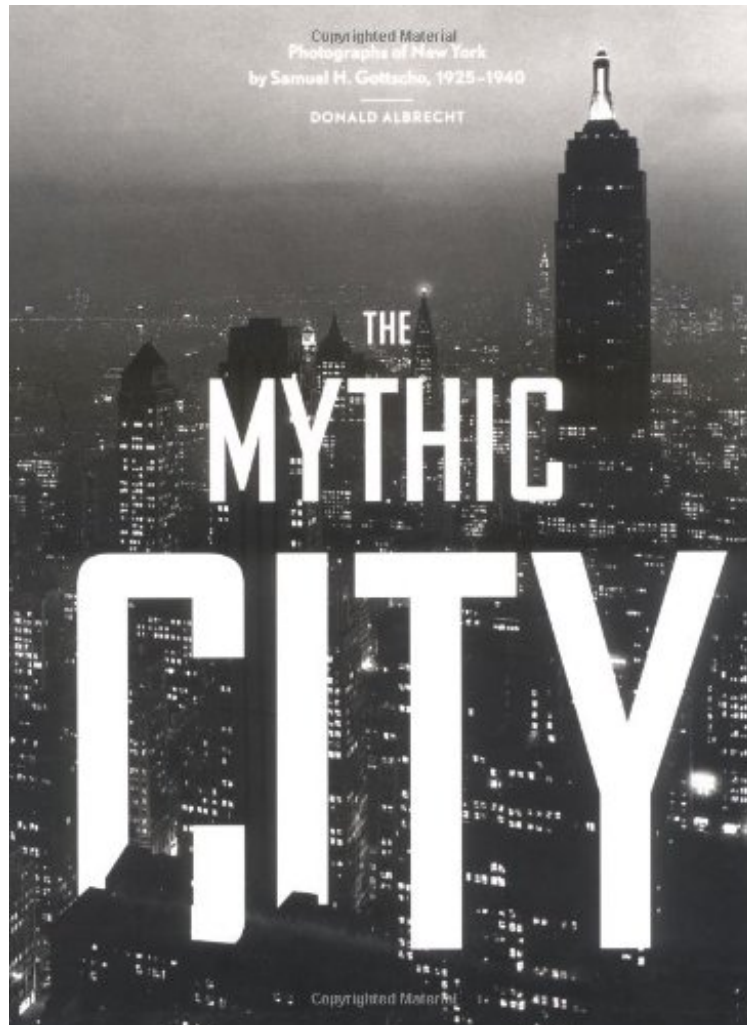


[Download ebook] The Mythic City: Photographs of New York by Samuel H. Gottscho, 1925-1940

The Mythic City: Photographs of New York by Samuel H. Gottscho, 1925-1940

Donald Albrecht

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Donald Albrecht : The Mythic City: Photographs of New York by Samuel H. Gottscho, 1925-1940 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mythic City: Photographs of New York by Samuel H. Gottscho, 1925-1940:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Glorious photos of NYC in its primeBy Carl TaitSamuel Gottscho's wonderful photographs combine an architect's eye with the mood of an Edward Hopper painting. Cool but never cold, these photos are simply beautiful. The noir-flavored night shots are among the finest, with the chiaroscuro of a John Alton film. Gottscho had the luck to be living during one of New York's most photogenic periods, after most of the Art Deco classics had been built but before the postwar clutter of shoebox skyscrapers had set in.Technically, this

collection is very well produced, with sharp, lustrous photos on high-quality paper. Highly recommended for any fan of vintage urban photographs. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Manhattan light show By Robin I thought it was very apt to use the word mythic in the title of this wonderful book. Surely Samuel Gottscho as much as anyone helped to create the popular visual concept of the dynamic American metropolis, a city of towers by day and a kaleidoscope of dazzling light by night, his work must have especially influenced creative folk from comic book artists to Hollywood art directors, the graphic city image is straight out of his photos. Apart from the short intro essay the book is basically photos, divided into several sections and covering, for instance, bridges, Times Square, business, commercial and residential areas of Manhattan plus a few photos of the 1939 New York World's Fair. It is with the night photos where Gottscho really excelled. To achieve his luminous effect he took two exposures, one at dusk to define the building shapes and another some hours later to capture all the blazing window lights. I think these photos plus the ones of Times Square at night look quite stunning. Another reason I like the book is the coverage of streamline design that keeps on appearing in many of the photos, not just the skyscrapers but interiors of retail units, Radio City, some of the apartment interiors and obviously the '39 World's Fair. The book is well printed and designed and the paper makes the photos sparkle with their 200 dpi screen. The captions are basically the location, date and architect though frequently there is more detail provided where necessary. Overall I thought this was a fascinating photobook of what New York looked like in the recent past. ***FOR AN INSIDE LOOK click 'customer images' under the cover. 0 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Astoundingly Boring and Pointless By Good Old Freddie This book was a total waste of money and time. Boring, repetitive and uninspired photos taken years ago by an architectural photographer for his clients and I have no idea why someone thought this worthy of publication. I'm planning on returning it.

Daring, bold, dramatic, towering, impossibly glamorous: this is how we imagine New York in its golden age, and this is how Samuel H. Gottscho, the preeminent architectural photographer of his generation, captured it. Through his lens, New York of the 1930s became the quintessential modern metropolis, a round-the-clock city in which night was as charismatic as day. Rigorously editing out the Depression-weary city's more seamy aspects—its tenement slums, breadlines, and soup kitchens—Gottscho presented a dreamlike Gotham of skyscrapers and penthouse luxury that literally and figuratively glowed with glamour's sheen. His gimlet eye focused on the bold interplay of sun and shadow, dramatizing the chiseled forms of Manhattan's signature skyline and bridges. The Empire State and Chrysler buildings, Rockefeller Center, the Plaza, the George Washington Bridge—Gottscho brought them all to sparkling life. In this beautifully produced, landmark book, historian Donald Albrecht presents 175 of Gottscho's extraordinary images of the city, from the Battery to Harlem. An introductory essay tells the story of this legendary photographer, describing his working methods and philosophy, while placing his work in the broader context of photographic history. The exhibition *The Mythic City* will open at the Museum of the City of New York in the fall of 2005. Published in association with the Museum of the City of New York.

Before there were Trump towers dotting every other corner, New York was full of architectural marvels. This is apparent in "Mythic City: Photographs of New York by Samuel H. Gottscho, 1925-1940," on view at the Museum of the City of New York from Nov. 1, 2005, through Feb. 20, 2006. Gottscho offers a glimpse of lost treasures, from the Art Deco Rex Cole showroom in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to the swanky interiors of William Paley's Beekman Place town house. Documenting the city's rapidly changing landscape, Gottscho created dreamlike images with an artist's eye. "It is ironic, because he was photographing during the height of the Depression," says Donald Albrecht, the curator of the exhibit and the author of the accompanying book from Princeton Architectural Press. But his vision, Albrecht says, "is optimistic and heroic." -T Magazine About the Author Donald Albrecht is an adjunct curator of architecture and design at the Museum of the City of New York. He also serves as adjunct professor for the Masters Program in the Decorative Arts at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York.