

THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House



SMALL-SPACE SOLUTIONS

It's the Little Things

Pros show how to create multitasking rooms that stretch well beyond their pint-size footprints—from a teeny studio apartment with maximal storage to a living/entertaining space that goes from family hour to cocktail hour—so now you can *truly* live large! *By Hillary Brown*

ILLUSTRATIONS MITA CORSINI BLAND. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

The Working Parent's Playroom



DRAW THE CURTAINS AND INSTANTLY FEEL LIKE A GROWN-UP AGAIN!



MELISSA WARNER ROTHBLUM & JULIE MASSUCCO KLEINER, MASSUCCO WARNER MILLER

With a working mom of two in mind, the Los Angeles design duo imagines a room that shifts from home office to playroom by utilizing clever storage units and work spaces. The curtains of the inventive cabana-style closet can be drawn to hide kid stuff, while built-ins house office supplies and books, and two tables give mom and kids unique stations. "All of these pieces can be used in many iterations, both now and later as the family grows," Rothblum says.



◀ "Cover chairs in a chic vinyl, so any mishaps with art supplies or snacks can be easily wiped away." Sylvie Dining Chair. By Made Goods. \$1,300. mecox.com. Kerinci Faux Leather in Sea Glass. kravet.com



▲ "Invest in sculptural light fixtures and table lamps—they double as decoration." Hanover Chandelier in Aged Mirror and Dirty Gold. \$2,385. mrbrownlondon.com

"A barely there purple paint on the walls is a soothing backdrop for bright fabrics. And in a high gloss, it's so child-friendly. The glossier, the better!" Lavender Ice. From \$53 a gallon. benjaminmoore.com



◀ "This can serve as a desk and work space for Mom, but down the road it can turn into an additional homework spot for the kids." Dalton Library Table. By Suzanne Kasler. \$5,778. hickorychair.com

The Sociable Family's Living Room



CLAIRE RATLIFF, CULLMAN & KRAVIS

"This room has to be a chameleon on all fronts, because it's used for cocktail parties, family dinners, *and* lounging," says the New York designer on the living/dining space she created for a young family. From the sleek but comfy sectional—"it maximizes seating without tons of chairs"—to the posh performance fabrics, each piece is able to straddle casual and sophisticated. Her budget-friendly trick for unifying the two-in-one space? "One large area rug in a durable faux sisal makes the room feel like a cohesive whole."

STASH AWAY AN OTTOMAN OR TWO FOR EXTRA SEATING!



▲ "A true workhorse that helps define a cozy dining nook while also offering loads of storage. Like a built-in, but it can come with you when you move!" Swan Room Divider. By Cynthia Rowley. \$3,365. hookerfurniture.com



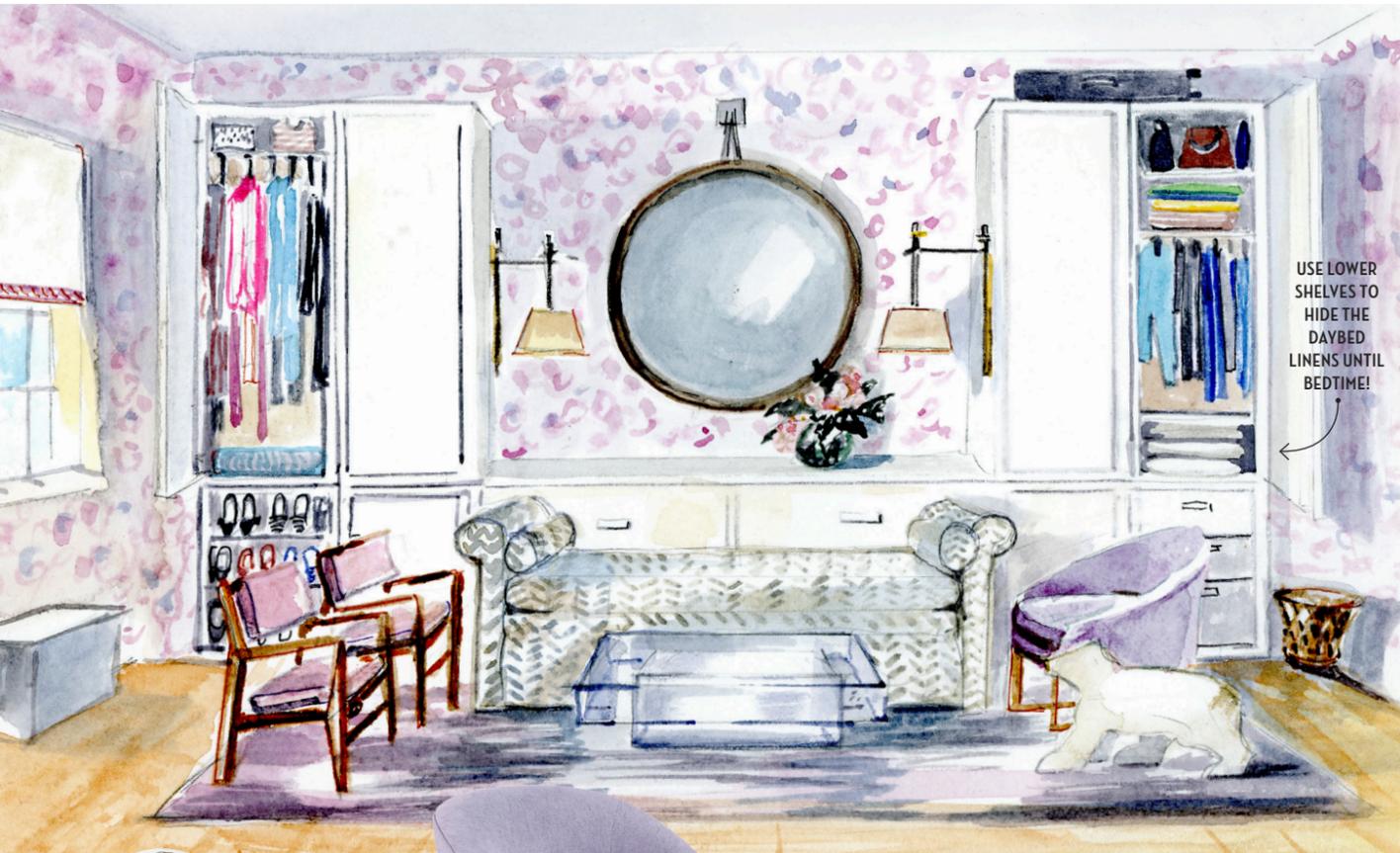
◀ "A leopard print has presence! Plus, it hides a multitude of sins and stains, so it's a great worry-free option for multipurpose rooms." Fauve Velvet in Chinchilla. brunschwig.com

