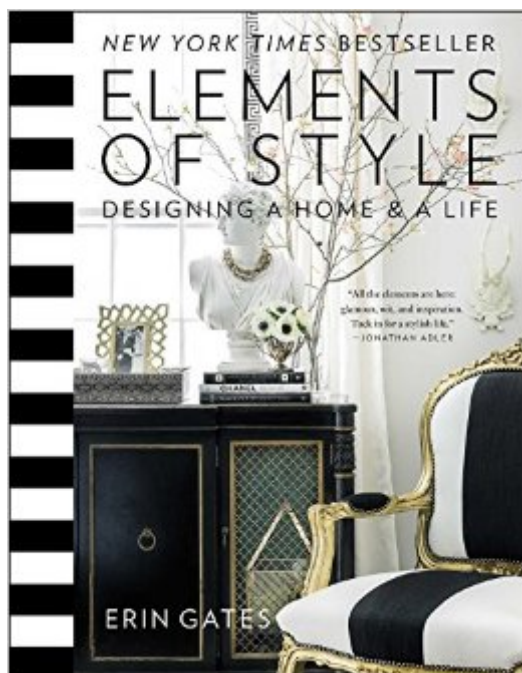


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# Elements Of Style: Designing A Home & A Life



## Synopsis

From the rising-star designer and author of the hit blog, *Elements of Style*, a full-color, fully illustrated book packed with honest advice, inspiration, ideas, and lessons learned about designing a home that reflects your personality and style. *Elements of Style* is a uniquely personal and practical decorating guide that shows how designing a home can be an outlet of personal expression and an exercise in self-discovery. Drawing on her ten years of experience in the interior design industry, Erin combines honest design advice and gorgeous professional photographs and illustrations with personal essays about the lessons she has learned while designing her own home and her own life—the first being: none of our homes or lives is perfect. Like a funny best friend, she reveals the disasters she confronted in her own kitchen renovation, her struggles with anorexia, her epic fight with her husband over a Lucite table, and her secrets for starting a successful blog. Organized by rooms in the house, *Elements of Style* invites readers into Erin's own home as well as homes she has designed for clients. Fresh, modern, and colorful, it is brimming with glamour and style as well as advice on practical matters from choosing kitchen counter materials to dressing a bed with pillows, picking a sofa, and decorating a nursery without cartoon characters. You'll also find a charming foreword by Erin's husband, Andrew, and an extensive Resource and Shopping Guide that provides an indispensable roadmap for anyone embarking on their first serious home decorating adventure. With Erin's help, you can finally make your house your home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"All the elements are here: glamour, wit, and inspiration. Tuck in for a stylish life." (Jonathan Adler)"Erin Gates's incredible eye for beauty is matched only by her funny, raw, and honest voice. I am such a fan of this gifted woman and this gorgeous book." (J. Courtney Sullivan, author of *The Engagements and Maine*)"Erin's book is a breath of fresh air, just like her witty, engaging, and informative blog. And unlike most decorating books, I actually read this one!" (Holly Becker, author of *Decor8*)"The thing I've always loved about Erin's blog is how well she balances the personal and professional while making it fun and informational. She has translated that seamlessly into this book, where you get a sense of not only who she is but also expert design advice. And her cheetah print stairs had me at hello... followed by a quick "damn gurl!" (Emily Henderson, HGTV host)"Of course I loved seeing the hints of David Hicks in her beautiful design work, but what struck me the most was the undecoratorly way this book is written. Hugely refreshing. Erin is a joy both in print and in person." (India Hicks)"Filled with her trademark no-holds-barred prose, charming anecdotes, and practical advice." (Houston Chronicle)"Style is subjective, but the elements of style are pretty universal. Few people know this better than blogger-turned-interior designer and author Erin Gates. She wrote the book on it--literally." (Huffington Post Home)"[Gates] has a knack for combining practical advice [...] with humorous reflection on mistakes and lessons learned over the course of her 10-year career as an interior designer." (BookPage)"Her advice is glamorous yet practical and often served up with humor." (Washington Post)"Its pages are full of gorgeous photographs and funny personal essays about renovation disasters and marital spats over what table to choose. Warning: You may be roped into rearranging the furniture." (RealSimple.com)"Jam-packed with loads of fab photos as well as practical advice, lessons learned, and insight from Gates's own home renovation, as well as her work with her other design clients. (HGTV blog)"Flip through the pages of interior designer Erin Gates's fun and informative new book..., and you'll feel like you're stepping into her new house." (Metro US)

