



## The Things That Matter

*Nate Berkus*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# The Things That Matter

Nate Berkus

**The Things That Matter** Nate Berkus  
*Does your home tell the story of who you are?*

In *The Things That Matter*, Nate Berkus shares intimate stories from his life, introduces us to people who influenced him and helped him forge his sense of style, and opens up about the remarkable experiences that have left him forever changed, all of which find expression in how he lives today. From his most cherished flea market finds, to his beloved books and photos, to the many extraordinary mementos he's collected in his travels, every piece defines who he's become and what endures in his world.

Berkus invites readers into his own home as well as into twelve others, including a sleek steel-and-glass high-rise that soars above Chicago, a rustic cottage in the Hudson Valley, an ultra-chic atelier that maximizes every inch of space, a Greenwich Village townhouse that holds multiple art collections, and a study in meaningful minimalism in Marfa, Texas. The distinctive interiors beautifully displayed in this book offer revealing portraits of their owners' lives and the inspiring choices that have made them who they are today.

*The Things That Matter* convincingly lays out Nate Berkus's philosophy that things *do* matter. Our homes tell our stories, they reflect the places we've been and the people we've loved along the way—and there can be no more beautiful design for living than that.

**NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE SEATTLE TIMES**

## The Things That Matter Details

Date : Published October 16th 2012 by Spiegel & Grau (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780679644316

Author : Nate Berkus

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Design, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography

 [Download The Things That Matter ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Things That Matter ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Things That Matter Nate Berkus**

## **From Reader Review The Things That Matter for online ebook**

### **Cody says**

I have never seen Nate Berkus on television, didn't know a thing about him except that he maybe had been on Oprah once or twice. I don't watch Oprah so didn't know for sure.

I LOVED this book. What a great introduction to Nate's philosophy. I learned a lot about trusting my own taste and not apologizing for my style. Why not surround myself with things that remind me of my life's best moments. Nate and his client's homes actually resemble mine - an experience I rarely have with decor books. I think he is a kindred spirit.

---

### **Adriana says**

I was lucky enough to win an advance uncorrected proof thru Goodreads' First Reads.

Here's what I found.

If you're looking for a book that tells you step-by-step instructions on how to decorate your living room, this is not the book for you.

If you're looking to be inspired by a heart-warming story and interesting people, then you can't miss this book.

I've been a fan of Nate Berkus ever since he first started appearing on Oprah, and I always thought he seemed a nice and charming guy. What this book reveals is that he's also caring, interesting and, above all, a survivor.

Berkus lays his life bare for all to see and uses it as an example of how everything you live and care about is what should inspire your home. I never thought a book about interior design would make me cry much less inspire me to reanalyze how I live my life, but this book did that.

At the end, I not only found myself looking around my reading room and thinking how I could make it more my own, but I found that there are things in my life that could benefit from what I learned: it's not about what's the most fashionable thing, it's about how your house is your home and how it represents you and your life.

---

### **Julie says**

Oh Nate Berkus you confound me. I would love to sit next to you on a long flight across the country and pick your brain. If you came to my house, you would be astonished at the sheer number of toys that litter the floors, counters, closets and shelves of my home. In another life (read: before marriage and kids), I was a neat-as-a-pin, a-place-for-everything-and-everything-in-its-place, freak-about-making-the-bed-just-right kind of girl, and you and I might have been friends. (Growing up, my sister knew that the way to really piss me off was to pull out one corner of my military-precision bed sheets. That's as close as I can come to decanting my eggs, you wild and crazy guy!)

National American sweetheart Nate Berkus opens up his home, and those of several clients and friends, in his new book, *The Things That Matter*. Most of us were first introduced to Berkus via Oprah, where his

casual clean style was used to bring order and beauty to many "make-over" recipients. Fans also remember that he was caught in the middle of the tsunami several years ago in Indonesia, where he (obviously) survived but his partner did not. Nate shares many of the details of his life in this book, explaining how he got from there to here. I received a proof copy, so I hope that the photographs in the actual book are clearer and perhaps even in color (I trust this is the case). For true followers of Nate's style, he shares the origins of many of the pieces in each vignette -- sometimes going a bit overboard (where a door knob came from?). More of a "read" than other design books, Nate's writing is (usually) clean and interesting, and I came away from it with a better understanding of this unique designer.

---

### **Jose Santos says**

Um livro delicioso e aconchegante sobre as coisas que realmente têm importância na vida.

---

### **Kristin says**

I love Nate Berkus, but I was disappointed in his book. Ironically, I felt the book was poorly designed for such a great concept. There were too many lengthy blocks of text without enough pictures to complement the stories. Also, I wish he'd chosen a more eclectic group of people to feature and profile. Plus, where was Oprah?! Featuring her home would have made the book ten times more interesting. The most meaningful story in this book was not about design, but about Nate's heart-wrenching tragedy when he lost his lover in a tsunami. Nate should have planned this book as a memoir and not a subpar coffee-table book.

