Gardens in Small Spaces
Because size does matter

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Don’t have 40 acres?

- Urban Backyard
  - 5,000-800 ft², or 1/50th – 1/10th acre
  - Native soil?
- Patio
  - Usually less than 500 ft²
  - Paved or mixture
- Courtyard
  - Typically larger than a patio
  - Secluded
  - Might be part of the house
  - Atrium
Don’t have 40 acres?

- **Rooftop**
  - Variable size
  - Often communal in cities
  - Weight and height issues

- **Balcony**
  - Smallest of all, most of the time
  - Weight
  - Water

- **Terrace**
  - Larger than balcony
  - Weight
  - Water
Safety First!

• Consider Weight
  • Balconies, rooftops, some terraces
  • Surface materials
  • Containers
    • pots
    • media
  • Heavy plants?
    • succulents
    • some trees

• Wind
Safety First!

- **Electricity**
  - Call an electrician
  - Don’t overload the system

- **Water**
  - Check for leaks
  - Runoff
  - Water quality
  - Don’t forget about weight!
  - Water features
    - Pondless
    - Wall-mounted
Safety First!

- Crash-proof
- Pollinators
- Not-so-friendly plants
- What’s around your garden?
  - Streetscaping
  - Ups and downs
Make a Plan

- Appearances can be deceiving
- Simplifies problem-solving
- Coordinated elements
  - Style, theme, color
  - Extension of interior?
- Be flexible
- Be creative
Make the most of your space

- Use all three planes
  - Prevents overcrowding
  - Built elements and plants
  - Maximizes room
  - Adds interest, opportunity
Make the most of your space

- Make ‘em work!
  - Form AND function
  - Built elements
    - Seating
    - Screens
    - Walls
  - Plants
    - Edibles
    - Fragrance
    - Screening
Make the most of your space

• Make it yours
  • Personalize, create
  • Add ornament, meaningful items
  • Special collections

• Make it comfortable!
  • Furniture
  • Water features
  • Fragrance
  • Shade/sun
Create Elevation Interest

- Raised beds
- Seating
- Terracing
- Sunken features
Provide a Focal Point

- Give the viewer a destination
- Starting point for design
- Sense of purpose
Visual Depth and Interest

- Borrow views
- Enhance vistas
- Mirrors
- Repetition, grouping
- Containerscaping
- Color, color, color!
Lighten Up

• Reduce everything
  • Size of plants, materials, elements
  • Lighter colors and textures
• Scale and proportion
Right Plant, Right Place

- Maintenance
- Cultural requirements
- Microclimates
- Heat load
- Air circulation