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The Paris Apartment



Synopsis

The Paris Apartment is a popular shop in New York's East Village, where visitors can step back in time and immerse themselves in the beauty and romance of antique furnishings. Reflecting an unusual mix of design influences (Baroque, rococo, neoclassical and Art Deco) and personal taste, its style is luxurious, playful, and wholly original. In *The Paris Apartment*, Claudia Strasser, the founder and owner of the shop, offers readers the quintessential guide to achieving this romantic Parisian look without having to spend a fortune. With easy-to-follow instructions and helpful advice, she shows readers how they can transform their homes into a living environment that reflects both their personal style and timeless French elegance. Laid out in the form of an entertaining diary, the book helps Francophiles define their fantasy home, find inspiration, select a color palette and use light creatively. She also includes instructions for making canopies and valances; advice on dyeing fabrics and restyling furniture; tips on budgeting; guidance on shopping at flea markets and auctions; and a glossary of terms. Color photographs throughout illustrate the ideas and techniques shown in the book. As interest in the home experiences a resurgence, and as Americans become more careful about their spending, nesting has become the pastime of the '90s. People want luxury homes without spending a fortune. With its unbeatable combination of style and solid practicality, *The Paris Apartment* is a home-decorating guide to treasure and draw inspiration from for many years to come.

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 edition (February 28, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060391693

ISBN-13: 978-0060391690

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 7.6 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (82 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The Paris Apartment is the perfect book for the (perhaps slightly artsy) person who loves the myriad luxurious looks of days gone by. The book is not for the complete beginner, as Claudia Strasser definitely seems to direct her book to those who already know that they prefer a slightly cluttered luxuriousness to a stark modernity. (Although I believe that those who prefer the latter can learn a lot from her techniques.) The book is also not for the insecure, as Strasser does not sit down and load the reader with facts, dimensions, rules and schemes. Instead, her book is a friendly inspiration to those who already have an inkling for what they like and simply need a few helpful ideas and few suggested techniques to get them started. Strasser fills her book with lovely inspirational and historical quotes and illustrations, but perhaps the most helpful things about it are the informational boxes in which she gives the reader helpful tips on how to achieve many of the looks within: tints and washes, dying fabrics, wall stencils, drapes & valances, duvet covers, reupholstering, rinceau, furniture refinishing, flea market savvy, restoring a chandelier, etc. These boxes, for me, truly make this book "Romantic Decor on a Flea Market Budget," as they show the reader how to *make* many of the items in the book. Books that feature flea-market finds usually only take their readers halfway, as once the readers are at the flea-market it lies upon to fate for the perfect objects to cross their paths. *The Paris Apartment,* however, demonstrates to its readers techniques that allow them to take control of at least some parts of their decorative destiny.

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