---

### **Amanda says**

Let me just plunge in here: I LOVE this book. Every dripping word. I could hear Nate's voice carry through in each description and every little joke. His enormous passion for creating a space you love is contagious. And his adoration for every friend featured in the book was inspiring. If we are a reflection of those we attract, Nate has collected a gorgeous and mercurial tribe. His love for story is marvelous as he unquestionably values the resonance a memory carries. Nate infuses every space with the balm of a story, which is how you really transition a house into your home.

This review would not be complete without also acknowledging how he beautifully shares finding the light again after surviving a most horrific disaster and losing a love of his life. The book and stories ultimately felt like a humble tribute to this loss and his excavated hope.

---

### **Jenn Ravey says**

From [thepickygirl.com](http://thepickygirl.com):

The rule in my home when it comes to decorating is this: If I don't love it, I don't buy it. That may mean that

I live without the right piece of furniture for a while. It might even mean a wall remains black for four years (ahem). But I'm not a Kirkland's fan. I'm not going to buy something just to buy. The result is a very "me" home. It's certainly not to everyone's taste, I'm sure, but I love it. The downside of all those meaningful objects? Well, all that meaning. Makes even cleaning out the closet very difficult.

When I first heard about Nate Berkus's new book, *The Things That Matter*, I instantly loved the title. Then, when he was a surprise guest at the Random House Reader event during BEA last year, I was (ask Lori or Tara) ridiculously excited. Like, trembling. When they finally convinced me to go up and talk to him and take a picture, I felt like I was floating – partly because he's Nate Berkus, and partly because when he talked about treasuring the things around him, I felt he was talking directly to me.

I was the little girl who lay awake at night thinking about which route I would take if my house was suddenly on fire. Yes, I would get my family out, but I had my belongings strategically placed so that I could stuff them in my pillowcase and run. The only thing that worried me was my dollhouse. How to lug that sucker out the window?

(In answer to your unasked question, I actually did have a stomach ulcer in high school. Stress related.)

At times I've felt badly about this relevance I give to my belongings. Does that make me materialistic? I knew that was not likely. I've never had much money and certainly haven't been wasteful. And here was Nate Berkus, a true force in the design world, telling me that a home should reflect its owner, not the decorator. As silly as it may sound, that was powerful for me.

My sister bought me *Things That Matter* for Christmas, and I waited until a quiet evening to pore over it. It was unexpectedly delightful. Not that I didn't think it would be good, but as most coffee table books go, I thought it would be heavy on pictures, light on text. What I found, instead, was a lovely tribute to the things with which we surround ourselves. The book is broken up into its introduction, which Nate delivers and that had me tearing up within 12 pages as he discussed coming out to his family and later, the death of his partner. After the introduction, Nate focuses on the interesting, well-cultivated spaces of his friends. It ends with his own current space and his reflections on how he got to the place he calls home now.

Aside from Nate's own story, the most poignant was Dr. Ruth Westheimer's. The famous radio sex talk show host left her family home in Germany as a young girl, never to see her family again. She learned later, both of her parents died in the Holocaust. When she asked Nate to take a look at her place, she told him she wouldn't get rid of anything. Challenged, he went to learn more about her and her things, and he shared some of the most meaningful pieces and how he crafted her space to highlight them. His reverence for her objects and her memories was touching and lovely.

At the same time, Nate also touches on the beauty of editing, and this is the heart of good design, in my opinion. Editing a room is also the reason I never feel fully pleased with a space. It's never quite right, but as insane as that sounds, the tweaking is part of the enjoyment for someone like me, and as he talked about his own tweaking, I felt the joy he gets from crafting his house, as it's much the same as my own joy. To physically be able to touch and move my grandmother's sofa, to glance over at my other grandmother's typewriter or my aunt's paintings, books from a particular trip – these are all important to me.

The things that matter. For you, it might be something seemingly insignificant. But there is a beauty there, regardless.

If you love design or things, I'd highly recommend *The Things That Matter*.

---

### **Tracy says**

I love Nate Berkus so I picked this up thinking it would be a typical coffee table decorating book. The book turned out to be not at all what I expected - it was so much better!! In actuality, this book is a condensed biography of Nate Berkus's life, and chapters containing not just beautiful homes, but how people's personal "things" that have meaning to them, make a home. The message of the book is that a home can be beautifully decorated, but if you don't walk in and feel a sense of who that person or family is, it is just four walls. Each chapter contains pictures and stories of what people collect or display in their homes that make the spaces personal and special. I only wish it had more of the interiors photographed. Highly recommend for anybody looking to add more warmth and dimension to their homes.

