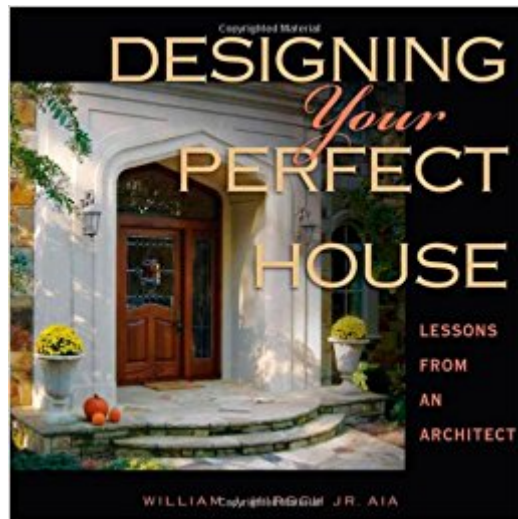




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Designing Your Perfect House



Synopsis

Designing Your Perfect House: Lessons from an Architect is the ideal guidebook for navigating the often mystifying process of house design and building. It's full of sage advice from a master architect about how to design the perfect house for you. Presented in twelve understandable lessons, this book moves from wonderful concepts to a finished dream home. Beginning with an exploration of the philosophy of design, the grammar of architecture, the creation of space, and discussions of how to make spaces be appropriate and gratifying for the people living in them, the lessons explore issues of scale, daylight, how to make a house feel like a home, unifying a design, flow, and proportions. This book answers questions like: How do I get started? How do I select a building site? What kind of house can I afford with my budget? How do I make my dream house just right for me? Other topics include: site analysis and selection, programming, schematic design, style, room relationships, budget, working with professionals, methods of contracting, and more. Numerous color photos and drawings illustrate the book's major points

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is such a good book! I've seen many while trying to create homes for prospects, but not one as detailed and user-friendly as "Designing Your Perfect House". Hirsch certainly is providing a guide for creating a house that becomes a home." Irene Watson, Readreviews.com" Color photos and drawings profusely illustrate Hirsch's major points. "Designing Your Perfect House: Lessons from an Architect" is not just another "How to" or "do it yourself" manual. It is an informed

and informative guide through the whole process of taking your concepts and dreams and making them into a lovable, livable, home." " Recommended for anyone wishing to design their dream home." Â Midwest Book Review, Â Oregon, WI" We have been building custom homes for over thirty years, and this is the first time we have seen the design process so thoroughly explained and easily understood for prospective home owners (as well as builders). Bill Hirsch's liberal use of illustrations, check lists and photographs aid in refining the reader's ideas and organizing the design process." Â July Malloy, Brightleaf Development Co, LLC" The decision to build a new home can be daunting for an amateur. Â Architect Hirsch takes one through the process from idea to completion. Â Drawing many examples from his own practice, he explains the process and philosophy of residential design as seen from a professional's view and discusses what to consider when creating one's dream home. Recommended" Â Library Journal

As an architect, my job is not to impose a vision of what a house should be, instead, the architect is there to realize the client's unique vision. Â The consumer needs an advocate in the creative and building process, and the architect's role is to advocate the customer's desires and balance those with the realities of time, money, and energy. I hope that when you read this book, it will help you with the complex issues involved with residential design and construction. Â If you are remodeling, or just have an interest in home design, I expect that you will be able to find things of interest as well. Â Please let me know what you think!

Well written and punctuated with inspiring photos. Must read for anyone who is thinking of making a custom home. The author touches on a wide variety of topics and covers them completely while still making the book an interesting read. I found a lot of useful ideas for our home and have been able to make suggestions for my brother's home that is currently being built. I highly recommend this book!

A lot of good insights for design consideration and still reading the book. This book still leans toward hiring an architect and doesn't quite complete the do it yourself formula. I would have liked to have seen more on the building plan, space design, and spec side or at least some samples of what goes into the plans but the book would have been even more. It's already pretty wordy...found myself falling asleep frequently in the evening. Still an interesting read with excellent points on the subject if you pick it up before dinner time.

The author walks the reader through the process of designing a new home with an in-depth consideration of all aspects of design. The book includes lovely photographs with commentary of what helped the process and/or what was missing. The author talks about what to look out for with a contractor and how they determine square footage (you'd be surprised). The book includes many checklists for kitchens, aging fundamentals to include in your design, and many others. It has been immensely useful.

As a first time builder this was a great resource to know what to look for (even if you are not using an architect)

Real estate agents frequently describe their clients' houses as "custom," but in most cases, the original buyers' input was limited to selecting paint colors and floor coverings. These production houses work well enough for most buyers. But if you want to own a truly custom-built house, the house that each of us envisions in our mind's eye, *Designing Your Perfect House* will help you achieve your goal. Author and architect Bill Hirsch describes the custom-building process in 12 "lessons." The issues discussed in these lessons range from the theoretical (e.g., Golden Mean aspect of design) to the extremely practical (e.g., site selection; hiring the architect and builder; deciding the location of the various rooms; working with a budget). Though this book is written for people building new houses, many of these lessons apply to the process of remodeling an existing house. For example, the book contains a simple, practical solution for the old problem with Jack and Jill bathrooms. The custom-building process is not for the faint of heart. But if you really want to acquire a house that was built for you rather than the masses, buy this book.

What a great book this is! It is no doubt the best book on architecture and building a house I have read! The information is very useful, my eyes have been opened to many things otherwise in a black box; it gives much more grip on the intangibles of good design, a good distribution of the house and so on, and so on. I have read the book 3 times now, and will keep using it as a guideline hopefully for many years to come. I build commercial mid level homes. Thank you very much William Hirsch and contributors for sharing this valuable information and experience with architects, builders and anyone interested in the subject! In three weeks I learned what otherwise would have taken me decades of experience in the field...!

Lots of useful information.

The author goes very into depth on a house and how important it is to make that house fit you and your needs. Not a picture book of ideas in a house but a good layout of things to consider when designing your house.

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