



The Octagon House: A Home for All (Paperback)

By Orson Squire Fowler

A.R. Shephard Co., United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the mid-19th Century America was host to a curious architectural trend: the octagonal house. Such eight-sided homes-as well as schools, churches, barns, and businesses-were popping up across the country so quickly that by 1857 over 1,000 had been built. Though the craze has long since subsided, the book that started it all remains a valuable and curious artifact of architectural history. A phrenologist by trade and eccentric Renaissance man by character, Orson S. Fowler subscribed to the principle that form follows function in architecture years before the edict was popularized by the Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. For a multitude of reasons explored at length in these pages, Fowler determined that an octagonal house provides for the maximal utilization of space and resources like heat and water. Years ahead of his time with respect to his concerns about energy efficiency, Fowler includes plans that call for central heating, running water, and speaking tubes. Modern readers will likely be amused by his short sermon on the potential benefits of an indoor water closet. Though Fowler himself was never...

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