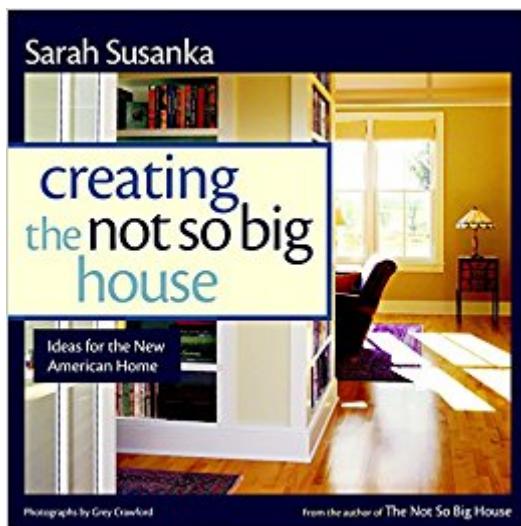


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Creating The Not So Big House: Insights And Ideas For The New American Home (Susanka)



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

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Customer Reviews

Sarah Susanka has a not-so-insignificant idea in Creating the Not So Big House. She contrasts the glamorous, glossy-photo house plans of vaulted ceilings and palatial living rooms with the livable, day-to-day pleasure of cozy window seats and comfortable breakfast nooks, and her conclusion is resonating with families across the country: bigger but shoddier isn't better than smaller and well made. Descriptors like "spacious" and "expansive" fill the real-estate promos, but Susanka seeks

the elusive yet affordable qualities that turn a house into a home. And she provides more than mere ideals around which to rally. She selected 25 house designs, from a southwestern adobe to a Minnesota farmhouse to a New York apartment to a Rhode Island summer cottage, and she profiles each home in great and well-illustrated detail. Her ideas for interior as well as exterior views, airy stairways, diagonal views, and framed openings translate well in an array of different houses appropriate to childless couples and large families, as well as hot climes in Texas and cooler regions in Vermont. There are traditional designs to fit in with Massachusetts styling and contemporary designs to adapt to California cliffs, and they range from country spaces to suburban homes to city apartments. Susanka selected house plans that are available for sale, because her purpose is to make affordable quality housing accessible to the general public, but they're also presented as catalysts for your own designs, because the house that worked for one person might inspire the plan that would work best for you. Whether you're in the market for a new house, want pragmatic renovation ideas, or are interested in the concept of space-saving abodes from a city-planning, philosophical perspective, Susanka's book is an eye-opener and a mind-expander, providing conceptual and practical tools to assist you in planning your own livable home.

--Stephanie Gold --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Susanka's very successful *The Not-So-Big House* (LJ 9/15/98) nimbly capitalized on the 1990s small-is-beautiful wave that touted voluntary simplicity, downsizing, and contentment with one's lot in life (especially if that lot includes an average, middle-class house in the suburbs). This follow-up features 25 new and redesigned homes thought to embody "not-so-big" principles such as shelter around activity, double-duty rooms, interior and diagonal views, variety of ceiling heights, importance of personal space, and so on. The book's design allows readers to flip through looking for ideas about trendy house types—Pueblo-style, the old farmhouse, Shaker cottage, shingle-style, Fifties retro. Simple house plans and carefully constructed photos of well-appointed space abound. The writing is unchallenging, nontechnical, sunny, even cozy. Couples and architects are referred to by given names (Barry and Susan, Sally and Gary), and each episode follows a rather numbing, prosaic pattern: unhappiness with present quarters, lifestyle examination, and problem-solving (unfortunately without expenses listed), concluding with "not-so-big" bliss. While the first book is not required prior reading, this is best recommended for libraries where the first book proved popular. DRussell T. Clement, Northwestern Univ. Lib., Evanston, IL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I give it 5 stars because there are many great design and floor layout idea's that will help anyone building a 400-1000 sq ft (or bigger) small home or off grid cabin. I am building a 526 sq ft mountain cabin and have found a couple of idea's that I will incorporate into my build plans. This book is especially good for interior design in my opinion. This book may not be good for tiny house nation or someone building a really small house less than 250 sq ft. Quality book added to my library.

I think Susanka produces the best books on creative, aesthetically satisfying, and very livable small house design. Most others seem to approach small house design as if the only goal was frugality. I want frugal and beautiful. She repeats herself some with ideas, explanations and photos across her different books, but personally I find some of that repetition helpful to drill in the key principles - "see, here it is again, another example of why this matters." Her books have contributed the most to planning for my new house.

I should have noted the books cooyright date (2000)Although there is some information here relevant to 2017, the photos are, of course, extremely dated and feature closed in fussy and overly decorated spaces that are really not relatable.

Living in a smallish house, with kids, you have to make the most of the space. Before embarking on a big remodel, we poured this book and found many superb ideas for making the most of the space AND keeping the budget inline. We found we could accommodate all of our needs; home office, places for books, toys, a mountain of kitchen equipment, all comfortably in a 1500sq ft house by simply rethinking the space. The best of all, no one can make the excuse of not having a place to put their things and that helps considerably from keeping the house looking like a cluttered mess. I didn't want a bigger house, it's more house to clean, but wanted better use of the space and this book was immensely helpful in figuring out how to do exactly that.

If you consider 3,000+ sf "not so big," then this might be a good fit for you. If you think 400-900 sf is "not so big," don't bother. Some eye candy, but nothing useful.

This book is pretty good as long as you combine it with other ones I use this when remodeling a bungalow from the 1920s many of these books that are helpful you can get at the library anyways so you don't really need to purchase them as the ideas are not complex and I will remain in your mind so library books work very well this doesn't cover many things like how to create an open floor

plan in a more detailed fashion so you do need to supplement this if you are very good at remodeling houses you will probably find this not to be adequate in and of itself

My husband and I are both carpenters, and friends and family are always coming to us for building solutions and suggestions. We have lent out these books so often that I finally bought a second set, so that we always have a set at home to refer back to. It's difficult to articulate what one is trying to achieve in three dimensions even for people in the trade, let alone people who aren't, and these books help explain in layman's terms what one is trying to achieve. It also helps one understand why we are drawn to some layouts, and repelled by others. I find this book, and the others in the series, extremely helpful.

WONDERFUL!

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