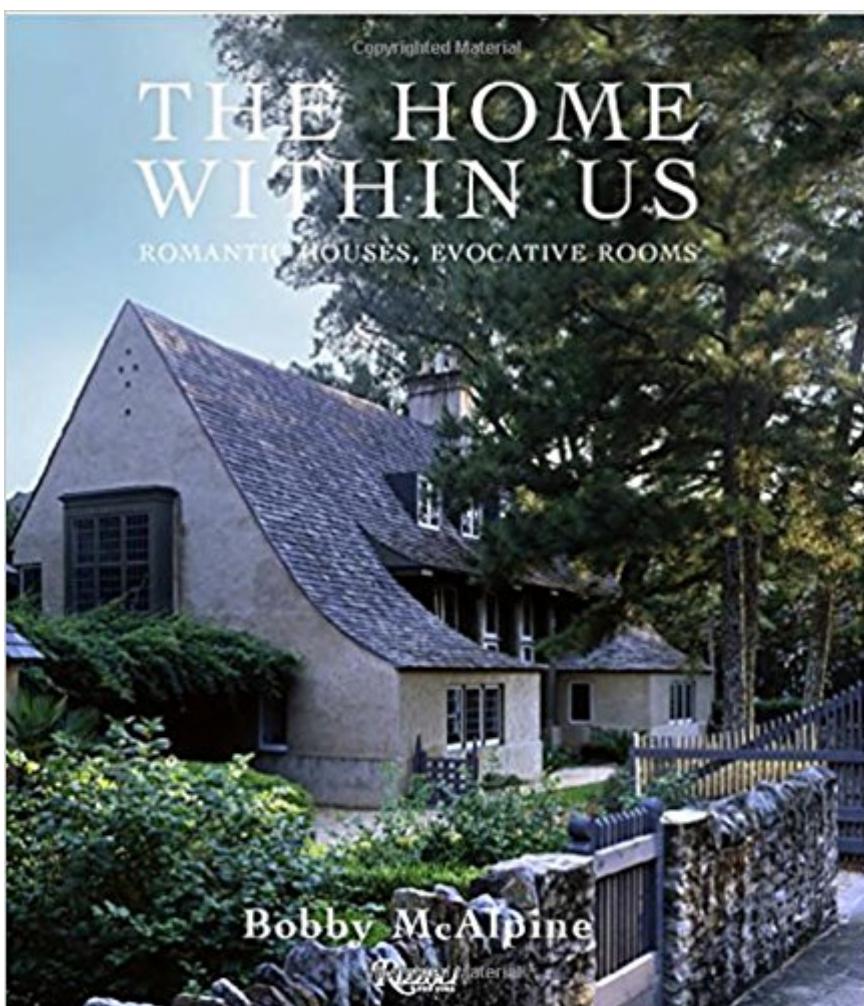


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# The Home Within Us: Romantic Houses, Evocative Rooms



## **Synopsis**

Architect and designer Bobby McAlpine creates idyllic houses that wed historical precedent with gracious modern living. His distinguished firms, McAlpine Tankersley Architecture and McAlpine Booth & Ferrier Interiors, are renowned nationwide for their talent in designing residences that resonate with nostalgia, fantasy, and a sense of place. Their dwellings—from country and seaside retreats to homes in historic American neighborhoods—offer favorite period styles with a timeless quality. Presented are over twenty houses in a variety of settings that illustrate concepts running throughout their work. Juxtaposing intimate spaces with lofty entertaining areas and combining unexpected materials, such as stone with thatch, are among the hallmarks of these prestigious firms. Examples include a Mediterranean-revival house with sleek factory-sash windows and classical Roman columns, a beach house with a vaulted hallway leading to a light-filled contemporary salon, and an unusual house that blends Scottish vernacular style with modern details. With lush photography capturing the romance of these houses, *The Home Within Us* is ideal for anyone wishing to be inspired by the poetic design of a romantic home.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Visionary architect Bobby McAlpine of McAlpine Tankersley explores the concept of home as emotional fortress. Well written with Susan Sully and featuring Mick Hales' photography of the firm's 'romantic houses,' this is a landmark design book." ~Veranda"Published by Rizzoli, the Cadillac of architectural publishing houses, the book presents twenty-five houses in a variety of settings that

illustrate concepts running throughout Bobby's work... With lush photography capturing the allure of these houses, *The Home Within Us* is ideal for anyone wishing to be inspired by the poetic design of a romantic home. The book is as beautiful as you would expect, and is an indispensable addition to the library of anybody who owns or admires a McAlpine-designed home. And that's just about everybody around here." ~Montgomery Independent"Dozens of photographs capture the exterior and interior imagery with spectacular results.~ The book is a must-read for every design or architecture enthusiast." ~Romantic Homes"McAlpine has forged a reputation for marrying the classic with the modern in both architecture and interior design. And that's the thread that ties together the 25 homes featured here: From a Mediterranean revival estate to a Cape Dutch beach house, every space gives a nod to the past while fitting seamlessly in the present." ~Luxe"The Home Within Us, a luscious anthology of architect and designer Bobby McAlpine's work, evokes a sense of romantic home dÃ©cor entwined with gracious modern living. The pictorial folios accompany McAlpine's own insights on his designs, which results in a memoir-like tour through some of his most notable work." ~Mpls St Paul magazine

Bobby McAlpine designed his first house at age five and has not stopped since. His distinguished firms, McAlpine Tankersley Architecture in Montgomery, Alabama, and McAlpine Booth & Ferrier Interiors in Atlanta, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee, have an extensive portfolio including residential buildings, which have been featured in such magazines as *House Beautiful* and *Veranda*. His popular furniture collection, *McAlpine Home*, is available nationwide. Susan Sully is a renowned expert on Southern style whose books include *The Southern Cosmopolitan: Sophisticated Southern Style*, *New Orleans Style: Past and Present*, *Charleston Style: Then and Now*, *Savannah Style: Mystery and Manners*, and *The Southern Cottage: From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Florida Keys*. An author and photographer, her work has appeared in *Veranda*, *Town & Country*, *Southern Accents*, and other major magazines.

