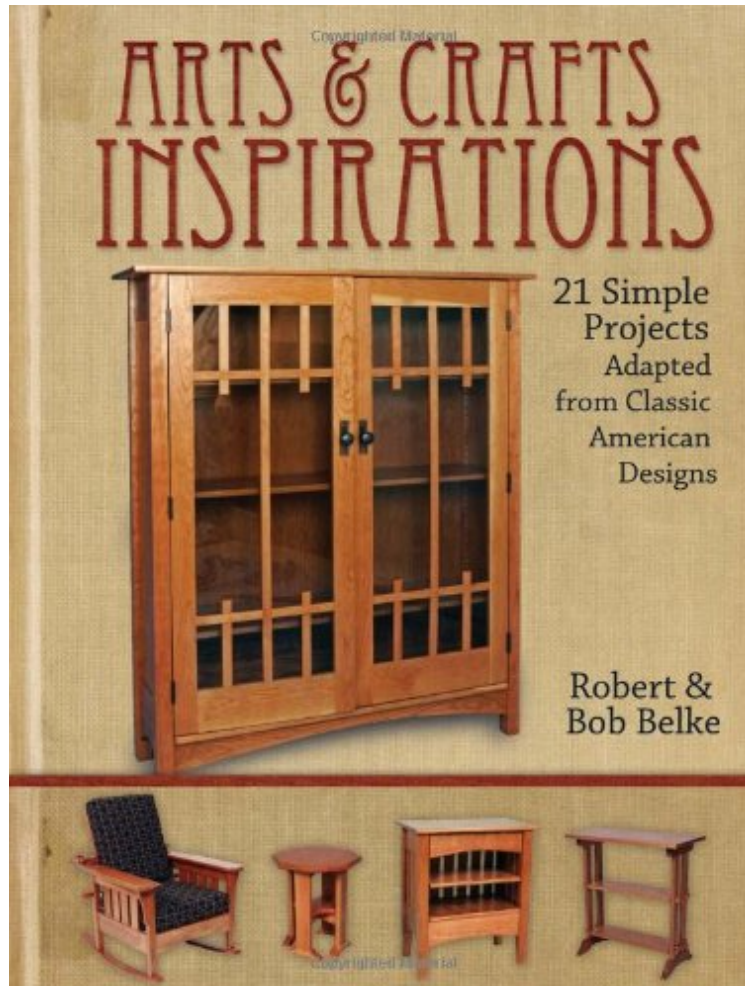


Arts Crafts Inspirations: 21 Simple Projects Adapted from Classic American Designs

Robert Belke

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Robert Belke : Arts Crafts Inspirations: 21 Simple Projects Adapted from Classic American Designs before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arts Crafts Inspirations: 21 Simple Projects Adapted from Classic American Designs:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Something is not quite right...By Christopher T. DahleI can't say that I disagree with Curt's review. While I do like 3 or 4 of the projects in this book, especially the glass door bookcase featured on the cover, I am not rushing out to the shop to make sawdust.I would have rated this book higher if the authors had omitted the word "Simple" in the subtitle. The statement "21 SIMPLE Projects Adapted from Classic American Designs" implies that either the joinery is simple, or, to the extent that the joinery is complex, the book provides simple instructions to complete it. Unfortunately, the instructions in this book simply say "cut the

(mortise...dovetail...tenon...rebate) as shown in the drawing" without giving any guidance on how you ought to mark out the joins or actually make the cuts. The Sketch-Up drawings are numerous and complex, but it is not always true that a picture is worth 1000 words. The projects appear to be adapted to construction from S4S lumber using a small kit of tools such as a beginning woodworker might have. Most of these projects can be completed with a table saw, a router, a hand held jigsaw, a drill, a sander, and a basic kit of hand tools (mallet, chisels, t-bevel, marking gauge, and square). But they require a higher level of knowledge and skill than the subtitle "Simple" implies. Then too, they are made simple by omitting the signature details-- through tenons, pegs, et al. that give Arts and Crafts furniture its distinctive look and strength. As for the designs themselves, The Sketch-Up drawings look really nice, but they don't comport with the photos of the finished furniture. Eventually it hit me. Arts and Crafts furniture tends to be muscular, crisp, and solid looking, perhaps softened lightly with Ellis curves, or cloud lifts. Edges are usually crisp, either chamfered or lightly eased with a block plane. This is what the Sketch-Up drawings in this book show. But most of the finished project photos show edges aggressively rounded over. This makes the designs look soft and mushy and exaggerates the thickness of the components, resulting in end tables that look like they are all wood with no room for books, lamps, or cocktail glasses.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lots of Great ideas. By jimstur This is a really good book to get your creative juices flowing. Lots of great ideas with easy to understand drawings and illustrations. Normally this style of book comes up short but not this time, it's a winner.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Woodworkers Only By OKIE757 Buy this book only if you plan to make one of the projects. It is of little value otherwise. But if you are a woodworker and want to make one of the items, it's very helpful. The size of the page allows the photos to be large and the dimensions on the plans to be easily read. The book is not so much inspirational as it is instructive. So if you are looking for help in making your bungalow genuine or trying to find just the right piece for a spot, this is not the book for you. At \$27.99 for 158 pages, this softcover book is certainly on the pricey side. I would definitely buy it used. If it's going to be in your shop while you work, you'll degrade the quality any way.

Arts Crafts continues to be one of the enduring American furniture designs, and for good reason. The classic, clean lines are at home in just about any interior and offer comfort and functionality that is unbeatable. If you enjoy Arts Crafts style, these inspired adaptations will bring style and comfort to your home. Arts Crafts Inspirations includes: A unique, illustrated step-by-step presentation. Twenty-one designs for every room in your house. Measured drawings with simple instructions. Seating, storage, tables and more!

About the Author Bob Belke has been a custom furniture builder for many years, working in the styles of Shaker, Early American and Arts Crafts. He has published two books; Arts Crafts Woodworking Projects and Classic Country Furniture.