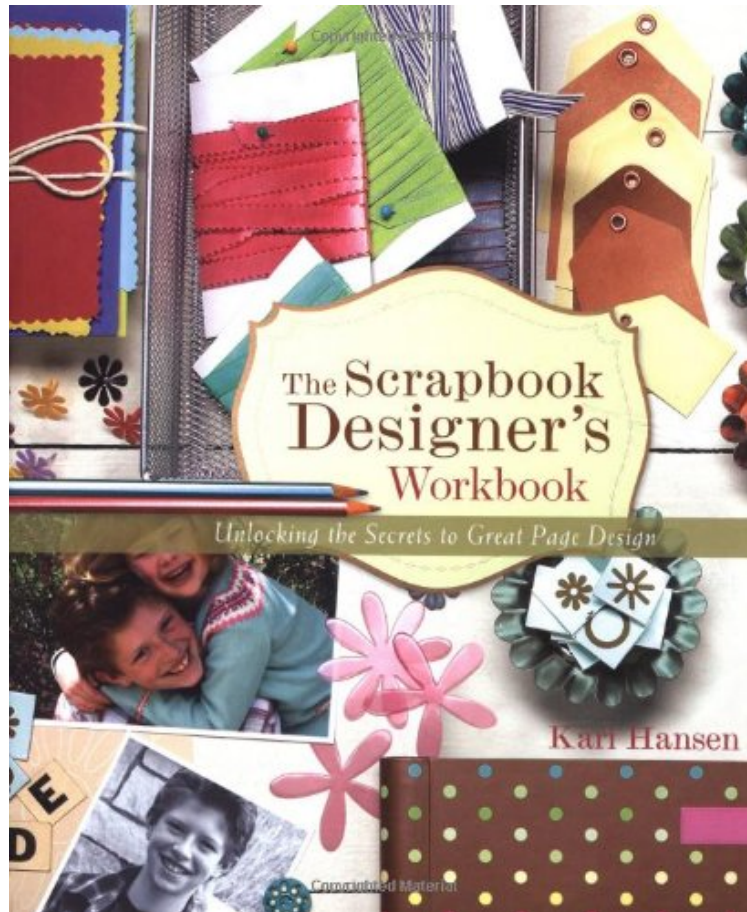


(Online library) The Scrapbook Designer's Workbook: Unlocking the Secrets to Great Page Design

The Scrapbook Designer's Workbook: Unlocking the Secrets to Great Page Design

Kari Hansen

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Kari Hansen : The Scrapbook Designer's Workbook: Unlocking the Secrets to Great Page Design before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scrapbook Designer's Workbook: Unlocking the Secrets to Great Page Design:

81 of 81 people found the following review helpful. (Actually 3 1/2 stars) Too firm on "how to scrapbook"By Chel MichelineI'm a graphic designer, and when I started scrapbooking, I felt myself at a total loss as far as design in the "real world" - ie, 3d images, texture, etc. So I decided to re-educate myself on the principles of design with a specific focus on paper arts and mixed media. Since then, I have been gobbling up all the "design principle" books I can get my hands on, and was very excited about getting Kari Hansen's book. It seemed exactly what I was looking for- a course in design principles, geared towards scrapbooking.The problem is that Hansen's philosophy is not very flexible. It seems like this book is really geared for scrapbookers who wish to be published rather than those of us looking to develop our own styles and techniques. Hansen makes it clear in the first few sections that she was on the submission

