

Fall 10-1-2019

## Southern Homes & Plan Books The Architectural Legacy of Leila Ross Wilburn. Sarah J. Boykin and Susan M. Hunter

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### Recommended Citation

Matthews, Melinda F. (2019) "Southern Homes & Plan Books The Architectural Legacy of Leila Ross Wilburn. Sarah J. Boykin and Susan M. Hunter," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 67 : Iss. 3 , Article 9. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol67/iss3/9>

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Senate rules, procedures, and history. This book is a testament to McConnell's understanding of how the U.S. Senate operates. It is also a fascinating history of the institution and of Kentucky's significant contributions to the development of the U.S. Senate. Co-author Roy E. Brownell, II is an attorney and has published a number of articles and books on Congress and the presidency. He has also served as McConnell's deputy chief of staff and legal counsel.

This densely-written but fascinating book is a combination of a study of the implementation of the intricate procedures of the Senate since the 1790s and in-depth historical and political analysis of 15 Kentuckians who have served major roles in the development of the U.S. Senate. A number of them also played a major role in American history. McConnell's own role is briefly summed up in an "Afterword" written by U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (Republican – Tennessee) that paints a favorable if fairly bland picture of McConnell without really addressing his controversial actions mentioned above.

Readers of this book will learn of the evolving nature of the roles played by the U.S. Vice-President, especially as a vote tie-breaker, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Senate Caucus Chairman, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Majority Whip, and Senate Party Campaign Chairman. Some of the Kentuckians who served in these roles were truly national figures such as Henry Clay (1777-1852) whom McConnell and Brownell credit with delaying the Civil War by 10 years, thanks to Clay's efficacy in reconciling opposing interests over slavery and expansion of U.S. territory via the series of bills known to historians as the Compromise of 1850 (92). Alben Barkley (1877-1956) served as a very effective Democratic Senate Majority Leader from 1937 to 1947 who shepherded through New Deal legislation as an ally of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On one occasion Barkley and Roosevelt came to disagreement: in 1944 Roosevelt sought a \$10 billion tax increase to help fund the ongoing war effort while Barkley sought a much lower compromise tax increase of \$2.3 billion. Roosevelt vetoed the compromise bill so Barkley rather theatrically staged a one-day resignation as Senate Majority Leader (knowing he would be immediately voted back into office by his Senate colleagues) and successfully led the Senate to override Roosevelt's veto (168).

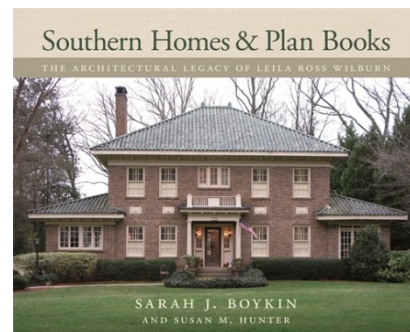
One of the more interesting aspects of *The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth* are the passages (indicated by text appearing in *italics*) where McConnell provides his own personal observations on the significance of certain historical developments or relates his own personal experiences in dealing with similar situations. This is truly getting an insider's perspective on Senate operations. Here is a typical example: "Being a party leader is challenging because senators are exposed to many incentives that do not favor being a team player, such as enhanced media attention. If a senator wants to be noticed, a surefire way is to buck his own party's leadership. On occasion, being majority leader can feel like being a groundskeeper at a

cemetery where everyone is below you, but no one is listening!" (106).

This book is strongly recommended to academic libraries and most large public libraries. Many libraries in Kentucky, large or small, will find this work to be an appropriate addition considering its focus on U.S. Senators (and two U.S. Vice-Presidents) from Kentucky. As History and Political Science Librarian at my own institution, I find *The U.S. Senate and the Commonwealth* to be equally appropriate for both of my liaison departments. The scholarship is formidable and includes hundreds of endnotes, many of them annotated.

*Tim Dodge*  
Auburn University

**Southern Homes & Plan Books The Architectural Legacy of Leila Ross Wilburn. Sarah J. Boykin and Susan M. Hunter.** Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8203-5181-0 (hardback: alk.paper); 146 p. \$42.95.



Leila Ross Wilburn was an architect and creator of house design books who lived in Decatur Georgia. Author Sarah J. Boykin is a Georgia architect with a degree from the University of the South. Author Susan M. Hunter is an Atlanta author and resided in an Atlanta house designed by Leila Ross Wilburn. The writing style catches the reader's attention. The contents include List of Plan Books and Publications, Foreword by Margaret Culbertson, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Chapter One A Man's Profession, a Woman's Domain: Leila Ross Wilburn's Architectural Practice and Plan Book Business, Chapter Two Southern Comfort, American Style: Leila Ross Wilburn's Early Plan Book Houses, Chapter Three From 1930s Small to 1950s Ranch: Leila Ross Wilburn's Later Plan Book Houses, Chapter Four Learning from Wilburn in the Twenty-First Century, Appendix: Leila Ross Wilburn's Custom Commissions and Non-Residential Work, Notes, Bibliography, Illustration Credits, and Index. There are two hundred thirty nine excellent notes. One hundred sixty beautiful photographs of houses designed by Wilburn and intriguing design plans are quite interesting and enhance the discussion of Leila Ross Wilburn. Thirty-five references compose the Bibliography.

