

## Space: Japanese Design Solutions for Compact Living

*Michael Freeman*

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**Michael Freeman : Space: Japanese Design Solutions for Compact Living** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Space: Japanese Design Solutions for Compact Living:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Cover to cover with stuff you never thought of.By E. AinsworthThe book explains how various incredibly talented designer-types in Japan have overcome impossibly unusual and confining living spaces. Some of the problems addressed by these sideways thinking geniuses are unique to Japanese culture. Like creating space for a tea-room, energy flow, framing the view of tiny meticulous gardens, and complying with some building code about outside vs. inside space ratios. Other concepts were easier for me to grasp like combining rooms for flexibility, a sense of openness, and storing things up high. It's filled with excellent photos of small rooms that feel big, sometimes I wonder if it's because they have nothing but a table and some chairs stuck in there. Seriously though it's truly inspiring and makes you think. This book was the first to arrive of several that I bought for ideas on remodeling my old house with it's pointless divisioning and depressing floor-plan. Although reading it has left me thoroughly confused, it did give me several ideas I might have never thought possible. Through endless example it forced me to realize that one just needs more imagination not space to create a liberating home.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy KoiJoyI love this book. I got a lot of good Ideas from it. I am glad to find new ways to store things.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. NiceBy DorinIts a nice book,shows a number of variations of the use of the small places.The only problem that it doesn't have plans or section in some project, that can really demonstrate a lot.

Space is a photographic exploration of Japanese architecture and design in size-constricted areas, exploring imaginative, ingenious, and revolutionary solutions to space-compromised living. Masters in the art of managing small spaces, the Japanese in their design have given rise to a particular style of ingenuity. In their work, Japanese interior designers and architects constantly draw on cultural traditions, while using a modern, even radical approach. Whether in the use of lightweight partitions to create flexible spaces, deliberate profligacy to give a feeling of generosity, or strange perspectives, the results are not mere workaday solutions, but artistic and unusual ones that can turn a lack of space into a surfeit of style. Distinctly Asian in its feel and comprehensive in its coverage, featuring every room of each highlighted house, the book is divided into such themed sections as "Every Square Centimeter," "Interconnection," "Wasting Space," and "Shock Value." The crisp photography, inventive design solutions, unique packaging, and handy format make Space the perfect gift for anyone looking to maximize his or her space as well as architecture enthusiasts and those with an interest in Japanese style.

About the Author Michael Freeman was the photographer for Frank Lloyd Wright Masterworks, American Masterworks, Adobe, and Angkor. An authority on Asian design and art, he has written magazine articles and books, including Spirit of Asia and the award-winning Japan Modern.