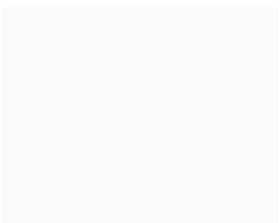
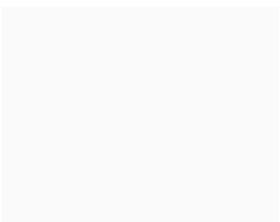
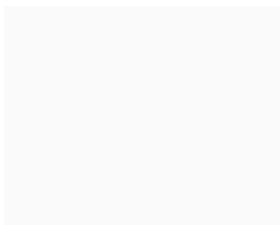
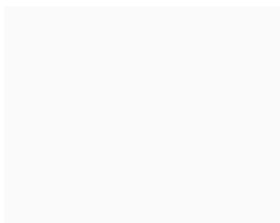


Home: Celebrating the Spaces of Your Heart



Renee Garrison
and
Tom Szumlic



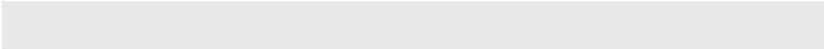
Renee Garrison has written about architecture and interior design for two decades. She has been recognized with three Awards of Excellence from the Florida Association of The American Institute of Architects for enlightening the public about the value of architecture in our lives.

Tom Szumlic is an architect and educator with experience in the fields of architecture, interior design, building construction, and design education. He has been given many opportunities for insights into dwelling and dwellers.

You can find us on LinkedIn!

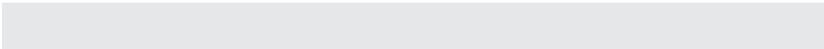
Best to you!

HOME: Celebrating the Spaces of Your Heart
Written by Renee Garrison and Tom Szumlic
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acknowledgements

We are grateful to everyone who has opened their home and shared a part of their lives with us. Without your experiences, this book wouldn't be possible. Finally, we could not have written this book without the examples set by our own families. We dedicate it to our children - Kathryn and Daniel and Melissa and all future generations of home dwellers.



introduction

As an architectural reporter and an architect, we have met and interviewed many homeowners throughout our careers. Whether the goal was to design or simply to publish their home, we discovered some common themes among individuals and families who created nurturing residential environments.

The following pages represent years of collective and diverse observations on the art of being good homeowners, good neighbors, and good communities. This book will have little relevance to those looking for a how-to Manual. It will not teach you how to build a deck, wallpaper your kitchen or tile a bathroom. Nor is this an academic musing regarding architectural theory (at least, not intentionally.) Rather, this book is intended to provide some insight into what is truly important...
Creating a unique form of shelter for our souls.

Renee Garrison and Tom Szumlic

foreword

Dorothy said it first. When she returned from Oz, she closed her eyes and whispered, “There’s no place like home.” Her philosophy is even more relevant today. Home is the ultimate work-in progress, a space that is continually transformed by those who live in it. Whether we’re moving into our first rental apartment or our final retirement home, we should find spiritual renewal in our dwellings. Certainly, the excesses of recent years have taught us that bigger does not always mean better when it comes to residential square footage. Instead we’ve seen informal charm and simple living elevated to new levels of importance. Just as the seasons change, so do our homes. With every coming and going, we weave a lifelong tapestry of past memories and future dreams. This book is intended to encourage and inspire everyone lucky enough to live under a roof to find the meaning of their dwelling and its relationship to their community. Living, after all, consists of many seasonal changes. What makes it special is the way we choose to celebrate them. So consider the next hundred pages to be a celebration of home...a reminder of what is truly important...the spaces of your heart. To fully enjoy this new perspective, find the most comfortable chair in your house, prop up your feet and repeat this message: Dorothy was right...” There’s no place like home.”

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1.the BIGGER picture



see the **BIGGER** picture

**No matter how high we build our fences,
we can't escape the folks next door.
But who really is our "neighbor?"**

Sure, it's the people who live in our vicinity - down the street, even a block away. Yet neighbors also exist on a grander scale - in our community, our city and our region. We must meet them, establish relationships and work together for everyone's benefit. A neighborhood's history and physical character are public extensions of each private dwelling. Any time we consider buying a home or renting an apartment, we automatically include the neighborhood that surrounds it, in our consideration. For many, a home and its surrounding neighborhood symbolize stability, permanence and continuity. They form a tangible link to both past and future.

**Even in today's transient society, places
where we once lived never completely
lose that special quality of having been
ours for some part of our life.**

**Learn the history of your city through
books by local authors.
Buy books about the history of your city.**

The essence of every community is a sense of interdependence. Good communities start with good people, small groups committed to each other's success and well being, in both commerce and in living. This spirit of community continually seeks us. It seeks us whether we greet a neighbor or ignore the chance to talk. It seeks us with every word of encouragement or every envious thought
...with every open hand or closed heart.

**Patronize merchants within
walking distance of your
home. And yes, walk there!**

The information age has reversed the conception of inside and outside/ private and public. Cable and the Internet give us access to the world inside our homes. But we must go outside to reclaim the spirit of our community.

The individual and the community are

Have you ever observed schools of fish or birds in flight? When one changes its direction, others quickly follow. In a similar vein, your actions will affect your neighbors. Paint your front door and your neighbor will paint his front door. Attach some designer numbers to your house, clean up the yard, plant some new landscaping and watch what happens. Realize the powerful influence we have on each other. We are not isolated in our homes, but quite connected in our neighborhoods.

inseparable.

Take an interest in your region understand its customs and integrate them, physically, into your lifestyle. For example, how does the local climate affect the way you live?

Support and use public transportation. Take a public transit line to a part of town you have never visited. Renew interest and excitement in your surroundings constantly. Don't let the routine blind you to the local landscape.

Attend a public zoning hearing. This is the process of law being projected into physical form. Stay informed and participate.

One man's ceiling is another man's floor.

For thousands of years, entire Eskimo families have clustered inside a single igloo. Pueblo Indians used sun-dried bricks to construct multi-storied “apartment buildings.” People, it seems, live well when they live in close proximity to one another. Proximity, however, requires politeness...a fair amount of courtesy and consideration. Our lives are the fullest when we feel the power of life in our neighbors. Even through the sound of footsteps on the floor above.



Isolate your sound system speakers.

The vibes might not be in sync with your neighbor's rhythm.

At night, for consideration of all ground floor apartment dwellers, use your parking lights as you park your car.

A watchful eye surveying the neighborhood is the most effective security system.

2. You're Invited

