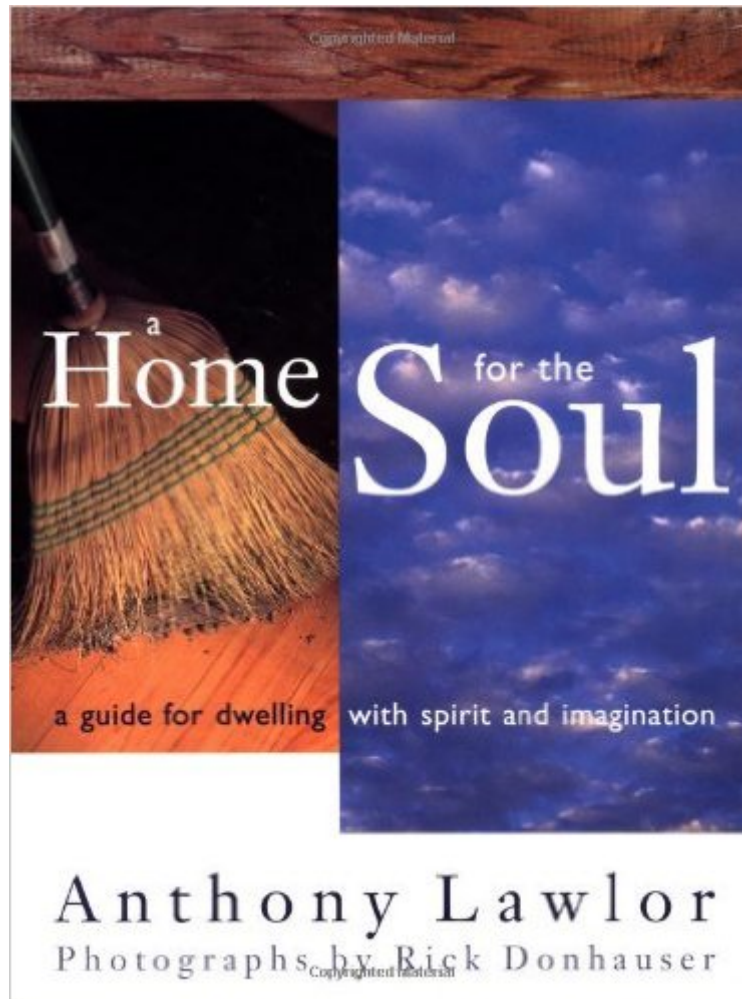


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A Home For The Soul: A Guide For Dwelling With Spirit And Imagination



Synopsis

Anthony Lawlor is known as the architect who brings soul to design. His acclaimed book *The Temple in the House* showed how to find the sacred in architecture. Now, in *A Home for the Soul*, he reveals how our houses and apartments can become havens of inspiration and renewal. "From the moment we're born, we seek to find home," Lawlor says, "Yet, despite this primal longing, our dwelling places often disappoint us." In *A Home for the Soul*, we discover that the depth and meaning we seek is right in front of us if we but have the eyes to see. Lawlor teaches us how to develop a consciousness about the spiritual possibilities inherent in our interior surroundings; he shows how to recognize the sacred in material form. "Each time we bathe," says Lawlor, "we not only cleanse the body, we refresh the spirit. Each time we open our front door, we enter a universe of connection and significance." Lawlor leads us on a journey through each room of the house, opening our vision to hidden possibilities. We discover, for example, how a stove expresses the transforming power of nature, how clothes closets reveal our inner personalities, and how homes display our talents. Lawlor shows us the mythological and archetypal meanings within the common objects of daily life--such as a bed, a bathtub, a pair of shoes, or a loaf of bread. The author also offers practical suggestions for arranging or building soulful homes. He explains how to use wood, tile, brick, and stone to express qualities of the spirit and how to use furniture and personal objects as allies in creating meaning. Finally, Lawlor shows us how to construct a Mandala of the Soul--a wood cabinet with compartments for housing the symbols of home that have particular personal meanings for each reader. In these pages, we come to understand how all the rooms we live in can form a sacred place of wholeness, a home that cares for and uplifts the totality of mind, body, and soul.

