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Mary Emmerling's Smart Decorating: Inexpensive Projects For Every Room Of The House



Synopsis

Decorating with style and creativity -- no matter what challenges real life may bring -- is a Mary Emmerling trademark. In her last book, Mary Emmerling's Quick Decorating, she proved that beautiful rooms could be put together in hours and even minutes; now she brings the same ingenuity and panache to decorating on a budget in Mary Emmerling's Smart Decorating. The secret of her system for avoiding expense is keeping the big-ticket furnishings simple, focusing instead on the movable feasts of accessories and flowers, pictures and fabrics. It is a strategy that works every time. Hundreds of full-color photographs present ideas from which any home decorator can draw inspiration or improvise. Chapters are organized by price, from "Pennies" (using produce and fresh flowers placed in interesting "found" containers, for example) to "Dollars" (such as covering books with a uniform paper to create an instant library) to "Bigger Bucks" (a vintage tablecloth artfully hung as a contemporary window treatment). In addition to ideas for every room of the house, Mary offers strategies for shopping smart, salvaging old pieces, incorporating objects from nature into a decorating scheme, and creating new uses for everyday objects, as well as a directory to her favorite home stores and antiques shops. Throughout, Mary's inimitable approach makes decorating itself fresh and fun. Perfect for the beginner and seasoned decorator alike, Mary Emmerling's Smart Decorating is an invaluable resource for finding great style without great expense.

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Customer Reviews

Decorating with style and creativity -- no matter what challenges real life may bring -- is a Mary Emmerling trademark. In her last book, Mary Emmerling's Quick Decorating, she proved that beautiful rooms could be put together in hours and even minutes; now she brings the same ingenuity and panache to decorating on a budget in Mary Emmerling's Smart Decorating. The secret of her system for avoiding expense is keeping the big-ticket furnishings simple, focusing instead on the movable feasts of accessories and flowers, pictures and fabrics. It is a strategy that works every time. Hundreds of full-color photographs present ideas from which any home decorator can draw inspiration or improvise. Chapters are organized by price, from "Pennies" (using produce and fresh flowers placed in interesting "found" containers, for example) to "Dollars" (such as covering books with a uniform paper to create an instant library) to "Bigger Bucks" (a vintage tablecloth artfully hung as a contemporary window treatment). In addition to ideas for every room of the house, Mary offers strategies for shopping smart, salvaging old pieces, incorporating objects from nature into a decorating scheme, and creating new uses for everyday objects, as well as a directory to her favorite home stores and antiques shops. Throughout, Mary's inimitable approach makes decorating itself fresh and fun. Perfect for the beginner and seasoned decorator alike, Mary Emmerling's Smart Decorating is an invaluable resource for finding great style without great expense.

One of the best known names in American decorating, Mary Emmerling is the author of seventeen books, including Mary Emmerling's American Country Cottages, Mary Emmerling's American Country Details, and Mary Emmerling's Quick Decorating. She is creative director of Country Home magazine, and host of the Country At Home television show on HGTV. She lives in Des Moines, Iowa; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Phoenix, Arizona.

Love Mary Emmerling and recommend almost anything she writes. All have lots of photos and show the kind of furnishings one can live with in comfort, I believe--not fussy or prissy. To me, there is an almost timeless quality with regard to the furnishings. Updating would probably be done with accessories and colors, etc. .

I could not believe the book I received is the same one I read about in the editorial and customer review. Both failed to mention that this book is for those who like rustic, primitive decorating with broken items, peeling and/or chipped paint, rusty metal, twigs and branches, torn wallpaper etc. You really should mention this in your review. I don't know anyone who decorates like this except maybe

at their cabin in the mountains or cabin at the bay. Please do not compare her to Martha Stewart - this book has copied some of her ideas and quite poorly at that. This should be called junk shop decorating or flea market decorating so that those of us who think we are getting a book about decorating smartly with new things or fixed up items are not fooled. I sure hope I don't have to decorate like this just because I don't have much to spend on decorating. I would not even give it one star. This book goes back by return mail.

I FOUND THIS TO BE ONE OF THE BEST DECORATING BOOKS AROUND. I DO NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY BUT WITH THE IDEAS IN THIS BOOK YOU DON'T NEED A LOT OF MONEY - JUST TASTE AND SOME CREATIVE THINKING. IF YOU ARE A YUPPY WITH NO INDIVIDUALITY AND YOU WANT A HOUSE THAT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE'S THEN SKIP THIS ONE. IF YOU WANT A CREATIVE, UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL HOME AND ARE WILLING TO INVEST SOME TIME IN DECORATING THEN BUY THIS. AND YES THERE IS A SHABBY CHIC AIR TO SOME OF THIS, HOWEVER I THINK IT IS QUITE LOVELY AND VERY TASTEFUL. ONE OF THE BEST DECORATING BOOKS I'VE SEEN. IF YOU'RE A FREE THINKER AND LIKE TO MAKE YOUR OWN THINGS THEN IGNORE SOME OF THOSE REVIEWS. EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR STYLE THIS IS AN EXCELLENT BOOK.

... they make for lousy decorating. I like Mary Emmerling, and enjoyed her "American Country Cottages" book a lot. It was beautifully photographed, with lots of images of comfortable, lovely, livable rooms. But this book is all rusty wires and birds' nests and peeling lead paint, like a house decorated by the witch from "The Blair Witch Project." I recommend Mary Randolph Carter's "American Junk" for a truly charming book about decorating on the cheap.

One simple word sums up this book: Yuck!

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