

500 Ideas for Small Spaces: Easy Solutions for Living in 1000 Square Feet or Less

Kimberley Seldon

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#577365 in Books Cool Springs Press 2007-08-15Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 .52 x 7.84 x 9.921, 1.82 #File Name: 1589233018240 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Kimberley Seldon : 500 Ideas for Small Spaces: Easy Solutions for Living in 1000 Square Feet or Less before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 500 Ideas for Small Spaces: Easy Solutions for Living in 1000 Square Feet or Less:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. WANTED to like it - just didn'tBy Madelyn Griffith-HaynieI rarely leave a review at all if I don't love the book, and I agonized over what to do about this one. I finally decided that Kimberley is too good a designer to have this book represent her work, and I wanted to offer a heads-up to her to keep tighter rein on her editing team for the next ones. This is a pretty book, but not a USEFUL book.One of the reviewers advised checking this book out of the library before deciding to purchase (which I do a lot because I *already* have a library's worth of books and am running out of shelf space). Had I done that, I wouldn't even have continued reading, much less bought it -- too much good competition for my time and my pocketbook in print.I made an exception here

because the book looked good in the "look inside" preview. I'm currently in one of the smallest spaces of my life, and I could certainly use 500 ideas! I figured, how could I go wrong? Well... for starters, many times the pictures don't match the "tips." I figured a magazine editor would understand the importance of captions, but I guess the title drove her to squeeze in tips that didn't fit the photos, and her editors, I guess, were more focused on how the book laid out than how it read. That drove me NUTS! The 500 ideas themselves aren't anything I haven't already read in a dozen decorating magazines, so unless the photos underscore the idea, they're kinda' worthless (for me, anyway). The photos themselves are nice enough, but I couldn't get any sense of scale from the way they were taken, and there were no floorplans to help. Some of the spaces actually looked HUGE in the photos, and others were mere "snippets" - barely more than a corner of a room, or a photo of a desk, which I didn't find particularly helpful (or new). Since, for now, I must squeeze a fully functioning office (where I actually WORK) into a large living room of a very small apartment otherwise, I bought the book primarily because it had a section on home offices. That was my biggest disappointment. Many of the "offices" were actually what I would consider "planning desks" -- like in a kitchen or a corner of some other room (that you couldn't see in the photo). Nothing much looked like a working office at all. One photo of an office that LOOKED sort of possible also looked bigger than my entire apartment. All I could see through the sliding glass doors (that most apt. dwellers couldn't do anyway), was a perfectly clean surface leading up to a huge built-in bookcase. Sure would have liked to see more views from *inside* that room, but that was the end of it. BOOM - moving right along to "Kids Rooms" which contained little new, a lot of bed solutions and a few kids closets and walls -- pretty much useless anyway, for me, and again, nothing I haven't seen elsewhere. And so goes the book, section by section. Bottom line: nice layout, but you can do *A LOT* better if you are looking for small space solutions. I think this book is a waste of time and money unless you don't read the text anyway, and never read decorating magazines. Madelyn Griffith-Haynie, CMC, SCAC, MCC- ADD Coaching Field co-founder -(blogs: ADDandSoMuchMore and ADDerWorld - dot com!) "It takes a village to transform a world!" 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Nice photos By Sherrie A. Dobbie This is a well put together little book. The author has good ideas, but the book did not help me much. I think I was hoping for more direction on how to place furniture or budget friendly ways to make things come together. Having a small but pretty cool home, I am always on the hunt for better ideas. None of us wants to hire people to come in and do a big project. If you live in a small home, there is a good chance you are on some sort of budget. Money is an issue. I think a lot of self help decorating books aim too much at projects which are not reader/home owner friendly. They would require a carpenter, etc. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not very helpful if you have small spaces By Pam K It seems to go two ways on these small room books. Either the room shown isn't really small or they don't show enough of the actual room to gauge whether the arrangement would work in a small room. Most of the time the room isn't that small like they don't know what small is or something.

All over the world, consumers are discovering the merits of the small space lifestyle, abandoning the work and burdensome expense that goes with living in a "McMansion" in favor of the elegance and practicality of living in cozier spaces. From young homeowners who have rediscovered the joys of loft-style homes in the city, to empty-nesters who prefer smaller, more manageable living spaces, millions of homeowners have migrated to the "not-so-big" style of living. 500 Ideas for Small Spaces is a practical guide featuring 500 real-life remodeling, organizing, and decorating tips for making a truly small home look and function better. Today, living in a small home isn't a compromise, it is the preferred choice for growing numbers of homeowners.

More and more, baby boomers face the prospect of trading in their large homes for smaller accommodations. Seldon, host of the TV series Design for Living, addresses this issue in a book loaded with color photographs depicting every room of the home, including outdoor spaces. Captions point out the design tricks used to maximize each small space. -- Library Journal, September 15, 2007