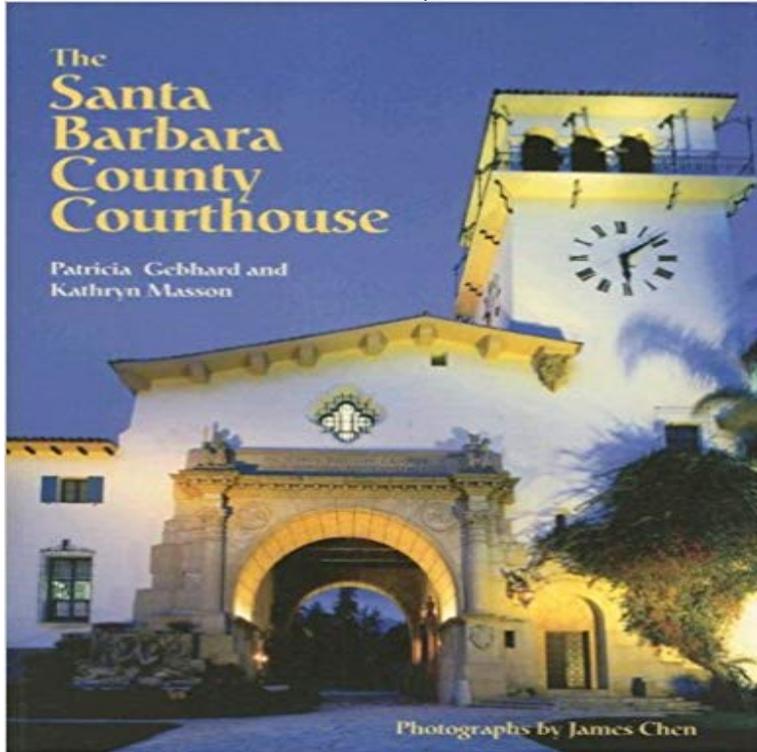


# Santa Barbara County Courthouse



The Colorful Story of a Santa Barbara Landmark The Santa Barbara County Courthouse is a widely recognized icon of the city called the California Riviera, and just as widely known as a historic architectural achievement. Thousands, if not millions, visit it each year?jurists and tourists alike?but although everyone appreciates its beauty, few really know how it came to be. Surprisingly, in the three-quarters of a century that the building has graced its grounds, no one has undertaken to document this architectural masterpiece. Authors Patricia Gebhard and Kathryn Masson have changed that once and for all with their book, *The Santa Barbara County Courthouse*. Together with photographer James Chen and book designer Eric Larson, they have created a work that is not only historically important, but nearly as beautiful as the courthouse itself. Many people know or assume that Santa Barbara had a courthouse before the present building was erected in 1929, but almost no one knows anything about it. Gebhard and Masson begin there, with historic photos of the original, classical-style courthouse and its Queen Anne hall of records add-on. In 1919 the county, needing more room, held a design competition for a new courthouse, and the entries received, as Gebhard and Masson show us, were heavily influenced by the Spanish baroque style that was popularized by the 1915 Panama-California Exhibition in San Diego. None of these designs was built, however, because the county was unable to raise money to pay for construction. It wasn't until 1925, when the old courthouse was destroyed by the earthquake that leveled much of Santa Barbara, that a new building became imperative and funds were finally secured. Construction began in 1926, with the result we see today. (The footprint of the old building is reflected in the contours of the sunken gardens behind the present

courthouse.) To document their story, Gebhard and Masson spent months poring over County Supervisors minutes, news reports in the Santa Barbara Morning Press and articles in architectural magazines, and courthouse documents records. They were able to identify nearly all of the architects, craftsmen, and artists who designed the building and created the exquisite tile, ironwork, furniture, murals and landscaping that grace it inside and out. Many of these individuals and companies are long gone, of course, but many are still active, and, as the authors point out, some of the courthouses fittings can still be ordered from their catalogs. Chens 75 full-color photographs beautifully capture the courthouses ambiance, and Larsons open and asymmetrical book design reflects the buildings balance between void space and intricate detail. They combine with Gebhard and Massons careful research to produce a definitive study and appreciation of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, one that can hope to stand as long as the building itself.

Welcome to the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. This dramatic structure is the centerpiece of Santa Barbaras Spanish-Revival style. Designed in the SpanishThe New York Social Diary recently featured an article on Santa Barbara and included extensive photos and information on our beloved is entitledSightsee at local landmarks, take in 360-degree views of the city, and check out the art and gardens at the Santa Barbara Courthouse and Clock Tower.FAMILY SERVICES is a department of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court. It has offices in North and South County. There are 2 different programs in eachThe Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara is located in the beautiful Central Coast that includes scenic coastlines, agricultural valleys, andFor a firsthand look at one of the countrys most beautiful public buildings, look no further than the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. Designed in theSanta Barbara, CIVIL: (805) 882-4520. CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC: (805) 568-3959. Santa Maria, CIVIL: (805) 614-6414. CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC: (805) 346-7550. Resolve your citations online or by phone. Its easy and convenient! Individuals with traffic or minor infraction citations can resolve these casesThe historic santa barbara county courthouse. Fountain The Courthouse has been called the most beautiful government building in America. Designed byIf you are interested in viewing a court file please visit the Records window during normal business hours. The South County Records Department is open:.Court calendar information can be found here. The Case Records Search is currently not displaying hearing data. Sorry for the inconvenience.Forms & Filing LOCAL Santa Barbara superior COURT FORMS. expand all collapse all. \*Forms marked with the asterisk (\*) are adopted for mandatory use.209 reviews of Santa Barbara County Courthouse Prettiest courthouse Ive ever visited- with daily free tours at 2pm, its worth a stop! Shout out to my fellow