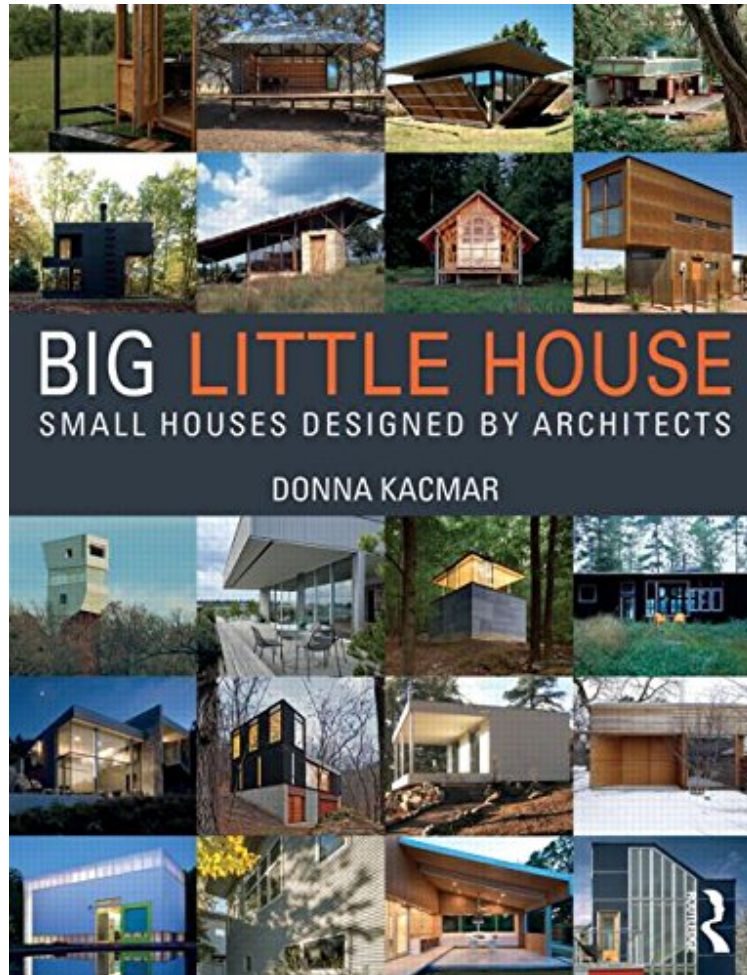


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## BIG little house: Small Houses Designed by Architects

*Donna Kacmar*

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**Donna Kacmar : BIG little house: Small Houses Designed by Architects** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised BIG little house: Small Houses Designed by Architects:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buy Two...Pay For Three!By CustomerThe book is good...lot's of nice houses. I ordered one for myself...then ordered another a little later for my dad. I got charged for 3 books somehow. My inquiries went unanswered...never a response or refund. Like I said...good book...but two for the price of three...not so good.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy John GrableFantastic studies of the small living spaces!0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy brooklyn missNot what I expected, but interesting.

What are the challenges architects face when designing dwelling spaces of a limited size? And what can these projects tell us about architecture and architectural principles in general? In BIG little house, award-winning architect Donna

Kacmar introduces twenty real-life examples of small houses. Each project is under 1,000 square feet (100 square meters) in size and, brought together, the designs reveal an attitude towards materiality, light, enclosure and accommodation which is unique to minimal dwellings. While part of a trend to address growing concerns about minimising consumption and lack of affordable housing, the book demonstrates that small dwellings are not always simply the result of budget constraints but constitute a deliberate design strategy in their own right. Highly illustrated and in full-colour throughout, each example is based on interviews with the original architect and accompanied by detailed floor plans. This ground-breaking, beautifully designed text offers practical guidance to any professional architect or homeowner interested in small scale projects.

'When it comes to houses, quality, not quantity, is what truly matters. Architect Donna Kacmars eloquently written and beautifully illustrated *BIG little house* underscores this point again and again. The book's comprehensive introduction coupled with twenty, carefully curated, examples answer not just "What" but also "How" and "Why". *BIG little house* is a valuable resource for architects and clients alike.' - Naomi Pollock, AIA, author *Modern Japanese House*, Japan 'A rigorous examination of the history of the small house is presented in both sumptuous photography and in floor plans at comparative scales, which are both useful and very revealing. Common to all of the houses is an attention to the importance of detail in small spaces, the importance of opening to the exterior to borrow space from the landscape, and the belief in quality over quantity, an idea that should guide all residential design in an era of diminishing resources.' - Mark McInturff, FAIA, architect, McInturff Architects, USA This is a book I can read again and again, both for inspiration and admiration. For anyone exploring a small home lifestyle this is your all in one reference book. In Kacmar's words, it's time to "slow down and absorb a quiet architecture". Jenny Tranter, *State of Green* 'Plenty of gorgeous photos stoke serious house envy and the rigorous analysis grounded in the philosophical underpinnings of what it means to "dwell" and how architects and theorists have explored this concept sets the book apart from a Tumblr. Kacmar is a professor at the University of Houston so it's no wonder she takes an academic approach. She argues that the economy of small spaces allows for a deeper, undiluted understanding of an architect's sensibility.' - Diana Budds, *fastcodesign.com* 'With photographs, floor plans, and information from the architects, Kacmar demonstrates that small dwellings are not always dollhouse-size knockoffs of larger ones. When thoughtfully designed, they are painstakingly integrated into their surroundings; deeply reflective of the priorities of the people who live in them; and compelled to address issues of space, light, and form in highly specific ways. Small structures, she writes, are not necessarily simple nor cheap. Building small can be a deliberate design strategy in its own right.' - Kristin Hohenadel, *Slate* 'Donna touches on a number of different factors influencing the rise in popularity of the small home. Affordability and changing lifestyles are of course major factors, as is the desire for a reduction lifestyle in contrast to a consumption-fuelled lifestyle. There is significant architectural power in the small house, which is not to be overlooked or dismissed.' Holly Cunneen, *Grand Designs Australia* About the Author Donna Kacmar is a practicing architect and an Associate Professor at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston, USA, where she teaches Comprehensive Design Studio and directs the Materials Research Collaborative.