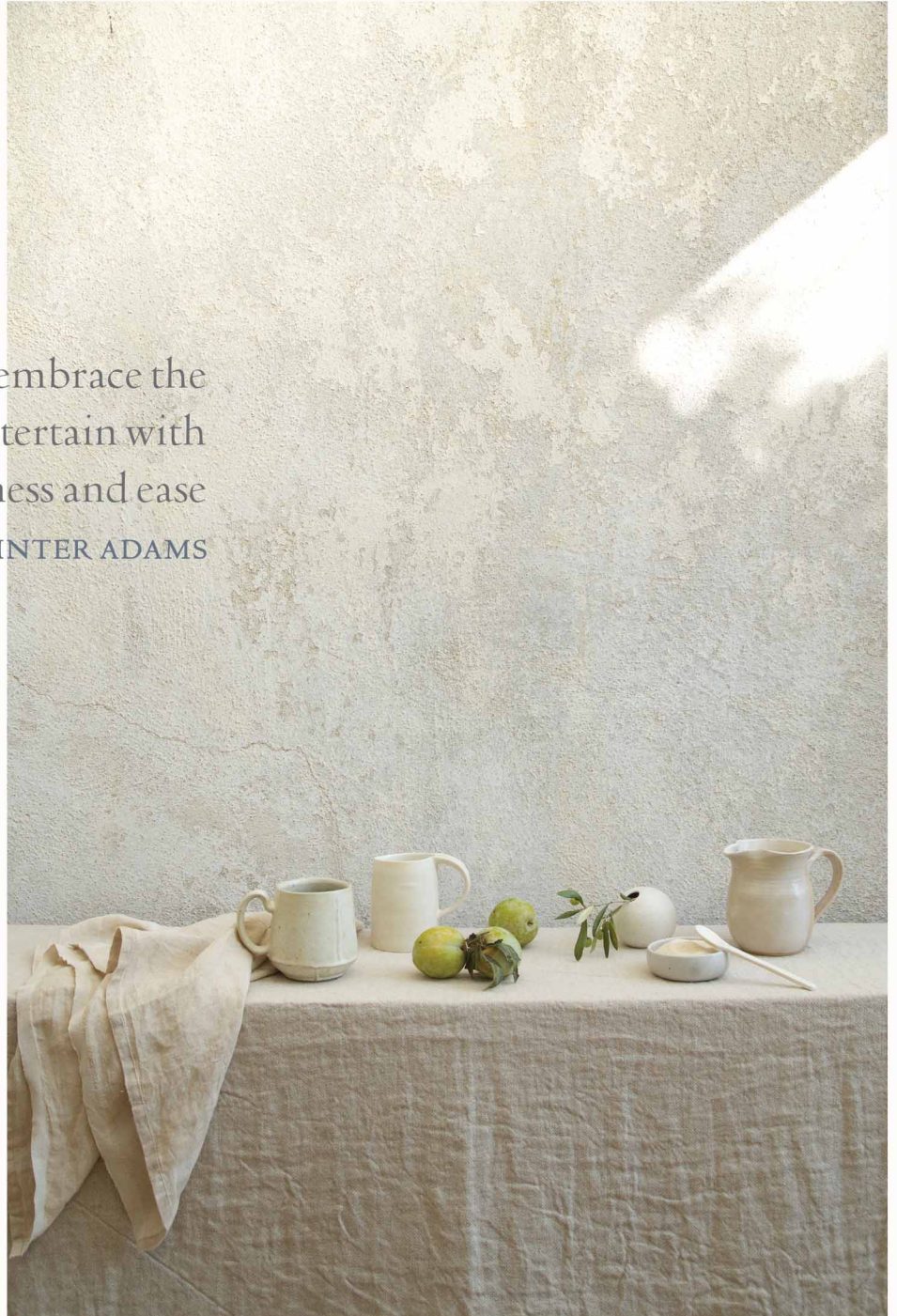


WABI-SABI WELCOME

Learning to embrace the
imperfect and entertain with
thoughtfulness and ease

JULIE POINTER ADAMS



WABI-SABI

Dried flowers or branches
Cracked or chipped pottery
Solid wooden rocking chairs
Softly glowing/diffused light from
a lantern, candles, or a fire
Things that inspire contentment or
longing (like natural beauty or
something melancholy)
Aged, faded, and scuffed wood
Flea-market items
Rust or signs of decay
Wrinkled linen napkins
Rough and uneven stone walls
Quilts with patches and frayed hems
Soft overstuffed chairs with lumpy
feather pillows
One-of-a-kind art pieces (whether a
child's drawing or an original sculpture)
Worn leather bags or shoes with a patina
A wardrobe with a few timeless, long-
lasting items you wear again and again
Belongings that reflect personality and
meaning (like photos, books, letters,
and collected treasures)
Irregular, nonuniform surfaces (like a
stone wall, a forest floor covered in
leaves, or a mossy tiled roof)
Dappled light
Cozy, intimate spaces
Layers of faded, nuanced paint