Erin T. Gates is a Boston-based interior designer, blogger, and curator of all things stylish. She began her blog, *Elements of Style*, in 2007 and formed her own design company, *Erin Gates Design*, shortly thereafter. Her work and writing have been featured in publications, such as *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *House Beautiful*, *Boston Magazine*, *Inside Weddings*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*. She is married to Andrew Gates and is mom to her two furry kids, Baxter and Oliver. They live in Boston. Visit Erin at [ElementsofStyleBlog.com](http://ElementsofStyleBlog.com).

Honestly, the best part of the book is the cover. As a regular blog reader, I was really looking

forward to getting a glimpse into Erin's client work. While her projects are certainly pretty and suitable to my taste, I am unimpressed at the diversity throughout her portfolio. Let me spare you the purchase if you're on the fence and tell you what a project consists of: Greek Key trim on curtain panels, roman shades with an accent band, a sunburst mirror, Amanda Talley artwork, X-benches in the foyer, Hermes/Prada labels, staged Hunter boots, the repeated Target gold frame, gray gray gray, Bengal Bazaar, Jiri Ikat, and a sputnik chandelier for the win. The redundancy is apparent. Would I love my house to incorporate all of those things? Sure - and I do, and I love them. I'm not saying she has bad taste. The book simply exhibits a lower level of design innovation, and I do not consider this to be even close in the ranks of other published designers. I want to be inspired by unexpected design applications when I read a design book. I don't want to recognize every trendy product, or read something that I, an amateur, would already think to do myself.

From the endearing preface to her bare-all childhood photo, this is not a book about how to put on airs, live beyond your means, or pretend to be someone you're not. The author's voice is genuine, self-deprecating, and cost conscious. I found the photo captions and illustrations helpful, and think that her work--both for clients and in her own home--speaks for itself. Amid her striking design ideas and countless tips on how to make a house a home, it's clear that she knows what she's talking about and has her priorities straight. Her honesty, openness, and ability to make me laugh prompted me to write this review. I downloaded the book *Elements of Style: Designing a Home & a Life* via Kindle and couldn't stop reading it, or giggling. Highly recommend!

Just finished this book and it was AMAZING. I also guessed about three pages in that Erin Gates went to Miss Porters! Boarding school pride...Anyways, excellent book that goes through each room in the house and gives examples, images and helpful tips for homeowners, renters and future home owners. Lovely read.

Read this book cover to cover and the author has wonderful things to say. She is filled with inspiration. I buy a lot of these kinds of books and this is one of the best!

Hands down great book full of beautiful inspiring photos and details. It is an easy enjoyable read that you can relate to as well as great tips to use in your own home.

I used to read this author's blog. She has shown her true colors as of late, and I've quit reading her

blog and unfollowed her on social media. As other reviewers pointed out, this book reads like an autobiography of the author's own home renovation, with a couple of photos from her other projects thrown in. Save your money; you can read about her own home renovation on her blog for free. The other photos look like they were taken on a phone - unimpressive quality. Maybe I'm accustomed to other design books, which all seem to have much higher photograph quality than this book. As to the content, it's all the same - a console table with matching lamps and two x-benches, greek key trim on everything, etc. Nothing new here. As to the author's writing, she's very opinionated and many of her blog posts are off-putting (complaining about having it all whilst having a book deal and a nanny on staff), and she and her husband write extremely rude comments to those who disagree with anything she says (as other reviewers here have pointed out.) It's very bizarre and dramatic. I read the book and got a few ideas but it's in my donation box. Not one to keep as a "forever" book.

Serves its purpose as a coffee table book.

WONDERFUL!

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