team for a magazine and had very specific criteria for a "good" page. Things must be neat- no glue showing, NO mistakes. Journaling must be typed or done in a very very neat handwriting, NO spelling or grammar mistakes, practice several times before committing to the layout. Titles must be witty and clear to anyone seeing the page. All cutting must be precise, everything measured. All photos properly resized before putting together layouts- there must ALWAYS be a larger focal photo (not so good for those of us who scrap 4x6, or who don't have time to resize all our photos planning for layouts...) No "hanging" embellishments, no empty space. Yikes! I appreciate her vision, but found myself frequently intimidated by her "this is what makes a bad layout" writing style. Scrapbooking is supposed to be personal, and for those of us who have no interest in getting published, sometimes we do have a little glue going beyond the edge of a photo by accident, or some messy handwriting. Sometimes we don't have time to resize a photo to make it the spotlight of the page. Sometimes we can't redo an entire page because we made a mistake that no one will probably notice but us, and maybe Kari Hansen if she were to check out the page. To me, these aren't design principles, but sort of perfectionist details. I'm interested in color theory, and balancing my elements. I'm not interested in someone reminding me over and over that the little crinkle on the corner of my page makes it a bad page. I appreciate the overview of design and color. It's wonderful, and Hansen knows her stuff. But there is too much focus in the early chapter on what makes a scrapbook page UNACCEPTABLE or boring, which I sort of find insulting. I'm not a perfect scrapper, and I'm trying to get better. I don't want a design book telling me some of the things I've done, or mistakes I've made in my pages thus far make them useless. I much prefer the warmer writing style of Ali Edwards (with her motto "IT IS OKAY") and many others who have written about the same topic. As far as the layouts, as far as I can tell they are all by Hansen. They are used to demonstrate the ideas and lessons Hansen is writing about rather than to function as inspiration. So this isn't a great book for those who want some visual inspiration. So I would absolutely recommend the book, but I would try and take it with a grain of salt. If you are a serious scrapper, looking to elevate your design to the next level or learn what it takes to get published, take note to EVERYTHING Hansen says. But if you are just trying to learn a more technical way of creating personal pages, learning balance, flow, color ideas, and information on typography, I would skim the Hansen's personal feelings on what makes a scrapbook "good" and pay close attention to her design lessons. Apply them to your own pages, but don't lose what makes your pages YOU. Glue smudges and all! 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. More than 3 less than 4--for me By tachi I have to start with a disclaimer: the author and I view scrapbooking in a completely different way. For me, scrapbooking is primarily a way of presenting photographs in a more pleasant and attractive way than just placing them on a white or black background. Any embellishments or non-photo material that I use is in support of the photo, not there to make an aesthetic statement. For the author, scrapbooking is an art form. She is an artist. She uses the work of other artists for inspiration. She has a studio for her art. She has more materials (papers, ribbons, fabrics, etc.) than many craft stores. The photos are often little more than an element in her work. For me, the cost of materials is a factor that I try to control and keep to a minimum. In the author's case, materials are the stock of her trade and, apparently, cost is not a factor. For me, time to spend scrapbooking is limited to what is left over after meeting personal and professional obligations. This is a hobby, not a profession. I am happy with a page when I have gotten as many photographs on the page as gracefully as possible at minimum to moderate expenditure of time and money. I try to use as many photos as possible in each page because, to me, it's all about the photos. I am, in effect, making albums--nicely presented, with expanded captioning, and subtly accessorized--but photo albums. For the author, this is her profession, so the time spent on each page is whatever that page requires until she is satisfied that it's perfect. Since the photographs are one more element that has to work together with the design of the page, pages with one or two photos only are the rule as the design seems to take precedence over the photographic content. With two such different approaches, points of view, and budgets, it's a wonder that I still found that the book is worth seeing. It is a useful reference that demonstrates that there are different options for the same photo (as demonstrated in a chapter in which she used the same two photographs but presented it four different ways.) It explains color theory. Maybe that's something you don't think about everyday as you try to create a page, but it does explain why some pages work and others don't. There are countless techniques and elements that she uses that I might want to look into at some time (not all on the same page, but one here and another there.) All in all, she has done a great job explaining and demonstrating her art. She is a good artist, no doubt. Other scrapbooking artists will find inspiration in her work. Non-artists, like me, can still find ideas and fascination in looking through her pages. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Firm on how to scrapbook, but that's what the book is for. By Customer I've read some critics on this book, saying that it was too firm on "how to scrapbook". I think that's exactly the purpose of the book, teach some basic design rules to make a successful page. If you like to make a page just following your instincts, then a designer's workbook is not the kind of book you are going to like most... Yes, it's quite rigid. Yes, it's perfectionist. If you want to produce a more "loose" page, than this book is not for you. Nevertheless, this book is useful to, whatever your style, teach you how to make more equilibrate pages, considering the distribution of the photos, the colors, the textures, the lettering etc. I found this book extremely useful for me, I use it all the time. I recommend it if you want a more "professional" finish to your pages. If you are a perfectionist, go ahead- you're gonna love it!!!

Everything you need to know for amazing scrapbook design! Wondering if your title and journaling typography match? Perplexed when selecting the best color palette to complement your photographs? The answers to these design questions and so many more are handily collected here in Scrapbook Designer's Workbook. Noted scrapbook designer and columnist Kari Hansen teaches you the basics of design as they relate to scrapbooking. From color wheels to curvilinear lines, you'll find a wealth of information you'll reference again and again as your design knowledge grows and your style matures. Inside you'll find: Easy-to-reference lists of design tips and tricks In-depth information on scrapbook design basics, elements, principles and color concepts Color palettes, layout sketches and other bonus materials to make page design easier An illustrated glossary of design terms

About the Author Kari Hansen served as craft editor for Memory Makers magazine from 2003 to 2005, during which time she wrote the popular Designer's Workbook column. Now a freelance artist and writer, Kari also runs a home-based business, Green Pear Studio (www.greenpear.com).