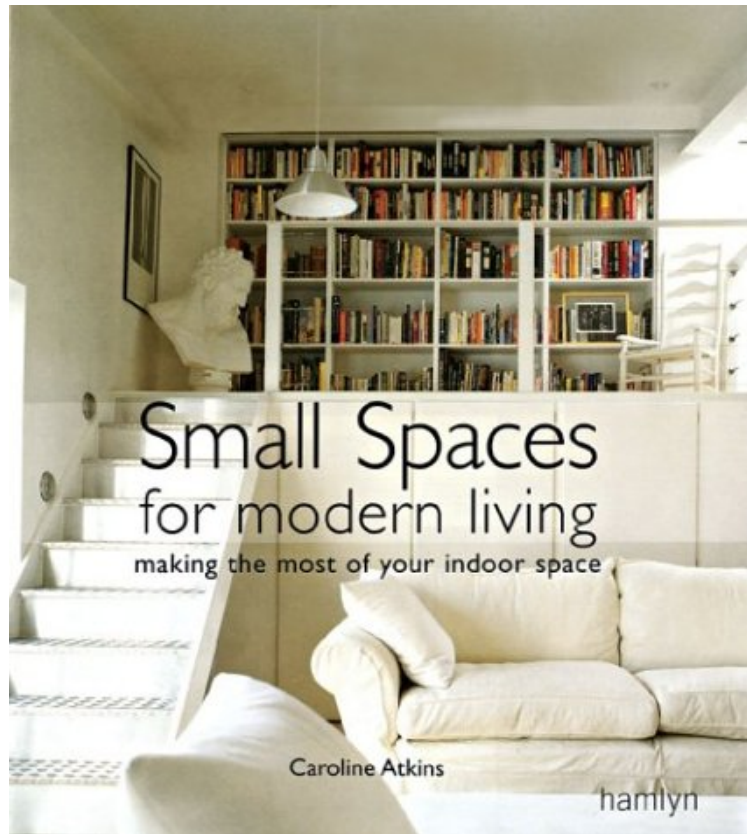


# Small Spaces for Modern Living: Making the Most of Your Indoor Space

Caroline Atkins

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**Caroline Atkins : Small Spaces for Modern Living: Making the Most of Your Indoor Space** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Small Spaces for Modern Living: Making the Most of Your Indoor Space:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is house porn at its finest and feeds my addiction...By V. DanielsHello. My name is V. and I am a houseaholic. It's okay, though. I'm in a 12-step program.I am obsessed with clever and functional small spaces. Not that I've ever owned one, mind you. At least not since my first little faux Craftsman house that topped out at about 725 square feet. In a way, I've been trying to get back to that perfect symmetry between gracious living and compact space ever since.Though I'm currently in a standard 3/2 ranch, it's a love/hate relationship. Hate the way the rooms are choppy and generic. Hate the way there's so much wasted space. Love the potential for market re-sale value.But I have a dream. Designing and building the perfect small space to accommodate one medium-sized woman, a large dog, the random dinner party, and the occasional guest. Bonus points if it's versatile enough to incorporate a writing/art studio as well. Something that's cost-effective to build as well as maintain. Small and cheap isn't good enough. It has to work with the way I live.To that end, I've been collecting books

on small spaces for years. Some of them are just silly. There's one that considered 2000 square foot custom-built homes "small." Right. There's one that's fascinating because it shows living spaces from 150 square feet up to 750 square feet. I've collected over 2000 photos from the internet saved in files separated by favorites, features, and just plain inspiration. I know. It's a disease. But this book is lovely. The spaces are both small and gracious. There's enough variety in style to inspire my quiriness. The photos are well done and the spaces well represented. There are plenty of thought-provoking questions about how you use space and clever ideas for beyond conventional thinking it comes to living spaces. But the pictures...the pictures are what move me to challenge myself when it comes to my own space - and they're beautiful in their own right. I'm just trying not to get drool on the pages. I honestly don't know if I'll ever be able to achieve my dream. In the meantime, I take it one day at a time.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For beginners only....By CustomerFor me there was nothing new or exciting in this book. Maybe I've read too many small space decorating books...The organization of chapters is good and the photography is bright and clear, but I was looking for some innovation as well. I am donating to our local thrift shop for someone new to small space decorating.

37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Small Spaces, major possibilities!By HeartHomeThis book is fantastic! Unlike a lot of books on the market, it will really help you develop YOUR OWN space to suit YOUR OWN wants, needs, and taste. The first few sections are devoted to helping you really examine your own living situation: What are your basic needs for your space? What are your not-so-basic needs and wants that will make your space suitable to you? Now, what have you got to work with? How is the space defined? What are your limitations on changing it? And, how would you like it to look? Atkins asks very clear cut questions that will help you evaluate what you and your home are capable of. The next few sections are on basic design principles that work in any area. Use of color, lighting - both natural and artificial, furniture, and your own home's architectural features (doors, walls, windows) are explored. Finally, every room in the home is given it's own chapter. Every nook and cranny is scrutinized for maximum use of space. From layout to furniture to walls and floors, there is helpful advice on EVERYTHING. Large, colorful photos and examples abound; and there are even case studies that show a room and explain why and how it works. There are a few things about this book that I think put it above others in the same category. First, it really does help you evaluate what YOU are capable of in your own space. Second, there are helpful hints in the sidebars on nearly every page, which can be quickly referenced time and time again. And third, it covers areas that are often overlooked by other design books, such as hallways, stairs, and the occasional terrace. For someone who can only afford a new coat of paint to those about to take on a major renovation, anyone can and will find some useful advice in Small Spaces for Modern Living.

To maintain these trim, contemporary residences in fine style, you need the newest storage devices and cleverest space-saving solutions. They're right here, in an indispensable guide. The ideas are many and fresh, from cupboard hideaways to loft areas. Every room is covered, with information on design layout and planning, a recipe for success, and checklists.

From BooklistIn this copiously illustrated title, Atkins, a writer and consultant for a variety of high-profile shelter publications, offers a guide to creating stylish, functional interiors that make the most of small spaces while leaving uncluttered "breathing room." Addressed to design novices, the introductory sections take readers through the stages of renovation planning, with sections about assessing the space and basic design principles of color and light. A summary of several common styles, with lists of corresponding materials, furniture, and accessories, closes the section. Subsequent chapters are organized according to living areas, including children's rooms. Sidebars with space-saving solutions and suggestions for building materials that work best for various areas of the house appear throughout, while a representative successful room closes each of the final sections. The text occasionally veers into trite common sense; to reduce kitchen clutter, for example, "do not let dishes accumulate." But the wealth of sharp color photos and practical hints makes this an attractive, useful resource for anyone facing an interior-design project.

Gillian EngbergCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Many of us misuse space through ignorance and habit. We are so used to stand-alone bookcases and other pieces of furniture it no longer occurs to us that much more would be accommodated with a little redesign. This book from the "Sunday Times" shows exactly what can be achieved with a little innovative thought. Cupboards, shelving, drawers and more are all displayed in the lavish illustrations, offering inspirational ideas to declutter your home and open up your living space. It outlines planning and prioritising, design principles and then proceeds, room by room, to give clean contemporary suggestions for every age group and style of living. See where you can save room such as under the stairs or in wardrobes, in the hall or landing to give yourself roomier living areas and more space to entertain and enjoy life. Give yourself back your home and not only free it from clutter but your life too. - Lucy Watson