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Small Spaces:
15 Huge Ideas

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UNLEASH YOUR
DECORATING PASSION



The living room

4 | FAKE SOARING CEILINGS

Rooms seem taller when the walls and ceiling are painted a continuous color. Here, an airy white shade camouflages the living area's decidedly un-loftlike 8-foot-6-inch height—especially when contrasted with the dark floor.

5 | LET THERE BE (NATURAL) LIGHT

Notice how much cleaner windows look when they're not cluttered up by curtains and valances. To say nothing of how the sunshine bounces off the walls and tiles for an expansive, mirrored effect.

6 | CHOOSE CONVERTIBLE FURNISHINGS

By folding down the back and arms of this Ligne Roset daybed, the couple can turn their rainy-day movie-watching perch into a comfy guest bed.

7 | DON'T FORGET FLOORING

"Another trick we used to make the space feel larger," says De Peña, "is laying tile diagonally from corner to corner." The tactic highlights the condo's longest axis instead of chopping up the floor plan into individual rooms.



The bedroom

8 | EMBRACE BUILT-INS

"Growing up, I had cubbies my dad built, and I loved them," De Peña says of his design for this side of the room divider, which serves as both a vast headboard and a place to stockpile his architecture books. It also lends the room a clutter-free appearance.

9 | ALLOW FOR CIRCULATION

"When your bed's this low, you can get away with having really narrow walkways adjacent to it," says De Peña. His queen-size version features a 6-inch ledge that he and O'Neil use as a bench for tying their shoelaces in the morning.





The office and bathroom

10 | RECONSIDER BATHROOM DOORS To simulate the look of pricey frosted glass for a fraction of the cost, De Peña stripped the fussy hardware from a Home Depot sliding shower door, then had it etched.

11 | SEIZE A CORNER OFFICE A simple improvement—in this case, mounting a work surface and shelves—transformed a poky corner into a profoundly useful nook.

The kitchen

12 | MAKE EVERY SURFACE COUNT De Peña and O'Neil hid their ugly, utilitarian electrical panel—without impeding access to it—by covering the kitchen wall beneath their pot rack with hook-mounted chalkboards.



The dining area

13 | EMBED LIGHTING This deceptively simple stainless-steel arc made it possible for De Peña to add task lighting to an area with impenetrable concrete ceilings.

14 | BUILD A SPACE WITHIN A SPACE The wraparound structure also carves out a dining area from an entryway not much larger than a coatrack. It creates an entirely new room—and the bead-blasted surface doesn't show fingerprints.

15 | DEFY GRAVITY De Peña wanted a cantilevered eating area that would allow free-flowing movement (and room for one or two additional guests), so, with his engineering know-how, he created a bar that doesn't require the usual support legs.

