



# Landscapes for Small Spaces: Japanese Courtyard Gardens

*Katsuhiko Mizuno*

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## **Landscapes for Small Spaces: Japanese Courtyard Gardens** Katsuhiko Mizuno

Enjoy it for its sheer beauty or use it for inspiration while creating your own small landscape garden.

Japanese gardening is the art of arranging plants, rocks, lanterns, and basins in an open or, as here, an enclosed space. According to the aesthetic principles long prevailing in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, even two rocks arranged in a tiny, enclosed space can be considered a garden. This type of garden is called a tsuboniwa, and Kyoto has long been considered its birthplace and home. So it is not surprising that photographer Katsuhiko Mizuno, wishing to capture the best of such small gardens, should turn to Kyoto and its palaces, temples, shrines, and town houses.

The highlight of the book is the 100 photographs of these tsuboniwa—snow overlying sand patterns; coloring maple leaves; flowering cherry trees; lanterns, basins, fences; gardens featuring wisteria, azalea, hydrangea, Indian lilac, camellia, and daphne. Each photo is accompanied by an insightful caption pointing out the outstanding characteristics of the garden in question.

An appendix gives Mizuno's instructions for creating a tsuboniwa, based on his personal experience. His account of the underlying concepts, design, choice of plants, and practical procedures will prove an invaluable reference for all garden creators, from amateur to professional.

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