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Axel Vervoordt: Wabi Inspirations



Synopsis

Interior design guru Axel Vervoordt shares his latest inspirations for the home. Axel Vervoordt's intense curiosity has fueled his work as an interior designer, spurring him to explore and draw inspiration from cultures around the globe. He was first exposed to Eastern art and philosophy years ago, but today it has become the guiding principle in his work, particularly the concept of Wabi. Developed in the twelfth century, Wabi advocates simplicity and humility, the rejection of all that is superfluous or artificial. Through extraordinary photographs from Japan and Korea to Belgium and Switzerland, Vervoordt invites us to explore the elements that inspire him: natural materials and time-worn objects that evoke the essence of Wabi. Today, together with the Japanese architect Tatsuro Miki, Vervoordt carries the principles of Wabi into his remarkable interiors. As Vervoordt reveals how he infuses his current creations with a fundamentally oriental approach, interiors devotees will gain new insight from this tribute to the designer's latest sources of inspiration for the home.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Flammarion (February 22, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 2080301454

ISBN-13: 978-2080301451

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 1.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (25 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

First, this book is constructed of beautiful materials. The paper weight and texture are amazing and of finest quality. The photographs are beautifully reproduced and are essentially the best part of this book. The text itself is awful, and could benefit from the heavy hand (red pen) of an editor. All the pages of text could be condensed--removing all trite phrases and zen-style attempts at platitudes--into perhaps two meaningful paragraphs. This volume is the absolute height of pretense and artifice. In the modern world of everyday people, wabi-sabi is a concept that can be used to

improve our lives. Wabi-sabi is a concept originating from Japan which stresses three important values for objects surrounding us: Impermanence, Imperfection, and the Incomplete. Before this book came out, I had never seen the first word used alone. Wabi means essentially "humble," and is the absolute wrong title for the book and its concepts. The book shows pictures of generally empty lodges, tea houses, and retreats--and these dwellings are invariably set on a lake front, or next to the ocean, or feature a stunning view of the Alps through its unadorned window. Space--affording a house (or chalet, or loft) and then keeping it empty save perhaps a stack of rocks or one vase--is the ultimate luxury in this world. This book purports to idolize that which is humble: A retreat on the side of the mountain, where guests are made to pad single file across the grounds and then step into the tea house. But a European retreat, its grounds, and associated tea house are a mark of unattainable luxury! So too are two barns featured in this book. Both barns make their way to Europe; but one of them is commissioned and built in Japan first.

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