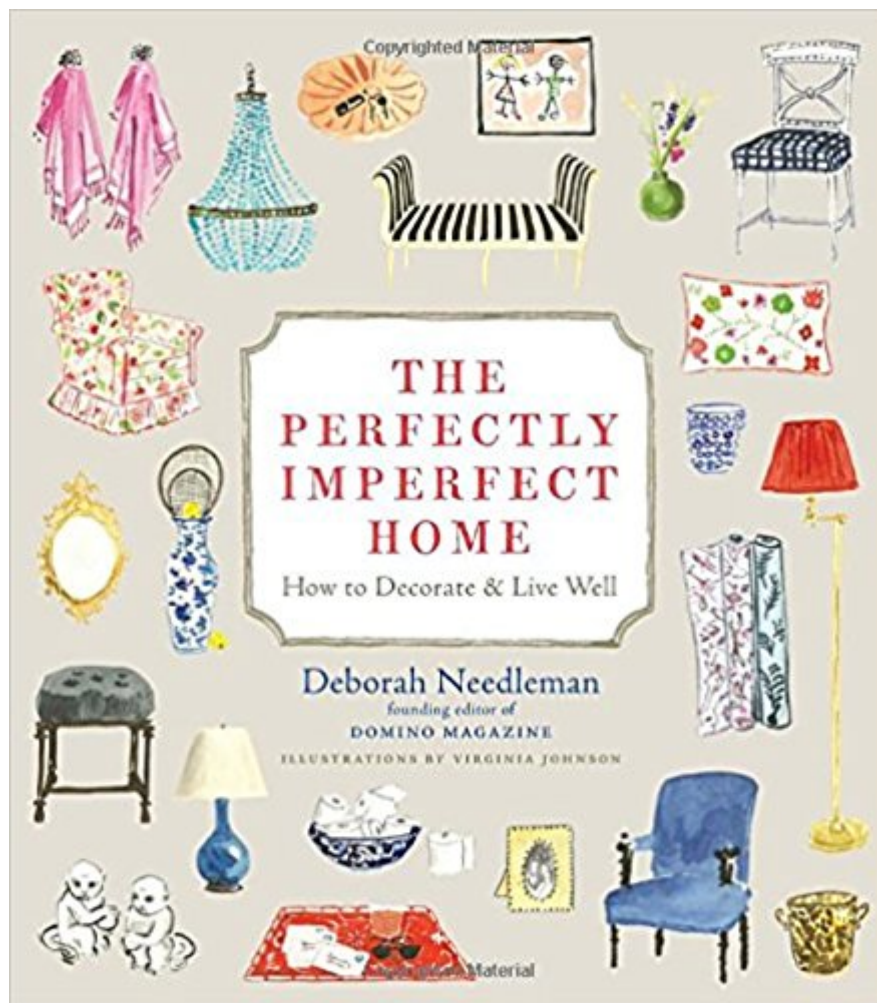


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# The Perfectly Imperfect Home: How To Decorate And Live Well



## Synopsis

Style is a luxury, and luxury is simply what makes you happy. Over the years, founding editor in chief of domino magazine Deborah Needleman has seen all kinds of rooms, with all kinds of furnishings. Her conclusion: It's not hard to create a relaxed, stylish, and comfortable home. Just a few well-considered items can completely change the feel of your space, and *The Perfectly Imperfect Home* reveals them all. Ranging from classics such as "A Really Good Sofa" and "Pretty Table Settings" to unusual surprises like "A Bit of Quirk" and "Cozifications," the essential elements of style are treated in witty and wonderfully useful little essays. You'll learn what to look for, whether you are at a flea market or a fancy boutique or just mining what you already own. A celebrated artist Virginia Johnson's original watercolor illustrations bring the items and the inspiring rooms of world-famous tastemakers to vibrant life. Styling tips and simple how-tos show you techniques to put it all together to create, say, a beautifully made bed (the fast way and the fancy way), an inviting reading nook, or an effortlessly chic display of pictures. According to Deborah, the point of decorating is to create the background for the best life you can have, with all its joys and imperfections. This book will show you how. A Deborah Needleman is the editor in chief of WSJ. Magazine and creator of the Off Duty section of The Wall Street Journal. She was the founding editor in chief of domino magazine and coauthor of domino: the book of decorating. A A A Virginia Johnson's illustrations have appeared in books by Kate Spade and on textiles carried in more than one hundred stores, including Barneys, Liberty of London, and Net-A-Porter. A perfectlyimperfect.com

