episode fifteen: Gardening in Small Spaces

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key concepts

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On the balcony:

- Take sunlight into consideration. For instance, a west sun means afternoons will be hot.

- No planting beds calls for potted plants. Succulents work well in pots.

- Go for low water usage, keeping in mind that native plants don't do well in pots. Stick with the succulents.
- Use some of the space for a small seating area, a cafe table and two chairs.

On the small patio:

- For living arrangements, a 12-by-12-foot patio should have enough room for a table, four chairs, a fountain and small fireplace.

- For screening and shade, a fruit tree in a corner could help. Other options would be to rig up a shade cloth or put up an umbrella.

- For plants, consider water wise plants, lots of perennials, flowering plants, things that attract beneficial insects, and food, such as lettuce in terra cotta pots.

- Vertical gardens have become a trend. Billy suggested plants that grow like orchids, called Bromeliad and Tillandsia. They are species of Epiphytic plants, and can be stacked in small pots on lattice. They require partial shade and a light misting.

- Vines could be another consideration. The Giant Burmese honeysuckle is a good example, Owen said.

- For other decorative touches, pots are essential.

- For the feed and care of plants, a compost barrel may fit on a small patio. To water, collect rain in a barrel for future watering. And for irrigation, try a drip system attached to a faucet and timer.