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Small Space, Big Impact

A modernist patio proves edited design works wonders

BY CARLY SCHOLL PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID B. MOORE

When redesigning a small area used for morning tea and pastries, less is more and bigger is better. “Proportions were important due to the limited size of the space,” says design consultant Diana Rollnick. Homeowners Margo and Frank Walter had always desired an enclosed outdoor space, and while remodeling their 1980s Spanish ranch residence, they created just enough room out front for a petite patio.

By keeping furnishings to a minimum, Rollnick set the stage for the three custom-made cast-concrete planters to become the patio’s focal point. Their elongated oval stature effectively adds grandeur to the small area without imposing on the

adjacent dining set, and their cool grey hue and vibrant slipper plants (*Pedilanthus macrocarpus*) play off the mustard-yellow walls. “The yellow paint we chose is very unique in terms of color,” says Rollnick, noting that the bright hue is not a typical choice for home exteriors. The shade mimics the golden tones found in boulders throughout the property and enhances the impact of verdant orange trees just beyond the wall. The bold planters and leafless succulents are ideal for a low-maintenance patio, while high-impact color lends energy and interest to this midcentury-style space. ■

See Sources.