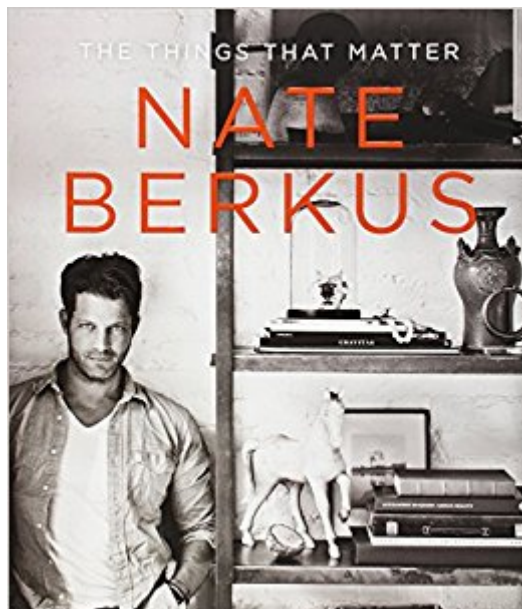


The book was found

# The Things That Matter



## Synopsis

Does your home tell the story of who you are? In *The Things That Matter*, Nate Berkus shares intimate stories from his life, introduces us to people who influenced him and helped him forge his sense of style, and opens up about the remarkable experiences that have left him forever changed, all of which find expression in how he lives today. From his most cherished flea market finds, to his beloved books and photos, to the many extraordinary mementos he's collected in his travels, every piece defines who he's become and what endures in his world. Berkus invites readers into his own home as well as into twelve others, including a sleek steel-and-glass high-rise that soars above Chicago, a rustic cottage in the Hudson Valley, an ultra-chic atelier that maximizes every inch of space, a Greenwich Village townhouse that holds multiple art collections, and a study in meaningful minimalism in Marfa, Texas. The distinctive interiors beautifully displayed in this book offer revealing portraits of their owners' lives and the inspiring choices that have made them who they are today. *The Things That Matter* convincingly lays out Nate Berkus's philosophy that things do matter. Our homes tell our stories, they reflect the places we've been and the people we've loved along the way—and there can be no more beautiful design for living than that.

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE SEATTLE TIMES

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Samples from *The Things That Matter*      In

Designer and TV host Berkus was an Oprah Winfrey find. Here in his new decorating book, he infuses his life story on every page. The tragedy he experienced during the Sri Lanka tsunami (the loss of his partner, Fernando) became the foundation for the things that matter to him: It's about how the prints on our wall and the rough-hewn rocks we swiped from the Marfa, Texas, farmer's market gave our everyday lives shape, texture, and a sense of who we are, who we've been, and where we may be heading. This is truly an awe-filled, happy book, on the surface about decorating, but, on a deeper level, how the things we love unfold our soul. We meet artists and media executives (no, not Oprah), celebrities and the nearly so, all secure in their selves and their relationships. Gaze at the pictures, read the words, and then think as you look into your own homes how much of who you are and where you're going shows. As Berkus has it, The correct order for achieving joy is people, then animals, then things. --Barbara Jacobs

I have never actually READ a design book, because you view a design not read about one. Anyway I have never read such a great preface in any design book or any other book for that matter. It was completely thoughtful and personal, yet uplifting and conscious of a portrayal that didn't come off as pretentious. Lets face it, he plugged in enough Oprah and words like 'upper-middle-class,' and 'east-coast,' to make anyone think he raised his brow, but he didn't really. While I'd have to say in terms of his aesthetic I am predisposed to an industrial style I totally appreciate the many layers and even history or stories he associates with his designs and objects. It becomes a great cohesion of personal and decorative, story-telling and story-making. It has more appeal for those who are contemporary inclined and want the look of a stylish house, but also for those looking to present their cherished objects in a more contemporary style.

I have never bought a design book or even thought about buying one which is probably why I was unaware this book even existed until very recently. I remember Nate Berkus from the Oprah Show and Rachael Ray show, but recently was re-introduced to him on his new show with his husband, Jeremiah Brent. After checking out some of his work on Oprah on You Tube, I discovered this book. After hearing about his experience in Sri Lanka, I decided I had to get his book. I admire and respect how open and honest he has been his life and about the loss of his loved one. I also am enjoying reading about his design ideas, which I find surprising...not something I ever expected.

I might have written an earlier less glowing review but can't find it to edit so here is a new one. Had this book by my night stand since buying > 1 yr ago. Started reading and didn't enjoy but I think I hadn't examined the book's layout rather had just opened it and started perusing. Upon re-examining and reading the short "bios", am really enjoying. Don't know most of the people studied and don't need to. The writing is quite good. Also because the book's approach is to present "short stories" one can pick the book up, put it down and not lose a thing which I have been doing all week. This is key for busy readers. Credit to these people who let Nate and us examine and review their homes so thoroughly especially given they are sharing "The Things that Matter". My interest in buying the book to begin with after finding a brief in House Beautiful is that my hubby and I are likely people who decorate with the things that matter though we don't guard our thresholds quite as well as one lady presented in the book. Recommend for the decorating thoughts, pictures and for the overall presentation.

I have some decorating experience beyond the basics. Nate shows you in this book how to put a personal stamp on your home. He also tells the story of how he got to where he is. It was and interesting, fun, heartwrenching, and most of all informative book. He tells the reader how to choose what you love and how to make it work. He gives tips on inexpensive ways to find what you want, how to display it, how to use what you have with a fresh approach. His tag line is "create a home that rises up to meet you at the end of the day" and he has done this with candor and wit. I read it in 3 days and will refer back to it again and again. Thank you Nate.

I love Nate Berkus and I love his work. This book is unlike any other I have read, in that it gives very personal narratives about the rooms that are featured -- some are those of celebrities, others those of persons I would never have known of. I spent hours poring over the pictures and reading the narratives. I spent the most time reading Nate's account of his experience in the tsunami and the tragic loss of his partner several years ago, his road to recovery, and the discovery of his new love. Also, the description of how their new apartment reconciled their 2 very different styles was very instructive. All the photos are wonderful. I've already given this book to several friends who are at changing places in their lives and want their homes to reflect it.

This book is lovely. Rather than being strictly about decor, Nate has injected personal stories. I think of this as an autobiographical decorating book. Nate's warmth and sincerity come through loud and

clear. And his design style is clear, balanced and heartfelt. He understands the beauty of asymmetry in design and has an innate sense of how to use it. I enjoy this book so much that I sent one as a house warming gift to my son and his wife and they are in love with Nate and his book as well.

I think if you are a fan of Nate Berkus and have some knowledge of his personal experiences, you will enjoy this book. If you are looking for some step by step guide to decorating this won't necessarily appeal to you. I took to heart some of the anecdotes he shared and (for me) a couple of the stories were ones I could relate to. I have been in the midst of a home office/guest room redo and took to heart some of the messages that I got out of the book. I have (since having my own home) subscribed to the notion that your home should reflect who you are, be comfortable and welcoming to guests. If those concepts work for you, you are a fan of Mr. Berkus and have some of your own creativity and style you'd like to put into the decor of your own living space, you will love this book. If the above mentioned doesn't apply to you, it will be a great coffee table book, that perhaps your guests will enjoy and who knows it may spark a conversation or your desire to find your own self expression and creativity in your home.

This is an excellent book! Nate's story is remarkable, his decorating advice "right-on" and his colleagues have added much to the total book. Highly recommend this book!

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