

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

25BH | STUDIO APARTMENT

INSIGHT

Compact living

Make the most of a small studio space, like Ewen MacAskill and Gillian Taylor have done, by planning a hard-working layout



A studio that incorporates plenty of concealed storage and furniture that's tailored to the space can achieve a sense of comfort and convenience that belies a modest square footage. The key lies in forward planning.

SMALL BUT CHIC

Though bijou apartments and studios can present challenges, there are several benefits to compact living. One of the main advantages is the accessibility of everything that's needed. Easy maintenance is another bonus. In a small space, try to create the feeling of rooms within a room by subtly dividing your living area into key zones to accommodate living, working and sleeping zones, unified by a consistent colour palette and flooring throughout. Consider storage systems with pull-down beds in small studios, to make the most of your living area during the day, while larger spaces will benefit from a sliding-door system to divide living and sleeping quarters.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



● 'The key to compact living is to be very well organised. Small spaces can actually transform personal habits for the better, as they require careful editing and storage.'

● Open up the space as much as possible to allow for comfortable circulation. Every centimetre of a studio has to be cleverly utilised, so that it doesn't

look cluttered, yet provides a functional layout with optimised storage.

● Consider finishing the walls in polished plaster, a material that reflects light and increases visual perception of space. Any other reflective decorative surfaces, such as patinated mirrors, silver leaf or lacquer, will make the space seem bigger, too.

● Use a palette of light colours, but in different materials and textures. A common misconception is that the less furniture and features you have in the space, the bigger it will look. But, in fact, multiple zones create a sense of different areas within one room. It's all about the appropriate furniture size, the right colours and good lighting.

● Try to stick to a neutral scheme in smaller spaces, introducing splashes of colour with accessories.

● Avoid oversized sofas, large TVs and over-scaled chandeliers and paintings in a small space, as they can dominate a scheme.'

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE

IRINA TOWNSEND, KEIR TOWNSEND

SPACE INVADERS

In a compact apartment, utilise dual-purpose furniture such as bespoke storage beds, sofas and benches, which look and feel luxurious and comfortable, but provide ample room inside. Low-level couches appear to take up less space, while glass tables won't seem to eat into precious square footage. Opt for a table that can act as workspace as well as somewhere to eat. If your kitchen is integrated into your living space, try to achieve a seamless look with handleless units in a neutral tone that appear to recede into the wall. Units on wheels are also useful and will help create a sense of flow. Floor-to-ceiling storage such as bookcases, emphasise height, while glass furniture, mirrors and polished surfaces help bounce light around.



Creating multiple zones in a small room can improve the feeling of space

ADDRESS BOOK

● **HOW TO LIVE IN SMALL SPACES, TERENCE CONRAN** £19.99, published by **Conran Octopus**
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