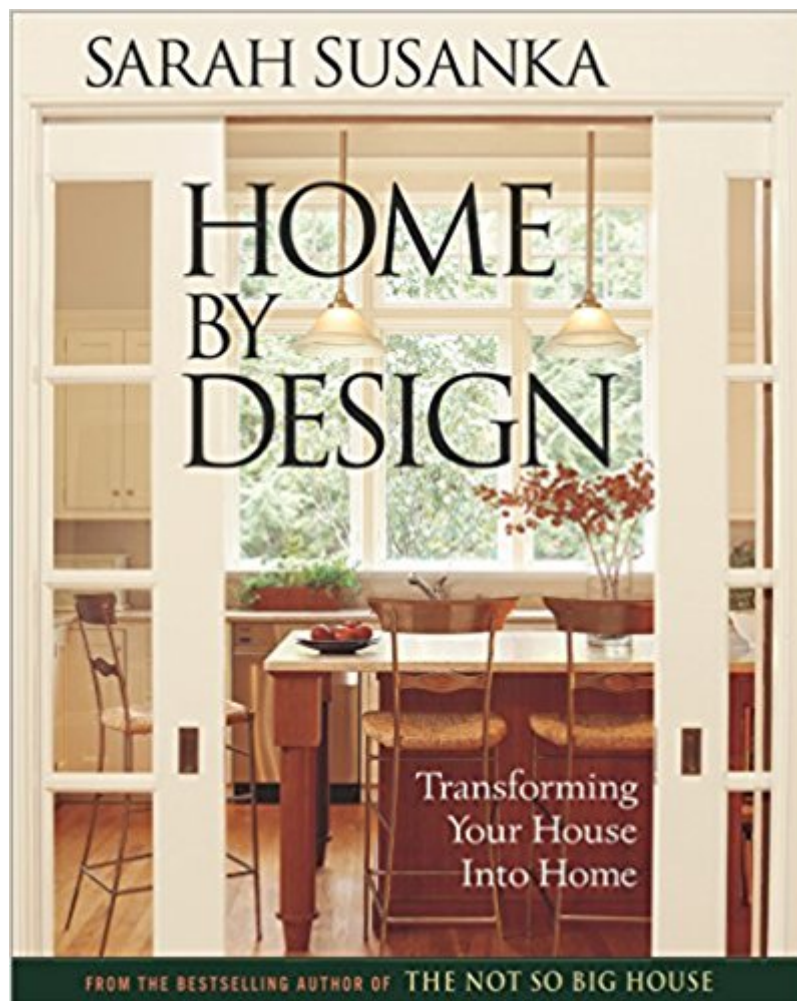


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# Home By Design: Transforming Your House Into Home (Susanka)



## Synopsis

In *Home by Design*, Sarah Susanka presents the 30 key design concepts that can be applied to any home - no matter what the style or size. Using 28 of the best designed homes from around the country, Susanka brings these concepts to life with 150 powerful and inspirational examples: from something as simple as placing a rug under a table to renovating a whole second floor. *Home by Design* shows homeowners a new way to look at their spaces and provides ideas for how to make each home reach its full potential.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Acclaimed architect Susanka, who spawned a virtual cottage industry of home books favoring quality over quantity (*The Not So Big House*; *Not So Big Solutions for Your Home*; etc.), now turns her eye to 30 key design principles that produce a home. Seeking to capture the "elusive quality of home," Susanka uses beautiful photographs and helpful floor plans to discuss how "the interrelationships between spaces, walls and ceilings, and windows... shape our experience." It isn't the external architecture that matters, she says, but the interior. All homes provide shelter and footage; the goal is to enhance the quality of living. To do that, Susanka employs important tricks of her trade, explaining the rationale behind everything from window positioning and reflective ceilings to achieving symmetry, keeping in mind the overarching themes of space, light and order. Blessedly free of complex jargon, the book stresses that size doesn't matter, but construction does. Susanka's

