



Simply Imperfect: Revisiting the Wabi-Sabi House

Robyn Griggs Lawrence

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Wabi-sabi is about appreciating the simple and letting go of the superficial—the perfect antidote for a society in recovery from a decades-long consumerist binge. In 2004 *The Wabi-Sabi House* helped popularize this ancient Japanese philosophy in North America. *Simply Imperfect* is a fully revised and updated edition of *The Wabi-Sabi House* aimed at moving past our belief in life, liberty, and the pursuit of stuff to finding beauty in austerity, serenity, and authenticity.

Far more than home decor, wabi-sabi is a state of mind: living modestly in the moment, stripping away the unnecessary, and finding satisfaction in everyday things. *Simply Imperfect* recounts wabi-sabi's rich history, tracing it from its Zen Buddhist roots through to the present day. This beautifully-illustrated book reveals ways to introduce wabi-sabi into your home such as:

- Clearing clutter and blocking noise
- Integrating salvaged and recycled materials
- Making and growing things yourself (or supporting local artisans who do)
- Taking time and space for self-reflection

Wabi-sabi is everything that today's sleek, plastic, technology-saturated culture isn't. *Simply Imperfect* asks readers to see that mass-produced perfection is seductive but boring. This gentle book is for anyone who is overwhelmed by consumerism or whose focus has shifted from getting more to getting by.

Robyn Griggs Lawrence is editor-in-chief of *Natural Home* magazine and a prolific writer and speaker on topics ranging from green building and ecological design to organic gardening. She has been instrumental in introducing the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi to a Western audience.

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