

INSIDE SCOOP

We asked 10 design experts from across Canada to spill the beans on their best-kept small-space secrets. Check out how they cleverly use them in their own homes.

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY



Samantha Sacks

tips

I decided to remove the door between my master bedroom and ensuite and create a large opening instead. Since both the bedroom and bathroom are fairly small, I really wanted the spaces to flow together. The consistent use of colours and materials helps to create unity.



tips



Nicola Marc

I think in decorating any space, but particularly with a small space, it's important to consider the sightlines and views from one room to another. Here, my master bedroom looks directly into my daughter's bedroom, where I arranged and layered furniture, objects and artwork.

"I love to create groupings of complementary colours and textures that look good together from many angles."

“Living in a small space over the years, I’ve found it important to purge items I no longer need and to organize what I have efficiently.”



tips

In my line of work, I need an office that has a great deal of storage, so I took advantage of a large closet in the room and installed an organizational system to house all of my samples and supplies. This enables me to keep the space in my 1,040-square-foot condo looking tidy and attractive at all times. With only one wall to place furniture against, I got creative with the layout and positioned a custom desk in the centre of the room with a chair on either side. This allowed me to include a credenza for even more storage and a display spot. I also used a colour palette in the office that’s consistent with the rest of the condo so that each space flows seamlessly into the next.



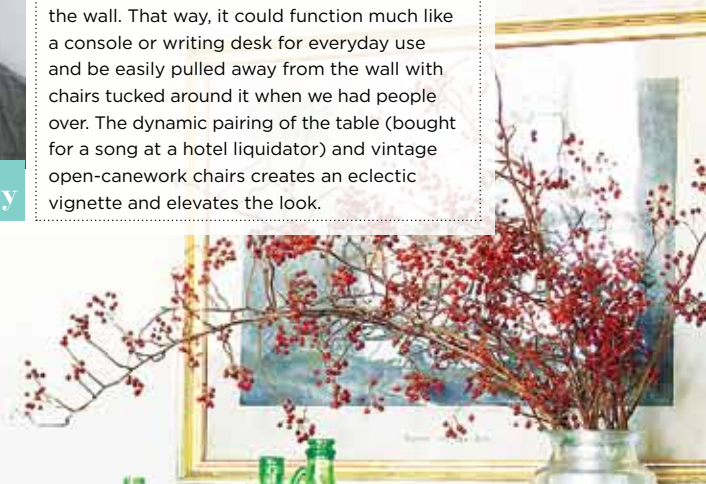
Emma Comesotti

tips



Michael Penney

Our first apartment in the city had good bones and high ceilings, but it didn't have a proper dining area so we carved one out of the living space. We used a rectangular Parsons-style table and pushed it up against the wall. That way, it could function much like a console or writing desk for everyday use and be easily pulled away from the wall with chairs tucked around it when we had people over. The dynamic pairing of the table (bought for a song at a hotel liquidator) and vintage open-canework chairs creates an eclectic vignette and elevates the look.



“We turned the linen closet into a storage and display space. It’s a great example of making something more functional for your needs.”



Jonathan Legate

tips

My bedroom is only 10 by 12 feet with a closet that takes up some of that square footage. I painted the walls and doors in Benjamin Moore's Wrought Iron (2124-10) to reduce visual clutter. I also focused on accentuating the positive elements in the room, such as the 10-foot-high ceilings, by displaying art in vertical formations.

tips



Meredith Heron

The kitchen in my 1850s home is very small by today's standards but is positively huge by Victorian ones. Selecting shelving instead of cabinetry for above the sink visually opens up the entire kitchen and allows the light to fully come through the tiny window. The small Oriental White marble subway tiles were taken right up to the top of the wall in order to emphasize the ceiling's height. And Forbo Marmoleum Click floors were laid in a rectangular design in contrasting colours, which helps to expand the space as well.



“Never underestimate the value of good lighting. Under-cabinet lights are my go-to in a kitchen. It’s the most functional type of lighting you can have.”



Tim Lam

tips

Want a bedroom without a closet in a 750-square-foot condo to be clutter-free? No problem - as long as you include a massive amount of smart storage! In my case, I decided to incorporate both open and closed storage around the existing headboard. To save costs, I went with ready-made pieces from IKEA and had them sprayed in a soft grey to unify the look. I then had the sections in walnut custom made to complement the headboard and IKEA pieces and, most importantly, serve as bedside tables.



Alykhan Velji

tips

I wanted to create a functional space in the basement but one that also had high style. The goal was to design a guest retreat complete with sleeping quarters, a luxurious bathroom, laundry amenities and storage. The furniture pieces I chose serve double duty; for example, the sofa is a pullout and the side tables act as nightstands. Sliding barnboard doors in the bathroom and laundry room allow guests to close off these areas when not in use, and they require less space than regular doors.

“Enlarging a window in the space really lets in a lot more natural light and makes it feel less like a basement.”

PHOTOGRAPHY, BRIAN BUCHSDRUECKER; COLE GREY (PORTRAIT)





PHOTOGRAPHY: TRACEY AYTON



Karla Amadatsu

tips

My office, which used to be a mud room, now boasts a desk made to span the length of one wall without impeding too much on the shallow depth of the room. I can still easily spread out samples and have my assistant working next to me at the same time. I also dressed up the office with some shiny silver task lights, an inspiration board and artwork to make it feel a bit more special. I kept the colour palette very consistent throughout as well to make the space feel larger. I chose to go light, but really the same effect could be achieved with another colour, too.