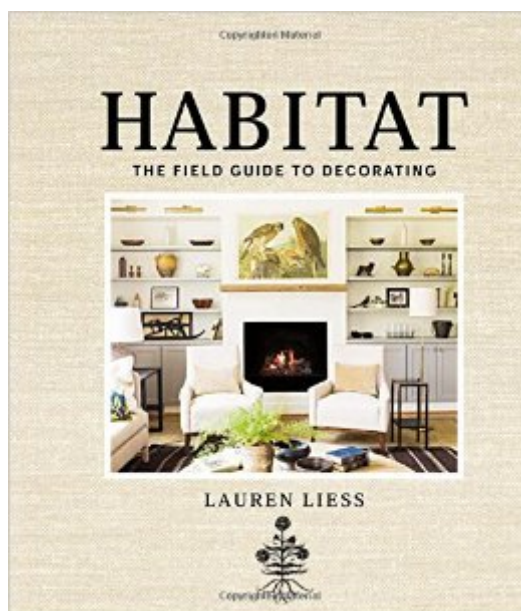


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# Habitat: The Field Guide To Decorating



## Synopsis

Lauren Liess, an interior designer and founder of the popular blog Pure Style Home, fuses her love of design and the great outdoors into all her work. In *Habitat: The Field Guide to Decorating*, her first book, Lauren invites readers to bring nature inside by mixing the textures of natural elements such as wood and stone with eclectic groupings of modern and quirky vintage pieces. Readers will be inspired by the unique style of these rooms, which include lovely framed botanical prints and Liess's own textile patterns inspired by wildflowers and weeds. The book is divided into three sections: Part I focuses on the fundamental elements of design, with each chapter devoted to a particular element, such as color, lighting, and furniture; Part II addresses the intangibles of designing a space, such as aesthetics and creating a mood; and Part III tackles unique room-specific challenges in every part of the house.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is by far my favorite design book and I own a fair share. It is a stunning visual feast. Fans of Lauren's work will not be disappointed, as there are plenty of pictures, including some familiar spaces but mainly new projects. All are perfectly styled and beautifully shot, with the long-awaited dad's lake house and cousin's mountain retreat leading the way. The content is very well organized. It is a practical guide how to create your own unique and amazing space. Lauren has put a lot of thought and effort into explaining how she approaches design process and how each element of design fits into the big picture. She carefully walks you through the process of designing

spaces that work for you and your loved ones, not how to stage perfect rooms that just look good in pictures. All of the spaces she designs are beautiful but are also livable, comfortable and family friendly. This book, just like her blog, demonstrates that she is truly passionate about her work. Even if you are not a fan of her aesthetic, you will find the book to be a great design resource. I read it in one afternoon (it is a great read!) but I will be going back to it as a reference over and over as I begin the process of redesigning my own home. I admire Lauren's talent and applaud her willingness to share knowledge and experience in such depth with the rest of us. She could have simply thrown a bunch of styled photos together and called it a day "as many designers and decorators seem to do these days. Thank you Lauren!

Wonderfully written and beautiful to hold. Reading it was like finding a treasure trove of design secrets and tips. Lauren's down to earth and personal reflections were inspiring as well as practical and helpful. My favorite quote from the book is, "Most people in the world do not have this luxury; many have no homes at all. So enjoy the process, and try not to wish or worry it away."

Lauren's book is thoughtful and fresh, and her advice is timeless. Also, the layout of the book is very pleasing--the photos are scaled perfectly, the photo to text ratio is great. Most of all, setting it apart from many decorating books, the voice comes across as authentic, approachable, and consistent. From start to finish it's delightful.

Generally speaking this is a good book, and the five-star reviews are fair. But is just not for me, and I suspect not for the vast majority of individuals. It seems great for interior designers or those who have lots of money and space to create their dream house. But, like, I'm a renter. What am I doing with a book that says the first step decorating your home might be knocking out a wall? I have tons of student loans. What am I doing with a book that suggests buying a rug that can become an heirloom? Some of the more general advice about topics such as juxtaposition, mood, and luxury (which isn't necessarily expensive, just something special, even if it's just some pretty greenery from outside) were good, but I didn't see much about translating them to a smaller, restricted space on a budget. The whole thing, from the language to the pictures, just feels unattainable to me, so much that I feel silly for owning the book. I have been following the author's blog for years, back when she first moved into her house that had the DaVinci frames in the entryway and when her clients were on a budget, and she did amazing things with those constraints, which is why I thought this book would be good for me. But since she has experienced more success (good for her!) her blog and

advice has gotten less and less relevant to my lifestyle. I should have considered that before buying the book. I'm still a huge fan of Lauren Liess though.

I just finished reading Habitat. I was expecting a good read, because Lauren is so totally her own person on her blog, but this book was even better than I expected. Lauren includes checklists in almost every chapter and basically tells us to "do our own thing" with style. I can easily see how someone without much money could still pull together a room using Lauren's hints, which is exactly why I'm buying two more copies for my two future daughters-in-law for Christmas this year. Our youngest son is closing on his first house this Friday, and I know he and his fiance will love this book.

I have never purchased a book on decorating or design before. Ever. And aside from the odd issue of Real Simple, never even opened a design-oriented magazine. But I read a review about this in the WSJ and was immediately intrigued. This is not something to buy on Kindle - you will want the physical object. I even find myself looking at the pretty pictures before bed. Again - I am a total design neophyte. I've never enjoyed shopping for furniture or other items for the home. But I am really, really glad I came across this book. It has brought me a lot of enjoyment in a short amount of time. I am excited to check out the links to the author's favorite design web sites once I have perused the physical book a few more times.

Lady Liess is an absolute gem. This book is a stunner -- full of great advice for the committed amateur, with super helpful resources and details that really show how Lauren prefers things and achieves a her beautiful aesthetic across every client style and objective. Excellent balance of photos and education. While there is plenty of new-to-readers work showcase (yay!), the "field guide" approach to the nuts and bolts of decorating is no gimmick -- she has put a lot of work into distilling the how-to's of her project organization and aesthetic approach and it really shows. Wonderful personal, conversational tone (as on her excellent blog). You never know if you're getting a ghostwritten photoshoot (some designers just don't want or need to write well), but I am super impressed with Habitat and now even more so with Lauren. Absolutely loving the read and the education.

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