



# The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes

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***New York Times* Bestseller**

In *The New Bohemians*, LA-based designer Justina Blakeney defines the New Bohemians as creative individuals who are boutique owners and bloggers, entrepreneurs and ex-pats, artists and urban farmers. They embrace free-spirited, no-rules lifestyles and apply that attitude to all areas of their existence, including their homes. With little distinction between work and play, the new boho home often includes an office, art gallery, showroom, photography studio, restaurant, or even a pop-up shop. *The New Bohemians* explores 20 homes located primarily on the East and West coasts. Exclusive interviews with the owners, 12 DIY projects created by Blakeney and inspired by objects found in the homes, and a "Plant-O-Pedia" offer insight into achieving this aesthetic. In addition, each home is accompanied by an Adopt-an-Idea section that offers general decor, styling, and shopping tips for easy duplication in your own home.

## The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes Details

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Author : Justina Blakeney

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## From Reader Review The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes for online ebook

### Tracy says

I love this. The homes in it are fantastic. While I found some of them a little busy for my home I did drastically increase the amount of plants in my house after I read this the first time. I haven't tried any of the crafts but I do think I'll get my mother to teach me rug hooking so I can make a rug for my attic bedroom. All in all a terrific home decor book.

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### Aja says

Let's start with the good. Lovely homes. I didn't really think the division of homes by bohemian terminology was always accurate to the looks but none-the-less, I found something to enjoy about every home. I also thought the crafts and plant guide gave the book a little extra special something something. But holy cultural appropriation Batman. I think it's possible to be a Bohemian without treating other people's cultures like trinkets in your home but unfortunately there was a lot of that in this book. I also thought the book was very trustafarian. It talks a good game of how bohemians can have no money or lots of money and still be bohemians, but let me be frank, no one featured in this book is lacking in funds by any stretch the imagination regardless of how bohemian you may feel. If you can over look the little annoying things here and there, it's a cool decorating book.

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### Lorilin says

Wow, what a gorgeous book. The description says author Blakeney features her favorite homes from "across the country"...but really most of the homes are in California and New York, with a small handful from Oregon, Texas, and New Mexico. No matter, though, because all of the homes here are phenomenal.

The book is divided into six parts, each part covering a different bohemian style: modern, earthy, folksy, nomadic, romantic, and maximal. But all the homes have a lot in common. They are playful, colorful, whimsical, and chock full of personality. Some lean toward minimalism and others are stuffed to the gills, but I loved each and every one. It helps, too, that the book quality and photo spreads are stunning--really vibrant and inspirational. (After reading this book, I've decided our house needs about twice the number of plants it currently has...)

But I especially love how this book made me feel affirmed in our decision to decorate, furnish, and design our new home slowly. It takes time to build layers that are meaningful and reflect who we are. Sometimes I feel pressure to rush that process, since, hello, after a year in this house, we still don't have a coffee table in our living room... But now I'm feeling a little bit more calm and confident. I'm glad we are taking our time to find pieces that we love.

At any rate, I loved this book. It is beautiful to look at and helpful to read. I know I'll be returning to it again and again.

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### Tricia says

I'm a hippie at heart. I love the inspiring ideas of the collected and vintage home. The bohemian lifestyle is one that embraces what you have, makes what you don't have and has an overall gypsy spirit. This book encourages us all (even those who don't consider themselves "Hippies") to see that it's not about VW vans and tie-dye, but a way of traveling the globe and taking back home with us a little bit of the world and incorporating it into our homes. Color, spirit and love. That's all a home needs.

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### Liz De Coster says

Turns out I am not a bohemian. Now we know.

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### Julie says

I was attracted to this book because the photos appeared to be beautiful while flipping through it casually. Reading it more closely, however, it was appalling, especially for the shameless constant cultural appropriation. Each home's occupants had a "spirit animal" and/or "spirit plant". There was discussion about smudging and how to make smudge sticks, which they call "home fragrance". There were dream catchers hanging in windows, decorative Buddha statues, sugar skulls, etc. The text is even worse than the images, and consistently has phrases like, "I have a gypsy soul". The individuals featured all appear to be white, have jobs like "sonic artist... [translating] the plant's electromagnetic currents into musical notes", and live in places like LA and Brooklyn. It was cliché upon cliché of privilege and appropriation.

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### Rebecca says

Five stars for sheer beauty and color-saturated photographs. Personally, I think my style is evolving into something more minimal, with bold color and pattern carefully placed, rather than maximally layered as often shown here. But you can't beat these examples for sheer eye candy with a very "real" (non-professionally-designed) feel. I need more plants and textiles!

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### Melki says

Because I am a nosy person, I LOVE seeing photos of other people's STUFF. That's the real reason I buy these decorator books and magazines: I want to see your collections, guys. (I also want validation that I'm not the only kook in the world whose home looks like a flea market, but that's a topic for my analyst.)

This book has been on my wish-list for a long time, but \$35.00 is a hefty price for this working girl. I waited, and waited for a more affordable used copy, and, finally . . . I was ~~rewarded~~ disappointed. Sometimes the anticipation is WAY better than the real thing.

When I think of the Bohemian look, I envision COLOR, and lots of it, pattern on pattern, walls cluttered with art, and STuFF everywhere. BUT . . . so much of this book is, GASP! - minimalist: WHITE WALLS, glass-

topped tables, one piece of tasteful art hanging above a sofa.

Seriously? Put a bible and some Maalox on that nightstand, and this could be my granny's bedroom!

