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Dieter Rams: As Little Design As Possible



Synopsis

"Indifference towards people and the reality in which they live is actually the one and only cardinal sin in design" – Dieter Rams. Dieter Rams's life and work are indelibly linked to his thoughts about how people live, and how they can live better. Products he designed in the 1960s are still being produced and sold today – only one demonstration of the strength of his work. This comprehensive monograph covers both Rams's life and his work, as well as his ideas on good design, which continue to inspire designers and consumers today. A personal foreword by Jonathan Ive evokes the influence that Rams has had on his own work and, by extension, the objects with which so many of us share our everyday lives. An introduction and an essay by Klaus Kemp tell the story of Rams's early life, his training as an architect, and the intellectual context in which his ideas were developed. The next four chapters examine Rams' work and his life – which are more or less synonymous – in depth. This includes his role at Braun as well as the work he did for the furniture company Vitsoe. Each chapter includes sketches, prototypes, finished products and the marketing for those products, giving a complete picture of Rams's work and its context. Two other chapters in this section present Rams's own house, the only work of architecture that he completed, and examine the products he designed at the level of detail, a crucial aspect to his work. A further chapter examines Rams's "ten commandments" of good design and his credo, "less but better", in the context of his role as head of design at Braun, and a final chapter explores his legacy in the work of contemporary designers including Naoto Fukasawa, Jonathan Ive, Sam Hecht, and Konstantin Grcic. This beautifully designed book includes a wide variety of visual material, including sketches and technical drawings, photographs of Rams's work as well as his life, archival material from both Braun and Vitsoe, Ingeborg Rams's subtle photographs and Vitsoe's playful graphic design and advertising. This book will appeal not only to fans of Dieter Rams's work, but to everyone drawn to the message behind his "ten commandments" of good design – which are really ideas about how we can all live better and more sustainable lives."

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Customer Reviews

Apple is the #1 brand in the world. Bigger than Coke, which has held the title since forever. Bigger than IBM, Microsoft, GE, McDonald's, Samsung, Intel and Toyota. \$98.3 billion big. One big reason for Apple's dominance: its design. Steve Jobs was a maniac about the look and feel of his products, and when his design team got it right, he was wild with joy: "You gotta see this in person. This is beyond the doubt, the most precise thing, and one of the most beautiful we've ever made. Glass on the front and back, and steel around the sides. It's like a beautiful old Leica camera." Steve Jobs didn't design Apple products. That was the province of Apple's senior vice president of industrial design, Sir Jonathan Ive. (Yes, Ive, a Brit, has been knighted.) But Jony Ive didn't work alone -- he stood on the shoulders of a giant. The good news is that there is finally a picture-and-text book that chronicles the career of Dieter Rams, the German designer whose work for Braun is clearly the inspiration for Apple's products. If you are an engineer, designer or architect, you want this book. If you need to buy a present for an engineer, designer or architect, expect deep gratitude if you give this book. The rest of you? If you want to meet a genius and survey his work, here's the coffee table book for you. And, okay, this is a book that will make your friends think you are just as smart as you are. Who is Dieter Rams? In 1955, when he was hired at Braun, the 23-year-old Rams sketched a design for the company's office. For the back wall he had drawn a modular, wall-mounted storage system. He thought that might be useful to market. Erwin Braun's response: "Yes. It will help the market for our radios.

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