

A Home Only A Slumlord Could Love?

Your guide to beautifying and maximizing the tiny space you call home. By **Natasha Stokes**

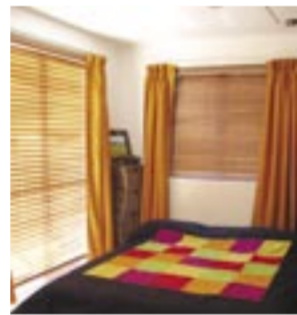
Home sweet home. The bathroom's a tiled grotto, the kitchen is maybe a few years behind the common campfire and there's this odd corner pocket that only fits small, triangular things. Fret not - we've compiled a guide to maximizing the space in your little abode, and correcting some quirks of the typical Hong Kong apartment.

Bedroom just about fits a double bed

Solution: Designer Katherine Lucas of HBA Design Consultants recommends a low bed and light-colored, simple window treatments like blinds. "When your bed is the only furniture, the color scheme is the most important thing," she says. "And to save space, mount modern reading lights onto the headboard, and if you have enough room, slide drawers under the bed." Otherwise, consider wall-mounted shelves, which don't take up floor space.
Ask your landlord first: Consider installing a sliding door. This adds an extra few square feet of available space.

Low ceiling?

Solution: "Limit the number of furniture pieces," says Christine Bancroft of ID.4.InteriorDesign. "Avoid tall furniture, since it will emphasize the low ceiling. And use bright accessories or furniture."
Quick cheat: Use lights with beams directed upwards to pretend like your low ceiling actually isn't.



ID.4.INTERIORDESIGN

Space barely sufficient for both dining room and living room furniture

Solution: Dual-function is your friend. "Use the coffee table to eat off of, and the scatter cushions from the sofa as seats," says interior designer Salli Sheedy. "Alternatively, have a small square dining table made, one that you can tuck away in the corner of a room, and buy stools that can slide underneath the table, or that can be used as side tables."
In general: Choose low pieces of furniture (below waist level) to enhance spaciousness. Bright lights create a sense of space; dim lights a cozy ambiance.



ID.4.INTERIORDESIGN

No delineation between dining and living spaces

Solution: To define two spaces without eating up floor space, try using area rugs, or even different tiles. "However, never use more than two different flooring types in a tiny apartments - it can become too cluttered," says Sheedy.
Have the space? Use a bookcase to create a boundary between two areas.

Bathroom tiny and reminiscent of tiled swamp.

Solution: "A large mirror along the top of a wall will reflect the ceiling and create an open feel," says interior designer David Masami Miyako. "Choose a wall-mounted sink rather than a sink cabinet if the space is really tight." To separate your shower space, use a clear glass screen or plain white shower curtain. Lucas also suggests no enclosure at all for extra small spaces. "In a small space, your fixtures will have great impact, so go for clean lines in the toilet, sink, showerhead and faucet styles," she says. "On the ceiling, use white metal strips with spotlights for a clean, airy feel."
Bathroom art: In humidity, blu-tak won't keep your lovely laminated watercolors up. Try a double-sided tape like Eagle Tape.



GETTY IMAGES

TIP: Hollow plaster walls? Forgo heavy artwork and use a blank wall as a projector screen for a constantly changing environment, suggests Miyako.

TIP: Lights around the perimeter of a room make it look bigger

Triangular corner unsuitable for everything

Solution: Can't find any practical use in this space? Try a tall vase or a floor lamp in the corner, says Bancroft.
DIY: Starting from end October, the YWCA is running morning and night classes in introductory interior design. Details: www.esmdywca.org.hk.



ID.4.INTERIORDESIGN

Kitchen narrow, long; least efficient use of space possible.



MCG CALIBRE

Solution: "Use up an entire wall with a counter, overhead cupboards, and under-bench appliances," says Sheedy. "Use drawers instead of cupboards, as these are easier to stack dishes in, and easier to access in a narrow room." In the real estate game? "It's the kitchen and bathrooms that sell a place," says Adrian McCarroll, founder of architecture and interior design firm Original Vision. So it's worth

your while to invest in these two rooms.

