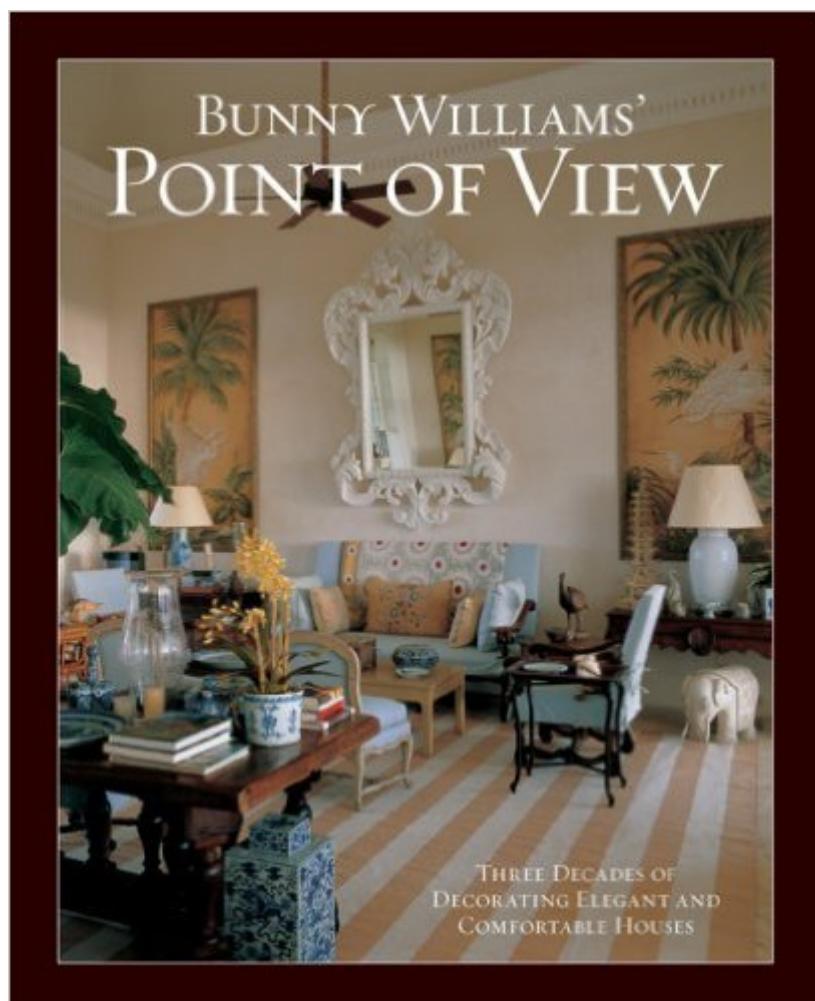


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Bunny Williams' Point Of View



Synopsis

An Affair with a House continues to be a top seller for STC, with more than 45,000 copies in print. Shows readers how to realize their own taste and design preferences. You learn from people with great taste, says Bunny Williams. She should know. As a novice, Williams worked for legendary decorators Sister Parish and Albert Hadley, absorbing everything she could of their peerless design sense. Striking out on her own, she rose to the top rank of the interior design profession, where she has stylishly remained for the last 30 years. Now, it's our turn to learn from her. Part memoir and part how-to manual, *Bunny Williams' Point of View* showcases many of the drop-dead chic but always cozily comfortable residences whose interiors Williams has designed during her astounding career. As Williams tells it, every design decision she makes is based on a bedrock principle: "Knowing what you value is essential." Her conviction that every person's home should manifest their personality guides her as she creates environments that fit each client precisely, "like a couture suit." By showing you how to plan and then accomplish that plan for each room of your house, Williams inspires you to take account of your own values and to realize your personal vision of how you want to live. As she says about the book: "My point of view will help you discover yours."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was fortunate enough to see Miss Williams give a lecture on this book, complete with slideshow

