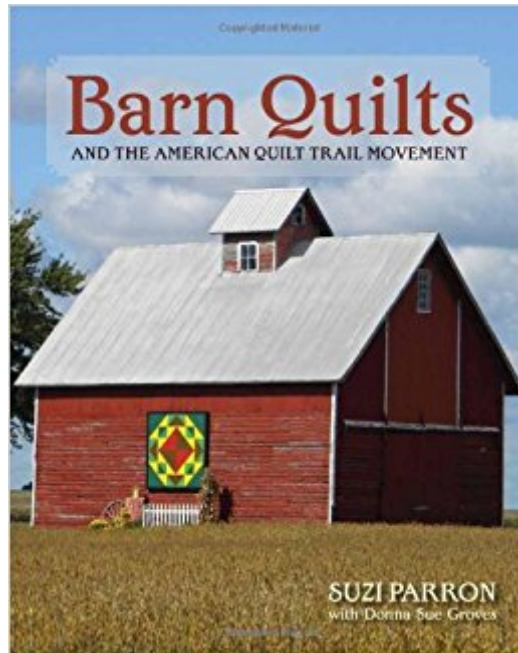




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Barn Quilts And The American Quilt Trail Movement



Synopsis

The story of the American Quilt Trail, featuring the colorful patterns of quilt squares writ large on barns throughout North America, is the story of one of the fastest-growing grassroots public arts movements in the United States and Canada. In *Barn Quilts and the American Quilt Trail Movement* Suzi Parron travels through twenty-nine states and two Canadian provinces to visit the people and places that have put this movement on America's tourist and folk art map. Through dozens of interviews with barn artists, committee members, and barn owners Parron documents a journey that began in 2001 with the founder of the movement, Donna Sue Groves. Groves's desire to honor her mother with a quilt square painted on their barn became a group effort that eventually grew into a county-wide project. Today, registered quilt squares form a long imaginary clothesline, appearing on more than three thousand barns scattered along one hundred driving trails. With more than fifty full-color photographs, Parron documents a movement that combines rural economic development with an American folk art phenomenon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When German immigrants arrived in America, they brought with them a passion for brightly colored geometric patterns that they stitched into quilts that kept them toasty on frigid winter nights. They also decorated their otherwise plain barns with hex signs serving as talismans or as purely exuberant decoration. A decade ago, an enterprising Ohioan combined these traditions and

mounted outsize quilt patterns in bright colors on old barns. Others quickly followed suit, and now many Midwestern and Eastern states have "quilt trails" that tourists pursue in outdoor "museums" of folk art. Parron and Groves have documented these trails with full-color photographs that show how imaginative many artists have become, incorporating butterflies, horses, flags, and other natural and man-made designs within the more abstract geometries of traditional barn quilts. The text profiles many of the artists whose work dazzlingly enlivens America's farm country. --Mark Knoblauch

"The book printed on high quality paper with dozens of captioned photographs is everything that a lover of traditional folk culture could desire. Author Suzi Parron and barn quilt pioneer Donna Sue Groves take the reader to the origins of the Quilt Trails in Appalachia and then to other states, particularly those of the Heartland. The reader meets the dozens of local heroines (and heroes) who organized the Trails in their communities." --National Barn Alliance

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Booklist

Bravo to Suzi Parron and Donna Sue Groves for bringing to light the colorful and rich history of the barn quilt movement. It's a tale of heart, hope, and deep rural roots. . . roots that started in Adams County but spread quickly across the land. Parron's deep research and Donna Sue's love of the subject provide a unique chapter in America's art history. Happily, a country road is no longer the same.

Doug Weaver, publisher, Kansas City Star Books

Barn quilts are a perfect fit with our area; they are an excellent companion to the other ag-tourism opportunities in Green County. This has been a great project because it ties the entire county together with an artistic rural theme, promotes county-wide pride, and gets our visitors to all the communities for a true adventure in exploring the roads less traveled along the way.

Noreen Rueckert, Green County, WI Tourism

The barn quilt project is one of the most successful and satisfying projects we've ever been involved with and we're excited that this book documents the spread of this creative idea across our nation and beyond.

