

9 Big Ideas, 1 Small Space

This designer put the squeeze play on her 600-square-foot apartment—and found space for her hard-earned collections.



1 ON THE UP-AND-UP
Steel office shelves, which store books, magazines, CDs, and the stereo, fit snugly on either side of the fireplace. Homeowner and designer Amy Samelson chose the 13½-inch-deep shelves in a color to match her off-white walls.

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2 TABLE FOR TWO
By day, this stainless-steel table (from a restaurant supply store) works as Amy's desk. At night, it's recruited for cozy meals. Instead of an overhead fixture, a floor lamp adds mood lighting.

3 CONTAINER STORAGE
Open shelving can add clutter to a small space. Amy keeps the look tidy with translucent filing containers and woven boxes that hold catalogs, fabric samples, and design plans—what she needs close at hand while she works.

4 UNDER COVER
The living room sofa is actually a twin bed draped with a canvas drop cloth that can instantly shift into a guest bed. Oversize pillows form the back of the sofa.



5 IN PLAIN VIEW
 “In a small space, it’s important to see through furniture to the floor,” Amy says. For her nightstand, she chose a plywood-topped table with an open metal base to keep the bedroom light and airy.

6 LIGHTEN UP
 Frosted-glass panels in both interior and exterior doors bring more light into rooms. “They let you look beyond the room and make the small space feel slightly larger,” Amy says.

7 A SOFTER SIDE
 A wide linen panel covers the 8-foot-long closet, taking up less room than the bifold doors it replaced. The drapery’s khaki-gray color nearly matches the wall’s neutral hue, creating a cohesive look.





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8 TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Amy expanded her living space by turning the deck outside her bedroom into an alfresco sitting room. The platform sofa is upholstered in weatherproof fabric and is shaded by a pivoting umbrella.

9 NATURAL BEAUTY

A wooden stool extends Amy's love of earthy elements to the outdoors. Tall, easy-to-maintain ornamental grasses add a green buffer to the deck railing.



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For buying information see page 266.