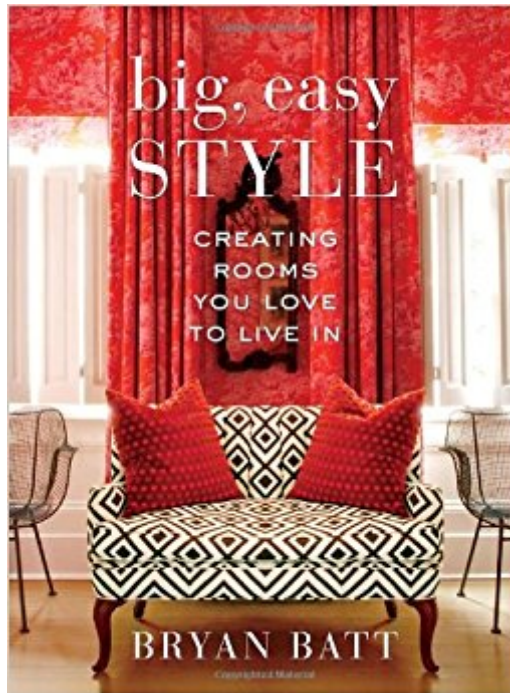


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# Big, Easy Style: Creating Rooms You Love To Live In



## Synopsis

An enchanting space thatâ€™s truly unique calls for a sense of humor, whimsy, and an open mind. From a charmed New Orleans childhood to a successful acting career on Broadway and the award-winning TV show *Mad Men* to the opening of his popular Big Easy home furnishings boutique, Hazelnut, Bryan Batt has always turned to home design as a creative outlet. To him, the best rooms are unexpected yet refined and, above all, evoke emotion. He doesnâ€™t think twice about hanging oversized decorations from a Mardi Gras float in an elegant dining room or bringing home vintage etchings of sconces when he was actually shopping for real ones. He believes that a vibrant orange wall can be a neutral backdrop for an antique writing desk and earthy accessories, and that an artistâ€™s whimsical birdâ€™s nest sculpture hung in a lavender entryway couldnâ€™t serve as a better welcome into a cozy abode. New Orleans has taught Bryan so much about how to pull together a space thatâ€™s fearless and colorful with plenty of panache. With the city as his museâ€”its strong roots in history, its celebration of tradition, and, of course, the wild festivities of Mardi Grasâ€”he believes that designing a fabulous, livable home that truly reflects a dwellerâ€™s passions need not be intimidating. Big, Easy Style showcases rooms that make Bryan smile, with pages of rich photography featuring the work of many designersâ€”and plenty of Crescent City interiorsâ€”framed by his own entertaining maxims on color, pattern, collecting, living areas, intimate spaces, and more. Explore rooms heâ€™s personally designed and others that inspire him; from an old-world kitchen imported straight from the heart of France to a luxurious Art Deco media room, these homes are enticing and unique, and through their surprising details, completely inviting. Decorating your home to reflect your personality and taste takes practice and patience and can be a daunting undertaking, but Bryan proposes that we not worry about making mistakes, that any decision we make is better than no decision at all. With Big, Easy Style, learn how to put aside your hesitation and surrender to the wild side of home design for a big statement thatâ€™s easy to achieve. "Youâ€™ll love his collection of photographs of beautiful New Orleans rooms layered with his design tips and anecdotes of his own design experiences."â€”*Southern Living* "[Big, Easy Style] reads like a hard-copy extension of Batt's personality--elegant, gregarious, funny, showman-like. The rooms he's chosen to showcase are painstakingly designed, yet, in that enviable way, appear so easily tossed together."â€”Susan Langenhennig, *The Times Picayune* "With great passion and a zest for creativity, [Bryan Batt] and Katy Danos offer thoughtful tips on color, collecting, patterns and much more along the way. Kerri McCaffety captures the beauty of each room in her inviting photographs. I love Batt's unique whimsy style. How many of us would think of placing giant decorations from a Mardi Gras float in a lavish dining room? Or how about hanging an ornate crystal

chandelier in the kitchen? Or what about painting a Chippendale-style chair mellow yellow. But they all work!"

—Jeryl Brunner, Stylist.com

"If you've missed Bryan Batt since he left the set of *Mad Men* in 2009 (he played Salvatore Romano), catch up with him in a decor ode to his hometown: New Orleans. [In *Big, Easy Style*], we're treated to his vision of making rooms inviting, festive and ultimately setting the foundation for entertaining, which is what this get-down town is all about."

—San Francisco Chronicle

"The book is full of Batt's tips. It's like spending an afternoon with someone who you'd like to watch decorate a home."-- Karen Dalton-Beninato, Huffington Post Books

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## Customer Reviews

Guest Review: Janie Bryant Reviews *Big, Easy Style*

Emmy-winning costume designer Janie Bryant creates all of the looks seen on TV's *Mad Men*. She has worked on numerous films and TV shows. In 2005, she won an Emmy for her period costumes on HBO's *Deadwood* and this year, she took home the prestigious Outstanding Costume Design award from the Costume Designers Guild. Bryant also authored *The Fashion File: Advice, Tips, and Inspiration from the Costume Designer for Mad Men*. Bryan Batt and I have been friends ever since his first costume fitting on *Mad Men*, and I was so delighted to hear about his home design book, *Big, Easy Style*. As soon as I started flipping through the pages, I immediately wanted to go home and redecorate my entire house! As a Southern girl, I've had a love affair with Bryan's New Orleans store, *Hazelnut*, for years. My husband and I even registered there for our wedding. Now everyone can be

