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Studio Apartments: Big Ideas For Small Spaces



Synopsis

A cutting-edge design book for small apartments, *Studio Apartments: Big Ideas for Small Spaces* introduces the reader to the joys of small space living, whether in simple studios, tiny one-bedrooms, or more complex arrangements where two small rooms or studios are joined to form a larger but still compact living area. *Studio Apartments* examines in detail how more than twenty architects have created remarkably refined and varied living spaces within small confines. A master bedroom can be carved from seemingly nonexistent space and then concealed behind a frosted-glass wall. A kitchen can evolve from a closet. A single long room with windows only at its end can become a warm and inviting living space. Here are some of the freshest, most original approaches to creating a real home within spaces smaller than 1,000 square feet, and in some cases less than 500 square feet. The twenty-four beautifully photographed apartments are presented complete with floor plans, gorgeous before and after photographs, and clear text that leads the reader through the design process and highlights the "big idea" that makes each apartment distinctive. With *Studio Apartments*, an apartment dweller with an eye for style can transform their dreams into reality. In this book, James Trulove takes on the challenge of interior design for small apartments. With photos and case studies including floor plans of more than twenty studios under 800 square feet each, readers are shown solutions to the typical problems architects are asked to solve: creating sleeping alcoves, efficient kitchens, appealing bath and dressing areas, adequate storage, and work and entertainment areas. Actual projects show how architects and interior designers extract maximum style and usage from small, urban apartments: a master bedroom is carved from seemingly nonexistent space and then hidden behind a frosted glass wall; a closet becomes a cook's kitchen, and a single long room with windows at one end is transformed into a warm and inviting living room. The "big idea" that makes each apartment special is highlighted in designs ranging from traditional to casual modern to cutting edge. In this book, James Trulove takes on the challenge of interior design for small apartments. With photos and case studies including floor plans of more than twenty studios under 800 square feet each, readers are shown solutions to the typical problems architects are asked to solve: creating sleeping alcoves, efficient kitchens, appealing bath and dressing areas, adequate storage, and work and entertainment areas. Actual projects show how architects and interior designers extract maximum style and usage from small, urban apartments: a master bedroom is carved from seemingly nonexistent space and then hidden behind a frosted glass wall; a closet becomes a cook's kitchen, and a single long room with windows at one end is transformed into a warm and inviting living room. The "big idea" that makes each apartment special is highlighted in designs ranging from traditional to casual modern to cutting

edge.

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Customer Reviews

I found this book to present interesting but completely unrealistic solutions for the average studio apartment dweller. First of all, most the apartment spaces were at least 800 square-feet, much larger than most studios I've ever seen. They also assume that everyone has the liberty and means to knock down and/or build walls, refinish floors, and divide the space into actual separate rooms. I did like that the designers presented the floor plans for all the apartments, thus showing that they were actually full-fledged one or even two bedroom apartments. My perception of a studio apartment is a one-room living space, not the glitzy spaces pictured in this book with penthouse views, loft space for days and state of the art kitchens and baths. This book is the equivalent of browsing through Architectural Digest, looking at fancy rooms that are far beyond your budget and are but an unattainable dream.

This is not a book for the average apartment dweller looking for inspiration to decorate within the boundaries of a studio apartment. It is only for architects and designers who have the ability to manipulate their environment by changing the structure of the confined space. It certainly wasn't meant for the average, Ikea joe who needed advice on making the most out of a small situation. I wish I could find an apartment that looked like these, only the rich could afford what was pictured.

Those who can afford to remodel their studio condominiums to look like those shown in this book can certainly afford to buy bigger homes in the first place!

Okay, maybe I'm biased or old-fashioned or both, but I don't find the apartments shown in BIG IDEAS FOR SMALL SPACES-STUDIO APARTMENTS attractive. The authors are both men with a great deal of knowledge about design, and I am sure their ideas will appeal mostly to men. The examples shown are minimalist, modern, angular, and seem to belong to hard-working types who drop in only to sleep. For the most part these apartments are lacking in color which is the single most important element in decorating as far as I am concerned. Although the authors show some colorful ideas in their section on "cozy" apartments, for the most part their idea of making a place more homey seems to be adding books on shelves, chunky ashtrays, and sports trophies. In addition to cold, angular furniture and clunky "knickknacks", the minimalist rooms are often without curtains and/or have walls that are downright stark. One idea of "lightening" shows a curtain with a "porthole" in it that allows one to "look out" at the view. If you're a guy looking for a book on how to decorate an apartment with a modernist "masculine" look this may be the book for you. One other note: the book was printed in China and the photographs look like those in 1950s era books even though the publication date is 2000.

This is one of my favorite design books. I notice some other reviewers have complained that the apartments shown in this book are beyond their budget (alas, mine too). However, the concepts can be applied with less spendy solutions, and let's face it: a book filled with photos of ordinary spaces would lack the magic that this book possesses and would inspire fewer people (if any) to dream about their own space.

I thought the styles and ideas are wonderful, if you have modern taste with creative resources to pay for the remodeling of your studio apartment. Granted, most the apartments displayed were from individuals that could afford to spend a good sum of money to remodel, however, I was able to get good ideas to re-decorate my studio apartment in South Beach (Miami Beach, Florida). The benefit to buying this book was that I did not have to buy 10-20 Architecture magazines in order to acquire ideas. I was able to duplicate a bath room in this book, without "breaking the bank"-if you have the time to research and compare costs. For example, I shopped on E-bay (vessels sinks/best prices for modern fixtures and sinks: [...]) Home Depot (only the bath tub) and "leg work" for the bathroom tiles

(Modern little colorful tiles) (Spanish Tiles Corp, located in Miami, FL)-called many contractors. Please remember before starting any project, check with your buildings and local zoning requirements, to under-go the projects seen in this book. If you are wondering, no I am not rich, but I did "cash in" my 401K in order to buy the apartment and remodel it, it was better than leaving it in the "stock market."

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