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The Art of Living

The Art of Living by Claudia Steinberg (The Monacelli Press, November, 2009)

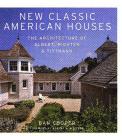
Art does not exist just to be looked at—it exists to be experienced. *The Art of Living*, by Claudia Steinberg, with over 200 lavish images by

photographer Barbel Miebach, proves just that.

The dwellings of 25 art-world luminaries are featured in this stunning volume, each home demonstrating how art can be seamlessly integrated into the design of unique spaces reflective of the owners' personalities. The book is a visual treat, serving as inspiration rather than a "how-to" guide. It also offers a fascinating peek into the lives of some of the world's most well-known artists, gallerists, collectors, designers and others, such as Ellsworth Kelly, Catherine Malandrino and Vivienne Tam. *The Art of Living* is an examination of how they use their homes as canvasses, ultimate expressions of their own creativity and appreciation of art in general.

This is the book's greatest takeaway: even if we cannot emulate the fantastic spaces featured within, we can realize that living passionately and surrounding ourselves with spaces and objects that inspire us can have breathtaking results, both aesthetically and emotionally.

Reviewed by Jamie Thompson



New Classic American Houses: The Architecture of Albert, Righter & Tittmann by Dan Cooper (The Vendome Press, October, 2009)

New Classic American Houses, written by design expert Dan Cooper, features

the work of Albert, Righter and Tittmann, an architectural firm whose name is as synonymous with Boston as Faneuil Hall. The book changes the very idea of classic homes. With every turn of the page, it becomes more evident that Albert, Righter and Tittmann have reinvented New England design as we know it.

Readers embarking on a renovation or new build will appreciate the book's structure. Its chapters are organized by living space, beginning with a chapter on exteriors, and proceeding through the homes' interiors, starting with entrance halls, moving into living areas, and eventually ending with spacious kitchens and cozy libraries.

The homes featured in the compilation span all of New England. A journey through the book is akin to a Sunday afternoon drive, during which viewing the homes photographed in lush color throughout its 223 pages conjures up the smell of fresh cut grass and the fragrance of meadows. Reading *New Classic American Houses*, which depicts the firm's whimsical and often playful reinvention of New England, is a welcome journey.

Reviewed by Sabrina Velandry