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Northwest Style: Interior Design And Architecture In The Pacific Northwest



Synopsis

With its lush forests, rugged coast, and long rainy season, the Pacific Coast has spawned a style that is informal, organic, and above all eclectic. Northwest Style captures the spirit and diversity of this region's architecture, landscape, and lifestyle by presenting a collection of beautiful and distinctive homes in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Here, an overlapping of elements and architectural styles is common: A house designed as a tribute to nature makes use of an open floor plan and native materials; both significant elements of early regional Modernism; the decor of a chic urban loft reveals nuances of Japanese design. While the styles vary, a sensitivity to the environment and a desire to accentuate the natural beauty of the region lie at the heart of almost every design. Gorgeous color photographs show these dwellings in their natural settings and highlight architectural and decorative details. Full of inspiring ideas for architects, designers, and home decorators everywhere, Northwest Style is a defining volume on the seminal style of this spectacular region.

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Customer Reviews

As the Pacific Northwest becomes ever more popular, a book like Anne Wall Frank's Northwest Style seems perfectly timed to highlight the eclectic interior and exterior styles that exemplify the region. Along with stunning photographs by Michael Mathers, the prose conveys the casual "style without a style" nature of the many beautiful homes featured. Northwest Style takes a look at better than three dozen homes that range from a city apartment in downtown Seattle to a houseboat on

the Willamette River in Oregon, as well as a couple of patrician homes that command some of the most amazing views of the waters and mountains of the Northwest. It's evident that one of the trademarks of this style is the influence of many cultures, as is the natural look of exposed wooden beams, high windows to let in the seldom-seen sunlight, and a profusion of artifacts from the region's fishing and logging heritage. There is a conscious effort in many of the homes pictured to define a portion of the West, be it Asian influences, the frontier sensibilities of bow saws and mounted bucks gazing down from above the fireplace, or the persistent architectural use of wood, as in the thoroughly appointed log cabin overlooking Hood Canal. At times, some of these techniques result in a home that is more museum than living space, but all are striking and do a good deal to show just how much independent spirit is still alive in the Northwest. Northwest Style is less about any one definitive Northwest image than it is a sampling of the spectacular cultural and environmental influences of the Pacific Northwest. This, along with the extensive list of galleries, antique shops, and decorating stores in the book's appendix, provides a elegant look at the many possibilities open to those who call the Northwest home. --Kris Law

Ann Wall Frank is a Portland, Oregon, freelance writer whose articles on architecture, homes, and style have appeared in numerous publications. Michael Mathers is a freelance architectural photographer based in Portland, Oregon.

Good description and examples of how the Northwest styles evolved. It's a little dated now, but serves as a good reference for me with respect to maintaining our condo buildings' style intent.

Great book arrived fast good inspiration

Didn't have a enough subject homes.

Readers of shelter magazines will be familiar with the format of these 30 stories about modest, custom homes in the Pacific Northwest and the laid-back lifestyle they afford their owners. The book begins with a poetic description of coastal life recognizable to residents from Northern California to Southern Alaska, but the author's obvious focus is on Portland, Oregon. Almost two-thirds of the houses in the book are in or near Portland. Her description of the development of a regional architectural style in the mid-20th Century is illustrated with "early modern classics by five masters," all of them from Portland, as are all seven of the named second generation architects. Seattle's

Thiry, Kirk, and Terry "helped to adapt the International style to the Northwest," but none of their projects are presented. The collaboration of contemporaries in the Bay Area and Vancouver, BC, in creating the famed modernist style of the Northwest is unmentioned. So the focus here is narrow, despite the broad, region-embracing title. Similarly curious is that only half of the homes presented could be construed as even tangentially expressive of the modernism usually associated with the term 'Northwest Regionalism' and suggested by the cover photo and first chapter. Noteworthy among these are houses by George Suyama, James Cutler, and Patkau Architects (the only Canadian entry), and these are spectacular. Instead the emphasis is on eclecticism with Arts & Crafts, Cape Cod, Japanese, Art Moderne, Post Modern, and even lodge styles all present. The common threads are purportedly the use of natural materials and proximity to nature, but even these themes are frequently undercut, especially in the chapter on urban loft living. A 'Northwest style' not centered on modernism fails to cohere.

I liked the book and it was excellent in the areas covered, but it missed the largest part of the US PNW geographic area - the high deserts and dry land conifer forests East of the Cascades in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. As one born and raised in the Northwest, I would really like someone to write a book that acknowledged and showed the styles of architecture and interior design found in places like Pendleton and White Swan. Most of the PNW is not wet and cloudy, but drier with a harsh and stark beauty that can clearly be seen on the old highway between Ellensburg and Yakima, or cruising between Bend and Madras. Or in the forested places near La Grande and in Northern Idaho. There is the Horse Heaven and Pend Orielle country as well, which have their own forms of architecture that pay tribute to a beautiful and fascinating, and not always kind country. I wish for a book on PNW style that covers more than the narrow coastal strips and Willamette Valley.

Who knew the Pacific Northwest had such an eclectic range of home styles, from Japanese influenced designs to rustic log cabins, to stunning urban lofts. This book is written in an accessible (versus snobby) style, warmed by humor and with an irreverent eye to the iconoclastic bent of the nation's current power center. Beautiful photographs and "real" homeowners--not royalty or billionaires.

It is obvious Ann Wall Frank loves homes. Her beautifully written text is like poetry, and the photography is stunning. It is a must have for anyone who cherishes making a house a home. The

humor, warmth, and intelligence of Ann Frank's writing style sets this book apart from others of its kind. We in the northwest are proud of our style, and Northwest Style captures who we are perfectly. Encore!

This book presents a variety of Northwest homes that defines the lifestyle and architecture of this unique region. Each home is beautifully photographed highlighting the unique architecture and decor. How each home relates to the natural beauty of the region is explored. Ms. Frank narrative personalizes the homes. This a good read. Don't just look at the pictures.

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