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Axel Vervoordt: Wabi Inspirations



Synopsis

Interior design guru Axel Vervoordt shares his latest inspirations for the home. Axel Vervoordt's intense curiosity has fueled his work as an interior designer, spurring him to explore and draw inspiration from cultures around the globe. He was first exposed to Eastern art and philosophy years ago, but today it has become the guiding principle in his work, particularly the concept of Wabi. Developed in the twelfth century, Wabi advocates simplicity and humility, the rejection of all that is superfluous or artificial. Through extraordinary photographs from Japan and Korea to Belgium and Switzerland, Vervoordt invites us to explore the elements that inspire him: natural materials and time-worn objects that evoke the essence of Wabi. Today, together with the Japanese architect Tatsuro Miki, Vervoordt carries the principles of Wabi into his remarkable interiors. As Vervoordt reveals how he infuses his current creations with a fundamentally oriental approach, interiors devotees will gain new insight from this tribute to the designer's latest sources of inspiration for the home.

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Customer Reviews

"Legendary Belgium antiquarian and art collector Axel Vervoordt's interiors represent some of the most coveted rooms from layered and luxurious to monastic and minimal, reflecting the influence he derived from the Buddhist principle of "contradiction." In Wabi Inspirations (Flammarion) Vervoordt, a student of Zen, gives his personal take on an ascetic developed in the twelfth century that advocates simplicity, authenticity, and imperfection. Vervoordt,

working with Japanese architect Tatsuro Miki, uses natural materials to maximum effect as brilliantly seen in 350 dazzling color illustrations." ~VANDM.com

Axel Vervoordt is an antiques and art dealer in Belgium. His work is internationally renowned, and he regularly organizes exhibitions at fairs, museums, and art and antique biennials. Flammarion published Axel Vervoordt: Timeless Interiors in 2007. Michael Paul, a New Zealand native based in London, is a lifestyle photographer and writer. Tatsuro Miki is a Japanese architect based in Brussels. Laziz Hamani's photographs have been featured in solo exhibitions and have been published in numerous books including Dior, Antiquaires: The Finest Antique Dealers in Paris, and Axel Vervoordt: The Story of a Style.

If you're a fan of Japanese aesthetic, you must keep this book nearby. Vervoordt is a brilliant designer who writes as well as he creates visual compositions.

It's a really inspirational book and is a must have for worshippers of Axel Vervoordt. The concept, layout and texts are perfect. I gave 4 stars for this book only for one reason - publishers didn't consider the quality of paper - all the photos on this paper lose most of details and look too dark. It's really upsetting because in minimalistic interiors each of details and textures of materials are important.

This is a great book. It visually explains the beauty of imperfection, textures and the qualities that time imparts. It is not making reference to the cost or origin, just a feeling. The raw beauty. The spare sense of space. The elimination of competitive elements so each one becomes important. There is a mood a feeling that is conveyed that makes us more sensitive to things we see.

This elegant book is based on the Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi, the appreciation of beauty in the imperfect, the ordinary, the well used. The low light, misty photographs echo another book on the same subject, In Praise of Shadows, making it necessary to dark adapt to sense details, well worth the meditative time it takes to absorb one soft view at a time. Purchased from

Highly recommended for both the images and text. The images are inspiring and the text is a delight to read - unusual these days to find a book in this format to have any text, let alone text worth reading. This is not just another picture book of rooms and no details. The objects and art collected

and assembled by Axel Vervoordt are all identified at the back; the author, writer and photographer were in harmony with the concept. And it shows.

The photos grab you initially. It has a quiet presence; however, the book is more in praise of Vervoordt than a work on wabi. About halfway through, I found it rather repetitive and drab. The expense the author and his clients go to in creating dwellings to mimic the rural poor of Japan is really rather depressing and selfish. Moving an entire barn from Japan to the Netherlands? The environmental cost alone is staggering. Only the obscenely rich can afford to be that "poor". They are more Marie Antoinette playing at being "simple" than people who embrace the true concept of wabi

The book and its story of presentations just does NOT shine as it should. VERY disappointing. The cover and its artwork throughout the book takes you away but for the most part, leaves you wanting so much more.

Love the whole quiet attitude ;the spaces have a beautiful reserve! I wanted to know more detail about the shown art but the spiritual design made up for that criticism. Just a wonderful visual trip!

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