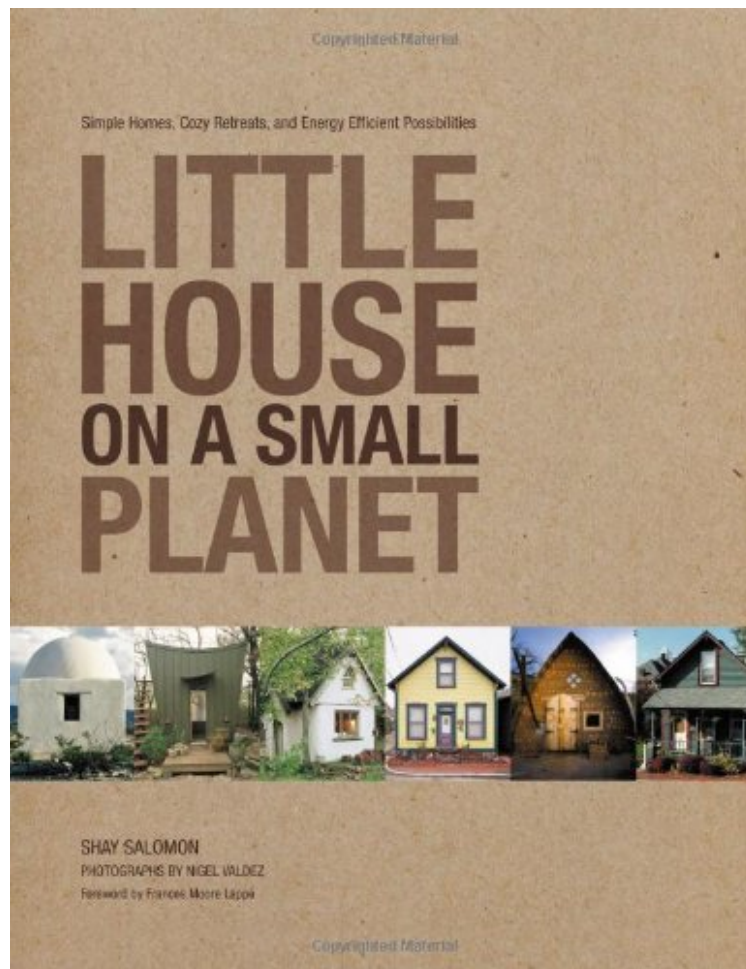


# Little House on a Small Planet: Simple Homes, Cozy Retreats, and Energy Efficient Possibilities

Shay Salomon

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**Shay Salomon : Little House on a Small Planet: Simple Homes, Cozy Retreats, and Energy Efficient Possibilities** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Little House on a Small Planet: Simple Homes, Cozy Retreats, and Energy Efficient Possibilities:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Great designs, sometimes overenthusiastic By Abies This is a beautiful book! I enjoy reading it in my off hours, just leafing through and reading about other people's ideas. Don't be intimidated by the word "small" in relationship to houses -- some of these small houses are at least 1000sq ft. Some are indeed small. Most of them are not occupied by more than 1-3 people. My favorites are the houses with children, since it seems more of a challenge to fit more people into a smaller space. This book also talks a lot about a low ecological footprint philosophy, but I wouldn't buy it for that. Many sweeping statements are indeed footnoted, but many others aren't. Some of the broad comments about the sociological benefits of living "small" don't quite sit with me, especially

if it's touted as scientific research but not given a citation. Even with a citation I'm not fond of people saying that everyone should follow their way of life because some scientist said it was better. That said, this book is full of wonderful ideas about how to build a comfortable, happy house that matches your own personality. I like how they emphasize that you should watch yourself and see what you like about certain houses, where you like to go, what you like to look at, what makes you comfortable. Then if you're lucky enough to get the chance to design your own house, you can build something that reflects you, not the Joneses. Something that makes you comfortable and happy. It's full of great design ideas. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in houses. 39 of 40 people found the following review helpful. With New Eyes By Suzanne Carty This book really changed how I look at home life. The text is meaty and kept me up two nights in a row. I had been grumping about how cramped my house seemed. With a spouse, two dogs, and a cat our 2000 sf seemed, well, just not big enough. After reading the book, and thinking about it, I saw the real problem, it was never a space issue, it was a stuff issue. For the past two weeks we have thinned, sorted, trashed, donated and otherwise cleared out roughly half of what was in the house. Now the house can breathe and there is space for us. So, even if you live in a regular size space, or can't imagine living in a small one, this is a grand book. It really helps you see the functions of a home and isolate your needs. If you are working at living a simple, green or wabi-sabi life this book is a must. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Funky book By BRGrits Although most of the homes in this book take "simple," "cozy" and "energy efficient" to the extreme, I find it inspiring in terms of what's possible. I wish the photos (most are clumped together in the middle of the book) were printed alongside the story of the home they represent. It's confusing and frustrating trying to match the pictures with the correct home. But I appreciate the imagination of the people featured in the book. If you have an interest in real-life examples of energy efficient living, this one's worth the purchase price.

Most of us have noticed the trend: new subdivisions filled with McMansions pumped up on steroids, neighbors who demolished their cottage and replaced it with a mini-castle, the friend of a friend's childless brother who just added on a third bedroom. Many of us have suffered the consequences of an inflated mortgage, an unmanageable construction project, or a house simply too large to keep clean. Will our dream home always be a celebration of excess, and a drain on our lives? Some wise people buck the trend. They build, remodel, redecorate, or just rethink their needs--prudently and calmly constructing a joyful, sane life around themselves. They think, sometimes literally, outside the box, and they live close, warm, and simple, applying spiritual and social solutions to their material desires. Pockets of people all over the continent are realizing the benefits of scaling down. They are designing a new dream, one that reunites extended families, makes space for friends, and emphasizes home life over home maintenance. *Little House on a Small Planet* is a guidebook to this movement, and an invitation to join. Author Shay Salomon offers fourteen basic principles for the design and habitation of efficient, high-density homes. These fourteen principles outline the invisible supports of a happy home, set within the context of a future, more caring society. With floor plans, photographs, advice, and anecdotes, *Little House on a Small Planet* asks and answers, "What fills a home when the excess is cut away, and how do we get there from here?"

"Anyone who sleeps indoors and cares about the world will find something of interest inside."--Carol Venolia, Eco-architect, Natural Home Garden columnist, and EcoDwelling faculty member at New College of California "I cannot recommend this book highly enough. For anyone who has ever dreamed of getting off the mortgage rat race and creating not just a house, but a cozy nest that fits--this is the book! Every page is an inspiration, filled with real-life stories and lessons learned on creating better, more affordable, sustainable, and very personalized housing. There is something here that will fit nearly every lifestyle. For those who want to live in a better way: Read this book!"--Janet Luhrs, author of *The Simple Living Guide* and *Simple Loving*, and publisher of Simple Living Oasis