Harold and Sue Peyton, Sac County, Iowa

A great book to use as a reference to plan a trip or to simply learn more about the (barn quilt) movement and take in the beauty of some of the creations that grace county roads and highways throughout North America.

The Budget

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full-color photographs that show how imaginative many artists have become, incorporating butterflies, horses, flags, and other natural and man-made designs within the more abstract geometries of traditional barn quilts. The text profiles many of the artists whose work dazzlingly enlivens America's farm country. (Barn Quilts and the American Quilt Trail Movement) is everything that a lover of traditional folk culture could desire. The reader meets dozens of local heroines (and heroes) who organized the Trails in their communities. The Barn Journal (What we have here is a larger, older, and all-encompassing American story about how we make claims to places, how we maintain community, and how we uphold shared values. To tell this story, as Parron and Groves have so thoughtfully done, is to illuminate the extraordinary beauty that often comes from community and nation-building tasks. Northwest Ohio History

This book tells the story of the Barn Quilt trail movement in a bunch of states. Much of it is fairly boring, and it could be a lot shorter and tell the story just as well. The writing is fair. The photos are quite nice, but the author frequently talks about barns/quilts for which there are no photos, which is frustrating. More photos and less text would make it more interesting--just photos in the order they are along the road, with a short story about each one, would be more effective.

Not what I was looking for - writing is oK but I would have liked to know where the barns were and info about the areas the barns were in. Writer tries to be all artsy and the plain truth is, that is not necessary in this type of book.

This is what I would consider a very thought-provoking and well-written book! Also a lovely tribute to the "founder" of Barn Quilts and the American quilt trails all over the country. It really grabbed my attention - so much so that I rushed out and bought a 36" x 36" piece of furniture-quality plywood, paints, sealers, and protective coatings - even before I had finished reading the book! This will be one of my Spring or Summer projects here in Central Texas! I later figured out that most of the barn quilts are much larger than my board; however, one of our barns is close to the farm-to-market road, so it should work out fine for this barn. The other barn is farther back, so it may require a 48" x 48" board - which I also have! I wish there could have been more pictures of the many described barn quilts. And it also would have been nice if the instructions for actually making a barn quilt had been included. I'll muddle my way through my project and some time this year, Texas will have at least one more Barn Quilt on display!

excellent book, wonderful travels, Author spoke in our area, great to meet the author in person, invite her to speak in your town. We just put up an Art Quilt Mural in Oakhurst, Calif. and have exciting plans to grow our art quilt Trails through the county.

Bought this for my wife....an avid quilter. We noticed the many barn quilts while driving country roads in Wisconsin. Beautiful works of art. The book has excellent photography and is written quite well. Now my wife is planning a "barn quilt" for the side of the garage facing the water at our lake home!!! Recommended.

Thought it would have more information on where each barn square was located. You have to go online to find that information. Can't just take the book and start looking for them.

Barn Quilts opens up a whole new aspect for anyone who is passionate about quilting. The quilts are paintings replicating traditional patterns which pay homage to the women who also played their part in the pioneering movement of America. Reading about the founder of this creative movement is fascinating and moving and leads you into further study. The text would have benefitted from a few more illustrations but that is its only downside. A great book and definitely one for quilters to enjoy at their leisure.

Suzi Parron's new book clears up the mysteries about the wonderful, brightly-colored quilt squares that have appeared on rural buildings coast-to-coast. While bringing people into the country side on barn quilt tours, the brilliant decorations are a source of pride and identity for rural residents. We're just getting started painting them in mid-Missouri and it's great to have a record of what's gone before. This is a fun, well-written and researched book with lots of illustrations and will be a beloved addition to the libraries of quilters, barn lovers and art aficionados everywhere.

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Machine-Quilting Designs, Start-to-Finish Success! Cats and Quilts 2015 Monthly Calendar: 12
Months of Cute Kitties Snuggled in Quilts and in the Sewing Room Artful Log Cabin Quilts: From
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