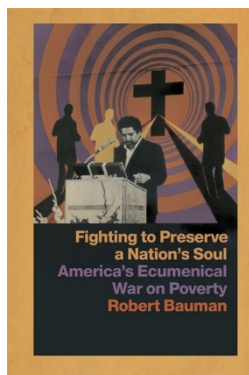
Descriptions and pictures of the houses Leila Ross Wilburn designed abound in the book. The interesting “List of Plan Books and Publications” lists her nine plan books *Southern Homes and Bungalows*, *Brick and Colonial Homes*, *Ideal Homes of Today*, *Homes in Good Taste*, *New Homes of Quality*, *Small Low-Cost Homes for the South*, *Sixty Good New Homes*, *Ranch and Colonial Homes*, and *Bran-New Homes*. The Appendix Leila Ross Wilburn’s Custom Commissions and Non-Residential Work discusses the eleven apartments, one church, and one realty company headquarters Ms. Wilburn designed. Two apartment complexes are Rosslyn Apartments in Atlanta and Atlanta’s Piedmont Park Apartments listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The work explains numerous house design words like ranch house, southern home, colonial revival, Cape Cod house, English Tudor revival style, stucco, dormers, gables, trellis, bungalows, in-a-dor folding beds, sleeping porches, and porte cochere.

Included are lovely photographs and the names of streets and neighborhoods in Atlanta and Decatur Georgia where the homes Leila Ross Wilburn designed are located. A few examples are Adams Street, Jefferson Place,

The recommendation for audience is architects and individuals interested in styles of houses and design plans, as well as visitors to Atlanta, Decatur, Athens, and Forsyth Georgia who want to see pretty and enchanting houses and neighborhoods. This accomplishment on Leila Ross Wilburn architect and house designs in Atlanta, Decatur, Athens, and Forsyth Georgia is recommended for academic and public libraries. This work is a wonderful trip through numerous neighborhoods of Atlanta, Decatur, Athens, and Forsyth Georgia.

Melinda F. Matthews  
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**Fighting to Preserve a Nation’s Soul: America’s Ecumenical War on Poverty.** Robert Bauman. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2019. ISBN 9-780-8203-5487-3 (Hard: \$54.95); 9-780-8203-5486-6 (eBook: \$28.95). 228 p.



What is poverty? Today’s political conversations are dominated with the issues of poverty in our neighborhoods, our cities, our states, our regions, our country and the

world. Some of our most beautiful and inviting cities now have “tent cities” that have sprung up with homeless families, homeless youth, and homeless refugees. Suffering with disease, hunger and the loss of personal dignity, Americans in poverty is a current national concern. This is 2019 and Robert Bauman takes us back to 1964 and offers us a look at poverty in our country by his research into the ecumenical war on poverty in America.

In this thoughtfully presented text Bauman explains “all aspects of religion’s and government’s role in the struggle against poverty ... which included the Roman Catholic Church, mainline Protestant churches, Jewish groups, and ecumenical organizations such as the National Council of Churches” along with the efforts of President Johnson’s declared “War on Poverty” and its “OEO—the Office of Economic Opportunity”.

Emerging from all Bauman’s research is a most interesting chapter, Chapter 4, “The Black Manifesto”, Challenging the Ecumenical Antipoverty Coalition” (p. 87). “At 7 pm, April 26 1969, an unassuming, middle-aged black man, his hair graying at the temples, approached the microphone at the National Black Economic Development Conference, (James Forman) “We have come from all over the country, burning with anger and despair not only with the miserable plight of our people but fully aware that the racism on which the Western World was built dominates our lives.” (p.87)

As his speech goes on, Forman says,” we are therefore demanding of the white Christian churches and the Jewish synagogues, which are part and parcel of the system of capitalism, that they begin to pay reparations to black people in this country. We are demanding \$500,000,000 from the Christian white churches and Jewish synagogues.” This became the Black Manifesto, a key document in the history of the civil rights movement. (p.88)

In Bauman’s “Conclusion p. 147-158) he says, “it seems likely that at least for the foreseeable future, anti poverty efforts will remain some sort of church-state hybrid, with religious organizations continuing to play a central role in the delivery of programs... or an ecumenical antipoverty coalition may be the only way in the near future that the War on Poverty will continue to be fought”.

Bauman’s book is recommended for students in social studies, African American studies, religious studies and women’s studies. Also a supplemental resource for assigned readings.

Included for historians and students are the Notes pg.161 to 164, Bibliography 165 to 198, Index to 199 to 208. Illustrations throughout pages 1 to 12.

Carol Walker Jordan  
Librarian and Consultant

*Homeplace: A Southern Town, a Country Legend, and the Last Days of a Mountaintop Honky-Tonk.* John