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*Not So Big Remodeling:  
Tailoring Your Home for the Way You Really Live*  
By Sarah Susanka and Marc Vassallo  
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## **Not So Big Remodeling** *Tailoring Your Home for the Way You Really Live*

Just over ten years ago, architect and cultural visionary Sarah Susanka turned the residential design world on its head when she introduced a new blueprint for living in her groundbreaking book, *The Not So Big House*. Today, the Not So Big® values of living responsibly, sustainably and meaningfully are being embraced like no other time in history.

With the current downturn in the housing market compelling homeowners and professionals to remodel rather than relocate, Susanka's latest book, written with co-author Marc Vassallo, could not have come at a better time.

**NOT SO BIG REMODELING** revolutionizes the remodeling process the way *The Not So Big House* revolutionized house design a decade ago. Instead of the typical ideas book so common in the house remodeling genre, this book helps readers think like an architect by teaching them to evaluate where the problem areas reside and identify the least invasive and most effective strategies for solving those challenges. In the process, readers will discover how to improve the appropriateness of the home's layout and flow for today's more informal lifestyles.

**NOT SO BIG REMODELING** is filled with simple, yet clever ideas for making small moves that have a big impact. Readers will learn how to maximize the value of every dollar spent, while transforming a house full of ho-hum rooms into a place they are proud to call home

"For years now, I've been traveling around the country describing to eager audiences the attributes and benefits of a Not So Big house," explains Susanka. "I've often met with people who ask, 'Can I make my existing house Not So Big without starting over?' That is what this book addresses – the easy, Not So Big remodeling strategies that can dramatically improve the place you call home, making it a delight to live in."

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### **Keeping It Simple**

**NOT SO BIG REMODELING** takes the time-honored Not So Big tradition of “building better, not bigger” and encourages readers to put their remodeling dollars into character and utility instead of square footage. Too often during the remodeling process people begin in the wrong place, immediately assuming that their house needs a large, costly addition. Susanka dispels this assumption by introducing readers to three options for remodeling your home the Not So Big way: working within the existing footprint, bumping out, and adding on just a little. Anything more than “just a little” and it is no longer Not So Big.

“I’ve worked with thousands of individuals, couples and families over the past two decades, so I know exactly what is needed to keep costs down and livability up,” says Susanka.

In each of the book’s 23 chapters, Susanka takes readers on a room-by-room journey of the house to evaluate and examine the most frequent design problems as well as their causes. At each stop along the way, Susanka provides a list of questions for readers to use in assessing their spaces and highlights the Not So Big principles that offer potential remodeling solutions. Each chapter also includes case studies that beautifully illustrate how these principles can be applied.

### **Not So Big: The First Step in Green Remodeling**

In our current economy, with all the concerns about energy costs and over-scaled, under-utilized houses, many people are looking for ways to make their existing homes more comfortable, functional and sustainable. Through the process of a Not So Big remodel, homeowners and professionals have an opportunity to make their homes green. Susanka explains that as house systems get upgraded, both in aesthetics and mechanics, it becomes better tailored not only for the current homeowners, but for generations to come.

Beauty matters, and because people tend to take care of the places they love, improving a home’s character without increasing its size is truly a sustainable act. According to Susanka, this is the very first and most important step in sustainable design. Just as *The Not So Big House* described a new blueprint more suitable to our time and began a movement that is changing the shape and size of the American home, **NOT SO BIG REMODELING** offers a new way of tailoring our homes to fit the way we actually live today. In the process, it will change the longevity and sustainability of millions of homes around the country.

### **Susanka’s Own Not So Big Remodeling**

The first and last chapters of the book are devoted to the most detailed case study of all – Susanka’s remodel of her own North Carolina home. In these chapters, Susanka uses her own remodel to expand upon the methodology she advocates. In the first chapter, Susanka explains how she first opted to “work within the existing footprint.” She takes readers through her sequence of considerations for identifying problems and illustrates the Not So Big solutions she found for every space in her home.

In the final chapter, Susanka provides a glimpse of her recent Not So Big addition – a space that is home to Susanka Studios and that allows her to continue living in a Not So Big way. Susanka concludes by discussing remodeling projects that are as yet unrealized, but are currently taking shape in her mind as she contemplates her next Not So Big solution.

Throughout the book, readers are given full access to the wealth of information that Susanka has accumulated over her two decades of working with homeowners of every stripe and economic bracket. It is this openness and willingness to share her knowledge that has made Susanka such a sought-after source of advice on house and life design.

**NOT SO BIG REMODELING** is a book with the power to change minds, hearts, and lives, and in the process to help bring our world back into balance, one house at a time. Best of all, it will help readers discover that the house of their dreams is actually hiding right where they live today.

**About Sarah Susanka, F.A.I.A., [www.NotSoBig.com](http://www.NotSoBig.com)**

Susanka is the author of eight books that collectively weave together home and lifestyle, revealing that a “Not So Big” attitude serves not only architectural aims, but life goals as well. Her books have sold well over one million copies and include: *The Not So Big House*, *Creating the Not So Big House*, *Not So Big Solutions for Your Home*, *Home By Design*, *Inside the Not So Big House*, *Outside the Not So Big House* and *The Not So Big Life*. Susanka is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and a Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council. She was born in Kent, England, and lives in North Carolina. Join her online community at [www.NotSoBig.com](http://www.NotSoBig.com).

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