Only about the last 40 pages of the book are what I really had in mind when I ordered a copy. Turns out, I was looking for **Maximal Bohemian** style:

**. . . maximal bohemians surround themselves with eye candy. Every surface of the home is abundant with art --- the walls are canvases to be patterned, painted, and planted; floors and furniture are buried in pillows and textiles; and shelves are filled with books and beloved objects.**

Yeah, baby! THIS is more like it! Punch-you-in-the-eye color, and just LOOK at all that STUFF!

So, 40 pages out of 304 of what I consider to be good stuff kept this one from being a total wash. And, I *did* get some *ideas* from within these pages - like how this guy turned his crappy sofa into an awesome crazy-quilt patchwork by sewing scraps of fabric right to the old upholstery.

Will I try this? I'm tempted . . . until I think about spending two years of my life sitting on the floor, stitching pieces of worn-out jeans to my couch.

Yeah.

Even I'm not that crazy.

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## **Wendy says**

Beautiful, earthy, and sensuous! After some super long days at work, it felt so nice to come home to this book and immerse myself in the warm and wonderful home environments Ms. Blakeney has curated. If ever I needed to feel affirmed in my personal tastes, this book does the trick -- I don't think I'd realized there were so many others with similar kantha + kilim fetishes, cravings for All The Textiles, plants a plenty, incense-burning, and incessant desire for more more more color. This book felt like coming home, and I loved it.

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## **Colleen says**

Love, love, love. If you identify with this style you will want to read, look at, and have this book. It's a decoration to a coffee table all on its own. I'm totally inspired and feel validated by my taste in decor, although some will find it just too much.

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## **jenna says**

Beautiful and cool book. Very well written, especially for a decor book, w/ fantastic pictures. I like the organization of the book; in-depth and personal vignettes within chapters of sub-themed bohemian styles. Totally inspiring and down-to-Earth, which is not an easy balance to strike. I ♥? this book!

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### Elysia says

The New Bohemian's book is a wonderful sourcebook for bohemian inspired interior design; filled with clashing colour, patterns and styles. I really enjoyed going through each page and am inspired for redecorating my studio.

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### Danielle says

Love!

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### Kate says

Read... flipped through the pictures... same thing, right? I've been wanting to redecorate my bedroom in this style so I was mostly just looking for ideas. This was nice because it showed a few different styles of bohemian, and even pulled out some of the small details in each room as things you could make yourself.

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### Carol. says

Hey, maybe I'm a Bohemian!

My friend Tracy periodically reviews decorating books, and I always end up tempted by her selections. I'm style-impaired, so I was especially intrigued by her review of this one, "The New Bohemians."

I thought, 'maybe I'm a bohemian.' There was a time when I was known to wear long jangling earrings, flowing skirts and was prone to leaving up Christmas lights all year long (and not out of laziness).

'Bohemian,' according to Blakeney seems to mean people who--well, let me have her explain: "**Today's bohemians seek to erase the distinctions between work and play, and our living spaces reflect that lack of boundaries. The new bohemian home is a multifunctional playground for exploration and experimentation: It is an office, an art gallery, a showroom, a daycare, a photo and music studio, even a pop-up restaurant... Our new bohemian lifestyle is rooted in freedom: free-spirited, free-form, and free of rules.**"

Oh, that's so me. I'm all about using my space for all kinds of things. And about 'no rules.' Except the one about dirty dishes. Don't effing leave them in the sink, hey? Oh, and the rule about putting your shit away when you are done with it. But besides those.

However, it turns out, I'm not a new bohemian, because the way it is interpreted in this book means loads of textiles, a variety of both functional and non-functional items in the open, and generally enough stuff to make me want to hire a cleaner at the thought of having to dust and wash these rooms. It also seems to include lots of patterns, 'found' art, and repurposed items applied without regard for matching.

Look at that! That bedroom just yells, 'let's play Twister instead of sleeping!'

The clutter and drapery on this vanity had me thinking 'Miss Havasham.'

This is when I was positive I wasn't a bohemian. Instead of feeling like I wanted to sink in and kick up my feet, I had to turn the page before I got pattern headache.

And this one! All I can say is that if this belonged to a friend, we'd be meeting for coffee instead of having drinks on her sofa. My eyes.

So, I'm not a new bohemian. I might be just a touch of a 'modern' bohemian, however, because they are more prone to clean lines and like plants. This one, for instance, came the closest to my style, although still a little too busy in the textile department and not comfortable enough in the furniture.

All that said, I'm sure if one enjoys this style, this will be a great book. The pictures are solid and there are a lot of them. Blakeney has little 'DIY' projects at the end of many chapters (although why we get a recipe for daikon radishes, I don't know), such as how to make a mosaic hanging rack, a vinyl plant holder or a tie-dye-pattered box for those who want to bring the extra personal touch to their rooms. She also has what amounts to a 'steal this look' at the end, with tips on curtains, etc. A couple of the houses apparently used painters' drop cloths and repurposed burlap-bags as curtains. Other suggestions included putting your detergent in a cool glass jar with a mug to pour it out, putting a light in a birdcage for a cool lamp, using decals to make a 'cheap stained glass' (pro tip: you can probably find a class and make something way cooler), turning a trashcan from Target upside down and making it an end table, how to make a driftwood hanging lamp, and shopping Craigslist for bargains.

Okay, so not the most helpful of books. But that's what you get from a modern bohemian.

P.S. I do not think 'cool' means what Blakeney think it means.

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