Federal Style Patterns 1780-1820 with CD-Rom by Lawrence D. Smith

The detailed, clearly illustrated guide to federal patterns

Federal Style Patterns 1780-1820 is a single-source book of pattern drawings illustrating the form, character, scale, and proportion of Federal Style ornament and detail built in New England primarily from 1780 to 1820. Conveniently organized in sections for cornices, door and window casings, chair rails, baseboards, mantels, and fences, Federal Style Patterns 1780-1820 features 300 detailed line drawings that are useful to architects, interior designers, and preservationists. An accompanying CD-ROM contains the drawings in the following formats: vector PDF, Postscript, DXF for PC, and PowerCadd for Mac. Federal Style Patterns 1780-1820 offers architects and interior designers a fresh look at this uniquely American style to provide a springboard for design inspiration and new ideas.

My Personal Review:
"Federal Style Patterns 1780-1820" is the culmination of an astounding research project. The detailed drawings are based on design elements from homes built during the Federal Era in the New England region, and include detailed images of cornices, door and window casings, chair rails, baseboards and more.

All drawings are captured in a variety of formats on a CD-ROM that comes with the book, which is a helpful tool for modern day designers hoping to faithfully reproduce the elegance of Federal Style architecture.

For some time now, I have been fascinated with the Federal Style, so much so that I decided to decorate and furnish my new office as if it were a page from history, circa 1815. I was a bit confused how to adapt a door arch to my particular circumstance, so I e-mailed the authors of this book, MaryBeth Mudrick and Lawrence D. Smith, for advice. I was most pleased with the prompt and professional reply I received from them. Throughout the duration of my project, which stretched out for many months, MaryBeth and Lawrence provided invaluable guidance at many critical junctures,
always with patience and a friendly touch. With my copy of their text close by at all times, these pros led me toward a Federal Style look that far exceeded my original expectations. Thomas Jefferson would have felt right at home!

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