



## Living With Books

*Alan Powers*

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Some people never have more than a shelf or two of books. Others are more committed: they hoard books, rearrange them, and seldom get rid of any. *Living with Books*, aimed at the latter group, addresses the challenges and joys of a home masquerading as a library, from storage to display to the use of books as structural elements and furniture.

Each chapter covers a different room and the special way that books can exist in or enhance that space. Obvious areas such as dens and offices are covered, along with more daring places such as hallways, kitchens, and bathrooms. Special features include a closer look at the care and display of decorative books, decorative papers, and bookplates, and a final chapter on custom-building bookshelves to suit every home.

## **Living With Books Details**

Date : Published May 13th 1999 by Soma Books

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Author : Alan Powers

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Genre : Writing, Books About Books, Nonfiction, Reference, Design, Art, Photography

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## From Reader Review Living With Books for online ebook

### Two Readers in Love says

Books do furnish a room" ... or if left to their own devices, totally take the room over..

Most design books show a few books placed artfully in the corner of a huge display case, mixed in with the tchotchkies. Some even go so far to show a wall of perfectly matched hardbacks, to provide that oh-so-intellectual backdrop to the huge main space. This is all absolutely useless for those of us with a serious book addiction.

This is a design book for real-world bibliophiles. The beautiful photographs illustrate several attractive ideas for storing and displaying books in every room in the house – including the bathroom. The styles range from antique to super-modern, and from formal (beautiful mahogany bookcases with leather bound tomes) to casual (impromptu stacks on the staircase.) There are several really innovative solutions: the “bookworm” bookcase that floats books in the air, bookshelves hung from the ceiling, etc. For those of you – and you know who you are – that have a book fetish, I suppose this book qualifies as library porn.

For those brave enough to tackle building their own solutions, the book has a brief set of projects at the end; this is sufficient for those who just want to solve the problem at hand, but probably not enough to satisfy a serious do-it-yourselfer.

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### Jennifer says

A little more out of date than Decorating with Books, and the libraries this book displays are not as pretty and more cluttery.

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### Wendy says

Sort of like a print version of Bookshelf Porn.

Mostly either unattainable minimalistic arrangements, or rustic English cottage displays.

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### Zamri Misman says

Must read!!!

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### Michael Heath-Caldwell says

Interesting book on interior design concepts focusing on books and book cases.

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### **Bonnie says**

This contained pictures of how people store their books in their homes, with additional book information interspersed within.

It was full with bright, colorful, photos, but with more of a post-modern slant than I was hoping for. There were no bookcases with the rolling ladders that I dream of one day having in my home.

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### **Stephanie Hatch says**

The photos in this book were lots of fun - it was a bit like a lifestyle magazine with its design ideas and overall commentary but because the book is dated the overposh sparkle found today is absent. These were lived in places that were photographed and you can tell. It was humorous and quirky. I was 75% done with the book before I realized the author was British - then whole back half had lots of regional nuances that stood out a lot.

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### **Brian says**

A coffee table book, this nevertheless had quite a few good ideas for my study project. I found an unusual, yet functional, cantilevered bookcase design that will look distinctive with the hardwood floors I'm planning. I just need a carpenter to tell me if it's stable enough to resist earthquakes.

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### **Laura Harrison says**

Just glorious.

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### **JOEY says**

I enjoyed Powers' writing style. It suits a book about books. And I thought the photography was great.

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### **Sandy says**

Back cover: "In a true booklover's home, there are no rooms that do not contain books." A book about storing and displaying books.

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### **Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says**

Of course I'd be drawn by a book about well, books, book shelves, etc. And the pictures for the different bookshelves in different settings was really good. Some make for an interesting project doesn't it? I especially like the bookstore ones. Really good read for any book lover.

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### **Jeana says**

Ha ha. I didn't realize it until halfway through this book that I had read it before and thought it was just so-so. An unremarkable book really.

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### **Melanie says**

Spotted this on a friend's "to read" list, and just had to check it out myself! Lots of ideas for a house full of books, and the line "In reality, most collections contain books that are old friends but do not need to be visited very often" particularly resonated with the book hoarder in me (although I am getting much better at saying goodbye to books I won't ever read again).

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### **Jjudyfl says**

This is a GLORIOUS book! It is filled with large, colorful pages of how books are stored, displayed, stacked up and stashed-all-over-the-place.

Some pages make me laugh. Some pages make me fear earthquakes. But all pages make me smile.

Cabinets, tables, bedrooms, bathrooms, stairways! Hallways! and more!!

There are a few pages about caring for books, and also instructions on how to make simple book storage units.

I would say that this is a beautiful coffee table book, -- but who has room for a coffee table?

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