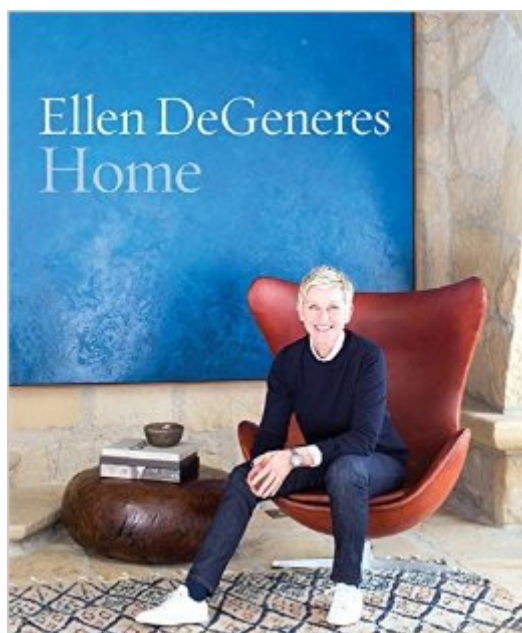


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# Home



## Synopsis

Ellen DeGeneres has bought and renovated nearly a dozen homes over the last twenty-five years, and describes her real-estate and decorating adventures as "an education." She has long cared deeply about design: "I think I wanted to be an interior designer when I was thirteen." This deluxe edition of *Home* is printed on extremely high quality paper, printed on a sheet-fed press, and bound in a real cloth covered case with a tipped in photo of Ellen DeGeneres' living room featuring her Picasso. In *Home*, DeGeneres will, for the first time, share her passion for home design and style. She believes, "You don't have to have money to have good taste," and she is eager to share what she has learned over the years. DeGeneres offers a personal look at every room in each of her homes. Included are seven of her homes past and present, from the famous "Brody House" up to her current homes, and she offers tips and advice on what each house taught her. An added bonus is a look at the homes of her friends and collaborators-some of the finest designers in the country. They share their advice on home design, furnishings, as well as a glimpse at their awe-inspiring rooms. Full of beautiful photographs, this book is a treasure trove of amazing California architecture, unique home furnishings, breathtaking art, and hundreds of ideas on putting together the home you've always dreamed of.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book was interesting to see, and I enjoyed the pictures and the text. However, after reading through only once, I came away with a feeling of slight arrogance on the part of Ellen, of course

peppered with humor, but still I would have liked more insight as to her decorating choices, and not so much a list of high-end name dropping of manufacturers and designers. Although the book is entitled HOME, it fell short of the mark for me, and made me feel almost inadequate. I did enjoy the sections titled "What this house taught me", and will re-read those again, along with advice from the other homeowners.

I watch Ellen regularly and knew she loves to buy homes, decorate them and then sell and buy a new one, so I was curious about this book. In her introduction, she writes: "Moving houses is just another way in which I get to experience life." When I saw her on The Today Show this morning, I went to Barnes & Noble to read the book because Ellen is partly the reason I recently put my house on the market! I figured if she can buy and decorate a home and love it but turn around and sell it, then then so can I! (I have also said that I want to sell my house--something I spent a lot of time renovating and decorating--to experience something new--so I totally relate...Hey, Ellen, maybe you'd be interested...1 hour north of NYC in the woods...look me up;))For those of you who know Ellen's public persona, her voice comes out in this book loud and clear. It is divided into two parts: houses she and Portia have lived in and those of her friends and collaborators. The book is mostly photographs of houses with some text. She describes the homes and some of the decorations featured in the photos. At the end of each chapter is "What the house taught me" and this would be the section us ordinary folks can relate to. She offers mostly commonsense tips and a dose of her humor. For example: "If you have animals, probably stay away from owning a rocking chair" and "Use coasters. Before we go any further and I forget, always use coasters." (For all the light hearted quips, however, Ellen is very serious about decorating. I found her homes lacking in lightness and fun; they were a bit austere.)Why only 4 stars? I liked--not loved--the book. For example, I would have liked to have seen more panoramic shots; nearly all of them feature vignettes of rooms. This is a nice book to look through. Fun to glimpse at some of the California architecture and Ellen and friends' choice of furniture, art and placement.

I love Ellen's show. She is warm and funny and a great humanitarian so I guess I expected that from the book about her homes. If I were a person interested in antiques I'm sure I would have liked it better, but the book fell short for me. The houses did not look lived in. The designs were harsh and cold, all stone and tile, very little warm wood colors. Perhaps it is the style for California and the desert. I was raised in the Pacific Northwest and like more color and warmth in my home. I can see by reading the other reviews that my opinion is not shared. Also, none of the chairs looked

comfortable enough for me, a person who loves to cuddle up with a good book. That may be silly to most, but that is what like.

This book is a compilation of 7 houses that Ellen purchased/lived in/decorated over the course of a number of years. There are also chapters devoted to individuals who she worked with on these houses -- i.e., store owners, decorators, etc. The book is printed on good quality paper and there are lots of photos of full rooms. Photos are done very well and I like that they are either full or half room photos. I personally dislike design books that show things on a table, or a corner of a window, etc. and this book doesn't do that. For every chapter on each home, Ellen gives some background about who the architect or builder was, who owned it previously, and how she came about buying it. Added to that in the narrative, she gives information on how the interior design came about. Also, at the end of each of those chapters, there is a page where she gives interesting recommendations on how she did approach the design. She seems very knowledgeable about design and has a keen eye for what she likes. I went through a lot of envy in seeing the photos -- not from the mid-century style aspect, but the size of the homes she's had. The reason I only gave my review 3 stars is because ALL of these homes are done in mid-century style with a very, very slight nod to rustic elements and couple of pieces leaning towards antique-y decor. Had I seen this book in a book store, I would not have purchased it. Personally, I am NOT a fan of mid-century design. If you are a fan of mid-century decor, then this is the book for you. If you are a fan of design books that offer diversity showing all types of styles, then save your money.

Oh Ellen, I thought you were down to earth. I thought you were one of us. I love design as much as the next aesthete but the lifestyle you live while honestly depicted, is so obscenely decadent that I felt like a peasant, growing poorer, dirtier and more worthless with every page. House after house that you bought on a whim, because you visited it, liked it and had to have it. A dual apartment purchaseâ "one light, the other darkâ "just to see what it's like to live "low maintenance" so you can really get the best use of your country estate, where, lo! a horse is hanging out in the living room. So many crazy expensive stores you recommend. So many huge works of art and pieces of heavy unwelcoming furniture. Great sense of texture, drama, scale, composition. Oh yes, these abodes are designed all right, to within an inch of their soulless lives. Where's the whimsy, Ellen? The color orange for hipster's sake? Are you a Gemini? I could look it up right now but I'm not going to waste my time. I don't even believe in astrology. Sigh. I feel betrayed. Empty. Void. You're unimaginably rich and it's great that you made it so far up the tushy of the American dream. I wish I could live for a

week in your shoes. See what it's like in outer space, in the stratosphere. Or maybe I don't. Maybe I prefer the claustrophobic walls of my little suburban bungalow. With my throw pillows from Home Goods and my Ikea furniture. Maybe if I take your expert advice and simply display a bowl of lemons, I will have arrived. Ellen, even looking at you wearing sneakers and ripped jeans, I simply cannot relate. All I can say is, I hope the next dozen project houses you buy teach you to spend more of your time and money building houses for homeless people and refugees who could use them to actually live in, rather than decorate, stand around, host a dinner party, and swap it for the next trophy.

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