inspired by Bryan's gorgeous designs and favorite rooms, which are splashed across these pages. The book is written in such a clever way, and you really get a feel for Bryan's whimsy and his Southern, melodic voice. The text is even broken up with lighthearted headings, such as "A Call to Armoires" and "Home Wasn't Built in a Day," that really draw you in, and the gorgeous photographs keep you turning the pages. My favorite chapter is "Don't Be Afraid of Color" (Bryan jests, "What did it ever do to you?"). As a costume designer, I'm always playing with different colors and implementing them into my designs. I love to use color to tell a story about a character, and it's clear that Bryan uses color to tell a story about a room. He encourages us to embrace color wholeheartedly. Then, he very deftly shows us how to "get a color clue" with a paint-by-number section that breaks down eight of his favorite swatches for each color of the rainbow, with photo examples. And if you don't end up liking the color on your wall, Bryan reminds us that it's only a can of paint "you can always start over. Of course" how quickly we forget! Great designers hone their visions and then pair unexpected items that work together perfectly. That is overwhelmingly true about Bryan—in fact, he devotes an entire chapter to this idea and calls it "the mix." Whether that mix is shaken or stirred, it's how you blend a variety of styles that will, as he says, "keep your eyeballs moving around the room." This ideology is also very New Orleans; using a combination of classic (especially French) and modern elements to create eclectic and beautiful designs is so intrinsic to the style of the city. It is really impossible to choose a favorite room in *Big, Easy Style*. Bryan has created a book that is warm, elegant, and whimsical, and it makes decorating very approachable.

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Easy Style], we're treated to his vision of making rooms inviting, festive and ultimately setting the foundation for entertaining, which is what this get-down town is all about."â "San Francisco Chronicle"The book is full of Batt's tips. It's like spending an afternoon with someone who you'd like to watch decorate a home."-- Karen Dalton-Beninato, Huffington Post Books

I love this book because he really emphasizes using your own taste & style to design your home. It completely changed my whole outlook on my new place & he made me feel confident to trust my judgment. I plan to use artwork that I've created on my own & do things that might not appeal to everyone, but will make me happy. The photos & designs are exquisite & even though the New Orleans flavor is opposite of my minimalist needs, his down to earth philosophy really spoke to me. Bryan Batt's motto is to be yourself & I have to say, I've applied this to how I dress and also to how I feel about life in general. I saw him on a PBS book show, not realizing that he was also an actor on Madmen. He was so interesting, not pretentious at all & I found that he was a truly wonderful person. I bought this book based on his interview & I was not let down. He let my mind wander & open up to new ideas & I am now thinking about using color in a whole new way. I am so excited about my place & I am more focused on exactly what I want. What a great influence!

Big, Easy Style is a guidebook for creating unique environments of every dimension. A sitting room, a tiny hallway bath, a grand salon or a hallway, Bryan takes the reader step by step to take things we love and use them to their greatest visual impact. Even better, he shows us how to use them effectively, but without looking too studied. The best lesson, and perhaps the main theme of Bryan's entire book, is to throw out the rules of decorating. Don't fear color, but embrace your favorites as neutral backdrops (even purple, orange or red) to showcase your favorite things. Your room won't decorate itself, but evolve as you start with a few key pieces and begin to build on them. When Bryan tells stories about his charmed New Orleans childhood and love of diverse architectural styles, you can see that his experiences mirror our own: visiting Grandma's formal home and drinking in its personality, hanging out in his parents' more modern place, and strolling through the ornate French Quarter, perhaps thinking "If I lived there..." Bryan has provided us with artistic photographs of rooms of many styles, and shown us how to use amazing finds like hanging Lucite bubble glass chairs, Louis XV settees and artwork of every style. The seamless but casual way he integrates everything from sumptuous antiques to attic treasures and thrift store lamps is an outstanding primer that any novice can enjoy and use to help find his or her own big, easy style.

I love this book so much! New Orleans has a distinctive style unlike any other North American city. It's interiors are a fusion of French, Caribbean, Spanish, African and traditional Southern styles. It may be the only city in America where the cool, fun, creative people still own antiques. If you like, or have inherited, antiques but don't want your house to look like Grandma's, this is an essential book (along with Southern Cosmopolitan). Big, Easy Style is incredibly chic, but the writing is non-snobby New Orleans hospitality. Bravo.

I've have been reading and browsing through this colourful and awe inspiring book. Bryan's style and taste is unique and very inspiring to me. His style is very similar to mine. I like the very different period pieces he uses in a each room and weaves them together to create such a personal, bright and intimate space. His knowlegde on the implementation of color is spectacular and each room is jam packed full of exciting tips and designer ideas. Bryan knows what he wants to ultimately achieve in each interior space he decorates and inspires the homeowner, being YOU, who you are in your home and to be yourself - I love his direct, honest approach, and guess what.....he is right! Love this book, great job Bryan Batt.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Batt's writing is charming and enjoyable to read. I love his decorating style. Plenty for inspireation.

Typically the front cover displays the best of a design book, but in this case the entire book was beautifully and tastefully photographed. One of the aspects of the book that I found most appealing was the "feel" of New Orleans in the design but with a more modern flair. The colors used were eye-catching and bold, and it is nice to see someone work with color and pattern as well as Mr. Batt. The writing was also fascinating as stories were shared about many of the items and their personal meaning to the author or the owners of the featured rooms. Will love this book for years to come!

WONDERFUL !

It's hard for me not to love everything about New Orleans, and this book does a good job of capturing the eclectic charm of a city even a Cat 5 hurricane couldn't destroy. I purchased this book because the author was on the Nate Berkus show and made a drink that sounded divine. I mistakenly thought the book would also contain some great recipes. Alas, it is a book, and a good one, about decor, not food. You'll have to go elsewhere for that

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