

EYEDANCE GALLERY TIPS

Living Big in Smaller Spaces

The recent housing and mortgage crunch has meant lifestyle changes for many families. Some find themselves in smaller homes or condos, some in temporary apartments, while others have abandoned suburban McMansions in favor of the urban lifestyle.

The challenges of living in a smaller space, whether by choice or economics, are the same: to fit in everything you need without clutter, and to make your rooms *feel* more spacious than it really is.

The following considerations are essential in making a successful transition to a smaller space.

- **Rethink Scale:** The most difficult decision is deciding what to keep and what to let go.-If your furniture was designed for voluminous rooms, you may need to consider smaller pieces. Taller ceilings will accommodate some large furniture, but if your shin is hitting the coffee table, it's probably time to find a replacement. Swapping out that wrought iron and glass table for an unusual trunk or a set of wooden map drawers may be a smart fix. Furniture that doubles as storage is more than a nice bonus; it's a "must" for smaller spaces.
- **Be Color Smart:** Simplifying the color/pattern combinations will give more breathing room to your décor. Try using one less pattern in your scheme, and if you used more than three colors before, eliminating one accent color can make all the difference. You will be surprised how these simple changes can work wonders.
- **Open up Spaces with Visual Windows:** What you place on your walls can also help you feel less confined. Landscape or coastal subjects can visually open up a smaller space. The view of a distant horizon acts as a "window," giving the impression of a faraway vista. Subjects with a feeling of direction, such as a line of trees, train tracks, or a flowing river, add movement and lead us to imagine what lies ahead in the distance.
- **Add Drama with Lighting:** What if your taste leans more toward contemporary, minimalist art? Effective use of color, combined with museum style lighting, can add drama and make your wall art "pop." Art placed on a darker wall, in a color that complements the piece, adds to the illusion of spaciousness. Strategic lighting of the piece will bring it to life and further expand the space.



- **Let Your Art Breathe:** Maintaining space around your wall art is just as important as selecting the wall's color. It allows the eye to "rest" on the art and perceive it as an

important statement, instead of just glossing over it. Open shapes within the artwork itself will also add to the sense of space.

With careful selection and enhancement of furnishings, accessories, and art, we can create interior spaces that feel and appear much larger than their square footage would indicate, simply by remembering that in design—just as in life—less is sometimes more.

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