

In-laws, Outlaws, and Granny Flats: Your Guide to Turning One House into Two Homes

Michael Litchfield



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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. Creating an in-law unit--turning one house into two homes--is arguably greenest, most cost-efficient way to create a small home or cottage because you're building small, building on an existing lot, and conserving building materials. This book covers every aspect of turning one house into two homes. Its first four chapters deal with the specifics of assessing your needs, selecting an appropriate design, choosing space- and energy-saving appliances, and getting your plans approved. The book's second half is a warm and engaging portfolio of in-law units and the families who created them: what needs prompted their decisions, which layouts worked best, and how they met life challenges with common sense, creativity and compassion. 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.



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