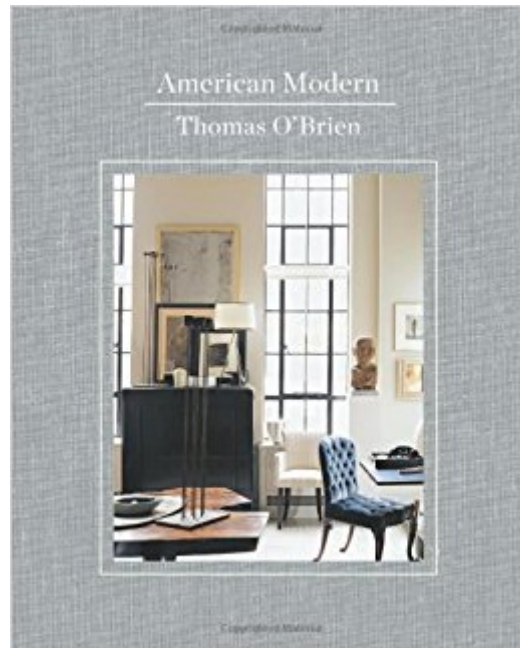




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American Modern



Synopsis

Designer and merchant, collector and tastemaker, Thomas O'Brien has made a career of translating cool notions of modernism into an easy and generous array of modern styles that anyone can attain. Now he introduces readers to a range of those styles—from casual to formal, vintage to urban—alongside stunning photography and charming design stories. O'Brien carefully describes the design process of his chosen projects, including a downtown New York City loft, a traditional Connecticut estate, and a converted schoolhouse in eastern Long Island. Each home explores a view on the modern design spectrum he has created, as well as the individual choices that make the design unique and its mix essentially American. He explains not only what was at work to create a given style, but how readers can import those practices to their own homes and personal design sensibilities. Important design principles such as architectural authenticity, color relationships, correctness of scale, and informed collecting are threaded through a practical narrative that reads like a master class in interior design. American Modern is an inspiring design volume that will redefine the way readers think about modern interiors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not exactly 100% what I expected, (I was thinking more of 'modernism') ... but am not disappointed. Thomas O'Brien's work is virtually indistinguishable from Vicente Wolf's. If you like very clean interiors that still have character, and if you like lots of white rooms with dark accents, reserved use

of color, selective use of antiques, etc..... then this is for you. O'Brien's 'modern' is really a super-cleaned up, pared down interpretation of a traditional sensibility. Cover photo is typical. I would buy this if it were twice the price... (but it also happens so suit my taste.) If you love lots of color and pattern, then give it a miss. Have not read much of text, so can't comment on that.

Most design books I breeze through rather quickly, looking for at least one or two great ideas and perhaps a smattering of some 'ok' ideas. Most design books offer a fairly non-practical take of that designer's point of view. Bedside table too low, too high, too far away, no clock. You know how it is, if you read as many design books as I do, pretty pictures but not very practical. It took me a MONTH to complete this book. It became my nightly-before-bedtime-much-looked-forward-to ritual. I devoured it, soaked up every word, every picture, every detail of every picture. Thomas O'Brien offers whole-house pictures and commentary on his and his client's renovations, not just one room but the WHOLE-HOUSE!! LOVE that! But, while B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L, the homes contain personal collections that are DEFINITELY NOT cookie-cutter. The homes reflect the designer AND the owner. I LOVE how he collected items for YEARS in the hopes of one day having a place, the right place, to showcase them all. THAT is determination! His storage costs must have been ginormous! I've not had the luxury or determination to keep all the things I've loved and collected over the years - just no room. I live in a plain (read:boring), modest, post-WWII, two-bedroom apartment that has spilled out into a California-open-to-the-sky courtyard and carport storage boxes. Plus, frankly, and thankfully, my tastes have changed drastically over the years. I grew into good taste in furnishings. I remember the day when I swore, NO MORE IKEA!! Thomas had the foresight to KNOW what would work well years later when he furnished his dream home and dream apartment with his collections. His stuff is timeless. How can stuff you collected 20 years ago still be considered 'modern'? Simply put, the man has impeccable taste, albeit practical. It's real living, not just pretty pictures. This is the kind of design book I will READ again and again. Thomas is gifted and thankfully has shared his gift with the world.

i have watched thomas o'brien in decorator magazines for many, many years. i love his sense of design and style. i especially love his use of old things, from fine antiques to junk, mixed in with more modern elements. we own mostly old things, and am trying to figure out how to mix in some contemporary stuff so my house doesn't look like grandma's place. this book has a full continuum of traditional to modern rooms that are inspiring me to make my house more interesting. wonderful book--thank you to everyone involved!

This book is not only lovely to look at, but full of valuable and interesting design information. It is loaded with great photos of traditional, modern and vintage modern rooms and explanations of each. A fun book for either browsing or for serious study.

After checking this book out of the public library multiple times, I decided it might be time to purchase it. I love this book. I have looked at it many, many times and I have yet to grow bored with it. It will be in my collection for a long, long time.

Thomas O'brien is simply "The Best" the man got an amazing eye. I love the way he mixes decorative objects, and frames together. the different finishes, and the materials he uses; Wouaw!!!! I'm looking forward to the next book. I see that he has a store called: Aero, I have to find where it's, please buy this book, you will be glad you did.

Thomas O'Brien's work is eclectic and fresh. This book shows complete and detailed examples of his interior for himself and a few clients. Lots to details to study and steal for your own interior.

Approachable design. Thomas O'Brien has the ability to create interiors that are highly personal and extremely livable. His rooms look effortless. He is a master with accessories and truly pulls off some amazing combinations.

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