NOT WABI-SABI

Fake flowers or plants
Stained or cracking plastic
An old desk chair with wheels and
a fabric seat
Weak light from fluorescents or
fake candles
Things that spark envy in us (like a flashy
car or a showy house)
Peeling and cracked laminate or linoleum
Giant warehouse discount stores
New, perfectly polished materials
Crumpled paper towels
Slick steel fences
Synthetic bedding
Rigid wingback chairs upholstered with
silk and tassels
Mass-marketed reproductions
Cracking imitation leather
An overstuffed closet full of items you
wear only once or twice a year
Belongings purchased as status symbols
Slick, shiny, homogenous surfaces
Strong, harsh, bright light
Large, empty, echoey rooms
Bold, bright, glossy lacquer



BEING CLOSE BRINGS COMFORT

Invite Openness and Belonging Through Intimate Spaces

Growing up on the central coast of California has convinced me that warm, Mediterranean climates help us get close and let loose—sharing a blanket at the beach or lounging in a backyard hammock with a friend is the kinds of situation that enables me to be myself and open up. Likewise, when we gather with just a few people, tucking in around a small table, sitting shoulder to shoulder on a bench, or eating picnic-style, we feel more connected to one another.

These intimate wabi-sabi spaces, which are by nature small and private, encourage us to sit close and interact more naturally. When we let comfort and closeness become our guides to hosting, all of our decisions become simpler and more carefree.

Whether it's a party of two or twenty-five, experience has shown me that people become comfortable when they are relaxed, welcome, and content, and being in cozy, low-key, personal places enhances those feelings. When you invite friends over, opt for a snug space

to gather in. Eat in the tiny breakfast nook instead of the formal dining room, or on to your laps on the porch. Drag a small table into the garden and eat surrounded by flowers and weeds. If you're an apartment-dweller, invite others over for gatherings on the stoop, the rooftop, or even the fire escape. Moments shared in unconventional places make for more interesting memories and, I believe, more lasting connections.

Here are some elements of California living that have shown me how to encourage a spirit of openness and a sense of belonging among my guests on any occasion. I'm certain they can do the same for you.

The Intimate Host

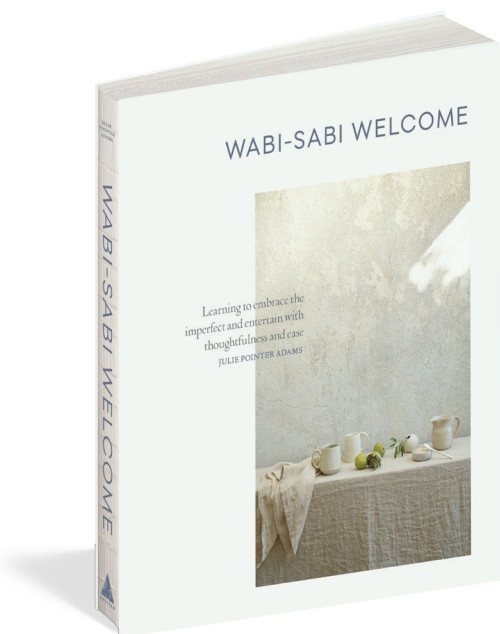
Be Kind and Candid

—
We've all crafted a way of portraying ourselves in public, filtering our words so we don't reveal too much about ourselves, and trying to









Wabi-Sabi Welcome

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MARKETING & PUBLICITY

- National feature coverage in culinary, home, and lifestyle magazines
- Targeted outreach to influential design and lifestyle influencers such as *Kinfolk* and *Cereal*
- 10-city author tour
- Instagram campaign

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HOME DESIGN & ENTERTAINING



A stunning visual guide to entertaining without the fuss

The Japanese ideology of wabi-sabi teaches us to embrace the imperfect, to live simply and humbly, and to cultivate a mindful and ever-present approach to our daily lives and interactions with others. In *Wabi-Sabi Welcome*, Julie Pointer Adams invites readers into artful, easygoing homes around the world—in Denmark, California, France, Italy, and Japan—and teaches us how to apply their wabi-sabi approach to home decor and entertaining to our own gatherings. The lessons are simple—decorate with foraged blossoms; find beauty in the imperfect (embrace those wrinkled linen napkins!); serve food to nourish, not impress; choose raw, natural materials for your dishes and furnishings—but add up to an authentic, casual, and intimate environment that’s a welcome reprieve for guests and hosts alike.



JULIE POINTER ADAMS grew up in Santa Barbara, California, where backyard barbecues, open doors, and picnics at the beach strongly shaped her sense of what intimate, casual entertaining should be. She developed and managed *Kinfolk* magazine’s original dinner and workshop series alongside editor Nathan Williams for several years, overseeing hundreds of both small and not-so-small gatherings around the world. She lives in Santa Barbara with her husband, Ryan Adams, in a tiny, light-filled artist’s studio.