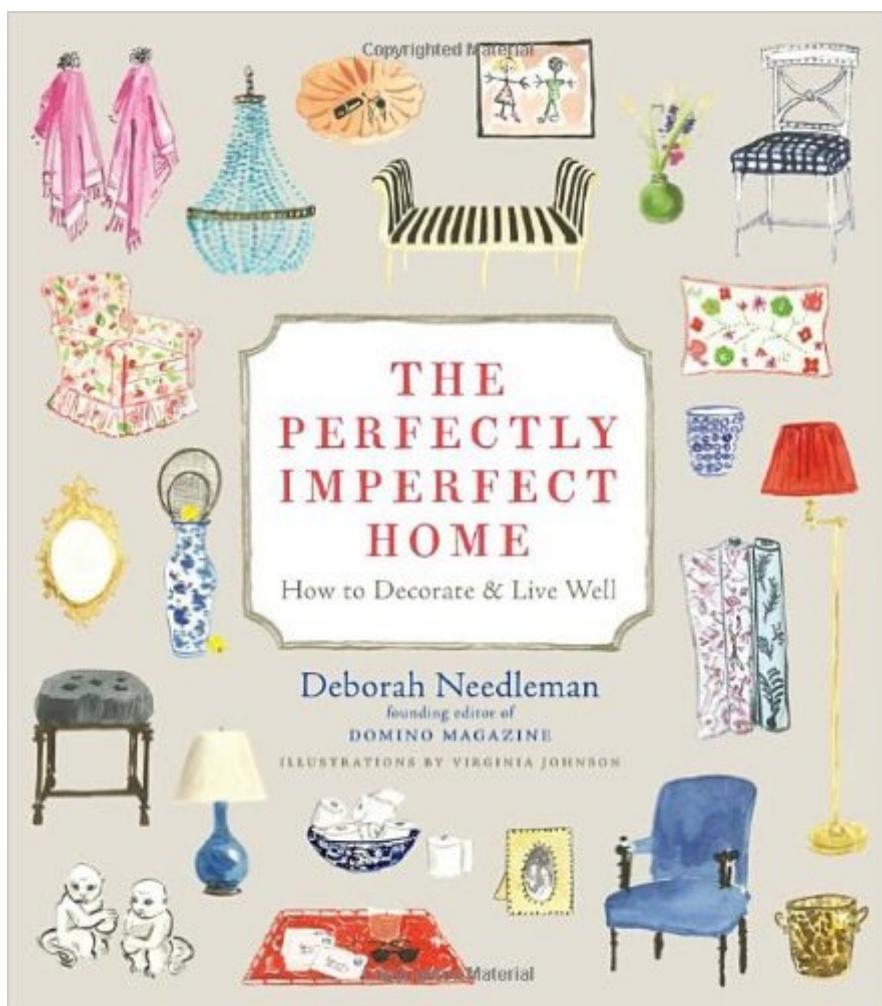


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# The Perfectly Imperfect Home: How To Decorate And Live Well



## Synopsis

Style is a luxury, and luxury is simply what makes you happy. Over the years, founding editor in chief of domino magazine Deborah Needleman has seen all kinds of rooms, with all kinds of furnishings. Her conclusion: It's not hard to create a relaxed, stylish, and comfortable home. Just a few well-considered items can completely change the feel of your space, and *The Perfectly Imperfect Home* reveals them all. Ranging from classics such as "A Really Good Sofa" • and "Pretty Table Settings" • to unusual surprises like "A Bit of Quirk" • and "Cozifications," • the essential elements of style are treated in witty and wonderfully useful little essays. You'll learn what to look for, whether you are at a flea market or a fancy boutique "or just mining what you already own." Celebrated artist Virginia Johnson's original watercolor illustrations bring the items and the inspiring rooms of world-famous tastemakers to vibrant life. Styling tips and simple how-tos show you techniques to put it all together to create, say, a beautifully made bed (the fast way and the fancy way), an inviting reading nook, or an effortlessly chic display of pictures. According to Deborah, the point of decorating is to create the background for the best life you can have, with all its joys and imperfections. This book will show you how. Deborah Needleman is the editor in chief of WSJ. Magazine and creator of the Off Duty section of The Wall Street Journal. She was the founding editor in chief of domino magazine and coauthor of *domino: the book of decorating*. Virginia Johnson's illustrations have appeared in books by Kate Spade and on textiles carried in more than one hundred stores, including Barneys, Liberty of London, and Net-A-Porter. [perfectlyimperfect.com](http://perfectlyimperfect.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Perfectly Imperfect Home: How to Decorate and Live Well by Deborah Needleman is a terrific resource for home decorators. Needleman writes that the point of decorating is to "create the background for the best life you can live." As a designer myself, I fully agree with this sentiment. This book is the opposite of what a staged home would be like...(staging is when one creates a home to appeal to all and depersonalizes it.) According to Needleman, one does not decorate simply to have a home look good...one decorates to feel comfortable, to fit ones lifestyle--functionality, and to feel good in. "Decorating improves ones life!" She claims. The reader is asked to decide what you want your home to do--what functions should it serve? Next, how does your home make you feel? With this information, you are guided in furniture and styling to make your home work best for you. The goal is to make your home personal and comfortable and highly functional. she writes: "Luxury is simply what makes you happy." The remainder of the book is divided into sections with many tips on how to make a functional, personal and comfortable home. Within each of the following chapters, these are discussed: \* Lighting \* The entry way \* Areas for conversation \* "A bit of quirk"--personalizing your space to reflect you \* "Spots for books, drinks, and feet" \* "Cozifications" \* Bedroom \* Bathroom \* "Glamifications"--wallpaper, objects \* "Dinners with friends"--making entertaining special with pretty objects and functional with a well stocked pantry \* Personal stuff \* Smells--adding flowers, scented things \* History--adding antiques, crafts Altogether, I highly recommend this book.

From the title, I was expecting this book to be a refreshing look at the obsession with perfection that so many of us have toward our homes, and a reminder that no, we don't have to be perfect all the time, and neither do our living spaces. Maybe with some awareness that not everyone has the time or money to make their homes look fantastic, and some basic advice for making things look good without spending all your time and energy on decorating. Sadly, it seems to be filled with just as much this-is-what-you-MUST-do advice as other home decorating books. A few pages in, I was already overwhelmed with rules and extremely specific "advice" I know I'll never be able to afford to follow. I should be symmetrical, but not TOO symmetrical. I should fill my home with beautiful things, but also add "a bit of ugly." I need Egyptian cotton sheets that were made in Italy, and if I'm unlucky enough not to have my own "in-house laundress," I can "treat" myself to getting them professionally

washed and ironed. Ironed! Life is far too short to waste time ironing sheets. It's pretty obvious that this, like so many other decorating books, is written for people with much more money than I will probably ever have. Did you know that ottomans are "a personal matter between me and my upholsterer"? I can't even imagine saying the words "my upholsterer" with no sense of irony. I suppose the words "founding editor of Domino magazine" on the cover should have tipped me off. The watercolor illustrations by Virginia Johnson are gorgeous, and I like that they're drawn and painted rather than photographed. It makes this book unique, and also lets your imagination fill in the details rather than thinking "okay, I have to have THIS chair and THIS wallpaper," etc.

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