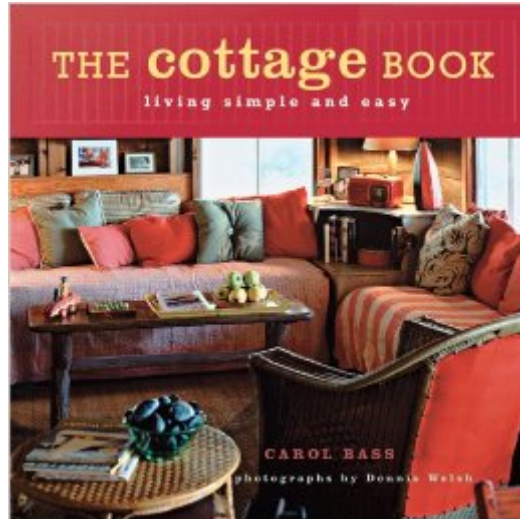


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# The Cottage Book: Living Simple And Easy



## Synopsis

It's been a shock. Bigger hasn't turned out to be better and newer isn't working out to be nicer. As skeptical consumers grapple with how they really want to live, a growing contingent has turned away from the culture of McMansions and SUVs and back towards the iconic forms of a simpler life, searching out homes and home styles that speak of simplicity, comfort, authenticity. No residential style reflects the small-is-beautiful trend more beautifully than the cottage home. Quaint, personal, modest, and simple, the cottage is above all itself; there's not a pretentious rafter in its roof. The earliest cottages (many featured in this book) were built as retreats, summer getaways where families convened to relax in the quiet refuge of the wilderness. Constructed for practicality, comfort, and pure pleasure, cottages often feature capacious porches, gorgeous views, cozy living rooms, and quirky, colorful, above all comfortable furnishings. Ease of living was paramount. Over the years, the cottage has evolved into something less rugged than the early versions, but its primary virtues remain. Today's cottage may be carefully decorated but it remains a heartfelt home where quality of place is more important than quantity of space. In this gorgeous celebration of the cottage tradition, artist, designer, and cottage expert Carol Bass showcases some classic early cottages, all still in happy and active use, leads us through a collection of updated and new cottages, and delineates those stylistic elements that define cottage life. Reminding us of a saner, simpler life, *The Cottage Book* inspires an irresistible fantasy of a snug little home of our own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reading *The Cottage Book* is a vacation in and of itself. Tons of windowsill sunlight, fresh indigenous flowers, classic patchwork bed quilts, exposed cupboards textured with china patterns from generations past and present, a perfectly positioned telescope, clothes line dried in the fresh air, vintage tablecloths draped over a table offering ice tea and croissants, and porches inviting us to spend a leisurely day enjoying the outdoors--all these things remind us that every cottage has a story worth living! Each cottage in this book is presented as unpretentious and practical, yet bright and beautiful, highlighting the simplicity, comfort, humor, and traditions found there. Particularly unique is the author's note of vibrant color introduced in each cottage room, either through unique fabrics or pieces or furniture. The book demonstrates clearly that the colors around us can have a powerful effect on our feelings and even outlook on life. A touch of vibrant color should be a basic element of any cottage home.

Not so much a how-to book as it is a collection of homes to aspire to, *The Cottage Book: Living Simple and Easy's* combining of photographic examples and Carol Bass' prose transport the reader right into the cottages and their surroundings, with experiences beyond the visual alone. This is escapism at its aesthetic best, a vacation-in-a-book. The title of the book is perfect, as are many of the featured rooms. Highly recommended for those who long to be close to nature and in touch with the past, with beauty all around as well. This is simply the best decorating book I've ever experienced. Inspirational!

Fresh and "reader friendly". The varied cottages presented by Carol Bass have soul and depth of character. And, they have a usefulness, charm and vitality that makes you want to re-create those kinds of spaces for yourself. What does the American cottage, camp or bungalow tell us about what we add to our life when we have a little time to get-a-way? This book gave me a chance to peek into special homes that show a sense of multiple generations beautifully layered into one place at one time. What feels very timely today is the bold use of color and the variety of different styles and materials to make a place personal. The book is useful in creating a meaningful home.

I finished this book in a day. I found it easy to read and very inspiring. Just looking at the pictures gave me ideas about how I'd like my home to eventually look. Not a how-to or a book offering advice - it's a book to relax with, enjoy reading and use as inspiration!

Nothing Special, a few interesting photos, I like to buy decorating books to spur ideas/imagination

but this book did little for me in that regard. Maybe for someone else's tastes it might be different.

Great book! If I could only have one of the cabins or cottages from this book! A great wish book for ideas. If you are planning to build or renovate a charming old home on the water, I would definitely would suggest this book

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