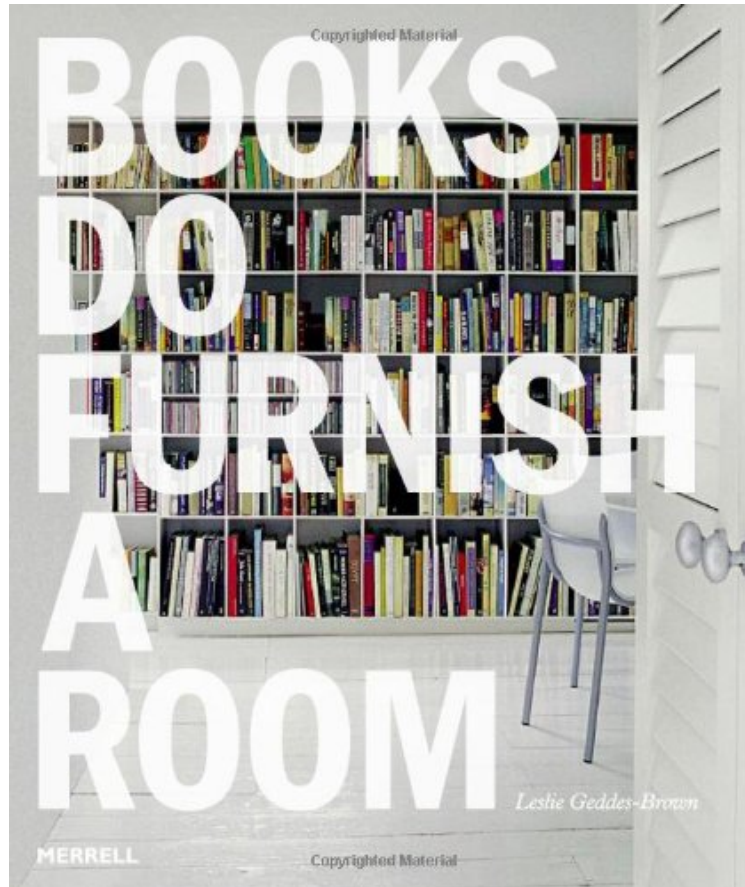


## Books Do Furnish a Room

*Leslie Geddes-Brown*

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**Leslie Geddes-Brown : Books Do Furnish a Room** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Books Do Furnish a Room:

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color and shape of their spines. In most cases, the copy also adds next to nothing. For example, in the section on low lying bookshelves, we learn that the advantage they give you is that you still have wall space above - a startling revelation! I would have liked to find out more about the people whose houses we were looking at, or their reasons for organizing books in the ways that they did, but that's not covered. I am unashamedly nosy about people's bookshelves. I am the kind of person who will always check out your books when I come to your house, intrigued to know where our reading tastes align or differ, always hopeful of new discoveries. So I was disappointed that it was so difficult in many of the photographs to see what books people actually had - at least one photograph has even been reversed so all the book titles are back to front. There are other, similar books which are better. 66 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Not much here to excite a designer or book lover. By Jerry Guild The best part of this book is its cover. It grabbed my attention the moment I saw it in the bookstore. I have a personal library of about 7,000 books and love to read and love my books. I am always attracted to "Books About Books" and have many of them. I really like to admire how others keep their books and enjoy looking at other reader's collections. I am always curious when I see a photograph of someone with their books in the background. It is fun to get out a magnifying glass and read the titles on their shelves. It is particularly interesting to see famous people or writers sitting in their favorite reading places, among their books. A couple of my favorite books about this are: "At Home With Books" by Ellis, Seebom and Sykes; and "Writers In Residence" by Glynne Robinson Betts. When I saw this book, I thought it would be somewhat like these books; or at least show some good layouts of books and places to read them. The book has a lot of excellent photographs; but rather than showing great designs from a book lover's pleasure, or love of their collection; it is little more than an interior designer's ideas of how to use books to fill gaps, or to add color to a design which is uninteresting. There is hardly a case where one would get the impression that this was someone's favorite spot to read or their favorite books. If anything, in most cases, about all I was reminded of was a display in a furniture store, model home or "homes" Magazines. Page 134 shows the use of books face out, decorating a wall in an otherwise uninteresting wall--sort of like wallpaper. How unimaginative! It looks like the books were chosen by nothing more than color, and destined to be nothing more than dustcatchers. In many cases, the bookshelves are the center of the design and the books are but afterthoughts. Objects of art or curiosities would be more interesting; even to a book lover. When books are all covered with the same covers, without titles even visible, and stacked on shelves; seems to me to be the height of a lack of imagination; but is done frequently by designers and illustrators. I could not find, hard as I tried, an example where the way the designer used books made the space more friendly or even interesting. All I can really say is that I was disappointed with this book. It may be of interest to an interior designer or someone who does displays and wants to "use" books to fill a space, and is more interested in colors than content; it may be useful; but as to imaginative displays or ways to organize and stack books from a standpoint of creating an interesting place for reading and enjoying books---well, there just isn't much here.

This guide offers inspirational solutions and practical tips on how to make the most of books in every room and forgotten nook of the house. A collection of photographs shows how books can transform any room into an alluring and magical place.

This inspiring hardback offers advice on every aspect of living and even working with books - CONCEPT FOR LIVING Intelligent must-read - ESSENTIAL KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM MAGAZINE Transform your book collection into something worthy of showing off. Discover how to turn every single nook and cranny of your living space into a receptacle for literary volumes - THE TELEGRAPH Myriad stylish ideas for displaying books - HOMES AND GARDENS About the Author Leslie Geddes-Brown, former Deputy Editor of World of Interiors and Country Life magazines, is a leading writer on gardening and interior design.