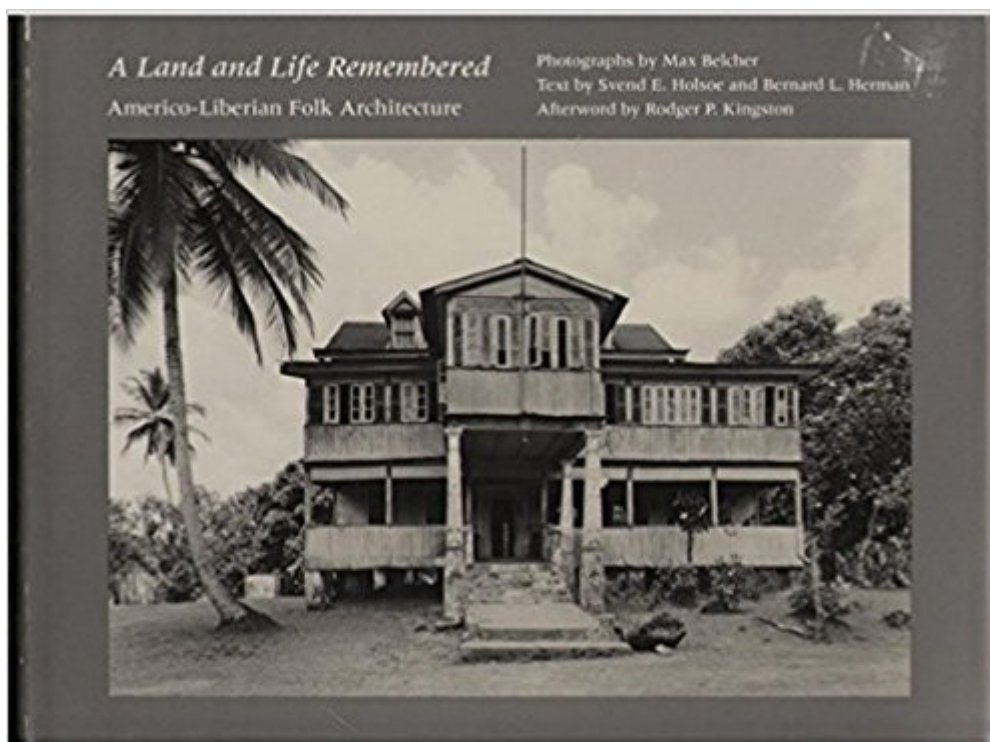


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# A Land And Life Remembered: Americo-Liberian Folk Architecture



## Synopsis

Fascinating oversize book looking at the vernacular architecture built by the freed slaves who migrated to Liberia. Many of the photos face photos taken in the US that show almost identical buildings. With concluding essay on architectural documentary photography. 176 pages.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 188 pages

Publisher: Univ of Georgia Pr; illustrated edition edition (November 1988)

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,829,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Travel > Africa > Coastal West Africa](#) #1240 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism](#) #5020 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions](#)

## Customer Reviews

What a uniquely valuable photo-documentary! Hundreds of high-quality b&w photos (plus 4 in nice Polaroid-transfer style color) of (mostly) Liberian (mostly) dwellings, from proud to humble, including interiors and details. Also some shots of the Southern U.S. 19th-century exemplars that the return immigrants remembered living in and (mostly) around, and served as the basis of an eclectic architectural vernacular. Also included are some floor plans, and a number of sensitive portraits of current residents (evidently descendants of the original builders in most cases). I haven't read the text yet, but the pix are absolutely stunning. The vernacular is as unique as in many of the tropical islands and other mythic locations, but in addition, given the status of the builders as culturally twice-displaced persons, you can feel the struggle and the aspirations of these newly (and genuinely) freed people. Now for the doubly poignant part: would these folks have stayed in the U.S. had they known what wholesale tragedy was eventually going to overwhelm their new homeland? That's anyone's guess, but we can't help feeling a tug at the heartstrings, what with the shocking reports out of contemporary Liberia (ongoing events had reduced many of the dwellings to shambles, a la Mauritius, even in 1988; we can only imagine their condition in the wake of all the current horrors). This book is an absolute must for any African American library, architectural eclectic

library, African cultural library, gorgeously-produced historical photo library. Slide it on your shelf, and give it some companionship by way of the African/world adobe book "Spectacular Vernacular" by Bourgeois and Davidson, and the delectable "Living In Mauritius" by De Marigny and Lagesse. Both are superb complements to this invaluable study of the artistic and cultural richness of African/American/African vernacular architecture.

The Authors have presented the transfer of antebellum American Culture to Liberia via the Emigrants who settled there with the American Colonization Society. An excellent resource for any historian working in this field- plus LOTS OF PHOTOGRAPHS!

Great book and enjoyed reading, imagining and looking about the pictures. It's about the History and trials of The African American experience.

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