



The Taunton Press

Inspiration for hands-on living®

Outside the Not So Big House
Creating the Landscape of Home
By Julie Moir Messervy and Sarah Susanka
\$34.95, Hardcover
216 pages, 290 color photographs, 30 drawings
ISBN: 1-56158-734-6
Publication date: February 2006

Contacts: Suzanne Fedoruk, Fedoruk & Associates, Inc
612-861-7807, sfedoruk@mn.rr.com
Nicole Radder, The Taunton Press
203-304-3844, nradder@taunton.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Outside the Not So Big House: Creating the Landscape of Home

New book from landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy and architect Sarah Susanka reveals a groundbreaking approach to creating an integrated home and landscape design

Take the inspired vision of award-winning landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy, and combine it with author-architect Sarah Susanka's Not So Big® approach to home design, for a landmark new book that will change forever the way homeowners and professionals view the home and its surroundings — ***Outside the Not So Big House: Creating the Landscape of Home***. This visually stunning and exquisitely written book launches throughout the United States and Canada in February 2006.

Using 20 examples of diverse, “Not So Big” homes set in landscapes of varying sizes from around the United States, Messervy and Susanka teach us how to remove traditional design barriers between the home and surroundings to produce a unified design for living — the landscape of home.

“*Outside the Not So Big House* is about understanding that ‘home’ is more than just the four walls of a house,” says Messervy. “Instead, home extends all the way to the edges of our property. The way I see it, you don't have the home that you long for until the landscape around your house is complete.”

Messervy, author of several books including *The Inward Garden*, is a proponent for composing personalized gardens based on outdoor archetypes, imagination and aesthetic impulses. In *Outside the Not So Big House*, the resonant images and concepts from her previous work coalesce with Susanka's “Not So Big” approach to home design that favors quality over quantity and turns mere habitation into the art of living.

“Whether we're aware of it or not, our experience of spaces can have a profound impact on our vision of reality,” says Susanka. “For our home, this extends beyond the walls of our house and out into the landscape. This book is about the transitions and connections between the inside of a house and the outside; about the journeys and places that can be made to extend the experience of home to the outside.”

-- more --

Outside the Not So Big House/Page Two

Messervy and Susanka are concerned with giving readers the ability to “listen” to their environment from a spatial point of view. Their voices create a rolling dialogue throughout the book that explains through images and words the “how” and “why” good design allows homeowners to attune their properties to better fit their needs and fulfill an inherent longing for beauty. In *Outside the Not So Big House*, these ideas are organized into four categories:

Site: Embracing the Habitat of Home

Flow: Composing Journeys

Frames: Linking the Inside with the Out

Details: Crafting the Elements of Nature.

Within each category, the authors describe how “Not So Big” concepts such as “variations on a theme,” “spatial layering” and “shelter around activity” are echoed inside and outside a home. Messervy and Susanka explain how space and its elements impact the way an area feels. For example, people are often drawn from dark places to areas of light and “psychological breathing spaces,” such as wrap-around porches, offer an area for homeowners to gracefully transition from outdoors in and the indoors out. Special sidebars reveal how features such as water, curved lines and pools of space impact landscape aesthetics. “Outside Up-Close” features at the end of each chapter illustrate practical ideas such as planting and hardscape design.

About Julie Moir Messervy

Messervy is an award-winning author of four books including *The Inward Garden*, *The Magic Land* and *Contemplative Gardens*. Her approach to composing gardens of beauty and meaning is furthering the evolution of landscape design and is changing the way people think about their outdoor surroundings. Among her notable work, Messervy collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma and the City of Toronto to design a three-acre Music Garden at the Toronto Harbourfront based on a suite by J.S. Bach. She is the principal of Julie Moir Messervy and Associates, Inc. based in Saxtons River, Vermont. More at www.JulieMoirMesservy.com.

About Sarah Susanka, FAIA

Susanka has emerged a leader of a movement that is redefining the American home. Homeowners and professionals have embraced her “build better, not bigger” approach to residential architecture and her “Not So Big” philosophy is part of a national dialogue. She is the author of six books including *The Not So Big House*, *Creating the Not So Big House*, *Not So Big Solutions for Your Home*, *Home by Design* and *Inside the Not So Big House*.

###

Editor’s Note: To arrange an interview or secure artwork call Suzanne Fedoruk at 612-861-7807, 612-247-3079 or sfedoruk@mn.rr.com.