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Swedish Country Interiors

[Image of Swedish Country Interiors book cover]

Rhonda Eleish & Edie Van Breems

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As featured in Country Living! Showcases fifteen beautiful homes that highlight the stylish interpretations of Swedish country style—rustic, rural, urban, comfortable, family friendly, elegant, simple, complex, grand, humble, and eclectic. Also found are numerous examples of Swedish country living that the homeowners have embraced and derived inspiration from, including wall decorations, functional furnishings, natural upholstery materials, light, and indoor-outdoor living.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had to return this book, was expecting a more authentic book I could use for inspiration on Scandinavian interiors. It seemed to be more for staging or showcase for antiques. I particularly did not like the Sweden meets Florida chapter come on—an alligator coffee table? Gave me the heebie jeebies or Sweden meets the American West chapter. Cover pic is misleading.

With a slightly misleading title, SWEDISH COUNTRY INTERIORS, is a look at fourteen houses and one shop in the United States attractively furnished using some Swedish antiques, mostly from the Roccoco and Gustavian Periods. So there are no true Swedish interiors in the strict sense in the book, but a few of the houses have architectural detailing inspired by Swedish models. Among the subjects are a new house designed by the architectural firm of Robert A.M. Stern in Seaside,
FL, a rubble stone Craftsman bungalow in Atlanta, GA, a New England style house in Dallas remodeled by architect Frank Ryburn, and co-author Edie’s own home in Connecticut. Each property is given its own chapter with color photos and some text by Rhonda Eleish and Edie van Breems who own Scandinavian Design Center in charming Washington Depot, CT. Rhonda’s husband L. Langdon Ergmann and partner Jon E. Monson were the photographers. Noted interior designer David Anthony Easton provided an Introduction and there is a limited Resource Guide. Also there is a short list of Interior Designers, so brief that it does not even include the afore-mentioned Mr. Easton! Veranda magazine editor Lisa Newsom, whose son and daughter-in-law’s home appears in the book, wrote the Forward. This is an attractive coffee table book, with some interiors that might be inspirational, but do not expect more than just an approximation of the all-out charm of genuine folk Swedish interiors.

I bought this thinking it would be Swedish Country Interiors and instead it was American homes with Swedish interiors. Very disappointing.

Great pictures, but just a classic decor book. Nothing really superbly outstanding and no recommendations on how to achieve the look. It’s fairly easy to write a book describing everything when you have access to the photos.

This book is an excellent source of information on how to create the Swedish style in your own home. It guides you through beautiful photos, furniture style history, and colour history. This book is fun to glance through as well as easy and fun to read. Another reason I love this book is that it also refers to architectural styles common in Sweden. The rooms vary from formal to casual which is very useful.

This book is a real stunner. Rather than focusing on interiors in Sweden, it reveals the Swedish country style adapted to a variety of American interiors. The photography is first rate as is the text, and the book reveals numerous ways that Swedish decor translates beautifully in other contexts. It makes a great addition to the collection of the designer or homeowner.

Compiled with commentary by Swedish interior design experts Rhonda Eleish and Edie Van Breems, the fifteen American country dwellings showcased in "Swedish Country Interiors" large country estates to small cottages. Showcasing a variety of interiors, each of whom are superbly
photographed, "Swedish Country Interiors" is an ideal resource for ideas and inspirations. Of special note is a converted Connecticut antique paper factory, and a beach house in Laguna Beach, California, each of which has been crafted into an ideal Swedish country retreat. All this and more make "Swedish Country Interiors" a 192-page compendium of commentary and images that is especially recommended for academic and community library Interior Design reference collections in general, and the supplemental reading lists for non-specialist general readers seeking interior design ideas in particular.

After struggling over how to decorate our recent historic home purchase, in Swedish Country Interiors I found the perfect marriage between rustic and formal. I just love my purchase.

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