---

### **Kathryn says**

Nate Berkus is so much more than a designer, someone I know from years of watching Oprah and oh, so handsome. He has depth, he has an understanding of who is he and how he got here. This book is that and so much more. It was pure enjoyment.

---

### **Laurel-Rain says**

One of my favorite things is turning the pages of a decorating/design book and enjoying the photos of wonderfully created and recreated rooms.

Nate Berkus's "The Things That Matter" had lovely photos...but all in black and white in this Advanced Reader Copy, which made it challenging to imagine the rooms in color, as they will be in the final version.

However, after the initial disappointment about the photos, I was immediately captivated by the text and the author's story. For his mission in designing a home came through very clearly: "each object tells a story and each story connects us to one another and to the world."

And as he leads us through his back story and through the wonderfully captivating tales of his friends whose homes are featured, I could feel the passion, the zeal, and the sense of how each object connected to this person's life and how putting everything together became a denouement of their life moments.

We can imagine how the things that surround us do tell a lot about who we are. We have probably experienced these feelings in our own lives. I know I have in mine.

When Berkus describes how his pursuit of harmonious homes is a lifelong one, I can relate to him. He says: "Some people sit in their family rooms at night rehashing their day or thinking about what's on TV. I sit in mine, and wonder, Would that wicker table look good in the bedroom? Should I put two more chairs here? Should this bookcase be moved two inches to the right? Why are there two chests of drawers in here?"

When I closed the final page--and even during my perusal--I found myself leaping up to rearrange something that I had seen with new eyes as I read this book. And I know that I will grab it frequently to reread a passage

---

or check out the rooms. It will find a home on one of my tables where it is readily accessible. Five stars!

---

### **Tara says**

I never thought a design book could make me feel so much.

---

### **Virginia Campbell says**

"The Things That Matter" are important because they are pieces of our life, physical reminders of hopes, dreams, and memories. Author and design expert Nate Berkus offers a baker's dozen of very different lives and lifestyles, but the most fascinating story remains his own. Influenced at a young age by his interior designer mother and image-conscious entrepreneur father, Nate marched through his childhood to the beat of his own unique drum, and he continues to follow his own inner compass to this day. The book begins with Nate's own narrative, and I was drawn into his life experiences, which includes the tragic loss of his life partner, Fernando. Vacationing together in Sri Lanka in 2004 when the devastating tsunami struck, Nate watched in terror as his loved one was swept away in the dark, swirling water. Nate survived a horrible ordeal, and no trace of Fernando has ever been found. Eventually, Nate moved forward with his life, always carrying memories of loved ones, and favorite places and moments in time with him through the living space he created in his own private world. Having risen to national prominence through his work with Oprah Winfrey, and later with his own TV show, Nate has also written other design books. What I enjoyed most about "The Things That Matter" was the sense of embracing your own life, and letting that essential energy be the guiding force of the reality of your own living space. The heart of this book is the heart of the author himself, and he most appropriately includes a photo gallery of "people who matter" in his own life. When you read this book, you will be encouraged, as I was, to look at your own "things", wonder where you got some of them, and ask yourself why you have them. Other things will need no such reminder, for they are the things that matter.

[Review](#) [Copy](#) [Gratis](#) [Library](#) [Thing](#)

---

### **Sue says**

Loved this book & Berkus's philosophy behind it. He is such an interesting person, I've always been a big fan of his style, wit & generous sharing with us of his life & experiences. This is the book if you like him.

---

### **Brielle says**

I didn't really know anything but the basics about Nate Berkus when I came across this book: he went from a regular on Oprah to having his own show and he lost his partner in the tsunami several years ago. I was just expecting a book of pretty pictures that might give me a thing or 2 to borrow for my own home someday. I

wasn't even sure I would finish it.

I was maybe a third of the way through before I started moving my furniture around, and now I finally understand how people actually find useful things at flea markets. I don't think I've ever read an interior design book where there was so much to read. There are pages of explanation of the people who live in these homes and how they put together their rooms out of the experiences that they have had. One intriguing chapter covered the work that Nate did with Chris Gardner of "The Pursuit of Happyness" fame, and what it was like to design a home with someone who had been homeless. I particularly liked how several of the homes featured weren't actually done by Nate at all, as far as I can tell; he knows the owners and likes how they've done their thing, so he featured them in his book.

I did finish the book and I am sorry to have to return it to the library. I would recommend this to anyone who needs some fresh ideas or who really wants the back story of how people make things come together for themselves.

---

### **Jodi says**

I thought I liked Nate Burkus' style until I read this book. This felt like a gigantic montage to himself rather than a design book. Long blocks of boring text with pics of over decorated spaces. He spends far too much time talking about himself and his things. Or other people's things that he found for them. I wasn't inspired at all.

---