


NEW HOMES & CONDOS


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Bigger is not always better



EVELYN ESHUN
**DESIGNING
WITH STYLE**

Luxurious living is typically defined by the size of the home, however, without function and personal style, that big space is just that, a big space, rather than a home which provides you with easy living and style.

The answer to crafting a luxurious and chic home to live in is not size, it's about utilizing your square footage as efficiently as possible.

There are some tricks of the trade that will get you on your way to feeling comfortable rather than cramped.

My daily life as a designer always involves creating spaces which improve our clients' lifestyle, whether it is a renovation or decoration project.

Carefully listening to the

personal lifestyle needs of each client is key to creating a successful interior. Here are some ideas for optimizing your home's functionality.

Planning around the daily activities of your life and including items which will function for you is the key to making your space work for you.

We created a den/home office for our condo client with a custom designed built-in housing a desk, drawers, shelves, a television and even a hidden closet behind one of the bookshelves.

It is essential to measure and measure again before you go shopping and don't give in to that oversized contemporary sectional which

will overtake the space.

Contemporary styles are often too low and too firm, keep in mind that this piece should not only look good, but it needs to be comfortable.

There are ergonomic basics which will determine the comfort level of your sofa. If a sofa has a seat height of less than 19 inches, a woman will have a hard time keeping her legs together and a tall man will have a hard time getting up.

Cleverly designed furnishings which open, expand and accommodate creative storage solutions are perfect for accommodating the various activities which you will be using your space for.

The clever use of mirrors and reflective furnishings will expand the space, reflect light and add visual interest.

Think beyond the wall when looking for places to add mirrors. Consider mirrored furniture and kitchen backsplashes or add a paneled wall of mirrors in a tight entry area.

Lastly, consider using a

dash of large items and pattern, just a dash though, don't go overboard.

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Space-enhancing visual tricks are fun to use, but the functionality brings that easy living to your home which will in turn pamper you with luxury and comfort.

TIPS

- Keep your dominant surfaces light to brighten and lighten the mood (sofa, walls and floors).

- Floor to ceiling shelving adds storage and visually gives the illusion of height.

- Hang your draperies close to the ceiling, it will give the illusion of a higher ceiling.

- Eliminate the feeling of 'bland' with patterned pillows and blankets in punchy colors.

- Furnishings which are 'off the floor' will give the illusion of more space.

— *Recognized for her classic taste and eclectic style, Evelyn Eshun is a Toronto-based interior designer with more than 15 years experience creating custom design projects for the residential market. Visit her at www.evelyneshun.com.*



With its clever design, this bench not only provides comfortable seating, it opens, expands and can accommodate additional storage.

Evelyn Eshun will be on the main stage at the 27th annual Toronto Fall Home Show running October 1-4 on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. speaking about 'Making your Small Space Appear Larger.' Visit www.fallhomeshow.com for more details.

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