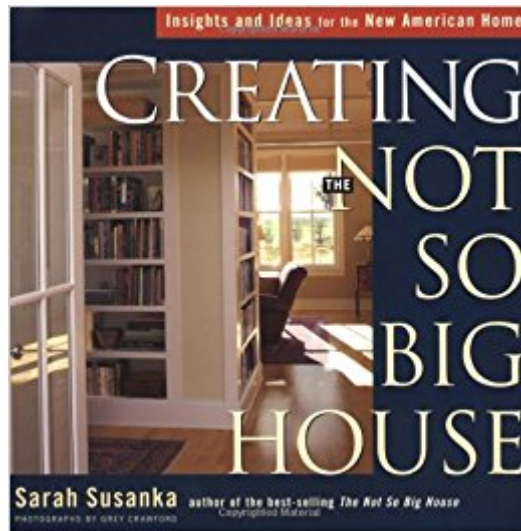


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Creating The Not So Big House: Insights And Ideas For The New American Home (Susanka)



Synopsis

The Not So Big House created a movement that is changing the way people think about the American home. That groundbreaking book proposed a new blueprint for the American home: a house that values quality over quantity, with an emphasis on comfort and beauty, a high level of detail, and a floor plan designed for today's informal lifestyle. Creating the Not So Big House is the blueprint in action. Focusing on key design strategies such as visual weight, layering, and framed openings, Sarah Susanka takes an up-close look at 25 houses designed according to Not So Big principles. The houses are from all over North America in a rich variety of styles -- from a tiny New York apartment to a southwestern adobe, a traditional Minnesota farmhouse, and a cottage community in the Pacific Northwest. Whether new or remodeled, these one-of-a-kind homes provide all the inspiration you need to create your own Not So Big House.

Book Information

Series: Susanka

Paperback: 258 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press (February 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561586056

ISBN-13: 978-1561586059

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.7 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (96 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Small Homes & Cottages #26 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > House Plans #48 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Home Repair

Customer Reviews

Here, Susan Susanka picks up where she left off in The Not So Big House. In some places, it seems that this book is almost a response to the negative reviews in this forum of her first book. One of the most important additions is a sidebar on page nine, where she clarifies the meaning of Not So Big: ". as a rule of thumb, a Not So Big House is approximately a third smaller than your original goal but about the same price as your original budget. The magic is that although the house

is smaller in square footage, it actually feels bigger. I'm not advocating that people live in small houses and get used to feeling cramped. A Not So Big House feels more spacious than many of its oversized neighbors because it is space with substance, all of it in use every day."In summary, this is not a way to save money, but a way to use the existing budget more effectively. The money saved on square footage is invested in the little things that make a house a home: built in bookcases, storage solutions, clutter areas, reading nooks, and other architectural features which most designers omit. In principal, there is no reason these ideas could not be applied to any style and to any budget. Susanka unwittingly raised the first question in her original book, when many critics complained of the sameness of design. She answers it here. The bulk of the work is a survey of 25 projects of other architects from around the country. Because so many designers are represented, we see a much greater variety of styles in this book. If there is a common thread among these projects, it is the use of partial walls, which divide spaces while keeping sight lines open. Rooms are constructed on a modest scale, but seem larger because of the design.

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