Have long been an admirer of Bobby McAlpine and have wished he would publish a book. This is marvelous and has already become one of my favorites. Several but not all of the houses shown were previously published in *Southern Accents* and elsewhere -- and it is wonderful to have them together here with the author's narrative. One of the things that makes this book especially interesting is the feature on the architect's own house which is shown in three quite different iterations. It is fascinating to see how the same space looks dressed in three quite different schemes. McAlpine's narrative relates some of his design choices, for example, the preference for a

smaller entrance at the side of the house rather than the grand center entrance, the interest in natural stone and limed antiqued wood, and patina of all sorts. McAlpine gave me a real appreciation for the use of dark. Seeing these rooms, I understood that one does not require pastel walls to have an experience of light in a room -- on the contrary, sun flowing into a room with dark walls can render a much richer experience of light. Seeing his rooms in the eighties gave me the courage to paint the light walls of my sunroom dark, dark green, and I have loved it. Of course McAlpine is not unique in using dark, but he has done it so skillfully and compellingly. If you like patina'ed surfaces, stone and brick, dark, dare I say, somewhat masculine and oversize furnishings, nuanced colors, antiques -- if you like Saladino and Tarlow and VerVoordt -- you will most likely enjoy this book.

This book gives a lovely glimpse of the select output from architect Bobby McAlpine and his firms. His body of work is more akin to a talent and style not seen since the early last century with architects like Harrie Thomas Lindeberg or Mellor, Meigs & Howe. These are gracious, intricate, lovely and very inviting structures inside and out. He's been served well by clients who must have the resources to build such structures and more importantly appreciate the stately old world feel. Not a hint of McMansion or chest-thumping loud architecture that so many homes of today sadly exude. McAlpine could design and build a dog house and I suspect it would be more visually inviting than most homes, even those of the 'well heeled', built in the last 50-years. A comparable contemporary firm would be Fairfax & Sammons, who also have had a book issued in the last decade on their output. If you have that publication you'll certainly appreciate this one. Some publications such as Southern Accents and Veranda have showcased his work (he's been based in Alabama) but otherwise he's not receiving the widespread accolades he deserves. Perhaps this book will change that. 'The Home Within Us' is not without some quirks - no detail accompanies the homes shown so no idea when they were built or even where they stand. Some of the pictures appear to have been sourced from prior photo shoots so sometimes the pictures themselves look dated. And perhaps a good thing as it reflects well on what he's accomplished I was hungry to see even more exterior and facade detail shots.

On the positive side, the writing is poetic and the photos are of good quality. However, Bobby McAlpine describes himself as starting the design on the inside of the house, yet many houses do not include photos of the interior. More than once I was intrigued by the description of the interior, only to be frustrated as I turned the pages to find there were no photos of it. I would have preferred

fewer homes with more photos of each

I loved this book - I will flip thru it often. I'm a big fan of Bobby McAlpine and this book didn't disappoint!

My wife and I are in the early stages of planning to build a home. We have ordered several books including this one with varying degrees of helpfulness. I would have to say this one is quite helpful. Good mix of info and pictures. Very happy with the purchase and would reccomend.

I saw Bobby speak at the AIA CRAN Symposium in Santa Fe this year. I absolutely fell in love with his work. So I bought the book. The only thing I have to say is there wasn't enough of it.

THE HOME WITHIN US: ROMANTIC HOUSES, EVOCATIVE ROOMS is far more than another fine Rizzoli book on architecture. This is a collection of the art of Bobby McAlpine, a meditation on the impact the space where we live has on our peace of mind and our sense of art and beauty. Written by both McAlpine and Susan Sully, this elegant book, photographed splendidly by Mick Hales, explores homes that bear the imprint of McAlpine. The homes range in architectural types and sizes, but there is a constant present: good taste and quality craftsmanship are married to interior design that shows a profound respect for the building itself and the lines of the design created either by McAlpine or simply enhanced by his impeccable taste. Homes such as these may not strike the viewer immediately as 'noticeable houses', but that is also part of the designer's drive: let the dwelling speak for itself, opening the structure to interpretation of romantic concepts. He is as likely to appreciate the rooflines and the shingles that cover those roofs as he is to praise the approach of the entry ways of these homes - welcoming parlors that invite the guest to enter and grow to know the secrets of the home. For McAlpine each home he shares has great significance and he sees his mission as one to enhance the lines, the atmosphere, and the comfort of the home as a palace of solace. This is a poetic book, written in a style that is not only interesting but also endearing, a book that invites repeated readings and motivation to re-think our own domiciles. Grady Harp, August 10

Really resonating. Ok on design and architecture. Hugh the deeper thought is in the architectural presentation, the stories of inspiration are wonderful. Pure and clear .Loved the authors analytic review of his own home over time..illustrating the differing periods of his life and how the house reflected those periods.I have been drawn to several of these houses over the years without

realizing they were created by mr mcalpine.Love it!

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