philosophy is simple: good architectural design is as important as good nutrition, and a savvy understanding of your surroundings lets you craft a better place to live. To illustrate her points, the author cites 28 of the best-designed homes in the U.S., from a tiny California cottage to a lavish Minnesota manse and a remodeled Kansas City abode. Susanka's generosity with tips (e.g., a bold use of color can add depth and solidity; aligning a doorway with a window directly across brightens the area) will be a boon to readers, who will wind up getting an architectural education in the process. 60 b&w line drawings. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Think a bigger house would make everything perfect? Don't bet on it. Sarah Susanka's re-arranging and re-imagining strategies are brilliant, simple and beautiful" (Reader's Digest)"

If you want a general coffee-table book, this is it. Lots of pictures, sidebar explanations organized into sections. Slightly arcane, 'Order', for instance, includes these subsections: Pattern & Geometry, Alignments, Rhythm, Theme and Variations, Composition, Expressed Structure, Point of Focus and Organizing Strategy. Turning to them, text discusses architectural treatments in finishing materials (I get that), stair railings, floor parquetry, hallways to other rooms, and optical illusions. Since I am not an architect, I'll never use these design elements, and you would hardly find a remodel that demanded some of these solutions. But it is fun to 'walk through' these unique homes. This book is ideal for a designer to have on the shelf, for times when a client needs a visual aid to help them see what their home will look like.

I own *The Not So Big House*, *Creating The Not So Big House*, *Inside the Not So Big House*, and this book, *Home By Design*. Of the four, this is definitely my favorite. I don't own a home, but I am saving my pennies, to some day have one built. This book definitely helps me dream that goal. It really breaks down certain features that are appealing, helps you understand why, and gives lots of examples. I don't have the remodeling book by Susanka, which I suspect is better for those who aren't building from the ground up. However, this one does offer suggestions on how you can use the ideas while remodeling, as well. Unlike the other books, which show lots of pretty pictures and give a title and a little blurb about the idea, this one is to really help you understand how certain aspects of design are used to create a cozy feel. It gives you that lightbulb moment about why you like certain houses or rooms or features better than others. If I had to get rid of three of the four books, this is the one I would keep. I gave it four stars instead of five because some of the photos

have crucial aspects lost in the crease of the book - the photo placement on some of the pages could have been improved for illustrative purposes.

First off, I disagree with the negative reviews. The photos are just fine and I'm 54 years old and a bit eyesight challenged. The scale of many of the home plans is easy to calculate from her textual descriptions. Many, if not most, of what she explains can be done on the cheap and I've done some of them. For those studying architecture, either as a professional architect or interior designer, or one of us perenial students of everything, this is the best intro to residential architecture I've found. It lays out the various principles in wonderful detail but in short enough chapters to keep our attention. Theory and practice are merged in a concise and clear manner. If you like "A Pattern Language" and other Christopher Alexander books or were thinking of reading them then I would recommend this book for further study. This book sits next to my work area as I design interiors in 3D computer graphics. It is now one of my most important references. With this information I can understand the problems and "fix" those awful house plans that are pervasive in plan books and on the Web.- jim

WONDERFUL!

The Sarah Susanka books were invaluable for planning our downsized retirement home. This book showcases various architectural principles and emphasizes quality of detail over size of rooms. The photographs are excellent and were extremely useful in developing the plans for our A-frame home. When several windows were not installed according to plan, our builders raised them seven inches so all windows on that side of the house would align. The prow roof was also extended when it did not match our plan. These design elements make a noticeable improvement in the exterior view of our home. Lots of Sarah's ideas were incorporated inside our home as it progressed. I still refer to her books 11 years after our house completion.

This book will be referred to many times as I draw up my dream house. The author gives good examples and photos of architectural features that will make your new house or remodel look special and well put together.

Great book! Nails what it is that makes a structure a home, that makes you feel sheltered emotionally, not just physically. No one who is building or buying a home should do so without first reading this book.

Sarah does it again very happy with the book and shipping. Thanks

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