



DÉCO AU CARRÉ

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12

BIG IDEAS
FOR SMALL SPACES

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GET THE MOST OUT OF A SMALL SPACE

Condo living offers several benefits: more projects to choose from, less maintenance, and living closer to commodities. However, most homeowners fear downsizing to a much smaller space...

By thinking carefully about your way of life, making the right choices, and using a few neat tricks, you can make a small space look and feel bigger than it actually is.

1. SUSPENDING DRAPES

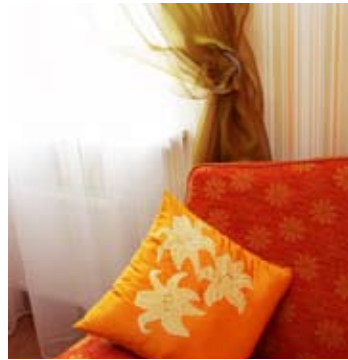
to walls and windows creates the illusion of height and makes a small space feel like a house. Light, transparent fabric breathes air into an area. Installing drapes at invisible boundaries (from open dining room to living room, for example) allows you to better define rooms without losing precious floor surface or hindering movement.

2. CONCEALED STORAGE

is a great way to keep things in order. Cabinets with fabric baskets can store a lot of things while blending with your home décor. An entire office can be concealed within a closet using sliding shelves and opaque doors.

3. THINKING BIG

in a small space is possible! It's a mistake to think that you need to stick with small things. Quite the contrary: a few large pieces can become focal points and take attention away from a small space's size. A tall bed, a large piece of art, or a big green plant all work wonderfully.



4. CONTINUITY

from a room to another: that's the secret to successful small space design. Rather than designing each room separately, try to maintain a common thread in the whole unit. It could be floor covering, color scheme, choice of material... Transition between the rooms become smoother, less clean cut: it shouldn't feel like you're leaving one compartment to enter another.



ARTWORK: BIG OR SMALL?

A large piece of art can work nicely in a small space, but it requires enough room to stand back and observe it properly. Wall space above a sofa or a two-place dining table is perfect to hang artwork. In tighter spaces such as hallways, better stick with smaller pieces: you shouldn't feel squeezed against the artwork!

5. MULTI-USE FURNITURE

is a great way to get the most out of your space by combining several functions in a single piece. A bed case with drawers offers extra storage. A sideboard acts as both cabinet and side table.

6. COLOR CHOICE

plays a big role. Don't use multiple colors to paint a small room's walls: a single color will create a much better sense of continuity and make the room feel larger. In the kitchen, pale cabinets installed in front of dark ceramics will create a lot of depth.

7. CLEVER KITCHEN ACCESSORIES

can help you achieve vertical storage. A magnetic strip to hold knives, an accessory rail, or a cutting board that pulls out from your island: those are all great ideas.

8. ROUND TABLES

free up space around them: no sharp corners to restrict your movement! When looking for a coffee table, keep an eye out for models that feature a single leg or legs that converge to the center. These tables free up floor space and feel lighter.

9. GLASS

is a great material for small spaces: transparency allows the eye to see further. A glass shower panel makes a bathroom feel larger. A glass dinner or coffee table calls for less attention. Glass panels on top of wall divisions can block sound without blocking sight.

10. A LARGE MIRROR

leaning against the wall will add a lot of depth to a room. To enhance the effect, you can add a green plant or a side table with a lamp and a few decorative items in front: reflecting an interesting piece will create even more depth.

11. WALL SPACE

can help offset reduced floor space. Shelves provide increased storage while walls, artwork, decorative items, and suspended plants maintain the focus higher up.

12. THE TWO-YEAR RULE

is a great guideline to keep your home clutter-free. If you haven't used, seen, or even thought about a specific item for two years, that means you can live without it. Unless it carries sentimental value, why not give it to charity?



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