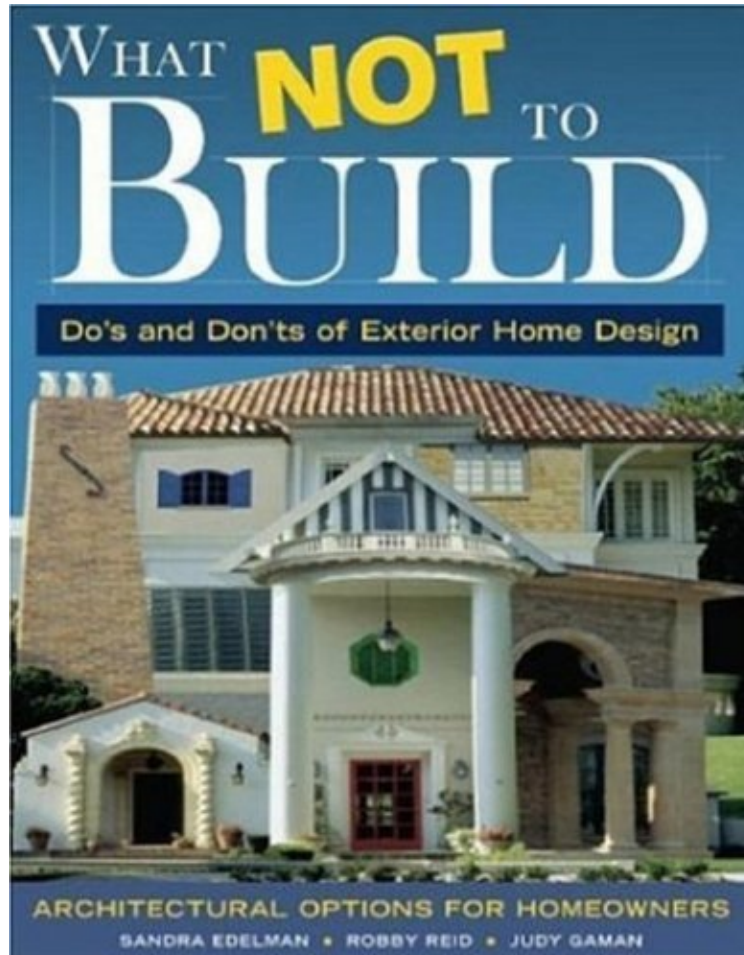


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What Not To Build: Do's and Don'ts of Exterior Home Design

Sandra Edelman, Judith Kay Gaman, Robby Reid
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Sandra Edelman, Judith Kay Gaman, Robby Reid : What Not To Build: Do's and Don'ts of Exterior Home Design before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Not To Build: Do's and Don'ts of Exterior Home Design:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Its an opinion book that is useful, but not perfect By Michael P. Long It's not a bad book, and it does have some interesting ideas and covers some very obvious mistakes people make. But on the other hand, much of what it says is just opinion with no real facts to back up the claims. And I've seen homes that go against some of this advice that look perfectly fine. Also the before and after pictures often contain multiple changes that aren't covered, and I'm never quite sure what these pictures are...they appear to be computer rendered and not real life examples. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My husband and I got a good laugh from this book By Suru My husband and I got a good laugh from this book. I think the author took a picture of a house and then photo-shopped the pic to show what not to do because some of the houses were pretty crazy.

Regardless, this book DID have a lot of good tips and information. It was interesting to have a concrete explanation as to why something doesn't look right. I'm glad I bought it. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Good, but geared for the South and EastBy criswThere is a lot of good information here. However, please be aware that the houses in this book are unlike those you will find on most of the West Coast, so if you are building there you will need to do a lot of extrapolation. Almost all of the homes featured in this book are brick, and the vast majority are styles rarely seen on the West Coast. There are a couple of Victorians and Craftsman bungalows, but no houses with cedar siding, very little Mission-style architecture, etc. Also, there is very little here geared to making a small house look better; most of these houses are gigantic, and the vast majority are two-story.

The story is all too common in today's housing market: the basic principles of scale, proportion, balance, rhythm, and consistent architectural styles are often misapplied in new residential construction. Walk around almost any new development, and you'll find dormers that are bigger than the front door; windows that are out of scale; too few or too many columns; and more. *What Not to Build: Do's and Don'ts of Exterior Home Design* shows these problems and more to the reader. Focusing on the exteriors of houses, the authors--who are architects and designers--have identified a number of "problem" designs. Through photographs and illustrations, they show how the problems can be solved by applying easy-to-understand design principles. Anyone reading the book will be able to avoid the problems when designing their own house or fix problems that appear in the house they're already living in.

From Publishers WeeklyIn a clever play on the popularity of the television show *What Not to Wear*, the authors (two designers and an architect) have created a sourcebook to help home builders, designers and buyers learn and apply the principles of good design. After all, the authors point out, "Simply visit most neighborhoods especially those built within the last 20 years and you will recognize that many houses need help." Loads of large full-color photos make that point in sections devoted to everything from porches to landscaping. Discussions of proportion, balance, scale and the like are accompanied by before-and-after shots that will help readers train themselves to recognize good (or bad) design. References to da Vinci and Pythagoras add historical heft, and "Architect's Notebook" and "Design 101" lessons illuminate the thought process behind recommended changes. The authors point out the misuse of shutters in neighborhoods nationwide (from incorrect shape to inappropriate size) and suggest how to elegantly remedy these unsightly mistakes. While most of the houses the book covers are large, smaller ones do show up. Regardless of size, the book includes clear, helpful photos to back the authors' arguments. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Winner of ForeWord Magazine's Bronze Book of the Year Award.