▶ "This has the perfect scale—not too big, but not so dainty that you won't want to linger after dinner. Upholster it in an outdoor fabric for ultimate durability." Jacqueline Side Chair. \$2,459. hickorychair.com



▲ "Looks glamorous for when the space is being used for entertaining, but the wipeable glass top makes it low-maintenance." Mansfield Cocktail Table. Mahogany and glass. \$2,130. theodorealexander.com

The City Dweller's One-Room Pad



Small-space tricks from designers who know!

“INSTALL A MIRROR THAT RUNS THE LENGTH OF THE BATHROOM VANITY AND ALL THE WAY UP TO THE CEILING. IT INSTANTLY EXPANDS THE ROOM.” **LEGASPI COURTS**

“No postage-stamp rugs! Wall-to-wall carpeting or a room-size area rug visually maximizes square footage.”

GEORGIA ZIKAS

“Build a cabinet around the radiator and top it with seat cushions. Not only does it disguise an otherwise ugly radiator, it also provides extra seating and a spot to drop grocery bags or mail.” **LINDSAY MACRAE**

“If you’re a renter, line the top of your kitchen cabinets with neutral lidded boxes to increase vertical storage options.”

EMILY C. BUTLER

“A large ottoman can serve as a coffee table, a mini display library, and additional seating. Place one or two trays in the center to hold books and drinks, and lazy feet can go around the perimeter!”

EMILY PAINTER OF LINDROTH DESIGN

“Hang curtains floor to ceiling to draw the eye up and give the illusion of larger windows.”

DANE AUSTIN

“A secretary desk can also function as a nightstand. The key is to make sure it’s low and narrow. It’s a charming way to sneak a desk into a small room that’s lacking wall space.” **GRACE ROSENSTEIN**



JONATHAN SAVAGE, SAVAGE INTERIOR DESIGN

The Nashville decorator is all too familiar with the trials and tribulations of inhabiting a studio apartment. “There is never, ever enough storage!” he says. “But floating the furniture in the middle of the room gives you a ton of real estate along the walls for closets with hanging space.” And movable accent chairs and side tables allow for a flexible floor plan, whether his client is having a friend or two over for libations or simply wants to throw her feet up and relax.



◀ “Make sure playful and sculptural pieces serve a purpose, like this curvy chair and animal-shaped drinks table.” Gabbro Lounge Chair. By Jean-Louis Deniot. \$5,700. bakerfurniture.com. Walking Bear Side Table. Plaster and cement. avenue-road.com



◀ “An upholstered daybed offers a cozy sleeping spot for one, but it’s also a comfortable sofa when guests swing by. It’s the best of both worlds!” Afton Daybed with Trundle. \$899. ballarddesigns.com

▶ “The design makes an impact, and the shelves are super functional. It’s great for small spaces, as it feels light and airy.” Drop In Table. Acrylic. plexi-craft.com



Closet Confidential

We asked California Closets for the inside scoop on how to store clothes *and* linens in a studio. Go high, they advised! It doubles the capacity of the closet, especially the amount of hanging space. Group items based on frequency of use: Put daily items like work clothing in arm’s reach and once-in-a-while things, like guest pillows, on top shelves.