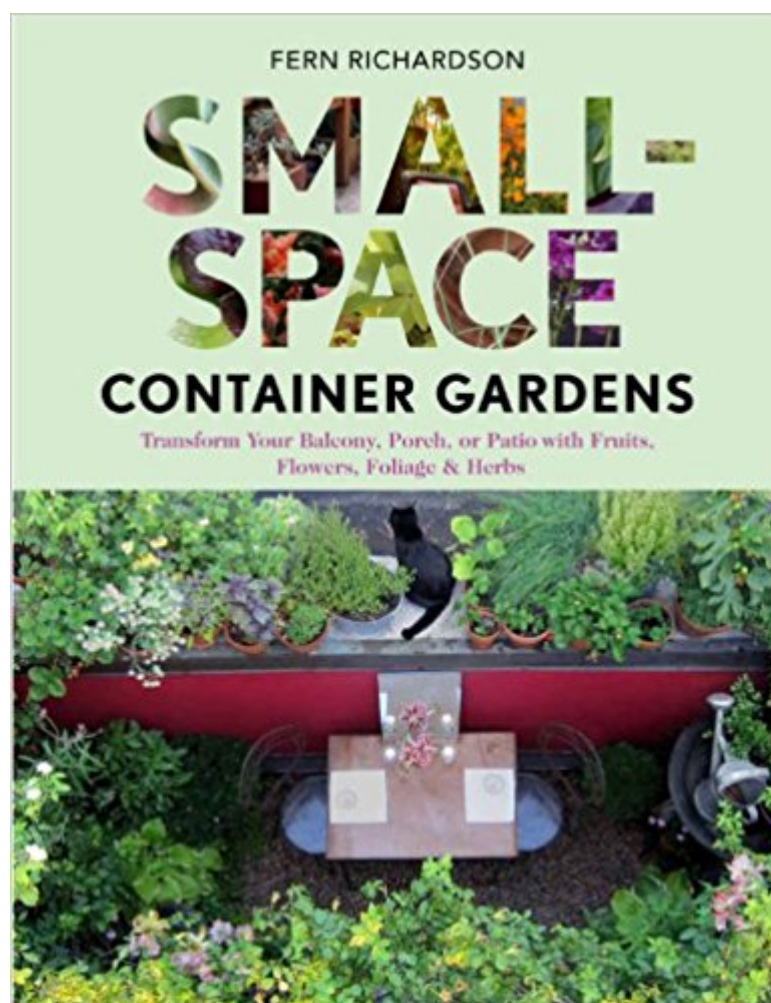




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# Small-Space Container Gardens: Transform Your Balcony, Porch, Or Patio With Fruits, Flowers, Foliage, And Herbs



## Synopsis

Small? Yes. A concrete slab populated solely with plastic chairs and an abandoned grill? Not anymore. Chances are your balcony, porch, or patio could use a major makeover. Fern Richardson, charismatic creator of the Life on the Balcony blog, is here to walk you through the process of beautifying a small space--even when you have a similarly small budget. This exciting guide layers practical gardening fundamentals with creative solutions that encourage thinking outside the pot. Maybe this means repurposing a shipping pallet to create a colorful vertical garden of nasturtiums and lobelia. Or simply seeing walls, rafters, railings, and everything in-between as fair game. It's in these containers--traditional or not--that you'll cultivate your own food, attract beneficial insects, grow flowering vine privacy screens, and so much more. You'll also learn how to tackle unique challenges, like windy conditions when gardening several stories above street level, and how to care for plants and troubleshoot with the best of them. From design basics to essential plant picks, Small-Space Container Gardens proves you don't need a yard to have a garden. For anyone who wants more green in their life, it's time to get out there and start growing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Filled with useful information, but written in a relaxed, chatty style, [Small-Space Container Gardens] is a great cover-to-cover read, while also working well as a reference guide if you're looking for specific tips, such as container plants that attract butterflies..." (Susan Morrison, author of [Garden Up!](#)) "From selection of plants to illustrations of how to lay it all out, beginning and

experienced gardeners alike will find plenty of inspiration." (Kylee Baumle, Horticulture Magazine)"Popular blogger Fern Richardson at [Lifeonthebalcony.com](#) knows all about attaining some big style in small spaces. Yes, you can do it all - attract wildlife, grow food, become one with your inner-nature-lover and work with limited lighting on porches, balconies and other small areas." (Cindy McNatt, The Orange County Register)"Container gardening is flexible, and Richardson makes it verdant, affordable, and fun." Publishers Weekly

"Ideas to help patio gardens look polished and planned." Chicago Tribune

"Offers a generous list of funky containers." San Francisco Chronicle

"Packs a great deal of information in a small space." Cleveland Plain Dealer

"Walks you through beautifying a small space, such as a balcony, porch, patio or small yard, even on a tight budget." Horticulture

"Shares a whole host of ideas for transforming even the tiniest of spaces into something special." Apartment Therapy

"The best book on balcony gardening on the market today. I highly recommend this book to all small space gardeners (novice or expert)." The Real Gardener

"Yes, you can do it all - attract wildlife, grow food, become one with your inner-nature-lover, and work with limited lighting on porches, balconies, and other small areas." Orange County Register

"It's packed with gorgeous photographs - making it pleasant to browse through for quick inspiration. The author's real-life take on small-space gardening makes reading the full text worthwhile." Fort Worth Examiner

