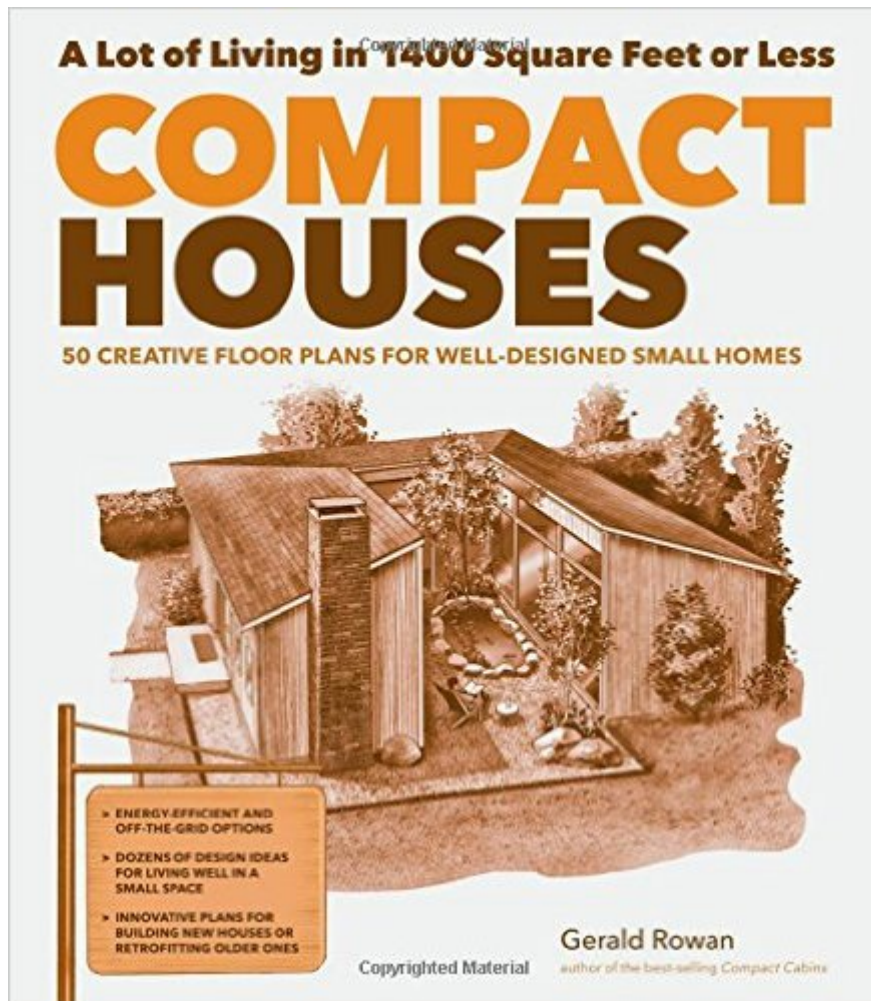


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Compact Houses: 50 Creative Floor Plans For Well-Designed Small Homes



Synopsis

Discover the huge possibilities of a small house! Whether you're building from scratch or retrofitting an existing structure, these 50 innovative floor plans will show you how to make the most of houses measuring 1,400 square feet or less. Gerald Rowan presents creative and efficient layouts that use every inch of space, with tips on fully maximizing closets, porches, bathrooms, attics, and basements. From reorganizing a small storage area to building a brand-new home, you'll find a detailed design to fit your family's needs.

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Customer Reviews

Some interesting ideas - although there are some challenges that make this problematic for me. The floor plans is sketches are not to scale. That wouldn't bother me - who expects a book like this to be scaled accurately? - except that the scaling is completely skewed between the x and y axis. I first noticed that some of the oblique renderings had some pretty strong inconsistencies with the plans, and then I started looking at the plans closer. For example, the Clarion Crossing plan has a width dimension of 20' and a height dimension of 45', while they are almost the same in the drawing (2.25" X 2.5"). This type of variance occurs throughout the book. The real problem is that the furniture and renderings are generally pretty consistent scaled, yet the floor plan is skewed pretty heavily - so you get a completely inaccurate representation of the idea. In my mind, a book on design that ignores scale is inexcusable. No one is expecting build-ready blueprints, but if you are

trying to demonstrate how small homes can be effective, at least be honest in the representation. -
posted by Poore Richard

I really thought this would be the book my fiancé and I would pluck a small house plan from without the need for too much modification, but I was a little disappointed in this second book in the 'Compact' series. I actually preferred the design and layouts from Compact Cabins in the end. The interior layouts were good, but the aesthetics of the outside of these homes were SO basic as to be unattractive. Vast exterior walls with tiny windows or no windows at all. Uninspiring shapes. Bland front walls that screamed for a functional porch or even a roof over the door had none. The compact cabin book did a much better job of breaking up space or having the quirks of the design have function or make sense. There were many instances of wasted space (long hallways connecting what are essentially two small houses) that we found odd for a book that touts maximizing the energy efficiency and function of minimal space. Quite a few of the home plans were kind of 'too big' in that they were normal size. One house in particular had a garage that was literally as big as the rest of the house, if not bigger. Seems like a waste of space to me. The small section on tips to make multipurpose features like drawers in stairs or having fold-away elements in the home was great but all too brief. Those are my only complaints, and they are personal taste, of course. If nothing else, the book got us thinking about how to start with these plans and tweak them even more, and I love the retro look of the illustrations and the feel, layout and presentation of the entire book. Despite these gripes, I actually like these books very much. I hope to see more of them in the future and work from them.

The only problem I had with the designs in this book was deciding which one to use. I'd previously purchased the Compact Cabins, by the same author, but had a chance to preview this book through NetGalley. Love is not enough. The 'hidden bathrooms' tucked in under a stairwell (toilet and sink - basic - shower/tub is in a larger bathroom elsewhere in the home) is a five star idea not just for housing but barns/stables. The lap pool, atriiums, standing bath - just a few touches of luxury or different while maximizing space. Those with the possibility of 3 season rooms can find some awesome ideas here. Guest rooms with tucked away beds, areas of hidden storage and display or storage areas in interior walls are all great space saving ideas brought forth in the book. Excellent resource I'll be adding to my book collection. There's also time devoted to renovation of an existing structure. Loved the ideas within - if you're looking for ideas for a home, start with this book, add your own touch and make it your own.

This is a great book for someone downsizing from a 4,000, 3000, and even 2000 sq. ft. home, but may not be ideal for the tiny and micro-home lovers, although there are some great space saving ideas in the middle of the book they might like. This book is for someone who wants a small home, which is much bigger than tiny or micro homes. I read a review with some complaints that I personally did not completely agree with. Yes, there are a couple of windows out of place or missing in the drawings from the plan, but only a few and you still get a very good idea of what the house would look like when finished. There are some plans with long hallways, but to me that screams "Storage Space". Long hallways can be ideal for bookshelves and storage cabinets. You may have to bump them out a foot or two, but there are those who have stuff to store like books, craft supplies, hobbies, and seasonal holiday décor that need a place. You could have storage without using an extra room for it. I really enjoyed it.

I am returning the book. It has no benefit. Not only are their few dimensions, there is not an appendix to where one could purchase the plans. I expected a book of houses with a reference to an architect who has designed the house, nope. Other than some exterior dimensions, there are no room sizes. This is just a book of pretty one color pictures, no photos. I am interested in construction of small houses, but this book was worthless.

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