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American Beauty: Renovating and Decorating a Beloved Retreat

Thom Filicia

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Thom Filicia : American Beauty: Renovating and Decorating a Beloved Retreat before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Beauty: Renovating and Decorating a Beloved Retreat:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Making A House A HomeBy James EllsworthIn 'American Beauty' professional decorator and tv personality Thom Filicia tells a heartwarming and personal story of his strong ties to the Finger Lakes Region of New York State and narrates how those ties developed into purchasing a modest vernacular house on Skaneateles Lake and how he used his professional design skills to make the place into a real home. More than most books of this kind, this is a case study of a single set of house problems. We see a meaningful project from start to finish rather than 'best of' snapshots of a decorator's over-all work. The photographs in this book, made mostly by Eric Piasecki, are clear, colorful and evocative, showing the pre-project house, the atmospheric lake side location and giving insightful views into every room. There are plenty of these pictures for the reader to look at and to think about but each of them and all of them are grounded in a strong sense of reality and of place. Extra touches in the book

tell the story of the renovation crew and even Thom's dog(s) add life to the book's pages. In fact, we are left with the impression of what a photo essay would be like of a PBS 'This Old House' project, complete with its 'side bars' on the local community. The author talks the reader through the process of finding the house, evaluating its possibilities 'Renovate or Obliterate,' 'Picking Your Team'(selecting an architect and builder that know the community and working with the community and its local laws to add something useful to its housing stock.) A wide range of decorating and design tips are presented in a very down-to-earth manner. Highlighted blocks of text include: Pricing a Fixer-Upper; Adding Dimension (curing a 'flat front', adding drama to an entry, evaluating roofing materials, accenting windows and linking the roof line to the body of the house), differentiating the country home from the city home and sub-chapters on each of the main parts of the project (Doors, Walls and Wall Treatments, Fireplace, Windows Inside and Out, Floors) and a room-by-room presentation of the project's issues and how they were resolved. Thom Filicia comes across as a real person in this book who is leading a real life. There is nothing about him of the 'precious' decorator to the rich and famous. While our budgets will likely not equal his, the same concepts apply to renovation and to working with an architect and contractor on new construction and on any other home makeover. The final aim is to make a home and a space in which your life can happen, your neighbors can drop in and your guests can be entertained. That is the explicit aim that Thom focuses on throughout this project. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WorthwhileBy Library GaGaLove Mr. Filicia's book American Beauty. Can't pinpoint why his design wows me, but it does. It's not pretentious but it's rich. I think an average income person can achieve a facsimile of this look by copying the forms and furniture placement. I read this book from cover to cover, the text is also interesting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. American Beauty by Thom FiliciaBy WindyRenovations of an old home on a gorgeous lake near Syracuse is very interesting. If you've ever visited the area, you would enjoy excellent local restaurants and bakeries while viewing mansions, cottages, Criss-Craft vintage boats, "Old Money", and pretty gardens. The winters are fierce, but the rest of the year you'd enjoy the mature trees, the beautiful lake, and appreciation of days gone by. You can totally understand why restoring his home is a real labor of love. You may even "enjoy" the winter there.

For the wide audience who adores television, print, and product-designing media darling and star decorator Thom Filicia's new American style, and for anyone who has ever dreamed of creating her own retreat, this is both a deeply felt story of true house love and a decorating book brimming with beauty. Thom Filicia wasn't looking for another escape from his busy city life. But when visiting New York's Finger Lakes, a place he loved as a child, he fell madly in love with a fixer-upper. Two years and one careful, respectful, and impassioned renovation later, it has become the house of his dreams--one that profoundly speaks to his happy memories of lazy days spent on the lake or in the town of Skaneateles. With more than 300 stunning photographs, American Beauty is the story of this house, and an inspiration resource that imparts Thom's extensive wisdom on creating rooms that feel modern yet meaningful and classic.

Thom Filicia proves that small town and high style can meet. His story of transforming a derelict house in a classic Finger Lakes resort community as charming as it is inspiring. The book is full of practical renovation advice and decorating wisdom, but, even better, it's got heart. What's impressive is not only what he does, but why, and Filicia's deep love of this house and this town is clear on every page. Michael Boodro, Editor in Chief, Elle Decor What's more at the heart of the American dream than the ability to make over something? Thom has not only renovated a house into a real beauty full of decorating inspiration, he's shown us how a well-designed house can be the foundation for a wonderful life. Newell Turner, Editor in Chief, House Beautiful About the Author From his start at renowned design firms, including Parish-Hadley, THOM FILICIA launched his acclaimed enterprise, Thom Filicia Inc., and has emerged as one of today's most influential and respected interior designers. His clients have ranged from Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez, and Peter Jennings to those in the worlds of finance, sports, and hospitality. Gaining fame on the Emmy-winning Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, Style Network, and HGTV, he is a bestselling author and has been praised as a Top 100 Designer by House Beautiful and an A-List designer by Elle Decor. He is also the driving force behind the Thom Filicia Home Collection.