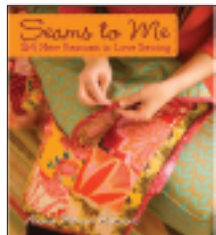


Home
by Witold Rybczynski
PENGUIN

In his examination of home, comfort, and the domestic life, renowned architect and writer Witold Rybczynski explores the cultural attitudes around intimacy and privacy, domesticity, ease, efficiency, and space. *Home* uncovers the key components of a psychologically comfortable home. His case that our ideas about comfort are cultural more than physical is clearly articulated and easy to follow. If there was ever a book to curl up in an armchair (or beach chair) with, this is the one.

—R.M.



Seams to Me
by Anna Maria Horner
WILEY

With three whole chapters devoted to projects to fill the home, *Seams to Me* has plenty to keep you busy. Part One of the book is filled with everything you need to know about sewing, so if you have never threaded a needle before you will still be able to complete these beautiful projects. My favorite projects are the "Basket Case" pillow on page 125 and "Here's the Dish Towel" on p. 162.

—Saraphine



Clear Your Clutter With Feng Shui
by Karen Kingston
BROADWAY BOOKS

Clear Your Clutter With Feng Shui approaches clutter compassionately; instead of shaming messiness, Kingston examines the reasons we accumulate clutter, tying it to an impasse of energy in our lives. While this book is a de-cluttering how-to guide, it also provides a new way to think about clutter, empowering the reader to view their possessions differently. Even I, the messiest person I know, wanted to tidy up my space after reading this book.

—Kate



The Vegetable Gardener's Bible
by Edward C. Smith
STOREY BOOKS

Having finally resolved myself to being a gardener this year, I picked up this book for some beginner's reference. *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible* has not just inspired me to get started, but it has proven again and again to be a valuable reference for all seasons. I refer to it constantly and highly recommend it for beginners and as a quick guide for all green thumbs.

—Jennifer



Junk Beautiful: Outdoor Edition
by Sue Whitney & Kimberly Melamed
TAUNTON

Junk Beautiful makes being a packrat useful because your backyard and deck will be the envy of all your neighbors. Filled with great original design ideas, the book's authors will have you cleaning out your garage and putting it all on the porch. An egg carrier candleholder, a milk crate gardening cart, a poker caddy spice rack...what will they think of next? If I could live in the "Romantic Retreat" on pages 134-141 I would!

—Saraphine



A Pattern Language
Towns, Buildings, Construction
by Christopher Alexander
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

If you've ever had an inkling of interest in design, architecture, or the notion of home, you must read this book. Put out by the Center for Environmental Structure, *A Pattern Language* encourages people to consider what they want to happen in a space and offers ideas on how to design to foster those activities. Author Alexander offers a "working alternative to our present ideas about architecture, building, and planning," and presents a practical language for building and planning based on natural considerations.

—R.M.



Vegan Lunch Box
by Jennifer McCann
DA CAPO PRESS

Whether it is for yourself for the kids, you will be whipping up yummy lunches with ease after reading *Vegan Lunch Box*. I was so excited when this book was republished because McCann's prearranged menus give you a well-balanced meal instead of the boring old salad or veggie sandwich. She has thought of everything from simple apple slices dipped in peanut butter to the more complex tamales or tofu "fish" sticks. She even has recipes for holiday themed lunches.

—Saraphine



It's All Too Much
An Easy Guide to Living a Richer Life with Less Stuff
by Peter Walsh
SIMON & SCHUSTER

Every spring I go on a crusade against the clutter in my life and with the help of this book, I might actually win this time around. It's not just that this book is full of great ideas on how to tackle clutter issues, it's that Walsh exudes a humorous and upbeat attitude that re-frames this household problem into something fun and exciting. Peek inside the cover and see if this method appeals to you.

—Nici