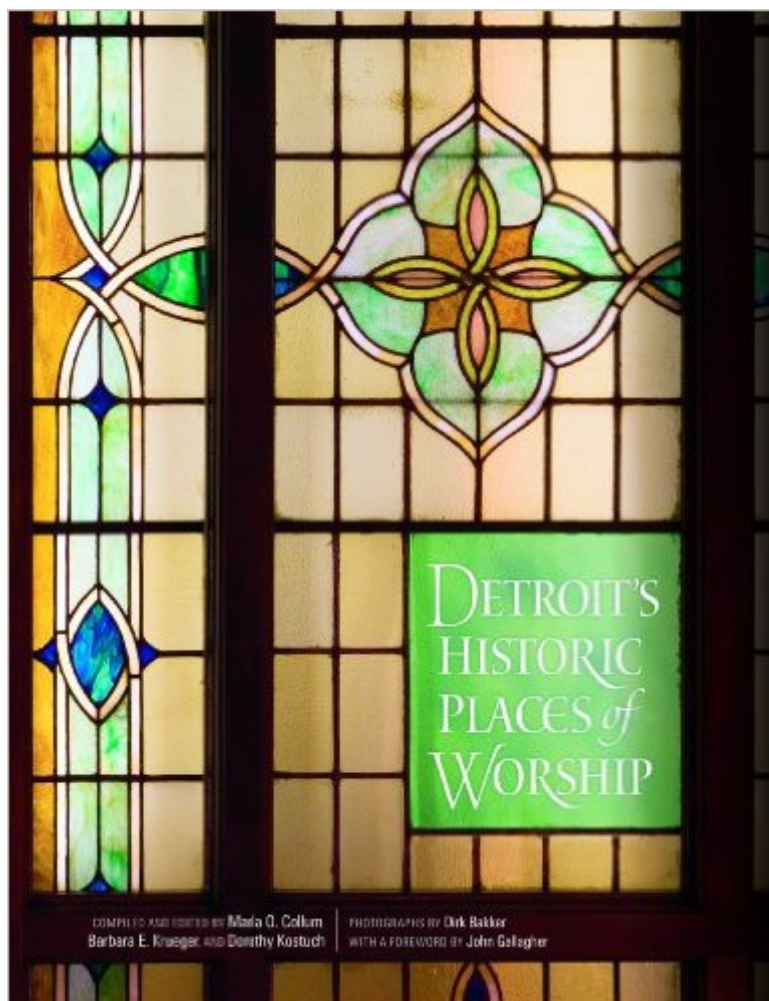


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Detroit's Historic Places Of Worship (Painted Turtle)



Synopsis

In Detroit's Historic Places of Worship, authors Marla O. Collum, Barbara E. Krueger, and Dorothy Kostuch profile 37 architecturally and historically significant houses of worship that represent 8 denominations and nearly 150 years of history. The authors focus on Detroit's most prolific era of church building, the 1850s to the 1930s, in chapters that are arranged chronologically. Entries begin with each building's founding congregation and trace developments and changes to the present day. Full-color photos by Dirk Bakker bring the interiors and exteriors of these amazing buildings to life, as the authors provide thorough architectural descriptions, pointing out notable carvings, sculptures, stained glass, and other decorative and structural features. Nearly twenty years in the making, this volume includes many of Detroit's most well known churches, like Sainte Anne in Corktown, the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Boston-Edison, Saint Florian in Hamtramck, Mariners' Church on the riverfront, Saint Mary's in Greektown, and Central United Methodist Church downtown. But the authors also provide glimpses into stunning buildings that are less easily accessible or whose uses have changed-such as the original Temple Beth-El (now the Bonstelle Theater), First Presbyterian Church (now Ecumenical Theological Seminary), and Saint Albertus (now maintained by the Polish American Historical Site Association)-or whose future is uncertain, like Woodward Avenue Presbyterian Church (most recently Abyssinian Interdenominational Center, now closed). Appendices contain information on hundreds of architects, artisans, and crafts-people involved in the construction of the churches, and a map pinpoints their locations around the city of Detroit. Anyone interested in Detroit's architecture or religious history will be delighted by Detroit's Historic Places of Worship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One word came repeatedly to mind while I thoroughly enjoyed this book: Art... being the book itself, and its subject matter. This is not a voyeuristic image of urban decay, but a vast canvas of architectural masterwork. Detroit is a city blessed with many fine church buildings, and 37 of them are featured right here. All of them are within the city limits, and the landmark structures you would expect to see in a book like this are here. While not entirely comprehensive (there are many lovely parish churches throughout Detroit), the catalog is certainly representative. The sites are arranged chronologically (rather than geographically), and each includes a full set of dazzling interior, exterior, and detailed color photographs. And while the photography is the real feature, the pictures are framed by lovely, well written essays discussing each site's historical, social and architectural contexts. Two appendices include short biographies of architects, and biographies of important craftsmen and artisans. Excellent! This is a very, very good book, and certainly one to savor. Architects and architectural historians truly love Detroit, and for good reason. There is much to love here, in what was once the fourth largest city in the country. A love for one's subject just oozes off these pages. The authors have created something to appreciate and share their enthusiasm, and it shows. The quality of the publication, from the physical cloth-bound volume to the meticulously researched content, is world class. By all means, if you have an interest in American urban architecture, ecclesiastical architecture, Detroit, or architectural history, treat yourself to this one. This is not a Requiem to lost art, but a celebration of the power of faith and hope to create it.

This is a beautiful book. It can be a wonderful coffee table book or given as a gift to people who love beauty. I never realized that there were so many beautiful sanctuaries in local churches. The exterior sometimes does not match the interior and sometimes you are amazed to see just what's inside of some of these older even historic places of worship. To support local businesses, the book is published by WSU Press right in the heart of Detroit, in Midtown on the WSU campus.

This was a gift for my mother and she absolutely loves it. Was hoping to have even more pictures than it did, but understand that you can only put so many with all the church choices there are/were

in Detroit. The book is beautiful and very good quality paper used.

I'm not at all religious, but I love this book! It's filled with beautiful photos, and the write-up about each place is quite interesting.

I enjoy reading about the history of old churches, Detroit is no different. The most interesting thing in this book are the pictures from inside each of them. Great church, Michigan and Detroit history lessons...through the doors of many beautiful and unique churches.

This is a beautiful book, demonstrating the beauty of many of Detroit's churches and synagogues. Although I lived in Detroit for 18 years and helped edit a history of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, I had not actually been in some of these distinguished edifices. The only thing missing might be a few parish buildings that have not survived to the present. Perhaps another book will be done of suburban Detroit churches and synagogues.

Beautiful Book of churches in Detroit!!! It is a great coffee table book. We have got many positive comments about the historic churches in Detroit. It brings back memories to many people.

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