

## May Out of the Box Challenge & Interior Design by Numbers

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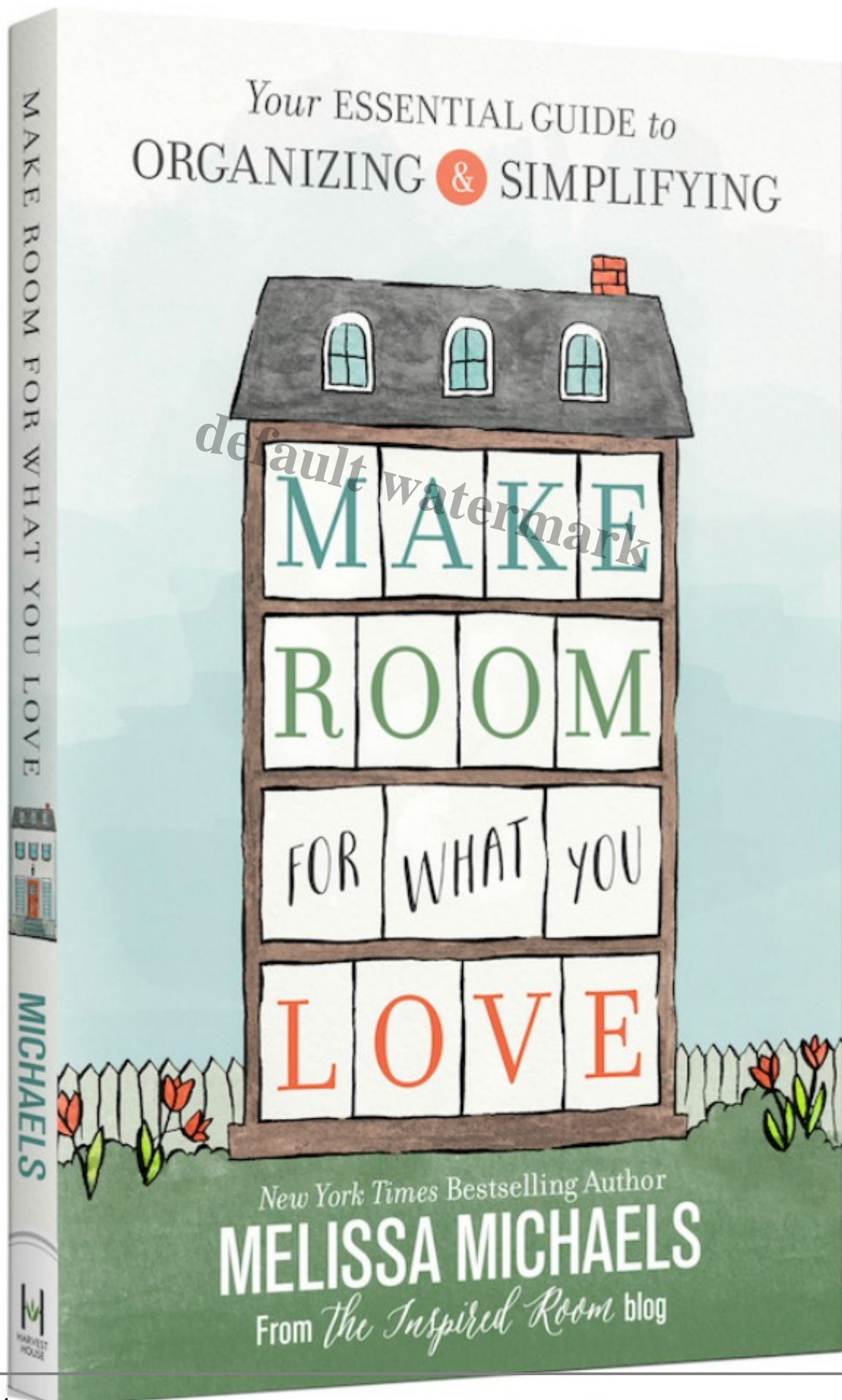
Believe it or not, this image from [This Old House](#) is one of my most popular pins on [Pinterest](#). Crazy, right? I had no idea people were that interested in how high to hang a toilet paper holder or how far it should be from the toilet. I have always just sort of eyeballed it. Television shows like Fixer Upper and Flip or Flop have sparked an interest in home renovation in even my husband who I never thought

Iâ€™d find watching HGTV without me. Heâ€™s trying to convince me we need to move to Waco, Texas so that Joanna and Chip can build our dream house.



photo source [HGTV](#)

I have a passion for decorating and enjoy looking at home magazines and ideas for spaces. I would much rather buy things for my home than clothing. This particular passion for home accessories has gotten me in trouble over the years. You know your either blessed or a compulsive shopper when one of your biggest problems in life is having too much stuff. Iâ€™m in a season of life where I need to edit more and simplify. Itâ€™s an area Iâ€™m working on and will share some tips Iâ€™m learning soon from the new book [Make Room For What You Love](#) by Melissa from The Inspired Room.



My decorating style has evolved over the years and I'm sure it will continue to evolve during the various stages of my life. I'm always up for a little change in my surroundings. It can be difficult to figure out your decorating style and Melissa has some great tips. Many of them are things that I do such as collecting images of spaces you love from magazines and Pinterest and then making a note of what it is you like about them. This can be very helpful when you don't know where to start with a room.

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# INCH BY INCH INTERIOR DESIGN BY NUMBERS

These numbers are standards and based on advice from designers. They are general rules for decorating, but as you know rules can sometimes be broken.

- 1 INCH**  
Leave at least an inch of space between the wall and your sofa.
- 1.5 INCHES**  
Curtains should break no more than 1 or 2 inches on the floor for a tailored drape.
- 2 INCHES**  
Buy an insert 2 inches larger than your pillow cover to make it look lush and overstuffed.

**5 to 9 INCHES** of space between the top of furniture and the bottom of art.



- 12 INCHES**  
Leave a foot wide border between an area rug and the walls of a room to make a space feel larger.
- 18 INCHES**  
of space between a coffee table and a sofa.

**30 INCHES** is the ideal height for both your mattress and nightstand.

**30 to 36 INCHES** for height of chandeliers above a table

**38 INCHES**

**My challenge this month is to refresh or update a room in your home.** If numbers are your thing, I've created a list of helpful guidelines to remember when hanging photos and arranging furniture. **Inch by Inch Interior Design by Numbers** is a list of standard measurements that decorators use. You can save the image for your personal use and print it out on your computer, take a screen shot of it with your phone or pin it to one of your [Pinterest](#) boards.

Sometimes all it takes is a coat of fresh paint, getting rid of clutter or some new throw pillows to give a room a new look. It doesn't have to be complicated. Melissa shares these [10 small home projects you'll love for spring](#). I shared these [10 things you can do to pretty your space](#) in a past post and I'll be posting some other inspiring ideas throughout this month. May is a great time to spring clean and refresh your home!

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