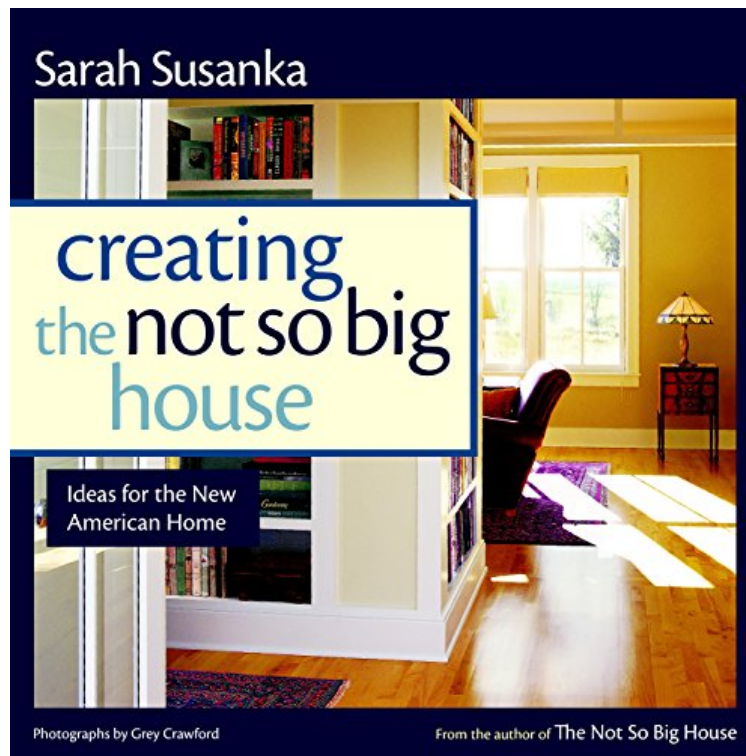


## Creating the Not So Big House: Insights and Ideas for the New American Home (Susanka)

Sarah Susanka

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#96549 in Books Taunton Press 2002-02-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 9.92 x .72 x 9.981, 2.35 #File Name: 1561586056258 pages | File size: 68.Mb

**Sarah Susanka : Creating the Not So Big House: Insights and Ideas for the New American Home (Susanka)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating the Not So Big House: Insights and Ideas for the New American Home (Susanka):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Best small house design guidance currently on the market By L. Stewart I think Susanka produces the best books on creative, aesthetically satisfying, and very livable small house design. Most others seem to approach small house design as if the only goal was frugality. I want frugal and beautiful. She repeats herself some with ideas, explanations and photos across her different books, but personally I find some of that repetition helpful to drill in the key principles - "see, here it is again, another example of why this matters." Her books have contributed the most to planning for my new house. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I should have noted the book's copyright date (2000) Although ... By Kann I should have noted the book's copyright date (2000) Although there is some information here relevant to 2017, the photos are, of course, extremely dated and feature closed in fussy and overly decorated spaces that are really not relatable. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Make Your Space Work By JK Living in a smallish house, with kids, you have to make the most of the space. Before embarking on a big remodel, we poured this book and found many superb ideas for making the most of the space AND keeping the budget inline. We found we could accommodate all of our needs; home office, places for books, toys, a mountain of kitchen equipment, all comfortably in a 1500sq ft house by simply rethinking the space.

The best of all, no one can make the excuse of not having a place to put their things and that helps considerably from keeping the house looking like a cluttered mess. I didn't want a bigger house, it's more house to clean, but wanted better use of the space and this book was immensely helpful in figuring out how to do exactly that.

The Not So Big House created a movement that is changing the way people think about the American home. That groundbreaking book proposed a new blueprint for the American home: a house that values quality over quantity, with an emphasis on comfort and beauty, a high level of detail, and a floor plan designed for today's informal lifestyle. Creating the Not So Big House is the blueprint in action. Focusing on key design strategies such as visual weight, layering, and framed openings, Sarah Susanka takes an up-close look at 25 houses designed according to Not So Big principles. The houses are from all over North America in a rich variety of styles -- from a tiny New York apartment to a southwestern adobe, a traditional Minnesota farmhouse, and a cottage community in the Pacific Northwest. Whether new or remodeled, these one-of-a-kind homes provide all the inspiration you need to create your own Not So Big House.

