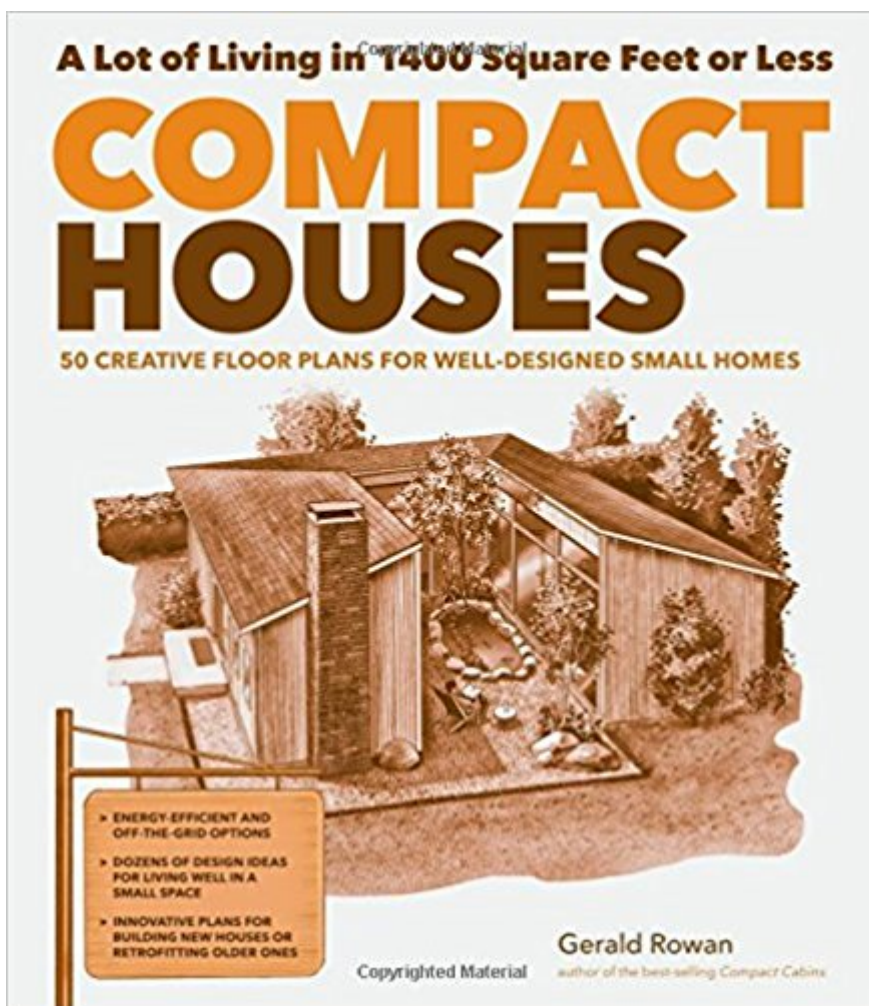


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# Compact Houses: 50 Creative Floor Plans For Well-Designed Small Homes



## 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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Storey Publishing, LLC (October 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1612121020

ISBN-13: 978-1612121024

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #92,541 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > House Plans #20 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Small Homes & Cottages #165 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Sustainable Living

## Customer Reviews

"Whether building a new home or renovating an existing one, homeowners looking to downsize will find plenty of ideas here."

DREAM BIG, BUILD SMALL Imagine a home that contains everything you need in no more than 1400 square feet. Thoughtfully designed for maximum comfort and efficiency, Gerald Rowan's floor plans offer innovative options for building or retrofitting an affordable home that is easy to maintain and environmentally friendly.

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'm sorry to give Mr. Rowan a bad review, but really, this book has so much potential, but it just is pretty awful. The drawings of houses look like they might have been recycled from the 70s and I really think they might have. Very little effort seems to be given to making the appearance aesthetically pleasing even when some simple modifications could have given it. I expected EFFICIENT compact houses, but nearly every floor plan contains meager storage and large areas of wasted space, something you really don't want in a compact house. One of the most annoying features of the designs is the laundry room trapped in the bathroom over and over again. Obviously, the architect never lived with people. Sometimes they spend a lot of time in the bathroom and you don't want your laundry trapped in there with them. In most cases, the laundry could easily have fit in the same space, but just OUTSIDE the bathroom door instead of inside. Since this book was published in 2013 I expected some modern materials and ideas, but again, it looks more like the 70s. Don't buy this book expecting to be happy living in any of the houses it features.

This a good book that shows different styles and sizes of compact homes. There is a lot of information on remodeling also. If you are planning on building in the future, please consider getting this book, I don't think you will be sorry you did.

I'm not sure how practical any of these plans really are but, I got it to help me brainstorm for if and when I ever build a house. I really like the one with the pool in the courtyard. Realistically, I think these are jumping off points in the way of design and possibly just footprints that people don't necessarily consider when building houses. If you're thinking "small" but don't have any concrete ideas and just want to gather some info this would be one of the books in my arsenal. Who knows, you might find your perfect floor plan!

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.

This book has some great design concepts to suggest tiny house developers. The plans are not blueprint accurate, and sometimes leave a lot to be desired if you want to know more about things like the "Japanese Bathroom" concepts the plans refer to, but they can help you see some choices to talk about with your architect/designer.

Misleading title. This is not a catalog of floorplans, as in: available to order. And most of the floor plans have some critical flaws that would keep me from wanting to buy anyway. Also, quite a bit of repetition, variations on the same basic house. Still, this book is a good springboard for thinking and talking about the possibilities, challenges and opportunities with a small home. An easy read.

I really like the pictures of house plans. It makes it easier to realize what you want and need in a house. I think the book could have contained more complete information. But I have enjoyed looking at this book.

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