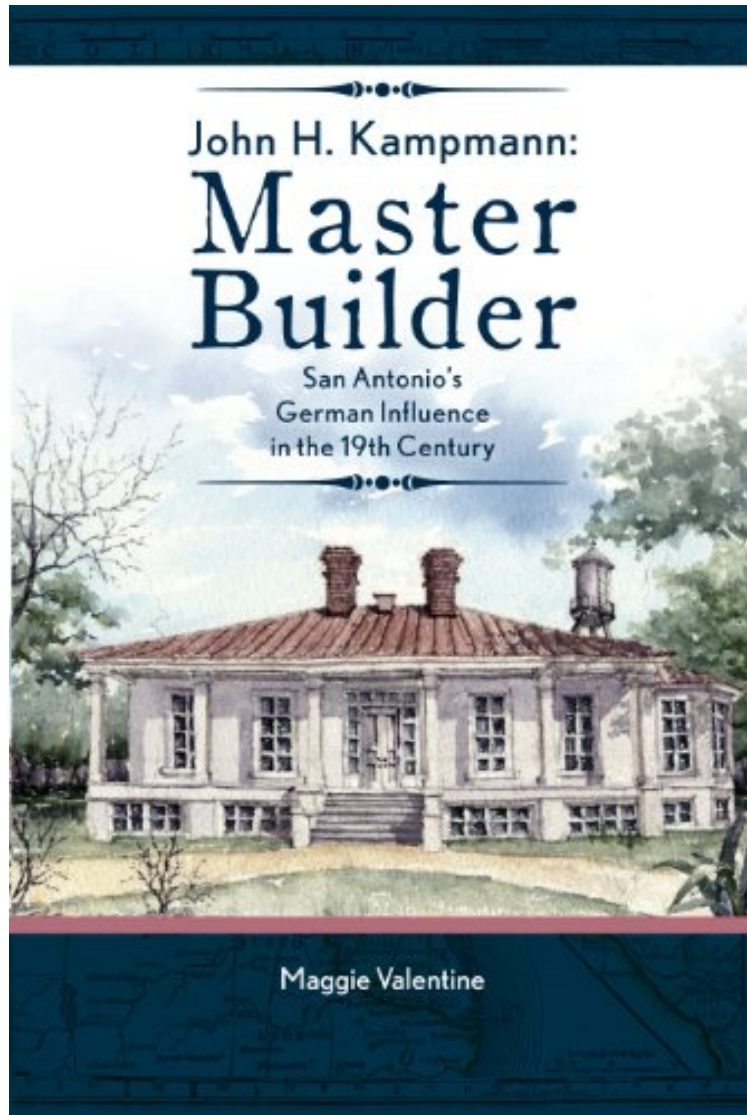


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John H. Kampmann, Master Builder: San Antonio's German Influence in the 19th Century

Maggie Valentine

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Maggie Valentine : John H. Kampmann, Master Builder: San Antonio's German Influence in the 19th Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John H. Kampmann, Master Builder: San Antonio's German Influence in the 19th Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy WarpGreat read. I visited San Antonio several years ago and wish I had read book befor I visited1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reclamation of an unappreciated Texas builder, architect developerBy Judith CarringtonFrom a northerner with a Texas heritage, I give

this book high rating because it brings from obscurity the work of an important Texas builder, architect and developer who left his imprint on virtually every aspect of San Antonio's urbanization process. It is inspiring and galvanizing for us to consider today this universal story of an immigrant with skills, a work ethic and the ability to be a renaissance man, fleeing war-torn Europe to find unlimited opportunity. As well as telling the story behind the buildings it examines, the book is a valuable historical document as Professor Valentine's research has unearthed original sources and includes over 100 photographs and ground plans that have not been published before. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in 19th Century vernacular architecture, history, Texana or the stories of the lives of immigrants to America, particularly German.

Although relatively unknown in modern day San Antonio, John H. Kampmann was an imposing force during his lifetime (1819-1885). Maggie Valentine explores the lasting legacy Kampmann had as a craftsman, builder, contractor, stonemason, construction supervisor, building designer, materials supplier, and business and civic leader for thirty-five years in San Antonio. He changed the face of the city from an adobe Spanish village to a city of stone and mortar. The book also looks at what it meant to be an architect, the business of building, and the role of immigrants. John and Caroline Bonnet Kampmann's descendants contributed much to the history of the city for generations. His client list reads like a Who's Who in 19th-century San Antonio. His work included the Menger Hotel, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and the German-English School, as well as the Steves, Eagar, Halff, Groos, and Oppenheimer Houses. In addition he ran businesses from a bank to a brewery, and served as city alderman and fire captain. This study brings to light an important chapter in the formation of the urban fabric of San Antonio and its evolution into a multi-cultural community. Valentine explores the built environment as it exemplified the social, political, and economic history.

Maggie Valentine's thoroughgoing account of the life and work of San Antonio architect John H. Kampmann adds an important chapter to the story of building in nineteenth-century Texas. Meticulously researched, lucidly written, and well illustrated, it is a signal contribution. -- Professor Christopher A. Long Ph.D, Architecture, University of Texas at Austin I am thrilled at the marvelous job, and documented detail produced and incorporated in the book. As a family member, I am quite grateful for Maggie's assiduous and scholarly attention to detail, and your intelligence in formulating this book. -- Kenneth Bonnet, Ph.D. Impeccable in its scholarship and presentation, while at the same time being engagingly written and historically fascinating -- Barbara Ras, Director, Trinity Press About the Author Maggie Valentine was born and raised in Southern California. She graduated from UCLA with a PhD in architecture and urban planning. She has taught architectural history and planning at UCLA, California State University, and Montana State University, and is currently a professor at the University of Texas San Antonio. In addition to her critically acclaimed book, *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk*, she has been published in several anthologies on regional architecture and cinema history.