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## Customer Reviews

Deborah Needleman is a terrific editor--of words, and now, of rooms and living spaces. In her very readable book, *The Perfectly Imperfect Home*, the author offers her advice and expertise on a very important subject--how to make your house your home. She includes succinct advice from the great decorators, sage commentary on what to keep and what to throw away, and valuable rules for what to add to a room to make it exactly right--for you and your family. -Martha Stewart  
I used to think that my taste was so irredeemable and so rooted in some kind of male, post-college, National Football League time warp--I own a green velour couch!--that no one, not even Deborah Needleman, could help me. I was wrong. -Malcolm Gladwell  
Beautiful in a similar way is Deborah Needleman's *PERFECTLY IMPERFECT HOME: HOW TO DECORATE & LIVE WELL* (Clarkson Potter, \$30), with Kalman-like illustrations by Virginia Johnson. Ms. Needleman, the editor in chief of *WSJ Magazine* and the founding editor of *Domino* magazine, has a terrific eye and a dry sense of humor. This is a decorating book for how we live today, and it's for the 99 percent as well as for the swells. Chapter titles include: "Places for Chatting," "Cozifications," "A Bit of Quirk" and "Spots for Books, Drinks, & Feet." This has the feel of a minor classic, and aren't the minor classics so often better than the major ones? -Dwight Garner, *New York Times Holiday Gift Guide*

Deborah Needleman is the editor in chief of *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* and creator of the Off Duty section of *The Wall Street Journal*. She was the founding editor in chief of *domino* magazine and co-author of *domino: the book of decorating*. She grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and attended George Washington University. She now lives in Manhattan with her husband, Slate editor in chief Jacob Weisberg, and their two children. Virginia Johnson was born in Toronto and attended Parsons School of Design before returning to her hometown, where she now lives with her husband and two children. Her illustrations have appeared in books by Kate Spade and on textiles carried in more than 100 stores, including Barneys, Liberty of London, and Net-A-Porter.

Deborah Needleman's excellent advice and observations pair beautifully with the watercolor

illustrations used in lieu of photographs throughout the book. The watercolors convey the ideas she's presenting without holding your imagination hostage to the specific features of a room in a photograph, and each is rendered to demonstrate the exact point Needleman is making in each section. Aside from being helpful, they're beautiful. Deborah Needleman has a strong voice and definite opinions, and you definitely come away with a clear sense of her aesthetic, which I love, but the book is generally applicable to various decorating styles.

Received my copy today and read 70 pages in a flash. I originally bought the book because I love watercolor paintings and decorating books. I am enjoying Needleman's views of making a home lovely yet liveable. I'm happy to know I already do a few of the things in the book! The paintings of professionally decorated rooms provide great inspiration, too. Funny, very informative with attractive pictures. The book itself is attractive too! The [hardcover] book is great quality and would make a really nice gift.

This book is so adorable and cool. Even if you never read a single of its helpful design tips (which I sometimes forget to do as I flip through its beautifully detailed pages) the water color renderings are so amazing! I am an interior design student and they are so inspiring and motivating to work on my watercolor skills. S'cute

Finally got our house done remodel-wise, and I've been redecorating it myself. I'm definitely not a decorator :-). This book gave me a few great ideas, and gave me a nice reassurance for what I was already doing. I liked the illustrations, I find that photographs are too specific and found the drawing gave more of the "feel" of the room which was nice. Overall, I enjoyed the book a lot.

I saw this book on Martha Stewart and was intrigued and I'm so glad I purchased it. I was unable to put the book down. How can a book on design be so captivating? This one is. The watercolor images are lovely and the tips are straightforward without feeling binding. She encourages you to find your own sense of style, while still imparting design 'secrets' on the reader. I found it to be an excellent & entertaining read and would recommend it to anyone! It in no way feels like an advertisement (of style type or brands), unlike other books of this nature.

The watercolor sketches are lovely to look at. However, details/information about the valuable design concepts discussed in the book could be more effectively communicated with photos

showing specific details or drawings/plans. Guess I was expecting a more thorough discussion of these design concepts. Overall, I enjoyed reading it.

Excellent written--I just wish there were pictures instead of drawings. But the info is priceless! Easily accessible and well-put together, this book is a great companion when understanding the minutiae of putting a room together: height of tables, clearance required... that kind of thing which is not glamorous but can inhibit one from enjoying a room to its full potential.

I recently bought this book as a gift for someone who had moved into their first home and was trying to figure out a personal style. I picked up the book and ended up reading the whole thing because it was full of ideas on how to create a comfortable and liveable home. The illustrations are just simple drawings but the text is wonderful. I came away newly inspired to go through my house and make use of some of the things I learned in this book.

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