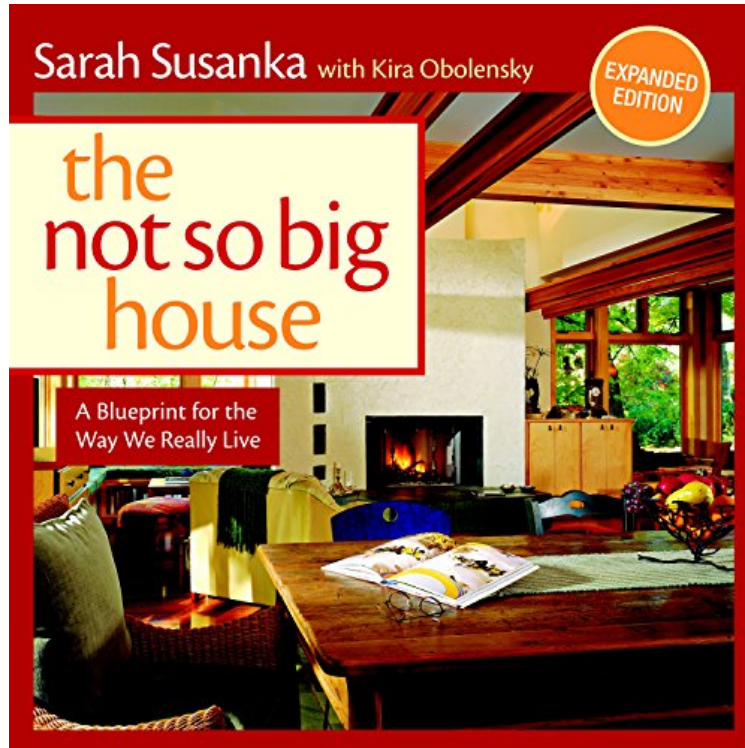


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The Not So Big House: A Blueprint for the Way We Really Live

Sarah Susanka, Kira Obolensky

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Sarah Susanka, Kira Obolensky : The Not So Big House: A Blueprint for the Way We Really Live before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Not So Big House: A Blueprint for the Way We Really Live:

130 of 132 people found the following review helpful. Good but uneven: first book 4.5 stars; second one 3 starsBy Henry Perkins[This review of the 2-book collection is a shorter summary of my two longer reviews of each book. For more detail, look at each book review separately. The collection is a good buy, at only about 1/3 more than the "Not So Big House" book alone.]"The Not So Big House" is an excellent book on efficient use ofspace and attention to detail to achieve comfort from a house design. The graphics, layout, and text are all uniformly excellent. The book only disappoints at the end, where Susanka throws together too-brief treatments on solar design, environmental concerns, and ways you might save money on your "Not So Big House". You'll notice a pronounced emphasis on Craftsman-type design in the houses depicted -- lots of natural, exposed wood. There are lots of very useful ideas (including double-duty spaces, built-in storage near the point of use, an "away room", and acoustical privacy) that most architectural books present poorly or not at all."Creating the Not So Big House" is a good book, but in comparison to the first book it's rather a let-down. In the first book most photos were much larger and clearer; in this book some are too small to be very useful. Also, Susanka is not a professional writer, and could have used help here like she got from Kira Obolensky in "The Not So Big House". More architectural styles are represented in this book than in the original, but there aren't many new architectural ideas if you've read the first book (although spatial

layering, and themes and variations are both new and useful concepts from this book). Summary: This is a pretty good collection at a decent price. The first book is clearly superior to the second; however, the collection price makes it a reasonable bargain. Get this if you're planning a new house design AND you can afford more attention to detail than standard builder options allow. You'll end up with a personalized, comfortable, Not So Big house with a Not So Small pricetag. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not So Big House Review By avid reader The principles described in the Not So Big House Collection are very useful to anybody considering having a new home built or remodeled. The method of analyzing the rooms for utility and size are simple, easy to apply and provide at the end a well thought out list of what the design needs and what is not needed. Its too expensive to build a house with space in it that is not needed, yet many people do that. I eliminated about 25% of the square footage I thought I needed by using this book collection. This would even be useful for persons looking at purchasing existing homes. It teaches how to look at a house and figure out if the space is useful and comfortable. 16 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Not so boring By Bryan V This is not your typical suburb home plan book and that's why I love it. The new homes of today are all rated on size not quality of space usage. This book gives you some great ideas for open space living without giving up your needed space. I don't agree with some of the other reviewers that think the homes are boring or too open or too contemporary. This book does not show ultra contemporary, cold, white homes. Rather open spaces with the warmth of wood and practical use of space. I live in an even more contemporary home than those shown in the book (some may call it cold) but I love my open space. A bunch of little rooms adding up to a ton of square footage is not what I consider the best option. When friends see my open floor plan they marvel over the size of my home, but in seconds ask that typical question, "How many square feet is it?", and are shocked to find that it's much smaller than it feels. I think this is a perfectly timed book as many of us are thinking of sizing down rather than up. Who has time to vacuum a 2400 square foot home anyway.

Ten years ago, Sarah Susanka started a revolution in home design with a deceptively simple message: quality should always come before quantity. Now, the book that celebrated that bold declaration is back in this special 10th anniversary edition featuring a new introduction and 16 additional pages that explore three new homes. Nearly a quarter-million people bought this ground-breaking book when it was published in Fall 1998. Since then, the book's simple message that quality should come before quantity has started a movement in home design. Homeowners now know to expect more. And the people responsible for building our homes have also gotten the message. Architects and builders around the country report clients showing up with dog-eared copies of *The Not So Big House*, pages marked to a favorite section. Why are we drawn more to smaller, more personal spaces than to larger, more expansive ones? Why do we spend more time in the kitchen than we do in the formal dining room? *The Not So Big House* proposes clear, workable guidelines for creating homes that serve both our spiritual needs and our material requirements, whether for a couple with no children, a family, empty nesters, or one person alone. In 1999, Sarah Susanka was then architect and principal with Mulfinger, Susanka, Mahady Partners, the firm selected to design the 1999 Life Dream House brought Frank Lloyd Wright's same common-sense, human-scale design principles to our generation. Consider which rooms in your house you use and enjoy most, and you have a sense of the essential principles of *The Not So Big House*. Whether you seek comfort and calm or activity and energy at home, *The Not So Big House* offers a place for every mood.

About the Author Sarah Susanka is one of the leading residential architects in the United States. Her first book, "*The Not So Big House*," topped best-seller charts in Home Garden categories in its first year of publication. Susanka has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Charlie Rose Show, and NPR's Diane Rehm Show. She is a former principal and founding partner of Mulfinger, Susanka, Mahady Partners, Inc., the firm chosen by LIFE magazine to design its 1999 Dream House.