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Nancy Braithwaite: Simplicity



Synopsis

Interior designer Nancy Braithwaite's long-awaited first book is a striking tutorial in the power of simplicity in design. In the world of interior design, Nancy Braithwaite is known for her single-minded devotion to the principle that has guided her work for more than forty years: simplicity.

Braithwaite's work is luxuriously minimalist, its beauty inextricably tied to its Shaker-like purity. While her work varies from art deco to country, the underlying rules remain the same: every element should strive to be simple and powerful without compromise, and every room must have a level of power that comes from commanding scale, repetition of elements, subtleties of color, or the sheer beauty of forms. In Braithwaite's world, excess is not opulent. Simplicity is opulent. Braithwaite takes the reader deep into her singular vision. Divided into five sections, the book begins with her manifesto on simplicity and the aspects of design used to achieve it, including architecture, scale, color, texture, pattern, and composition. She then presents three categories of style—country, classic, and contemporary—and explains and illustrates each with iconic rooms from her portfolio. Finally, she presents several houses as case studies, displaying the power of these principles in action and emphasizing the importance of craftsmanship in design, from a stunning modern seaside retreat on Kiawah Island, South Carolina, to her unforgettable country house in Atlanta.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A tour de force of exemplary restrained interior decorating style! The restraint used to create such beautifully simple interiors is to be lauded! The use of significant furnishings and embellishments is

a symphony of elegant and timeless style. If you appreciate a paired down and well edited style of interior decoration consider this book a masterclass!

First, let me say I'm not a designer. I purchased this book for design inspiration for my own home. Overall, I just didn't "get" this book. I understand that it was all about simplicity, but in my opinion the book was bland and I would have appreciated more use of color. You can be simple but also include beautiful colors. I found the rooms in the book to make a statement but they weren't particularly beautiful. Most, in my opinion were quite austere and didn't lend themselves to be the kind of home that's meant to be lived in--but rather the kind of home that's meant to be shown off. I personally, prefer the former. While the design aesthetic is not for me, I certainly do appreciate the consistency of the author's style throughout the book. She "knows who she is." I can see why others would enjoy it--just not for me.

If you want to decorate solely in black and white, then you might like this designer book. One page has some dark purple, but overall there is no color. Sure, picture are beautiful, but few "real life" people will want to decorate as this author has.

Ms. Braithwaite's aesthetic is lovely, although not for everyone. She emphasizes neutrals and design fundamentals over color and pattern. However, whether or not you like her designs, I don't think this book became too repetitive. Too many pages of the same room from multiple angles, showing the same furniture -- and then a close up of an accessory from that same room. There are quite a few pages with one line of text. I wanted a big fat book full of variety and design, but that is not what this book is all about.

This book opens one up to the power and beauty of editing in home decorating. Nancy Braithwaite has the ability to evoke calm and elegance in every project she designs.

Have very mixed feelings about this design book. I would not recommend it as I think content is extremely poor and even an amazing print quality won't make it up. Perhaps it's just not my style, and someone else will love this book. This is the only reason why I did not leave 2 stars.

I had the opportunity to look at this book before I purchased it and often times, one single photograph will induce me to buy it. In this case, it was the magnificent folk art eagle the author

acquired and her placement of it over the mantle in her stunning living room. The book is a visual treasure chest and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

If you, or a friend, have an appreciation of unsurpassed style and taste, you will treasure every page of the book. She is truly a National treasure.

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