

# CHIC DÉCOR

**Design – Colour Consultations – Space & Furniture Planning – Window Treatments**

## **Small Space Strategies**

Living in a small home or condo requires some space stretching techniques to make it feel more ample and less confining. Whether you're downsizing or just starting out, consider the following tips to help you get the most out of your small space:

### **Edit**

Revisit any existing furnishings and determine whether their size is still suitable for a smaller room, this is particularly important when downsizing. The sofa that looked perfect in a larger room may now look overwhelming in a more compact one. Consider the scale of each piece you place in the room and if it feels too grand remove it. You will also need to edit the size and quantity of your accessories, art, etc. Be steadfast and develop a less is more attitude.

### **Clean Lines**

Now that you've edited you will need to shop for smaller scaled items. Ensure that the new pieces you're considering are the right size for your space, measure twice and purchase once. Also, be disciplined and stick to one design style so that you don't create a chaotic environment. Choose a style that is streamlined and devoid of excessive ornamentation (also known as visual clutter).

### **Multipurpose Pieces**

Purchase items that do double or triple duty. Any item that serves more than one purpose is a boon to small space living. Look for items such as a coffee table/storage unit/ottoman. A work horse like this will not only save on space but save you money as well.

### **Minimize Clutter**

Nothing makes a home seem/feel smaller than having too many things everywhere. Eliminate excessive accessories from horizontal surfaces, and be sure to replace functional items to their original locations when not in use. Wall space is another area that can become overwrought with pictures & art. Don't be afraid to leave some walls unadorned, this will create a sense of amplitude and serenity.

### **Minimize Contrast**

One of the most effective ways of making any room seem larger is by minimizing the contrast between walls, floors, ceilings and furniture. Try to choose similar tones of one colour for the furniture and walls. By doing this it causes the eye to sweep the room without any visual jarring taking place as there would be with a room that has red walls, a yellow sofa, a green rug...you get the picture. If one colour is just too regimented for you, then consider using colours that are analogous (side by side) on the colour wheel. This option will have a similar effect to the monochromatic (one colour only) palette we referred to earlier.

By using these strategies you'll be sure to gain a sense of order and tranquility in your home with the added bonus of visually magnifying its small proportions.

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