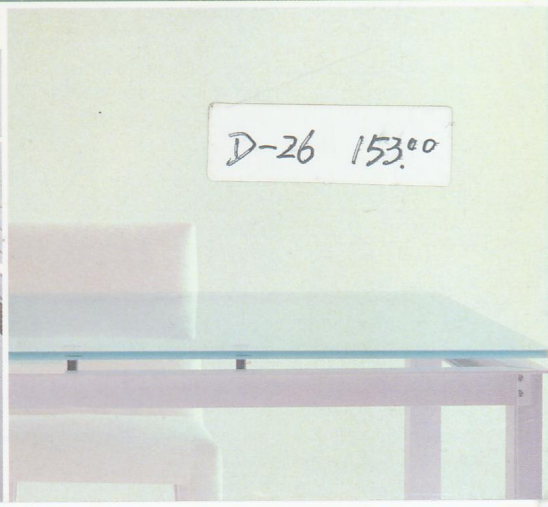


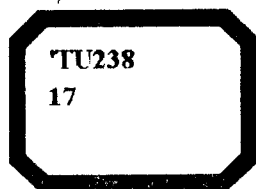
# minimal

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INTERIORS

GLOUCESTER MASSACHUSETTS

ROCKPORT  
PUBLISHERS

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Ann McArdle

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# introduction

**Minimalism** is the reduction of a design to its essence, intensifying the impact of its inherent beauty. This standard is used to create beauty within the home by presenting the space without excessive ornamentation. Emphasis is on the careful placement of furnishings and select accessories. Limiting the use of decorative accents allows the eye to roam, to appreciate the space itself as a visual resting place. Let the activity that takes place in a room be its centerpiece, and provide only the necessary tools for that activity.

The subtlety of the design sets free the spirit of the room and its occupants.

Apply the principles of minimalism to create a cohesively seductive atmosphere. But don't worry about adhering strictly to their principles, you can incorporate aspects of the style into any home. This book features examples of minimal decor that range from bare essence to a more decorated look within the minimalist aesthetic. The emphasis is on moder-

ation and purity of form. Contemporary architecture and furnishings lend themselves to the look, but minimalism also can be achieved in more classic spaces, or with classic elements.

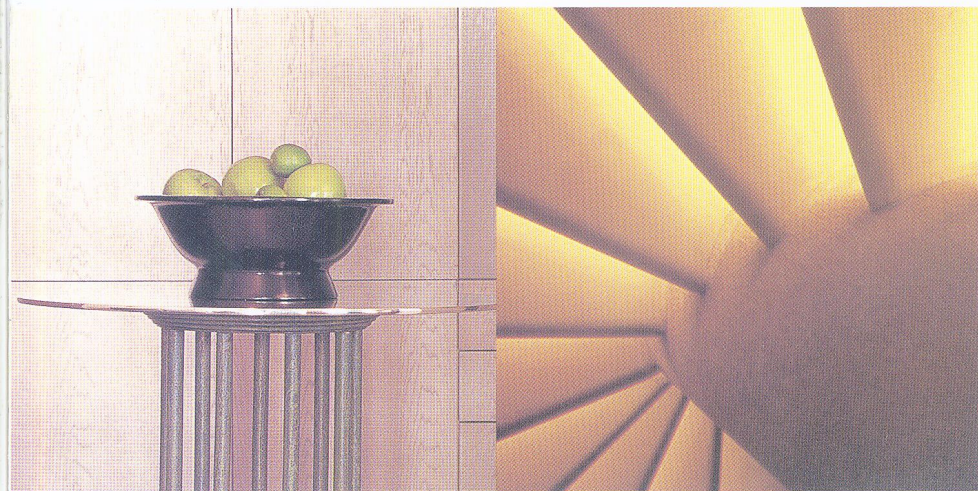
Start with the basics—the space and its boundaries and the necessary furniture. Choose a color scheme to suit your taste—monochromatic, unassuming pale tones, or dramatic, bold hues. Arrange furniture for utility and effect. Large pieces set away from a wall appear to float in the space. The absence of surrounding elements gives favorite accessories weight and life. Select lighting fixtures of unobtrusive color or size, such as tiny halogens strung on wires suspended from the ceiling, or opt for ones that are invisible, recessed into walls or ceilings. Add accent lighting to articulate and dramatize the sculptural quality of fabrics, artifacts, and architectural elements.

Take cues from the empty room. The architectural elements will indicate its treatments; your style will define the environment within it.









entrances





**D**raw guests into your home with accent lighting on a single sculpture at the end of an entrance hall. Here, open architecture inspires the gallery treatment.

Photo: Douglas A. Salin  
 Lighting Design: Linda Ferry, IES, ASID Affiliate  
 Architecture: David Allen Smith

**T**urn your stairway into sculpture on a grand scale by placing lighting under the nosing of the steps. Architectural detail that speaks for itself is a hallmark of minimalism.

Photo: Robert Ames Cook  
 Lighting Design: Craig Roeder, IALD  
 Design: Loyd Ray Taylor and Charles Paxton Gremillion  
 Architecture: Hendricks and Wall







**A**n entrance of mullioned glass sets the decor in motion, allowing for the interplay of light and shadow. A single accessory is all that is needed here.

Photo: Tim Street-Porter

Design: Josh Schweitzer, Schweitzer BIM





In an entryway with level changes, use beautiful wood flooring as an ornament. A contrasting wood step adds interest and concentrates appropriately draws attention to itself.

Photo: Luis Ferreira Alves  
Architecture: Souto Moura





**C**ontemporary architecture can be its own decor; adornments would only distract from the intriguing form of this stairway area. The playful effect of the light gives life to the stark structural lines.

Photo: Tim Street-Porter

Design: Wally Cunningham, Architect

**T**his stairway is reduced to its functional essence. Its cantilevered treads are seemingly suspended in air. Use the sparsest contemporary furnishings to enhance a serene space such as this one.

Photo: Peter Paige

Design: Damga Design