

Wabi Sabi Style

James Crowley, Sandra Crowley

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James Crowley, Sandra Crowley : Wabi Sabi Style before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wabi Sabi Style:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful bookBy OnixThe photos in this book are very beautiful. Anyway, I love Japanese elements in art and interior decorating. I like the concept of Wabi Sabi with its emphasis on minimalism and clutter-free homes. A nice touch in this book was the inclusion of some haiku such as:"Violets in retirement near its trail are touched in passing by the pheasant's tail". (Shushiki)The book emanates a sense of tranquility and I highly recommend it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What were they reading?By aloranWhy are the reviews of this book so polarized? People seem either to love it or hate it. I loved it and am baffled by the (3) negative reviews by writers who seem not to have read the text. This is, admittedly, a practical book with gorgeous photographs, but it is more than just that. It opens with a lucid explanation, rivaling Koren's in my opinion, on what wabi-sabi is ("a system of aesthetic judgement") and is not ("Wabi-sabi is neither an excuse for another in the long list of trendy design books based on 'Asiatica' nor another variation on Zen-inspired minimalist modernism"). The book then goes on to demonstrate how wabi-sabi sensibilities are expressed in the way we furnish living spaces. The

authors show how choices of colors, patterns, materials, textures, lighting, objects, etc. are grounded in a philosophical system of beauty -- a beauty derived from nature and natural processes of evolution and decay. This is not dumbing down wabi-sabi, or reducing it to mass-cult mediocrity. On the contrary, the authors are well aware that sophistication and subtlety are required to appreciate and apply this aesthetic worldview. They show how the mundane task of furnishing one's surroundings can become an art form, embodying such quintessential wabi-sabi elements as humility, imperfection, restraint, asymmetry, impermanence, unconventionality, and surprise. I would urge the negative reviewers to reread the full text and not be put off by the beautiful pictures or the word "style" in the title. I think they will find quite the opposite of what they are criticizing. 36 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Much appreciation to the authors!!!

By Kevin Lekeleher
Much appreciation to the authors for bringing Wabi Sabi to the masses. In doing so they have rescued Wabi Sabi from the pretentious "WABI SNOBBY" pseudo intellectuals. here is a sampling of a few jewels found in the text of Wabi Sabi Style; "To ennoble the ignoble"
"Moving beyond the glossy, gilded, and gaudy - the simple organic elegance of wabi sabi is for those who have no need to prove who they are. Wabi Sabi is for those who are at peace with themselves and want to feel the peace of the world around them at all times."
"In order to understand wabi sabi, beauty must first be understood on a conceptual level. The traditional Japanese concept of beauty differs radically from that of the West. The Japanese have long held the notion that beauty is not inherent in an object but rather is experiential. Given an order set of circumstances, beauty is the elicited response experienced by the perceiver." I am an admirer of Leonard Koren's writing on wabi sabi, but it is apparent that there are those who make the unfortunate mistake of comparing the Crowley's work with Koren's. As Confucius has told us "comparisons are odious" Even the work of Lennox Tierney deserves recognition. The Japanese know that "there are many paths to reach the top of Mount Fuji" It is apparent that there are those who deem themselves the guru's and sensei's of a fabricated "wabi sabi movement or school" these individuals or groups are in direct opposition to the spirit of wabi sabi . Let us all remember Koren's wabi sabi universe, under "Moral Precepts" and "focus on the intrinsic and ignore material hierarchy." Thank you to Koren, Tierney, and the Crowley's for bringing the values found in wabi sabi to the west.

A rustic earthiness that is the ultimate in elegant simplicity

The USA is ripe for a new Asian design concept, says James Crowley, whose Wabi Sabi Style shows wabi sabi elements in living rooms, bedrooms and gardens. His second wabi sabi book, written with his wife, Sandra, is scheduled for fall. "Feng shui is passe," he says. "People put the fountain in the wealth corner of their house and still didn't make any money." (USA Today 2003-01-10)

From the Inside Flap
Wabi and sabi are Japanese design elements that raise rusticity to a new level. Lacking the crudeness generally associated with things rustic, they imply an earthiness that is the ultimate in sophistication. They move beyond the glossy, gilded, and gaudy, to a simple organic elegance that emanates tranquility. Wabi Sabi Style reveals the sparseness, the minimalism of a rich palette of organic colors and textures, the manipulation of light and space, and the exquisitely stylized representations of nature in private gardens that embody the essence of Japanese design. Flowing from spring to summer, autumn, and winter, each chapter is steeped in Japanese lore and techniques for incorporating the wabi-sabi philosophy into one's own home. Breathtaking photography brings wabi sabi alive, demonstrating the means for creating it anywhere.

From the Back Cover
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