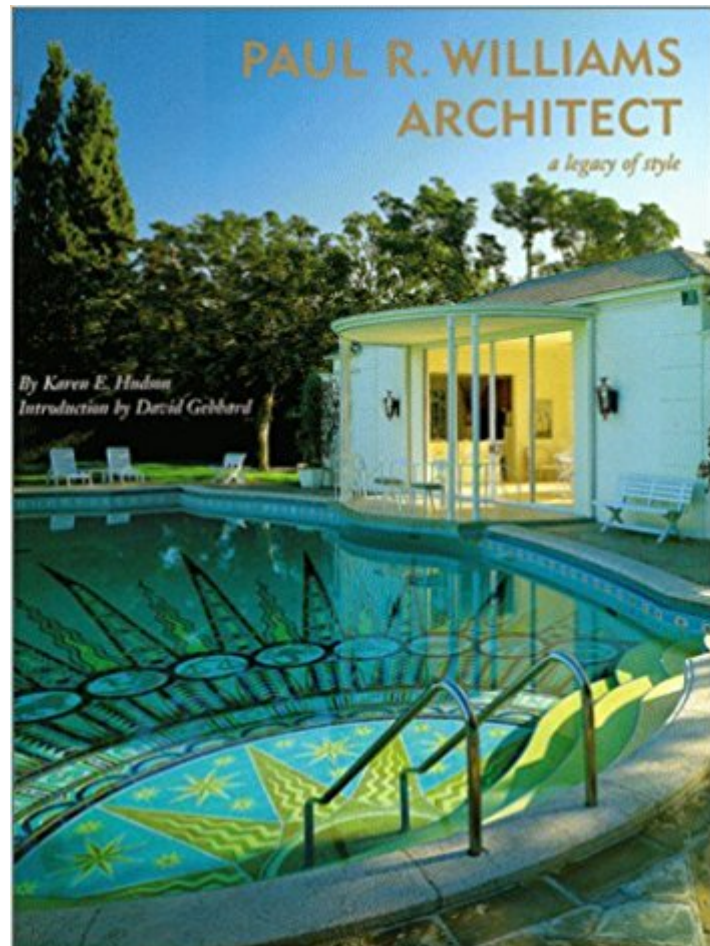




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# Paul R Williams, Architect



## Synopsis

One of the most important Los Angeles architects, Paul R. Williams' prolific career extended from the 1920s to the 1970s. His vast body of built work stretches across the world from Paris and Colombia to Washington, D.C., New York, and Memphis. However, the Los Angeles area was his personal and professional focus. Overcoming incredible prejudice in an all-white field, Williams became the first African American admitted to the A.I.A and designed over 3,000 projects, including the Jetsons-like theme building at Los Angeles International Airport, Saks Fifth Avenue and W. & J. Sloane's department stores in Beverly Hills, the famous Beverly Hills and Ambassador hotels, and renowned celebrity haunts, such as Chasen's and Perino's restaurants. He also designed mansions for Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Tyrone Power, William "Bojangles" Robinson, Lon Chaney, and other entertainers. While Williams had extraordinary facility with the historical styles popular in southern California at the time, he was equally adept at modern design, as seen in his work for Fisk and Howard universities, Saint Jude Hospital in Memphis, and several banks, churches, and country clubs. Karen E. Hudson, a third-generation Angeleno, is the granddaughter of Paul R. Williams and director of his archives. She chronicles the African-American experience in Los Angeles in writings and photographs. David Gebhard, the renowned historian, was a professor of architectural history and Curator of the Architectural Drawing Collection of the Art Museum at the University of Santa Barbara. Call-out: The first architectural monograph of Williams' extraordinary and inspiring achievements.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of the most prominent African-American architects in America, Williams was one of very few to attain fellowship status in the American Institute of Architects. He practiced in his native city, Los Angeles, for 50 years, from the 1920s to the 1960s, during which time he designed all manner of commissions: from trendy restaurants to post offices to private residences, including that of Frank Sinatra. Stylistically, his work ran the gamut from the most conservative historic revivalism to the most futuristic modern design. This loving tribute and compendium of his work is presented to us by his granddaughter. Recommended for academic libraries and large architecture collections.- Peter Kaufman, Boston Architectural Ctr. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

KAREN E. HUDSON, a third generation Angeleno, is the granddaughter of Paul R. Williams and director of his archives. She chronicles the African-American experience in Los Angeles in writings and photographs. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Karen Hudson's loving portrayal of her grandfather's architectural legacy is inspiring. I had heard of Paul R. Williams the architect prior to reading the book, but I was not aware of his huge impact upon the "California Style" of architecture. The fact that African American Paul Williams was able to design homes, offices, churches and hospitals with such distinction from the 1930s until the late 1960s, all while combating racism, is impressive. Ms. Hudson intersperses pictures of Mr. Williams' buildings with relevant quotes from him. It is a great read from both an architectural and historic perspective!

Pristine copy!

Great book that reveals an often overlooked and underrepresented member of great American architects. Williams' granddaughter has crafted a wonderful tribute to her grandfather's legacy by writing this book.

Essentially a printed Pinterest board. Author did no research. Epochal commissions like Beverly Hills Hotel are treated with one paragraph descriptions and a couple of photos. Hard to believe Rizzoli permitted such a flimsy treatment on such a serious architect. Introduction provides no information as well.

Both my 15-year old granddaughter and I are very interested in architecture. We've been Frank Lloyd Wright fans for years. However, I just discovered Paul R. Williams, and I decided to buy this wonderful book for my granddaughter and me to share. I am taking it to her next week, and I am sure we will have many happy hours pouring over the remarkable work this under-celebrated artist created.

Thanks for a great book !

Paul R. Williams was probably the greatest African-American architect of the mid twentieth century. He designed homes of many famous Hollywood personalities, plus some iconic public buildings including the terminal at LAX. This book was written by his granddaughter and contains many family pictures in addition to great photos of many of his projects.

This book was given to me as a gift and 15 years later I still find myself taking a peak inside. Paul Williams was an accomplished architect in an era where many African Americans were not given the opportunity to excel. He fought discrimination through competence, achievement, and grace, and there is a lesson for each American in him.

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