.com Sarah Susanka has a not-so-insignificant idea in *Creating the Not So Big House*. She contrasts the glamorous, glossy-photo house plans of vaulted ceilings and palatial living rooms with the livable, day-to-day pleasure of cozy window seats and comfortable breakfast nooks, and her conclusion is resonating with families across the country: bigger but shoddier isn't better than smaller and well made. Descriptors like "spacious" and "expansive" fill the real-estate promos, but Susanka seeks the elusive yet affordable qualities that turn a house into a home. And she provides more than mere ideals around which to rally. She selected 25 house designs, from a southwestern adobe to a Minnesota farmhouse to a New York apartment to a Rhode Island summer cottage, and she profiles each home in great and well-illustrated detail. Her ideas for interior as well as exterior views, airy stairways, diagonal views, and framed openings translate well in an array of different houses appropriate to childless couples and large families, as well as hot climes in Texas and cooler regions in Vermont. There are traditional designs to fit in with Massachusetts styling and contemporary designs to adapt to California cliffs, and they range from country spaces to suburban homes to city apartments. Susanka selected house plans that are available for sale, because her purpose is to make affordable quality housing accessible to the general public, but they're also presented as catalysts for your own designs, because the house that worked for one person might inspire the plan that would work best for you. Whether you're in the market for a new house, want pragmatic renovation ideas, or are interested in the concept of space-saving abodes from a city-planning, philosophical perspective, Susanka's book is an eye-opener and a mind-expander, providing conceptual and practical tools to assist you in planning your own livable home. --Stephanie Gold  
From *Library Journal*  
Susanka's very successful *The Not-So-Big House* (LJ 9/15/98) nimbly capitalized on the 1990s small-is-beautiful wave that touted voluntary simplicity, downsizing, and contentment with one's lot in life (especially if that lot includes an average, middle-class house in the suburbs). This follow-up features 25 new and redesigned homes thought to embody "not-so-big" principles such as shelter around activity, double-duty rooms, interior and diagonal views, variety of ceiling heights, importance of personal space, and so on. The book's design allows readers to flip through looking for ideas about trendy house types: Pueblo-style, the old farmhouse, Shaker cottage, shingle-style, Fifties retro. Simple house plans and carefully constructed photos of well-appointed space abound. The writing is unchallenging, nontechnical, sunny, even cozy. Couples and architects are referred to by given names (Barry and Susan, Sally and Gary), and each episode follows a rather numbing, prosaic pattern: unhappiness with present quarters, lifestyle examination, and problem-solving (unfortunately without expenses listed), concluding with "not-so-big" bliss. While the first book is not required prior reading, this is best recommended for libraries where the first book proved popular.  
DRussell T. Clement, Northwestern Univ. Lib., Evanston, IL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From *Booklist*  
Architect Susanka has big ideas about small home design. Her 1998 bestseller, *The Not So Big House*, showcased examples of excellent designs in small houses. Her new book continues to promote well-designed, efficient, interesting modest-size homes. Reacting to the American trend to build "starter castles" on small lots, Susanka proposes that these same homeowners would actually be happier in fully functioning small homes. Her basic philosophy seems to be: 1) recognize that the kitchen is the heart of the modern American home, so don't isolate it behind a wall; 2) do away with the unused formal spaces so often seen in homes; 3) use the money instead for especially useful or beautiful details: built-in furniture, interior columns used to define spaces, interesting lighting, materials, and decorating. To illustrate these principles, Susanka includes 25 delightful examples of houses designed by architects from around the country. Each example features gorgeous photographs and Susanka's simple, readable prose. For small families, confirmed singles, and retirees, this book offers expert ideas on finding or creating the right-size home sweet home. James Klise  
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved