

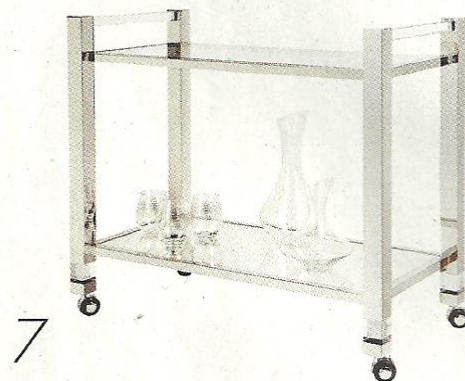
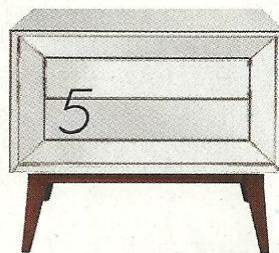
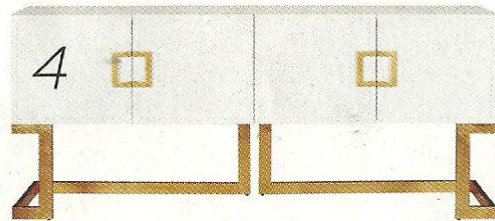


solutions you incorporate, there never seems to be enough space, so honestly evaluate your belongings and make the decision to keep only what is meaningful and functional or you will be overrun with useless items that are taking up space. *Images 4-7*

Consider adding floor-to-ceiling panelling to your space and paint it all the same colour (including the baseboards). This is a great way to add architectural detail. One of my design beliefs is that if a room is beautiful 'naked', meaning without any furnishings or accessories, you've already got a leg up to a stylish room.

Lastly, consider using a small amount of large items and pattern — but just a dash. An oversized colourful canvas and geometric rug can bring a spot of chic to any space, but when you have a small space, it is a bold gesture, which brings personality and style to a room.

Space-enhancing visual tricks are fun to use, but it's the functionality that brings easy living to your home, which in turn, will pamper you with luxury and comfort.



Tips

- Invest in the highest quality upholstered furnishings you can; the longevity and comfort will bring luxury to your home
- Do not buy a 'sofa set'. You're better off buying two sofas or two loveseats rather than a sofa and a love seat
- Keep your dominant surfaces light to brighten and lighten the mood (sofa, walls and floors)
- Floor-to-ceiling shelving adds storage and visually gives the illusion of height
- Hang your draperies close to the ceiling; it will give the illusion of a higher ceiling
- Eliminate the feeling of 'bland' with patterned pillows and blankets in punchy colours
- Furnishings with interesting shapes and finishes will double as art and express your personality

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BIGGER is not always better

By Evelyn Eshun | Photos by Arnal photography



LUXURIOUS LIVING IS TYPICALLY DEFINED by the size of the home. However, without function and personal style, that big space is just that, a big space, rather than a home that provides you with easy living and style. The answer to crafting a luxurious and chic home is not size; it's about utilizing your square footage as efficiently as possible. Tricks of the trade will get you on your way to feeling comfortable, rather than cramped.

My daily life as a designer always involves creating spaces that improve our clients' lifestyle, whether it is a renovation or a decoration project. Carefully listening to the personal lifestyle needs of each client is key to creating a successful interior. Here are some ideas for optimizing your home's functionality.

Planning around the daily activities of your life and including items that will function for you is the key to making your space work. If you're an avid book reader or collector of items, you can tuck a TV into a bookshelf and opt for a large side table or coffee table with a shelf underneath that can house magazines and remotes rather than bringing a media cabinet into the picture. In the image shown, we created a den/home office for our condo client with a custom-designed, built-in housing a desk, drawers, shelves, a television and even a hidden closet behind one of the bookshelves. *Image 1*

Measure, and measure again before you go shopping, and don't give in to that oversized contemporary sectional that will overtake the space. The contemporary styles that are



trending these days are often too low and too firm. Keep in mind that this piece should look good, but it needs to be comfortable. On a sofa with a seat height less than 19 inches, a tall man may have difficulty getting up; these are ergonomic basics that will determine the comfort level of your sofa.

There is always hidden storage space that can be found. The bench in the photo has a six-foot pullout drawer that was designed to hold our client's tablecloths, etc. *Image 2*

The clever use of mirrors and reflective furnishings will expand the space, reflect light and add visual interest. Think beyond the wall when looking for places to add mirrors. Consider mirrored furniture, kitchen backsplash, a panelled wall of mirrors in a tight entry area. Feel free to place furniture in front of mirrors and use the walls opposite or adjacent to windows to bring in light. *Image 3*

Double-duty furnishings that can store your things will help keep the area clutter-free, which is probably the first tip to living well in a small space. After all, no matter how large a home is and how many smart storage

continued on page 72