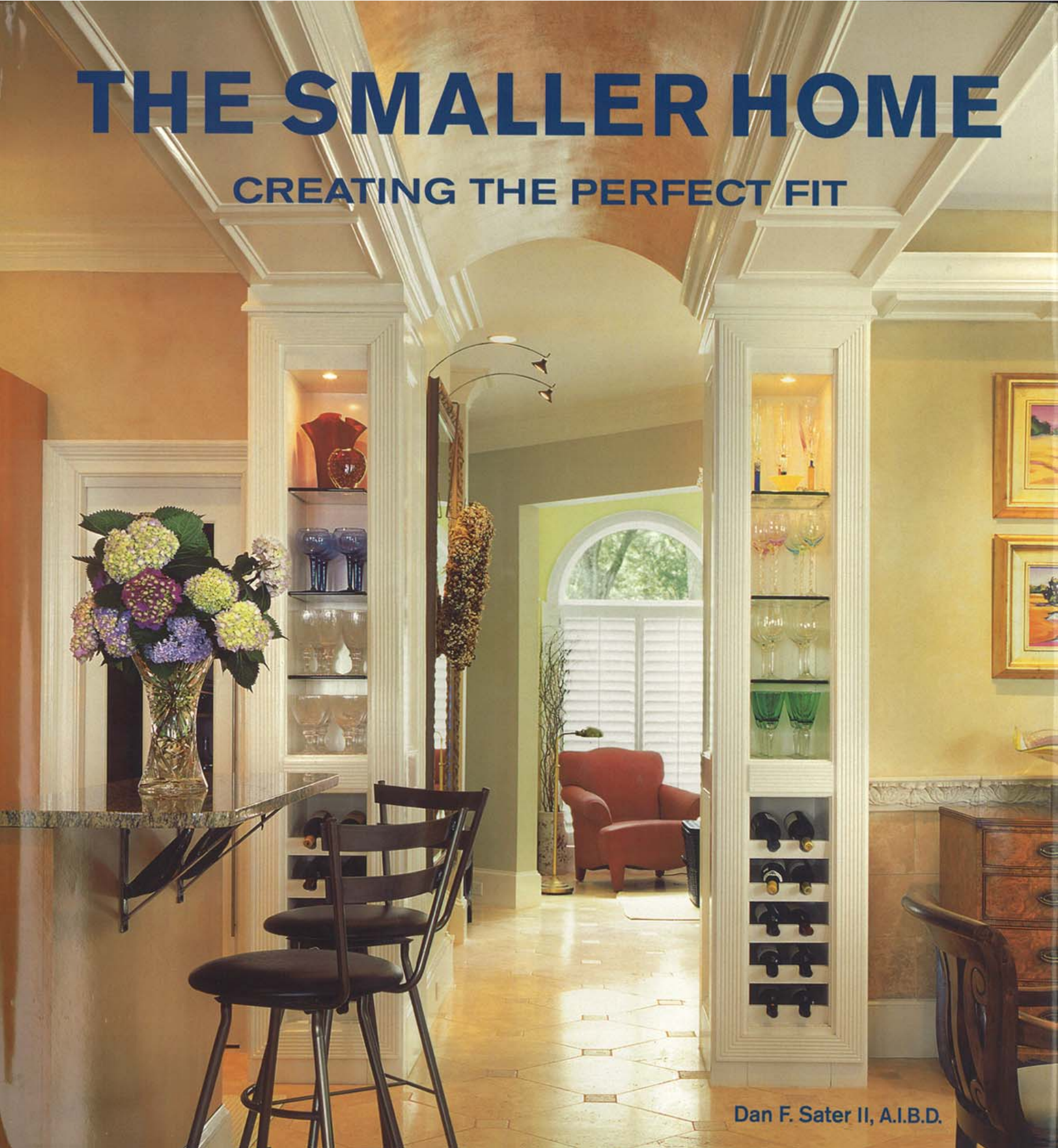


# THE SMALLER HOME

CREATING THE PERFECT FIT



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## Go With The Flow: Space Planning

The degree to which your smaller home helps make your life easier and more convenient—or hinders you in your quest to simplify and economize—is truly at the heart of planning its size and plan. Use these three handy tools to guide you and optimize your house's architecture and functionality:

- Include interactive spaces
- Provide multi-functional rooms
- Combine indoor and outdoor spaces

Using spaces that interact with one another echoes principles, themes, and solutions drawn from classic structures. Instead of following more recent patterns of using walls to divide interior space and define rooms, allow functional areas to flow seamlessly within a house, even pass right through its outer walls.

Move a step closer to conserving space and gaining convenience by combining several purposes within each of a smaller house's individual rooms. Rather than setting aside space for a single function or purpose, restore to your home the many benefits of sharing activities together in a unified space.

In temperate climates—that include most of the USA—expand the living areas of the house and reduce its structural costs by integrating outdoor-use areas with adjacent interior functions.





**Above Left** The caption tells about the photo that it is place near. It gives further information to the reader as to what they are

**Above Right** The caption tells about the photo that it is place near. It gives further information to the reader as to what they are looking at.



Those of us living today are conditioned by experience to think in terms of single-purpose rooms. Our forefathers lived much differently than we do today. For them, the entry foyer and front parlor were for formal entertaining of visitors, but only close family and friends entered the rest of the house. A dining room bridged the outsider's spaces and those used by the family. Physical barriers—walls and closed doors—masked the rest of the home and its occupants from prying visitors' eyes.

Our grandparents' lives were different too in many functional ways. Until the 1930's, most rural homes lacked indoor plumbing. Bathing areas were scarce, usually adjuncts to a utility wash room on the back porch, and as to toilet facilities...well, you can imagine. Kitchens were small, cabinets few, and refrigeration came courtesy of the daily ice wagon.

In my design practice, remodeling vintage residences sometimes reminds me of earlier days when I find it necessary to tear out walls to enlarge kitchens, provide bathrooms where no space exists, or make other modernizing changes.

How much better off you are today, free of binding traditions, as you consider your smaller home. Your largely informal lifestyle dispenses with many of the reasons that once dictated the choices and division of space inside of houses. To perpetuate the practices of earlier generations by rote in today's world is a practice worth discarding, as you will see.

So, as you reflect in earnest about your priority list, remove thoughts of single-purpose rooms and enter a new world of open floorplans, shared space, and convenience that better suits the smaller home and our more active and diverse lifestyles.



**Left** The caption tells about the photo that it is place near. It gives further information to the reader as to what they are looking.

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**Above bottom** The caption tells about the photo that it is place near. It gives further information to the reader as to what they are looking.