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The Welcoming House: The Art Of Living Graciously



Synopsis

The owners of the acclaimed stores and decorating firm Circa Interiors present eight stylish, beautiful homes blending comfort, beauty, and function with classic Southern hospitality. A house with an open door is like a friend with an open heart: inviting, generous of spirit, and constant at the core. In their first book, Jane Schwab and Cindy Smith present beautifully arranged interiors in which the trademarks of their style—subtle color palettes, graceful furniture, an emphasis on comfort and entertaining—harmonize to create fresh yet classic rooms. Walking the reader through each home with their characteristic Southern charm, they share their vision and process, from big-picture topics such as room flow and furniture plans, to the importance of entryways and setting a beautiful table. The lessons also extend from the interior to the garden, as Schwab and Smith discuss how outside spaces can become natural extensions of the home for entertaining. Throughout, they share specific ideas for arranging rooms to welcome one, two, or four people as comfortably as fifty, establishing multifunctional, adaptable gathering places that are both gracious and functional for the family of the house as well as their guests.

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Customer Reviews

I collect books on Interior Design, but they have to be extraordinary if they are to become part of my library and home office. I am a designer, and the daughter of an exceptional designer himself. We were taught how to "see" by my father and somehow learned the art of balance and scale, authenticity and the importance of adding the unexpected, when and how to break the rules and

how to bring charm to rooms that don't offer that up easily. This book does all of that in spades. My heart races each time I sit and scan photos of this remarkable book's beautiful design. I bought an extra copy for my coffee table and even bought a third copy requested by a friend who came by for tea as she reminded me of her birthday the following week. We giggled at the time and now find ourselves calling one another over the phone for an afternoon break with this book in hand discussing things each of us discovered on our own. I cannot recommend this book enough, especially if you lean more towards timeless traditional and true elegance. The book's designers pay special attention to finishes and know precisely when to stop.

If you love reading about interior design and its processes, you will love this book. The authors take you step by step through eight homes that they have designed---all have neutral backgrounds allowing the color to come from the art, rugs, and fabrics. They are all exquisitely timeless and comfortable. You will learn the "whys" of the design decisions made by these talented design partners. I am two-thirds of the way through the book and am reading every last word and loving it!! I won't tell you how many design/architectural books I own that have not been "read"!

in this book. Too many big houses that are already gracious in proportion and with great details. The decors shown are very nice, but I didn't see any thing special that I haven't seen before. And virtually nothing that I thought I could incorporate in my own space. I think there are better books of this type out there.

This book made me yearn for color! Good style but very beige on white. Sometimes this is a wonderful idea, just not all the time.

I am really surprised that Bunny Williams wrote the "Foreword" to this book, because I think she is one of the best designers out there and can wrap rings around the authors of this book! I own and have read about 75 design books (including Bunny's) and the best word I can choose to describe this book is "pretty." It is a very pretty, coffee table book, but the designs are very much lacking in originality. And come on already.....MORE sisal on the floors, to "tone the room down??" This look has been overly done and professional designers should be ashamed of themselves if this is all they can think of to neutralize a room!!! Conversely, the text in this book is very well written, and the authors should be commended on it.

Compared to other books of this genre, I found this dull and unoriginal. And it annoys me to see photos recycled from magazines.

The homes are simply gorgeous--I have found several items that I have looked up to purchase or that I want to imitate!

Love this book. What great style these 2 ladies gave. As a decorator myself, am recommending to friends and clients.

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