



*Great Ideas
Come in
Small Packages*

Expanding Small Spaces

Beyond purging your home of clutter and unused items there are many ways to expand the space in your home without moving walls. Living in a small space can be a wonderful way to simplify your life and calm your jangled nerves. The key is to be creative with the use of light, storage and furniture.

Shape spaces to receive natural sunlight. Skylights or solar tubes will eliminate harsh shadows and bring light into interiors, even on a gloomy day. A bay window 12-18" deep can be fitted with cushioned bench seating or use an upholstered chair with a wall mounted light source. There is no need to move major walls; and since the bay window is not in contact with the ground outside there is no foundation required. A box bay window over the sink in the kitchen will bring light in at an angle and give a view straight ahead.

Consider your storage needs carefully, so you can take advantage of every inch you have available. Built-in bookshelves and storage help to eliminate clutter, providing a sense of "elbow room". Lights mounted under the shelves eliminate dark corners. Use a wide floor to ceiling bookcase or entertainment unit to divide one room into two spaces. The reverse of the unit can become the backdrop for a headboard or a home office.

When you select your furniture, consider "multi-functionality". Built-in wall units have fold out tables, desks, beds and nightstands. Some sofas have the option of converting to daybeds or attaching end tables and lighting as one unit. Cribs with built-in storage drawers can later transition to daybeds. Pedestal tables can accommodate more diners because the table legs do not restrict the chair placement. If you are using a rectangular table, a bench and two chairs gives more room than four separate chairs. Look for tables with adjustable bases that convert in height from dining tables to coffee tables. Incorporating glass panels or cable railing on stairs and pony walls visually opens the space. Cantilevering stair treads, vanities and shelves gives a sense of lightness.

Ideally, doors should be positioned away from the corners of the room so the sidewalls can be used for art or shelving. Ceiling mounted shades, vertical fabric panels or sliding barn doors (glass, wood or metal) will effectively divide spaces. Using pocket doors eliminates the swing arc of a conventional door and may allow for the placement of an additional piece of furniture. Tall, etched glass doors will bring the outdoors in, blur the transition between the interior and exterior spaces and still afford some privacy. Painting the door trim and the wall the same color will give the illusion of a wider wall.

Finally, add a bold piece of art or an oversized mirror to reflect a window wall; and you will have created a dramatic space within a small footprint.

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