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Customer Reviews

If you are looking for lots of ideas for floor plans, design or decorating ideas, this is not the book you want. If you are looking for a book that will help you create a space that feels like "home," this book will help you think about what that means in terms of your space. Lawlor takes an unusual approach to his subject by first examining each living area with respect to the Greek gods typically responsible for that space. Before one dismisses this as a New Age thing, study the ideas behind the activities represented by that god. It's simply his "hook" to get the reader to continue on, to think about what this space is intended to do in the routine of life. As a storyteller, I was thrilled to read of his ideas for planning one's living area, which should be a space for stories, music and social interaction. He does not ignore the ever-present television, but he does suggest planning for lively, involved social interaction, which we all crave but often lack in our busy lives. He does give general suggestions for room layouts if you are in the planning stages of construction, and closes each chapter with his vision of the ideal layout for that living area. He suggests materials, colors, furnishings and accents for each specific area, so that if you are looking to change existing space, you'll find that, too. Anyone who places a priority on books as a major furnishing component will win me over every time, but his vision of planning for a home, not a house, has appeal as well.

Unless you've lived under a rock for the past decade & have read NOTHING in design periodicals (or even the newspaper!) about trends in decorating & design; you've already seen most of what is in this book. The author's suggestions are topics covered in entire books elsewhere. On a new garden "use plants native to your microclimate. Install bird feeders". Could you have guessed? Most pictures are antique-y and have an East coast derivative feel: hardly inspiration to those in other regions. Softening sunlight using rattan shades has been done in Calif. for at least 20 years! On the toilet: author's exalted importance here will be left to your imagination unless you buy the book anyway. The curve of stairways "inviting the soul to flow....upward"...I expected an expose on the supernatural. On dining: use runners & placemats, a cluster of candles...this is new? "Breathe 3 times, look at each person, look at food.". this book has an air of total melancholy; damp & moldy. He tells us to "observe", "think of ways", "think of materials"...things we are looking to HIM for. "Wood panel doors offer grainy texture.... "Place a desk by a window..." these are not unique either.

What a downer. Save your money & peruse your Pottery Barn catalog instead. I wish I had.

Light a few candles. Put on the tea kettle. Find the most comfortable spot in your home and settle in. This book will transport you to the essence of your soul room-by-room. There are many ideas on how to turn your space into a nurturing nest, and not all fluff--many practical ideas that make a huge impact. I highly recommend this book.

This book is not for anyone who is looking for an interior design book. This book is strictly for the soul. We live in a world where we are in a rush to do everything. We rush to clean our homes, eat, bathe, etc. This book explains in detail what each room represents and how it aids in healing us within. Being in the moment of cleaning, cooking, cleansing, enjoying that cup of coffee in the morning, that sunset we take for granted. The joy of putting different elements in our homes and how it makes us feel within. Our home is a place for healing us within, rejuvenating us, that place to go for tranquility and get away from the madness. We have to stop regretting the past or worrying about the future and be in the moment. Doesn't matter how much money you have you can still create a place that you can truly enjoy and call a home. Get it "a home for the soul", not the body. This book is a must have. As a result, I actually enjoy cleaning my home and no longer refer to it as a chore.

This book goes beyond a catalog of design ideas. It encouraged me to think for myself and discover how I really want to live. A HOME FOR THE SOUL changed the way I see my home by showing me how each room can be an inspiring place for finding and expressing the richness and meaning of my soul. If you have a home and a soul, buy this book.

I have owned several homes, never feeling quite at home. We bought our 100 year old 22 room farm house 7 years ago. This home was not feeling like home either. After reading this book I knew why. I had to make it our home. I recommend reading this book before buying or remodeling a home. It will save you so much time and money. If your soul feels at home, you are happy in that home.

I was anxious to get this book and disappointed with it once I opened it. Not very usable. My "favorite" photo: a sudsy foot next to a dangerous pile of rocks/shells in a shower stall. Ouch! Imagination is one thing, silliness another. Unfortunately, ideas executed in a ridiculous way give the book an unreal, phony quality. Love the topic but not the book.

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