



In a Spiritual Style: The Home as Sanctuary

Laura Cerwinske

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As more and more people seek meaning in new forms of spiritual practice or renew their commitments to traditional religions, they are creating homes that reflect and enhance the spiritual component of their daily lives. This book provides an inspiring testament to the influence of spiritual practice on contemporary design. Here are Buddhist meditation rooms, personal shrines to Catholic saints, and altars to Santeria deities and the Virgin of Guadeloupe. Here are exquisitely decorated Sabbath tables as well as tables whose settings reflect the procession of the seasons. Here are private temples to creativity, memorials to beloved friends and family members, and offerings to Hindu gods. And here are shrines and sanctuaries enriched with the symbolism of many religions past and present. Imbued with personal content, all of these rooms offer comfort, accommodate ritual activity, and embrace the elements of nature. From collections of masks and icons to meditation gardens, from Chanukah Menorahs to Haitian drapos, the spiritual impulse in design draws from the world's religions and the history of art. Chapters on the "Evolution of Sacred Design" and "The Meaning of Sanctuary" provide a foundation for understanding the content of the home sanctuary. Chapters on "Rooms and Shrines," "Altars," and "Art and Artifacts" illustrate specific interpretations and applications. Whether abundantly decorated or austerely refined, the rooms pictured here lift up and enrich the soul. They are filled with meditative light, exalted imagery, soothing color, and symbolic meaning. 120 color photographs and illustrations.



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