

ON *up* GO

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Scott
McGillivray

LIVING LARGE IN SMALLER SPACES

By LINDA MAZUR | Small space living can be wonderful, but it does require some creative design thinking. While you may feel that you have compromised on your square footage, this doesn't mean you have to compromise on design, comfort or functionality of your home.



As a designer, I have found that with the rise in “small space” builds over the last few years, many companies have adapted their designs and product lines to accommodate this growing trend, enabling us to better utilize our spaces. In the kitchen there are many great ways to work with small spaces. Look to use wall space for as much storage as possible to avoid losing valuable area on your counters. Today, you can buy all sorts of wonderful wall storage systems for everything from knives and utensils, to pots and your herbs.

A magic corner is another idea for “size-challenged” areas, and great way to utilize the dead space at the back of your corner cabinet. Or perhaps consider adding a hidden drawer in toe-kick beneath your cabinets which is perfect for trays and platters. For those of us who don't have the luxury of counter space, **Blanco** has introduced some great products that can pull double



duty to increase the efficiency in your kitchen. Consider a great workstation add-on that is part of their *Quatrus Gourmet Series*; it enables you to create added work space at your sink, a fantastic feature for kitchens where space is at a premium. The *Blanco Precis collection* with drain board sink is available in their exclusive Silgrant material and includes a grid tray, optional cutting board that slides over the sink or drainer board allowing for a distinctly functional work space.

Small space living can be fabulous, but it doesn't mean that you have to make concessions on style, it simply means strategic thought should go into your design. Think vertically when designing your home — you need to use every bit of available space and that often means going “up” with your storage solutions. Identify and implement all hidden areas, the space at the end of a hallway, under a staircase, or even over windows and doorways. Choose multi-purpose furniture like coffee tables with

hidden storage, or introduce pieces you may not necessarily use in that particular area, like a chest of drawers as a side table by your sofa.

Two important points you should remember as a small-space dweller, make sure your furniture selections are the correct size and scale for your room; and declutter! When you live in small surrounds you need to pare down to the items most important to you... remember everything has its place! Though you may believe small spaces are easy to work with, in fact they can be the most challenging. Consider working with a designer like myself to make the most of your space. With some inspiration and planning it's possible to create a well-appointed, beautiful home in minimal square footage.



Designer **LINDA MAZUR** is the Principal Designer of Linda Mazur Design Group. With over a decade of experience this sought out multi-disciplinary interior design firm is known for providing innovative interior renovations and full scale build projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. The firm services Toronto, GTA and surrounding areas. www.lindamazurdesign.com
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