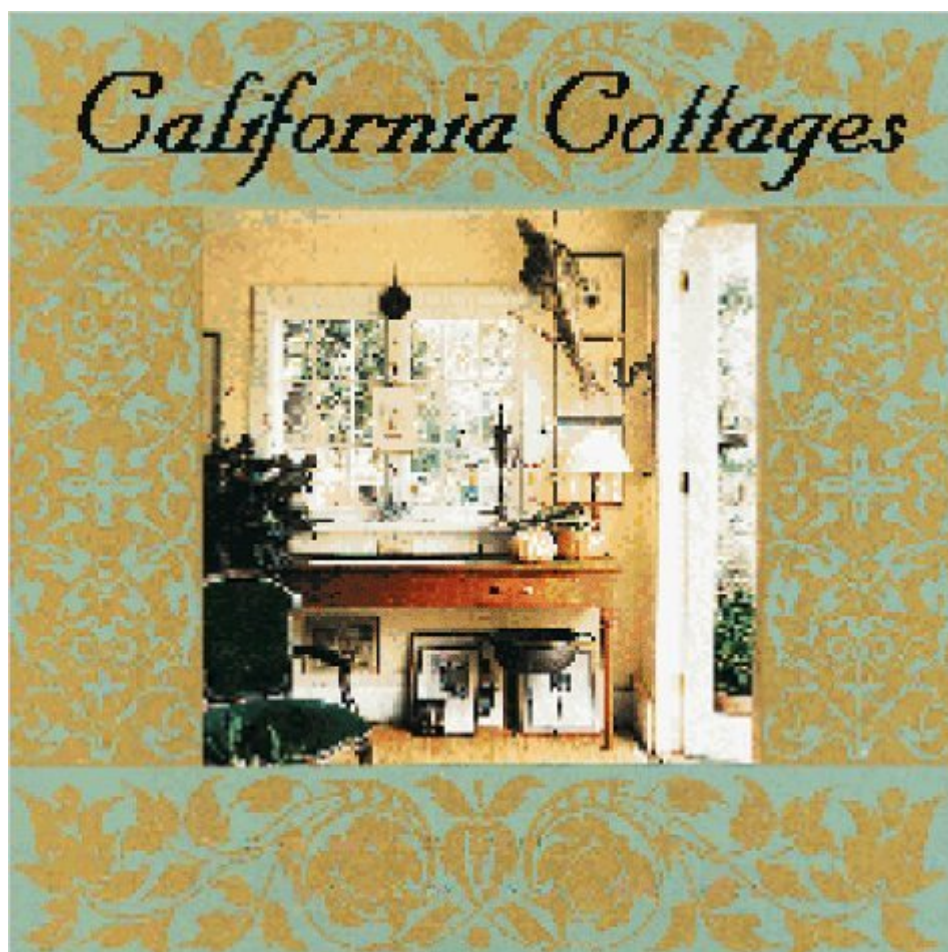


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# California Cottages: Interior Design, Architecture, And Style



## Synopsis

Cottages are universally appealing, whether they are simple, cozy dwellings or chic second homes. In *California Cottages*, renowned style writer Diane Dorrans Saeks unveils the finest cottages created by some of the most talented designers and architects, from the civilized seclusion of a home nestled in the Santa Cruz mountains to a Bolinas cottage overlooking the Pacific Ocean to a refined weekend home in Sonoma. With over 225 full-color photographs by Alan Weintraub, *California Cottages* expands the concept of "the cottage" and captures the originality, creativity, and charm that make them so beloved.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book on a whim about two years ago and thought it would be like most of the decorating books I own. I would skim through it, read it, then put it away to take up space on my bookshelf. Not so! The book sits on my coffee table in my small, adorable NYC apartment, which I rented after being inspired by the homes in this book. I have read every word in this book at least three times and feel like I know the owners of each of the homes pictured. My favorites surprisingly change from time to time as I spot things I never noticed before. I recommend this book for anyone to whom his home is his cottage. It's wonderful.

What a beauty. If you have any interest in cottages or small houses, whether they are in California or not, you should take a look at this book. The photography of both the interiors and exteriors (mostly

the gardens) are spectacular and the accompanying text has stories about the owners and what has been done to the cottages to make them more livable. Great browsing book.

This is perhaps my favorite interior design book. Each space featured has a warm, unique and personal style that is not usually seen in the typical glossy interior coffee table books. Many of the homes are vacation or weekend cottages but they all share a feeling of great comfort and individual charm. I not only enjoy the beautiful photographs but the text reveals the personality of the owners and how the spaces reflect their lives. "California Cottages" brings a refreshing view of eclectic, somewhat bohemian living spaces that feel intimate and real. It's also nice to have a West coast perspective among the many interior design/style books that tend to favor East coast locales.

You need to have this book if you need to take mini-vacations away from your stressful routine. This is a wonderful book. Beautiful design, beautiful photos, excellent narrative. Of my 100+ design/decorating books, this is in my top 5 favorites, a position it has held for over 2 years. Like another reviewer, I also appreciate knowing the homeowners' names. Sometimes I see their homes showcased in other books published after this one, with different photo angles, or perhaps updated accessories, and I feel like I'm keeping in touch with old friends.

I bought this book because it contained pictures of the late Theodora Van Runkle's extraordinary cottage, and I wanted to figure out the layout and design and adapt it to my own living room. Although that project proved fruitless, I have enjoyed the various cottages covered in the book. Most of the shelter magazines these days show cutesy cottages with urgent messages to buy elements of the same cookie-cutter designed interiors. This book was the opposite: unique designs put together by thoughtful people over time.

I love to look through this book: the writing is informative and the pictures are more so. I have a hope to someday build a tiny house for myself and a guest or two. This book is like my Sears catalog of dreams; I see new elements I want to incorporate every time I look through it. The houses of the Bungalow style are so livable and comfortable (except for tiny closets), they would be very popular were they built today. One can always dream . . .

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