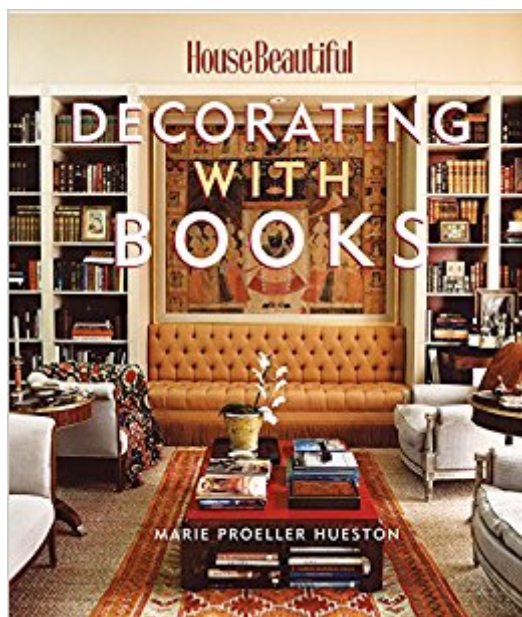


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# Decorating With Books (House Beautiful)



## Synopsis

From House Beautiful comes a worthy addition to any decorator's library--a stylish guide on making books a part of your home décor. Opening the pages of a book can instantly carry you off to another world. But did you realize that, open or closed, books can also make your real world--your home--more fabulous? As legendary designer Billy Baldwin pointed out, they're "the best decoration," capable of bringing incredible warmth, color, and character to a room. From grand bookcases in home libraries to casual stacks artfully arrayed on chairs, House Beautiful presents countless eye-catching ideas for displaying and arranging your hardcovers, paperbacks, encyclopedias, and even valuable first editions. Useful tips shed light on how to organize a large collection; situate bookcases in the room for the best effect; and make the most of books' appealing visual and tactile qualities. From traditional interpretations to contemporary visions--such as putting a book on a pedestal as an objet d'art--these concepts write a new page in design. A Selection of the Homestyle Book Club.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Typically, books are valued for what's written inside them. But as a collection, they also tell us a lot about their owner, which is why Hueston, an author and contributing editor at Country Living magazine, believes they are so effective as decoration. Here, she demonstrates how a display or library of books can enhance the look of almost every room in your home. Using copious

photographs to illustrate her sparse text, she captures the aesthetic appeal of books and how they add color and texture to a space. With a broad sensibility that expands far beyond traditional configurations, Hueston encourages readers to keep books "stacked on an ottoman, piled on the floor, lined up on a bench, or ... draped over a ladder," in addition to keeping books "confined to shelves and tabletops." Judging books by their covers, as it were-as objet d'art, without regard to content-Hueston includes tips for displaying, organizing and caring for book collections of any size, which should give any book owner more than one new way to enjoy their favorite titles. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

For those who adore books and all forms of the printed word, the very idea of decorating with them might seem to akin to sacrilege. Yet, after a few paragraphs, House Beautiful magazine contributor Hueston persuades with a few chosen quotes--like Jorge Luis Borges' "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." The ways in which books can become a vibrant design theme are multiple--stacked on ottomans, piled on floors, lined up on benches, and draped over ladders. Each chapter delves into specific ideas: libraries, throughout the house, as focal points, as architecture, and practical matters like shelving, lighting, and caring for books. And each features a few pages called "a closer look," a few-page pictorial examination of specific design details in a room or two, pointing out, for instance, a London antique armoire-credenza perched on a black plinth. Remember that in the most physical of senses books are three-dimensional objects possessing a variety of colors, sizes, and textures. Barbara Jacobs Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I initially had loaned this book from the library before purchase and it has to be one of my favorite decorating books so I headed to to purchase. I have a large book collection and a small 1200 sf house so finding places to put them has been a chore. This book helped me use the nooks and crannies of my house, plus give me some "bookcases" to look for and I love the idea of putting a library in the bedroom & the dining room if necessary. Not to mention this book actually makes a good coffee table book - perfect size and neutral colors.

Good ideas...but a small condo and lack of wall space makes most of them impractical. Love the photos, though

I loved reading and looking at the pictures in this book! I have a lot of books (and dust-catchers) so

needed some ideas on placement. This book shows many different ideas in many different types of settings....living room/dining room/family room/study. It really gave me the courage to try some different things! Also, I saw some books I just MUST have.D. Jones

This book is kinda unique as it showcases books in all its decorating possibilities. There are enough photos to give the right ideas. Books can really be decorative around the house. If you have enough you might as well give them a second purpose, i. e., to decorate your house tastefully and beautifully.

Have over 4000 books-haven't taken inventory lately- but there's a lot of them in almost every room in the house! Great ideas to store & show off!

Oddly enough, I thought that this book was going to show me how I could turn old books into more useful, but decorative, items.Sadly, I was mistaken but the book does have some good photos of how other people are displaying their books.

For anyone trying to solve the problem of living with books, Ms. Hueston provides no help. She arranges books by size and color, for what she perceives as visual interest. One of her displays even uses trompe de l'oeil wallpaper to create the illusion of a library! Many of the rooms shown are in architects' houses, "seaside" homes and European castles. Most of the results are cluttered: every surface in every room (including surfaces created by stacks of books) is covered with vases, ceramics, sculptures, candles, flowerpots, fringed shawls and what she calls "cherished possessions." In addition, many of the bookshelves are encumbered with framed prints or hangings that hide the books. Unless you share her flamboyant taste (including an inordinate fondness for the color red) and have a budget to match, look elsewhere.

Yes, it's book-porn. This selection features page after page of full-color photographs featuring various home libraries. I didn't think this was quite as satisfying as "The Most Beautiful Libraries in the World" but a lot of the photographs are really quite fetching. Put together by House Beautiful magazine, the book features a lot of "old money" styled homes, with pretty architectural features and a hint of shabby chic. The most unique idea I found in the book was the idea of turning book jackets inside out... so as to create a uniform, white bookshelf. I could totally picture myself doing that. I'm not such a big fan of leaving piles of books artfully arranged about the house, however. (how will I tell them apart from books I'm reading and have simply set down?) As a librarian, and

book lover, I was naturally curious to see what kind of titles were on the shelves... seeing someone's personal book collection can tell you so much about them. Most of the books featured in these photos were home decorator titles, books about art, plenty of biographies and a few non-fiction titles. Aged, leather-bound gilt volumes were heavily in use as well. The kind of books that typically get used by home-stagers and the like. In other words, non-readers who want a lot of books around the house in order to appear smart. This was a very pretty book, but not terribly memorable.

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