Awesome buy: Magnetic wall panel for knives etc, \$155, IKEA ■

Get Outfitted

These are our favorite places for home decorations and furniture.

Christofle

www.christofle.com, 2833-8200
Shop 117, Prince's Building, Central
Haute-silverware, known for its beautiful craftsmanship

Giormani

www.giormani.com, 2541-6182
Shop A, G/F, Linfond Mansion, 187
Hennessy Rd., Wan Chai
Range of sofas for sale and you can design your own.

G.O.D.

www.god.com.hk, 2890-5555
Leighton Centre, Sharp St., Causeway Bay. Other branches in Central and Tsim Sha Tsui.
State-of-the-art lighting, household accessories, textiles and furniture.

Home Essentials

www.homeessentials.org, 2870-1400
Unit 2206-2216, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau
Offers services such as customer lease, custom-designed furniture, options to own and free interior design.

ID.4.InteriorDesign

ID.for.InteriorDesign@gmail.com

Indigo Living

www.indigo-living.com, 2555-0540
6/F Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau
An innovative furniture and home furnishings concept.

ilovekitchen

www.ilovekitchen.com, 2572-0009
G/F., 1 Leighton Rd., Causeway Bay.
Sells a range of designer kitchenware and cooking gadgets.

Inside

www.inside.com.hk, 2537-6298
231 Prince's Building, Central
Simple designs, competitively priced contemporary furniture

Ito Futon

www.itofuton.com, 2845-1138
G/F, 46, Morrison Hill Rd., Wan Chai.
Unique designs of Japanese style/pattern bedding.

Kartell

www.kartell.it, 2810-0408
105-106 Ruttonjee centre, 11 Duddell St., central
State of the art minimalist-style furniture

L Square

www.lsquare.com.hk, 2836-0666
Unit 801, Tai Yau Building, 181 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai
Interior design specializing in high-end residences and offices. Offers a range of services.

Lalang

www.lalang.com.hk, 2917-4221
40 Staunton St., Central
Eclectic mix of home furnishings, lamps, jewelry etc. East meets West vibe.

Le Creuset

www.lecruet.com, 2572-0009
City'super, Times Square, Causeway Bay
World-famous company offering cast iron pots and pans in bright colors.

Life's a Breeze

www.lifesabreezehk.com, 2572-4000
Shop 1005, 2 Lee Wing St., Horizon Plaza, Ap Lei Chau.
Offers an array of innovative and stylish ceiling fans.

Melting Pot

www.meltingpotfurnishings.com, 2525-3192
2/F, Winning Centre, 46-48 Wyndham St., Central
Furnishings imported from Asia, Europe and New Zealand that enable a warm, welcoming environment.

O-live

www.giclee-canvas.com, 8105-2588
10/F, Fuk Wo Industrial Building, 5 Sheung Hei St., San Po Kong.
Specialist in fine art, canvas and photographic prints from original digital files or artwork.

OM World

www.omworld.net, 2116 3229
Units 5-8, 35/F, AIA Tower, 183 Electric Rd., North Point
Offers a wide range of high quality upmarket international brands in clothes, hair and body care products and home decoration.

Pantry Magic

www.pantry-magic.com
Unit 08, 14/F Block B, Yau Tong Industrial City, 17 Ko Fai Rd., Yau Tong.
For cooking enthusiasts, with over 2000 kitchenware items.

Resource Asia

www.resourceasia.com.hk, 2554-9088
Unit 1613, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau
Leading outdoor furniture seller in town.

Rimba Rhyme

www.rimbarhyme.com, 2554-8861
5/F Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau
Offers unique furniture using eco-friendly wood

Spotlight

www.spotlight.hk, 2359-0010
Megabox, Enterprise Square 5, 38 Wang Chiu Rd., Kowloon Bay.
A fabric, craft and homemakers superstore.

Tequila Kola

www.tequilakola.com, 2877-3295
1/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau
A comprehensive range of stylish furniture from mattresses to dining tables, mostly in wood.

Tree

www.tree.com.hk, 2841-8844
Tree House, 22 Elgin St., SoHo. Also has a branch in Ap Lei Chau.

TIP: Know what you want? You can head directly to a contractor and save a chunk of cash. Otherwise, consult with an interior designer.