presentation. It was a delight to hear this funny and engaging woman relay the stories behind these interiors. That personal touch doesn't really come through in the book. It's telling that the most interesting parts are about her own NYC apartment and her home in Costa Rica. Her previous book--about her Connecticut farmhouse--is like sitting down with an old friend (it even has recipes). This isn't in the same vein, and thus all the disappointed reviews on here. Still, Williams is a legend, and the work she has done for her clients is worth studying. Many of the interiors look as though they have evolved and been collected over time, which is a hallmark of her style. Her rooms are at least more interesting than the sterile, joyless snoozefests featured lately in *Architectural Digest* and *Elle Decor*. Her best advice: pick neutral finishes for your kitchen cabinets, and above all a neutral backsplash, using accessories to satisfy your color cravings. Your tastes will (or should!) evolve over time...and that expensive turquoise backsplash won't be easy to replace. All Americans need to read that chapter and sign it!

I saw the less-than-stellar reviews on here and decided not to buy the book. Well...during Christmas shopping, I saw the book at a bookstore and decided to take a peak. So I grabbed the book and found a comfy chair. Well, I'm glad I did. I bought the book and read it cover to cover. I found it interesting to read how her childhood experiences led her to become a decorator. Her art classes taught her to see the "whole composition" and helped her to understand color and light; Her early job at an antique store helped to educate and train her eye; Tours of historic homes taught her about furniture arrangement and serve as a source for inspiration and art museums serve as the inspiration for color combinations. This book also offers an interesting look at how she approaches a project, where she always starts, where she gets her inspiration and what guides her when making design choices. While the homes in the book belong to the uber rich and many of her design choices are way beyond most people's budget, the underlying message is to educate your eye to good design and create a comfortable home for the way you live. I highly recommend it.

I love *Point of View* but before ordering a second copy as a Xmas gift I read seven reviews. I was persuaded to order the book on John Fowler but found it's small, dark, dated photos a huge disappointment, as did the giftee, who preferred *Point of View*. Bunny Williams has assembled a coffee table book of glorious photos supplemented by decorating guidelines for those of us less talented. If you recognize good design but can't create it from scratch and you don't want to hire an interior designer, this is an inspiring, delightful and enlightening place to start. *Point of View* is what it is and it is wonderful!

I adored Ms. Williams first book -- so this new book was on my Pre-Order List as soon as it was available. But this book turned out to be more a sales book for her clients than a design book. Her first book was warm and charming -- as is her wonderful country home that it portrays in its pages. BUT this book is cold as the rooms it shows --- mega-mansions for the uber-riche!

I own both this book and "An Affair with a House", and because they are such different books, I don't feel they should be compared. "Point of View" is definitely not the sequel to "An Affair with a House". Although I certainly enjoyed "An Affair", I eagerly anticipated this new book because of it's promise of sharing the designer's methods and inspiration. It does exactly that - perhaps not in a tutorial format, but certainly in its own narrative and personal way. The organization of chapters into the various elements of a room helps this book stay on point. The advice is sage and more than worth the price of the book. Unlike several of the other reviewers, I plan to revisit this book again and again. The insights, paired with the photos, are inspirational and informative. And although the rooms are grand, the principles Ms. Williams shares with us are universal. They could be applied to any room in any home (even a plain bedroom with 8-foot ceilings). When I purge my library of the fluffy but pretty coffee table books (which I do almost annually), this book will stay put.

Regular readers of decorating magazines will have seen most of this before; probably about 90% of these projects have been previously published. And within the book many of the rooms are repeated several times, adding to the feeling of *deja vu* all over again. Despite the decorator's talent and the attractive photos, most readers will not feel satisfied after thumbing through this book. Undoubtedly some clients declined to have their homes in the book, but it hardly seems like three decades worth of work. It looks more like a decade and a half presented here. If the same effort spent to publicise this book had gone into the development, one cannot help but think it would have produced a much better result. While the architecture of the houses and apartments is generally top notch, and nothing about the decorating is objectionable (well, with the exception of some hideous taxidermy prominently featured in one project), there is not much substance to either the decorating or the text. This is not necessarily a book professionals would return to over and over to pick up subtle nuances of design. But, that said, there are a few remarkable projects and it would be an attractive addition to any coffee table.

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