

WINTER 2016

# LIFE *at home*

A SHOWCASE OF CANADIAN LIVING

## THE Enchanting SEVEN STONES WINERY

DESIGNER  
MELISSA DAVIS  
A WOMAN OF CONTRASTS

MAKING WINTER  
MEMORIES  
COAST-TO-COAST

PM42937512

Century  
21  
CANADA





# LIVE LARGE IN YOUR SMALL SPACE

by Linda Mazur

Many of us live in rather small spaces. Perhaps you have decided to downsize or reside in a new urban home – either way, you now find yourself in a situation where space is at a premium. You may be feeling as though you have compromised on your square footage, but this does not mean you have to compromise on the esthetics or your comfort. As a designer, I believe your home should be a timeless design reflecting your personality and lifestyle, but it should also be functional. Great design is not necessarily about the size of our living spaces but in fact how well the space is utilized and organized. Believe it or not, it is possible to create a well-appointed, beautiful home in very small surroundings – even 400 sq ft.

I have found that with the rise in “small space” builds over the last few years, many of my suppliers have adapted their designs and product lines to accommodate this growing trend. If you have a small kitchen, look to maximize the space you have by adding any number of great storage solutions like a “magic corner.” This is a wonderful way to access the corners of your cabinetry and it allows for maximum usage of what we like to call a “blind corner.” Another way to utilize limited space in your kitchen is this great feature from Blanco for your sink. The Blanco workstation is part of their new Quatrus Gourmet Series and enables you to create an additional work surface at your sink – a wonderful feature for small kitchens where space is at a premium.

The kitchen is not the only room that can benefit from fantastic space solutions. Think about increasing your storage vertically in hallways or bedrooms with custom built-in closet organizers that go right up to the ceiling. These custom built-ins, designed and manufactured by Tailored Living featuring Premium Garage, afford you the ability to access even those hard to reach places by using a pull-out wardrobe life, meaning there's no longer the need for a step ladder! For those of you that have a bit of a shoe fetish, and lack the square footage for a beautiful walk-in closet that displays all of your shoes, consider a revolving shoe rack, which is a much better solution than under the bed storage. If you are extremely limited in space the option of a Murphy bed combined with a desk or built-in closet unit could also be a great solution for you.

Small space living can be fun and fabulous – but these size limitations have definitely forced us to be very organized, creative and efficient with the space we do have. This does not mean that you have to make any concessions on style, it simply means strategic thought should go into your design. When designing your space, identify and implement hidden areas for storage, like under a staircase perhaps, and remember to choose multi-purpose furniture, such as coffee tables with hidden storage. Though you may believe small spaces are easy to work with, in fact they can be the most challenging. Consider working with professionals like ourselves to make the most of your small space and live large in your beautiful small home!

## Here are a few quick tips to get you started

- Always look for the lost valuable space in a room, for example the “kick-plate” of your kitchen cabinetry could be adapted as a shallow drawer for baking trays.
- Look to use reflective or transparent materials in your design such as chrome, glass or Lucite.
- Avoid getting caught in the trap of using small scaled furniture or décor items, in fact that will make your space seem even smaller, and don't clutter your space with too many nick-nacks!



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, Greater Toronto Area and surrounding areas.  
www.lindamazurdesign.com @LindaMazur Group