"Shows us how to have an enviable garden without the acreage." Curbly.com

"A beautifully written and designed book." NaturesFootprint.com

"Whether you're planning a small container garden or want to beautify your backyard, this book is full of helpful tips for beginning gardeners." Greenupgrader.com

Chances are your balcony, porch, or patio could use a major makeover. Fern Richardson, charismatic creator of the blog Life on the Balcony, is here to walk you through the process of beautifying a small space - even when your budget is just as small. This exciting guide layers practical gardening fundamentals with creative solutions that encourage thinking outside the pot. Maybe this means repurposing a shipping pallet to create a colorful vertical garden of nasturtiums and lobelia. Or simply seeing walls, rafters, railings, and everything in between as fair game. You'll also learn how to tackle unique challenges, like windy conditions when gardening several stories above street level, and how to care for plants and troubleshoot with the best of

them. From design basics to essential plant picks, *Small-Space Container Gardens* proves you don't need a yard to have a garden. For anyone who wants more green in their life, it's time to get out there and start growing.

I've been a fan of Fern's stylish blog *Life on the Balcony* for some time. Fern's like an approachable version of Martha Stewart for container gardeners - while her photos and ideas are gorgeously inspiring, her projects are never so difficult or time-consuming that I feel I couldn't possibly fit them into a weekend, unlike some of Martha's cool but overly involved eye candy. So when Fern's new book *Small-Space Container Gardens* came out, I already had two copies pre-ordered, one for myself and one to give as a gift. I just knew I was going to love it. And sure enough, I do! The book is structured as a total from-the-ground-up guide to having a gorgeous balcony garden. While you might think that would encompass only container planting, she also shares numerous tips on design and décor, dealing with narrow spaces, vertical gardening, and issues unique to balcony gardeners like how to deal with rain pouring in sheets off the roof and onto your potted plants. Even better, Fern's DIY style is made easy and fun with numerous tutorials and crafts throughout the book. I absolutely adored the chalkboard planter idea for taking ordinary, inexpensive pots and making them cute and functional. How many times have I gotten a call from a client just before dinnertime wondering whether the plant with big leaves was the oregano or the sage? Now, I can show horticulturally-challenged gardeners this tutorial and they can create their own (very chic) labeled pots for their edibles. What a great gift idea! I felt this way with all of the tutorials in the book. Fern made everything look so elegant that I immediately wanted to rush out, get a few supplies, and make 'em happen. She showed a small-space DIY birdbath which would be perfect nestled among a few potted plants. And the mod-minimalist bird feeder idea? I totally want to adapt this project and make it my own (I mean, purple would be mod-minimalist too, right? Right?). I also loved that Fern made cohesive garden design easy with her small-space patio design plans. She created full container planting designs for a Verdant and Vertical Garden, Potager With a Twist (some great edible and cocktail garden ingredients!), Succulents and Scents, and more. It's not just the planting ideas, either; she mixes décor tips and layout ideas into her plans so you can see how all the elements fit together. The book is beautifully-photographed and designed, and would make a great gift for the beginning or advanced container gardener. The text covers all that a beginner would need to know in clear language, while the designs and DIY projects offer enough interest to keep even pros like me coming back for more.

I was hoping for more out of the book, I feel like it has a lot of pictures and basic information but not as much detail as I was looking for. Its a good coffee table book and the pics do help for inspiration!

A very generic (bland) book I was hoping for more technical information about soils and well specifics. This is pretty much an extension of what you might see on a spring time daily talk show..... Example ... when it discusses soil.... "buy a premium brand potting soil" ...???? Nothing here that you cannot gather on line more specific to your needs.

I own a condo and have a small 8' X 15' balcony. I have very limited knowledge of plants, planters, dirt, etc. I bought this book looking for "cute ideas" and it has done so much more than that! It has given me detailed, step by step ideas for mapping out my space. The pictures are beautiful. It has great ideas for placement, planters, plants. It has creative ideas for fillers, spillers, and thrillers. All in all, this is my go to book for spring when I redo my balcony. Love it!

Well, this was a disappointment! I was reading reviews about vertical gardening which said this was one of the best books. I was thinking this would have info about planting vegetables as well. It talks mainly about potting placement, sunlight and decorative planting with not a lot of information about the plants themselves and nothing about food plots. I should have read a little closer, I guess. Seems like a decent book if you are looking for decorative patio planting, but doesn't look all that great if you are a beginner.

Practical without being boring. Nice pictures and provides information for dealing with (and realizing what) climates you live in, amount of sun, sun direction, wind . . . other things that make a big difference. Nice balance of text & pix. Highly recommend this if you are an amateur gardener and want to beautify your balcony!

Being a Master Gardener and Landscape Designer I find this to be one of the most informative books on my bookshelf. Have just moved to condo with totally enclosed, small patio area. I have lots to learn about very small space gardening and this book is extremely helpful. Recommended to new or seasoned gardeners.

As a gardening noob, I have learned so much from this book. All the plant selections are very accessible, the project ideas are simple, and everything is easy to read, with beautiful images to

boot. At first I thought I had a black thumb, but now I have a lush, thriving balcony garden. Thank you Fern Richardson!

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Book 5) The Porch Book (Better Homes and Gardens) (Better Homes and Gardens Home)

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