

COUNTRY ALMANAC®
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double issue!

15 Tiny
Kitchens
You've Got
To See

Small Room DECORATING

LIVE LARGE IN SMALL SPACES™

'Best Use of Space'

375 REAL
ROOM
SOLUTIONS

How
Pros
Use
Walls

Live Big in
250 SQ. FT.

CLEVER STORAGE,
EASY PROJECTS +

5-Minute Space-Makers



GROWING FAMILY

FINDING THE IDEAL HOME IS ONE THING; MAKING THAT SPACE WORK FOR A FAMILY—IN A SMALL FOOTPRINT—IS QUITE ANOTHER.

BY BONNIE MCDANIEL



get benched
Built-in bench-style seating provides out-of-view storage as well as a cozy spot to relax

PHOTOS BY GRIDLEY+GRAVES

INVITE WARMTH

In this intimate section of the living room, above, the custom granite fireplace acts as a focal point; traditional-style sconces provide soft lighting while taking up no floor space.

ON THE GO Ample baskets, left, grace the front entrance and offer easy access to beach towels, sunscreen and other essentials without creating clutter.

2,300-SQUARE-FOOT CARRIAGE HOUSE

- **DECORATING STYLE:** Classically modern
- **RENOVATIONS:** Complete tear-down to studs, as home was in extensive disrepair
- **CHALLENGE:** Creating a well-proportioned powder room to include HVAC, which needed to be incorporated into space
- **BIGGEST ADVANTAGE TO SMALL-SPACE LIVING:** Everything

has to be organized, which means less clutter and cleaning—leaving more time for living and enjoying the home

- **BIGGEST DISADVANTAGE:** Living must be done within the existing footprint

INTERIOR DESIGNER HADLEY SCULLY HAD TWO REQUIREMENTS WHEN SHE TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE OF RENOVATING THE SMALL SPACE THAT WAS TO BE HER FAMILY'S SUMMER HOME:

It had to nurture the family, who would spend countless summers meandering in and out of its doors, and it had to reflect the sensibility of the original architectural design.

Built in 1900 by Andrew Carnegie for his daughter, Margaret, the small-but-charming English-style barn/carriage house was in great disrepair when Hadley found it; in fact, it

required a complete tear-down in order to achieve the lovely dwelling now found within the original framework.

LEARNING HOW A HOUSE "LIVES"

Hadley decided to live within the structure prior to beginning the tedious process of renovation in order to be able

DINING DELIGHT The dining area, *right*, offers visual access to the main gathering area; it has ample seating at the custom-made table, which comfortably seats 10.

ALL-SEASON STYLE

Back-to-back sofas, *below*, take advantage of the flow and movement of family and guests—no matter the season. The addition of two upholstered chairs near the porch expands the seating possibilities.



table talk
For barely-there function, a glass-topped dining table is a friend to compact rooms



FLEXIBLE FLOOR PLANS

GIVE ONE ROOM MANY FUNCTIONS

Although the living room is not that big, designer Hadley Scully took a risk by placing back-to-back sofas right in its middle. "That's one of my favorite layouts," she notes. "I didn't want the furniture to feel puny, and I wanted to use both sides of the room. The seasonal flip of the room is interesting. In the winter, everyone clusters around the fireplace, with stools brought in from the garden. In summer, the French doors open and the people face outside." Here are her tricks for creating a multifunctional space:

- I start all projects with a big de-clutter. We'll repurpose stuff, and consider different ways pieces could look and how the homeowner could move things around to create a different feel—all depending on furniture placement. If something is not being used in one room, we look at how it might be able to fit into another.
- Those vessels that hold things and organize lives—baskets, ottomans that open—those really help. Conquering clutter leaves the room free for many purposes.
- A big anchoring unit is important, whether it's a back-to-back sofa or a big regular sofa. Then I add more seating. Since I love benches and small stools, whether ceramic or straw or upholstered; they provide extra seating, and can slide in under a table or get set by a chair to hold drinks.
- When small children are involved, it's good to have a bench or coffee table that is movable to make a play space. If there's a TV in the room, that's a congregation point.
- The way that we live today, I like the flexibility of a floor plan where things can change seasonally—to accommodate a pulled-out dining table or a Christmas tree, say. That's why I like a variety of seats; small stools and benches are easy to tuck out of the way or place elsewhere when you need some room.

SLEEK SIMPLICITY

The kitchen design lends itself to efficiency and is ideal for preparing family dinners for as many as 12 without a lot of fuss. A custom-made breakfast table also serves as a workspace, while Lucite chairs take up zero visual space.



Keep it neat
Glass-fronted cabinets mimic windows and encourage tidiness

“TO ACHIEVE A BIG ROOM FEEL, CHOOSE FEWER PIECES OF LARGER PIECES OF FURNITURE TO TASTEFULLY FILL YOUR SMALL SPACE”
— HADLEY SCULLY

to understand and assess her family’s needs—a critical step that she heartily recommends to anyone looking to take on a project of this nature.

“It is important to understand the flow and movement of people in tight quarters as they come and go in order to achieve the ultimate in comfort, as well as focus on quality

time spent with family,” Hadley says. The result is a beautiful, classically modern design with spaces that encourage the maximum in small-space livability.

The structure was originally built as a carriage house and barn, with the living quarters on the second level. The first level had cement floors, and in order to construct

the summer getaway, Hadley knew that she had to move fast. Grandfather clauses related to the structure were due to expire, and the extent of the renovation had to be done within the time frame remaining.

The challenge was that there was a limited amount of space that needed to accommodate a whole host of ex-

pansive living. “Storage and organization of the space was critical,” Hadley explains.

OPTIMIZING ORGANIZATION

There was a time when the average home was not outfitted with built-in closets, desks or other conveniences

looking up
Put vertical space to work and make a small bed live large with a tall headboard



DREAM CATCHER

Situated in what was the original kitchen, this under-the-eaves space, above, is the perfect bedroom for the children. It includes a bed that once belonged to Hadley's great aunt.



“THE RESULT IS A SPACE THAT INVITES LIVING AND ENCOURAGES ORGANIZATION”



RAISE THE ROOF

Built in bookshelves tucked next to the bed, above, added much-needed storage to an area with a roofline that presented quite a challenge.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Outside seating, left, expands entertaining possibilities, as the living room is just through those doors.

that today's family enjoys, and so historical furnishings that may have been built around the same time as an old house are often natural complements to the home's functional needs, with the bonus of being aesthetically harmonious.

In Hadley's house, incorporating existing family pieces was essential—but they had to serve double-time, such as the antique bar that serves the dual functions of serving as both bar and art storage space for the children. Another

important requirement for Hadley was adding a soaking tub in the small main bathroom. “Rooflines made this quite a challenge,” she says, “but with a little creativity and a lot of ingenuity, our goal was accomplished.” Storage space in the area as well as room to do laundry were other concerns that were eventually addressed. “Every cubby and corner was ingeniously designated,” says Hadley. The result is a space that invites living and encourages organization. ♦