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## Small Space, Big Inspiration

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As interior designer Yanic Simard puts it, you have to think outside the box when you live in a shoebox.

And contrary to what you might believe about small space living, that doesn't mean buying small furniture.

CityLine.ca asked Yanic for his suggestions on how to live large in modest surroundings. Here's what he recommends:

- 1) Use your creativity. You want to give the illusion that you live in a larger space, so don't be afraid of creating a unique design as opposed to what you might traditionally think of as a set-up for a particular room.
- 2) Functionality is key. Think of what you want to use the space for. Don't be afraid to merge areas, for instance your living and dining room. That creates a nice flow in the space.
- 3) Create a peninsula. When you replace your countertop in order to install an under-mount sink, to create extra seating add 10 inches as an overhang. That will create extra seating at the counter bar.
- 4) Choose furniture that fits the space. That doesn't mean small furniture. You can go with regular sized furniture, but make sure it flows from one room to another and try to keep all your pieces below eye level as that will make the ceiling seem higher than it really is.
- 5) Use stools. You can bring them around the table to eat, around the sofa, they're extremely convenient to have around.
- 6) Keep the clutter to a minimum. Think of storage solutions such as storage ottomans. In the bedroom, if it's small and barely big enough for a queen-size bed, try to find a bed where the mattress comes up and allows for storage underneath.
- 7) Visual appeal is always important. Think about art on the walls, and bring some personality to the space because it's going to make you happy.
- 8) Use soft colours when you paint. Consider using the same colour throughout the main area so your eye flows through the space.

For more ideas from Yanic, click on the video below.

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