

SMALL SPACES

With one side armless, the sofa doesn't hinder flow between the living room and hall. Streamlined mid-century modern classics, like the Nelson Coconut chair and wire Platner side table take up little visual space. Sofa, B&B Italia; chair, Herman Miller; watercolour paintings by Michael Cox; fur throw, Ouno Design; baseballs, Spinneybeck; red lamp, Artemide; side tables, Knoll.



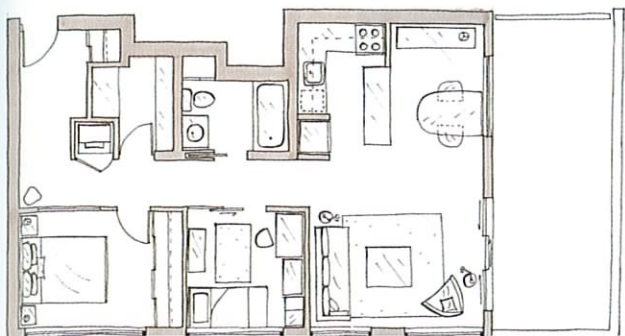
Small is Personal

WITH WHIMSICAL COLLECTIONS AND MID-CENTURY MODERN CLASSICS, TWO DESIGNERS INJECT CHARACTER INTO A NEW EAST VANCOUVER CONDO.

840 square feet

A walk through an airy model suite initially inspired Steven and Jane Cox to purchase a condo, but it was the architectural model of one unit that really sealed the deal. The Vancouver couple, co-owners of design company Cause + Affect, discovered this space rendered in acrylic at a condo sales centre. "We saw the miniature model, which had a large roof terrace, and before we knew it, we'd placed a down payment," says Steven. After moving into the ninth-floor condo a year ago, they set about incorporating their modern furnishings into the contemporary space. "Being designers, we never thought we'd purchase a new home, but would buy something old and redo it," says Steven. "It was nice to find something we could actually make our own."





MIND YOUR FURNITURE PLACEMENT

The layout in the living room at once visually expands the space and offers the best views to the terrace. Steven and Jane placed their sofa against the short wall, instead of in the typical spot under the windows. "If we'd put the sofa there, we'd be looking at the kitchen," says Steven. "Now, we look towards the deck, and there's a feeling of privacy from the kitchen."

MOVE IT OUTDOORS

With a terrace almost equal in size to their condo's living room, Steven and Jane had plenty of scope to create a practical, interesting design outdoors. Surrounded by a sandblasted glass divider that echoes the glass used inside and grounded by concrete pavers and timber decking (*not shown*), the terrace incorporates a dining area, a cooking area and a space for lounging, as well as container gardens. The condo offers the Coxes the best of both worlds: a new-build interior with the outdoor space of traditional houses — "but with a better view," says Steven. Chair; Herman Miller; planters, Art Knapp and Urban Barn; bird sculptures, Ikea.



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LEAVE FLOORS EXPOSED

All-white walls, white finishes, streamlined furnishings — including the dining area's teak sideboard and table and vintage Eames Bucket chairs — and Malaysian kempas wood floors throughout give the condominium a clean, expansive look. Aside from adding a rug in the living area to provide cosiness and define the space, Steven left the floors exposed to enhance the ample feel and showcase the striking wood. Chairs, Herman Miller; vase, Orrefors; bowls, Marimekko runner, Design House; wall colour, Oxford White (CC-30), Benjamin Moore.



Steven and Jane Cox in the kitchen of their Vancouver condo, with then-two-month-old Jasper.

CREATE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOMS

Steven and Jane found an efficient second use for baby Jasper's bedroom: it also acts as Jane's dressing room with the addition of a vanity (actually a chair, desk and mirror). A daybed provides a spot for a tired parent to take a nap with the baby.

Shelves, desk, dresser, bed, Ikea; chair, Herman Miller; drapery fabric, Marimekko; tiles, Modernkid.



BELOW: The bathroom's vanity offers storage and has a set for a furniture-like look, appropriate for a small space. "You can see the floor underneath, which makes the space feel bigger and is easier for cleaning," says Steven. Photograph (over toilet) by Patrick Norman; towels, cup, Design House.

LET LIGHT FLOW THROUGH

In the principal bedroom, an opaque interior window lets light filter from the bedroom window into the front hall. "Generally when you enter a condominium, you walk into a dark hallway," says Steven. "But with this window, our hall is actually quite bright." With the hall light turned on at night, light diffuses into the bedroom for a glowing effect. Side table, lamp, Ikea; headboard, Ouno Design; blanket, The Bay.



KEEP YOUR HALLS

"Most people think of hallways as a negative thing in a small space," says Steven. "They think if they create one big space, it's going to feel bigger." Here, the hallway gives the impression of space by providing separation between rooms. "When we're in the principal bedroom, we feel quite a long way from the main living space." Rich contrasting kempas flooring visually extends the hallway and turns it into a striking feature. ABOVE, BOTTOM LEFT: Stool, Flo by Patricia Urquiola for Driade.

RIGHT: Along with the design firm she and Steven run, Jane is co-owner of a retail company called Jorg & Olif, whose feature product is a Dutch city bike.

