



Wabi-sabi is about honoring the impermanent, the transitory. Something that shows its age, like rust and wrinkles becomes more interesting, therefore more beautiful. fig 1 by Peter Chan

Beautiful Interiors

July 16, 2015 Issue #181

Wabi-Sabi. The Beauty of Imperfection

I happened across this concept, brand new to me but an ancient philosophy of Japan.

Coming across such a beautiful concept, learning about something that hits home to your heart is like your first taste (any morsel) of chocolate, or your first orgasm or your first kiss. How had it escaped me and why all of a sudden did I trip over it?





Embracing the rough, the decaying, the crooked
are all evidence of this mind set.
fig 2 salvaged materials by homedit

Nothing is 'perfect' in this bedroom. (fig 2) Nothing is pristine. Nothing is brand-spanking new. The iron gate is providing the sculpture over the bed, the ladder is scuffed, the bedclothes are rumpled.

Wabi-sabi was counter to the lavish life-style of the 14th century Japan. Not that there wasn't pestilence and war but as with most things there is a waxing and waning of what's vogue. Bright and shiny gave way to rough and weathered. Silks gave way to linen and cotton.



This table is not square. It's has crevices.
fig 3 by wabi-sabi-decor



This dining area is all about being natural. (fig 3)
The table top has not been squared, the crevices
have become art not something to obliterate. The floor is not
bright and shiny, the vase is filled with cuttings from the yard.
No bouquet from the florist.



There isn't any symmetry with wabi-sabi.
It's absent in this living room.
fig 4 by wabi-sabi home decor

Natural wood planking with no shine provides the foundation
for this great room. (fig 4) The over-sized chair is slipcovered
and looks like it's been handed down at least three
generations. The large stone, the tree stump acting as pot for
the small tree all relate to wabi-sabi, the art of nature, of
decay, of time passing.



Kitchen cabinets are natural planking.
Even the knobs are very simple pulls.
fig 5 by dezinetrip

Any room can incorporate this design aesthetic. Nothing fancy in this kitchen. (fig 5) The simple bouquet makes a big splash against the rough-hewn cabinets. The shiny glassware contrasts nicely with the primitive cabinets and minimal pattern.

Even the basic china is indicative of a simple, appreciative mind set. Life is full complications and it's good to be reminded of the essentials that make life go round. That life continues to be essential even when we and things become faded and decline.



Rough but colorful slats compose the headboard.
fig 6 posted by dezinetrip

Every ding and dent has a story to tell. Enduring difficulty and still being useful is beautiful. (fig 6)
Appreciating the simple cotton with no pattern. What fills the mind and eye is what the passage of time has created. The side table was part of a once enduring tree, now finding beauty and function. The slats comprising the headboard doing the same beautiful job.

The roughly textured tells a story that a shine can't begin to share. The simplicity of nature, depending on what nature has provided. Accepting things as they are, rather than mending them or tossing them shows we value the life cycle. It shows we understand and honor the impermanence of beautiful life.

Lynda



This garden incorporates the transience of wabi-sabi.
fig 7 by gardensbygabriel

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