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The New Bohemians: Cool And Collected Homes



Synopsis

In *The New Bohemians*, LA-based designer Justina Blakeney defines the New Bohemians as creative individuals who are boutique owners and bloggers, entrepreneurs and ex-pats, artists and urban farmers. They embrace free-spirited, no-rules lifestyles and apply that attitude to all areas of their existence, including their homes. With little distinction between work and play, the new boho home often includes an office, art gallery, showroom, photography studio, restaurant, or even a pop-up shop. *The New Bohemians* explores 20 homes located primarily on the East and West coasts. Exclusive interviews with the owners, 12 DIY projects created by Blakeney and inspired by objects found in the homes, and a "Plant-O-Pedia" offer insight into achieving this aesthetic. In addition, each home is accompanied by an Adopt-an-Idea section that offers general decor, styling, and shopping tips for easy duplication in your own home.

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Customer Reviews

My New Bohemians came right n tme. This book is not just for creative singles, couples and families with kids. It's also inspirational for us seniors. With all the kids grown and gone We are downsizing from a wonderful funky old tumble down house to a smaller kinda sterile condo. Next week. The new bohemians came right on time to inspire me (and even spouse) to take "us" with us, to make the place our own with color and plants, textiles and textures...to take the old worn leather sofa whose every stain comes with a story, and to spark the sterile with DIY bling. Even old bohemians

can be reignited by this new bohemians book. Blakeney is a genius, and Dabitos fotos are super inviting. Justina's descriptions are a joy to read, and easy Adopt an idea notions give all of us hope, at every stage of life.

This book takes me back to the 70s...when I was young and decorating my first apartment! It was a time of the "hippie" generation and I recall plenty of color, plants, wicker and casual comfort. I had very limited funds back then and this bohemian style was easy to achieve on a budget. It would still be a great way to decorate without breaking the bank. I have more money to spend on home decor these days, but I still love this look and have mixed it in with more pricey pieces...it really makes my house less serious and more fun for me and everyone that visits. This book is chock full of quirky, fun ideas that will lead open minded people to mix things up a little bit. This look is great if you love flea markets, auctions or estate sales. It also gives the collector plenty of ideas to creatively display their treasures. I can't recommend this book enough...this is one that I will display prominently on my coffee table and refer to often. So glad I purchased this...it was money well spent!

We recently bought a farmhouse in upstate NY so we needed inspiration for decorating it. After some Internet search I purchased about 4 great books on home decor, and this one (The New Bohemians) has become a favorite. Through the book I got to find Justina Blakeney's blog. What I like about the book, which is a reflexion of Justina's personality, is that it has a self-confident and unique voice. This book is not only about houses and how they look, but about the people who live in them. That makes it special because houses are nothing without people. The New Bohemians is some sort of inspiration board for creatives. It's an invitation to be yourself and be fearless when it comes to making of your home an extension of who you truly are. Here is a line from the Introduction that I enjoyed: "It is my strong belief that wealth is not the key to having an amazing home and an incredible lifestyle - the key is inside you; it's your own creativity and being in an environment in which you're allowed to openly express it." I want to add that the book itself is a beautiful object. It feels nice and heavy in your hands (it weights about 3 lb) and it is about 8 3/4 wide, 10 3/4 tall and a little bit over 1 inch thick. The photographs (by Dabito) are gorgeous, as well as the endpaper design (by Monica Ramos). I recommend this book to the free-spirited type or person who appreciates beauty and creative expression. But I also recommended it to the uptight person who's a little bit afraid of expressing her/his own personality. You will feel inspired by the families featured by Justina. Thanks, Justina, for putting together this beautiful book and thanks a lot also to the people who shared their spaces.

Justina Blakeney is a young and energetic designer...a bohemian herself and a part of a collective called the Cultural Creatives. As an older designer, I love to read what the younger people are doing and she doesn't disappoint. Blakeney shows us 20 "Bohemian" homes and divides them into 5 categories: 1. Modern: clean and functional 2. Folksy: art and objects with history/ancestral 3. Romantic: sweet 4. Nomadic: tons of colors and fabrics 5. Maximal: all of the above

The author emphasizes creativity in designing your home. She advocates to feel free to do what feels good to you and have fun doing it. Forget rules...in fact, the point of having the 5 styles of bohemian is to help the reader see what resonates and how creative you can be in your home. What I really liked about the books is that it is more than just (great!) photos...She includes tips, DIY projects, inexpensive ideas to turn one thing into something else. She also focuses on both how the home looks overall and then captures sweet vignettes. This is a book for those who need a little push to feel free in how they decorate, as well as a source of inspiration. As a designer who gets that many readers prefer DIY to hiring someone, I would recommend *Design Sponge* and *Harmonious Environment: Beautify, Detoxify & Energize Your Life, Your Home & Your Planet* as companions to *The New Bohemians*. Great job!

I am not a decorator or a crafty person or one who collects design books. I bought this book because I just moved into a new apartment and I needed inspiration and ideas, and the homes in this book remind me of the kinds of homes I was raised in and around (we own yurts in Oregon--I'll say no more). But an apartment in Queens, NY feels a long way, not just geographically, but aesthetically and spiritually far away, from my warm colorful homeland. Not only did this book inspire me, it made me feel like I could bring the rustic childhood homes that I miss so dearly right into my freshly painted Queens apartment. It has given me permission to do what I was going to do anyway, which is to cultivate my usual eclectic surroundings, but it has also helped me do it in a new and more thoughtful and more passionate way. So far, my apartment is coming along beautifully, and every day, using many of the ideas and aesthetic principles I've found in this book, I am able to make it more and more the kind of space I want to live in. And like other reviewers, I just love to open it again and again, sometimes reading chapters, sometimes just drinking up the gorgeous photographs, always thinking how it was worth every penny. It also makes a fabulous coffee table book, but that's just a bonus benefit on top of all the other great benefits this book has brought into my life!

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