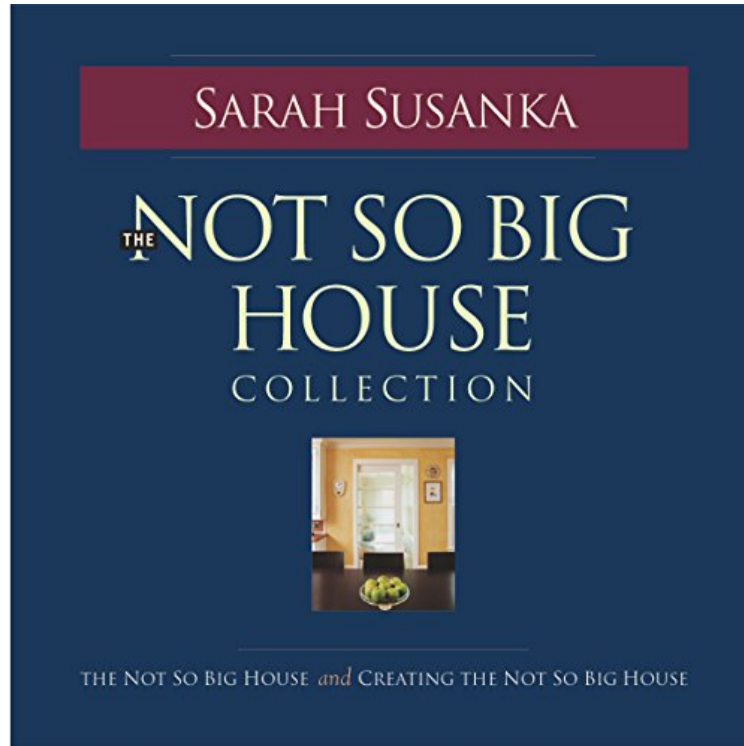


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The Not So Big House Collection

Sarah Susanka

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Sarah Susanka : The Not So Big House Collection before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Not So Big House Collection:

130 of 132 people found the following review helpful. Good but uneven: first book 4.5 stars; second one 3 stars
By 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 of space 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 ReviewBy avid readerThe 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 boringBy Bryan VThis 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.

Available for the first time, Sarah Susanka's best-selling books in one handsome slipcase set.-- Great gift package-- Offers all of Sarah Susanka's trendsetting architectural ideas in one set

About the AuthorKira Obolensky has written for print, film, and stage. She co-authored Sarah Susanka's national bestseller, "The Not So Big House. Kira's book, "Garage, was published in 2001. She has received a number of writing awards and fellowships, including the Kesselring Prize and a Guggenheim fellowship. She lives in Minneapolis.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.Crawford is a photographer whose work has appeared in every major national and international architecture magazine as well as in several books on architecture and design.