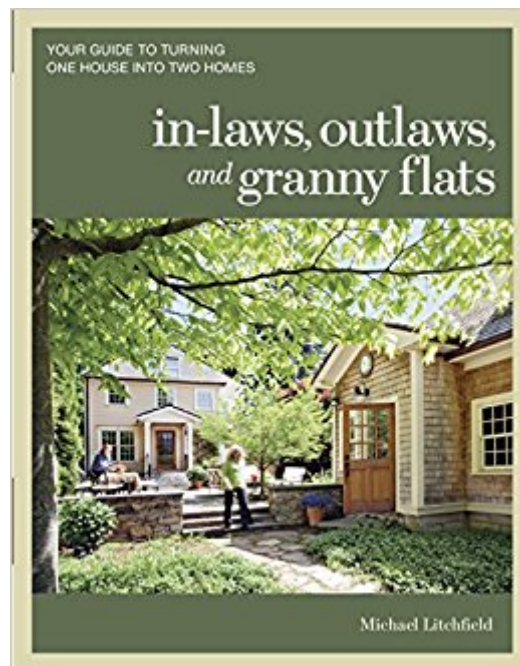




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# In-laws, Outlaws, And Granny Flats: Your Guide To Turning One House Into Two Homes



## Synopsis

In response to tight times, a remarkably upbeat and widespread change is taking place in households across America. Homeowners are creating second dwelling units often called in-law suites, mother-in-law apartments, or granny flats. Second units make a lot of sense. They're perfect for families who want several generations living close by, they enable Baby Boomers to care for elderly parents while respecting their independence, provide private quarters for adult children still at home or, rented out, second units can generate income to pay the mortgage or provide for retirement. *In-Laws, Outlaws, and Granny Flats* is the first book to explore the many designs, uses and benefits of this time-honored and emotionally satisfying living arrangement. In-law units take many forms and they're all shown here: attic, basement and garage conversions, bump-out additions, carve-out suites, and backyard cottages. This book covers every aspect of turning one house into two homes. With more than 200 color photographs, 50 floor plans and architectural details, and a lively, personable voice, *In-laws, Outlaws, and Granny Flats* is perfect for homeowners who want richer lives and a more secure future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Over the past 39 years, Michael Litchfield...has written nine books on the design, construction and renovation of houses, including one on remodeling that runs more than 600 pages, and he writes the Cozy Digz blog for "Fine Homebuilding" magazine, of which he was a founding editor. Clearly, Litchfield is an expert. But as he demonstrates in his latest book, "In-laws, Outlaws, and Granny

Flats: Your Guide to Turning One House into Two Homes" (Taunton, \$25), he still remembers the befuddled perspective of a beginner. He has tailored his message accordingly, with lots of information [and] no jargon....At the heart of the book are 30 examples of in-law units, technically known as accessory dwelling units or ADUs. Litchfield divides these into six approaches: going up (converting the attic); going down (converting or excavating to create a basement); carving up (reconfiguring the space within the existing building envelope); bumping out (adding an addition); converting the garage; and building a separate unit on your property...The units described in the book range in size from about 250 to 750 square feet--from tiny to merely small. Nonetheless, the designers have managed not only to include the necessities--kitchen, bathroom, and living and sleeping areas--but to do so with an inventiveness that can make the spaces look and feel twice as big. --Katherine Salant, "The Washington Post"

A new book, "In-Laws, Outlaws and Granny Flats," by Michael Litchfield, explains in detail how to turn one house into two homes. The author uses dozens of floor plans and hundreds of striking photos to illustrate the process. For all parties concerned, such transformations, can result in "more lifestyle options, greater economic security and deeper personal satisfaction," Mr. Litchfield writes. A terrific resource."--The Wall Street Journal

"This book is chock full of very practical tips, great advice, and plenty of real world examples. Because in-laws, converted garages and gue

Michael Litchfield has been renovating houses or writing about them for more than 30 years. A founding editor of "Fine Homebuilding" magazine, Litchfield is perhaps best known as the author of the classic, "Renovation: A Complete Guide," now in its 3rd Edition. He is also a Certified Green Building Professional.

We recently relocated back to the mid-atlantic region after being away for five years. My husband and I are retired and will be looking to buy a 'seasoned charmer' home in the next 2 years as opposed to a newer mcmansion with wasted space for two people. I saw this book reviewed in the Washington Post and since I have adult children with families in the immediate area, I was curious as to what options might be available in building a smaller space on an already inhabited residential lot. My advice to anyone contemplating this same option is 'don't pick up this book and start to explore it, anytime close to preparing a meal, unless you have a second cook in the house or you can order carryout.' It's mezmorizing in ideas, floor plans, before/after results pictures and makes you want to get in your car and start exploring the nearest town for available lots. I read it from cover to cover and kept interrupting my husband's activities to show him my latest 'what a great idea' find.

I sent an email to a close friend in KC recommending this book to her since they are close to buying land and building a home and a MIL space with it. If you get this book, also get 'What Your Contractor Can't Tell You', as well. Equally as fabulous for information and getting to know the ins and outs of building or remodeling. Both books will be dog-eared worn out from referencing them in the near future.

I purchased this book for a friend who is considering her future options in caring for her parents in their elderly years. It has greatly exceeded my expectations. Chock full of information on topics as detailed and technical as zoning and permitting considerations, to fun and beautiful ideas on all types of design considerations, this book will truly get you thinking on the best option for you. From separate dwelling units, to additions and basement conversions, there are many options available for this type of housing, and this book covers them all. While you will certainly need to work with an architect to make these kinds of building projects a reality, the information covered here--questions on your neighborhood, discussions about the character of your lot or property and the potential benefits or pitfalls of various arrangements--will greatly assist you in making a thoughtful, measured assessment of the true possibilities of your property. The beautiful pictures of successful units will also leave you feeling inspired! And it will put you in a much more informed position, one that will greatly assist you in working with your architect--and I should know, as I am one! I highly recommend this book, and even plan to get another copy for myself.

I've purchased a handful of books on micro houses, prefab houses, green roofs, grey water systems, and house design in general. If you're thinking of building a house of any kind this book is crammed with real life information you need to know from working with architects and contractors, planning and permits, insulation, air quality management, privacy and sound proofing... things anyone would want to consider regardless of whether they're sharing a home with tenants, an aging parent, older children, a spouse... or just wanted a healthy well-designed home to enjoy all by themselves. Of the seven books I've read on this and related subjects, this is the best. I can't recommend it enough.

I hesitated to purchase this book because it comes from Australia and I wasn't certain how relevant it would be to someone living in the USA. With that in mind I went to the library and checked a copy out. I needn't have worried, before I had done more than just look at the amazing variety of In-Law solutions I had my computer on and ordered my own copy. This is a great book with beautiful

photographs of little places for "Granny" to live (or any one else for that matter). It shows how creative people can be when they need to make a complete, comfortable and attractive guest house or addition for whatever reason. Was it a help to me? Yes but now I have another problem....Granny-Flat envy! I highly recommend this book.

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