Small home, big space

SPACE PLANNING

With space being a big constraint these days, it is of vital importance to be well organised to make the most of the space available, writes Bindu Gopal Rao.

As homes shrink, there is a need to make the most of your space. While this is easier said than done, a little help from experts will ease your concerns. So, here are some ideas to make your home appear larger than it is.

Get organised

The most important point to keep in mind is to buy only stuff that is needed. Says Rahul Jagtiani, Managing Partner, Plush-plaza.com, “Kids’ furniture, such as bunk beds, as well as home office furniture can be designed in such a manner that they fold up against the wall and are completely concealed, thus giving your room a very neat and tidy look.”

“One trick to optimise space is to paint the walls in lighter hues as they make the rooms appear bigger than their actual size by reflecting more light as compared to the darker hues,” says Rajiv Rajgopal, Director, Decorative Business, AkzoNobel India Ltd.

A thorough planning about the arrangement of furniture can also save a lot of space.

Get space optimisation started — and then establish separate zones for those activities.

“You can design rooms with multiple seating areas, a tented or curtained bed, a window seat or built-in banquette, or even just a smartly placed table and chair. Find a table that can function as both a desk and a dining table. Get daybeds or deep sofas that can double as guest beds. Invest in pieces that can be rearranged to transform the use of a room, Murphy beds, folding chairs, collapsible or flip-top tables,” advises Nomita Kholi, owner & proprietor, Wisma Atria Interiors. To optimise space, you have to begin with proper planning and visualising the space with the furniture in the space and move it around.

Space optimisation totally depends on one’s creativity and budget. “For instance, one can maximise space in bathrooms by the proper usage of shelves and install on wall-mounted storage for storing bathroom accessories such as clothes, accessories, shoes, and toiletries. By using a combination of storage components, you can create a user-friendly shelf.”

Besides this, you could look at placing a small study table under the stairs so to ensure the space is innovatively used,” explains Arun Kumar, Founder and Managing Director, Casa Grande Private Limited. The principle is simple to re-arrange — keep your space open and overhang, flush-fitted wall cupboards for storage solutions, sleek, minimalistic, straight lines on side boards, tables, seating and relaxing chairs and sofas, even beds, lamps and upholstery,” says Deepak Whorra, Partner, Whorra Interiors and Director, Episode. Get the measurement of the area you plan to place the furniture in right and then arrange it.

“The ceiling height, wall dimensions, room height, width, depth, all need to be kept in mind. Even the furniture have dimension charts, so use these while planning space optimisation,” says Shivika Bhasin, Manager, Hulsta & Rolf Benz (India).

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“It will not take much of your time, but diligent consideration and thoughtfulness could give you some extra space for years to come, which is a scarce possession in the modern world. Keep your budget in mind and it is better to go as far as you can rather than buying cheap items that will not long last,” says Rahul Jagtiani and Co-founder, Pepperfry.com.

The specifics

The first and foremost step is to create a zone. Think about all the things you do in a particular place — work, sleep, relax — and then establish separate zones for those activities.

“You can design rooms with multiple working areas, a turret or curtained bed, a window seat or built-in banquette, or even just a smartly placed table and chair. Find a table that can function as both a desk and a dining table. Get daybeds or deep sofas that can double as guest beds. Invest in pieces that can be rearranged to transform the use of a room, Murphy beds, folding chairs, collapsible or flip-top tables,” advises Nomita Kholi, owner & proprietor, Wisma Atria Interiors.

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**MONOCROME**

Do up your home in a classic combination of black and white and enjoy the charming effect it gives to a space, writes Sharmila Chand.

Black and white together always look very strong. It is interesting to use both, because these hues can make a space look bigger. "This may also be a great idea for those who are looking for a more elegant and classic look," says interior designer Ashok Shah. "If you choose black and white, it says a lot about you as a person. The high contrast elements that you have a bold, dynamic and interesting personality."  

Monochrome interior makes a statement in home décor, and can thus bestow your interiors with a strong personality. "For instance, one can use floor-stands in a monochrome setting," says Umang Sunder, consultant, able to pull in skills from consultants and designers. "This makes a statement and is unobtrusive and ideal for interiors if space is a constraint."  

Space savers  

One of the best ways to optimise space at home is to look for innovative space saving solutions or products which can help you make optimum use of space. Traditional sliding doors is one such option which can be in proportion to the space available.  

"The project highlights Atkins’s capability to help attract a new growth industry to the region," says Vivek Gupta, Owner, The Big Door.  

"The innovative ‘binary’ master plan design is based on China Three Gorges Dam and was developed by the well-known engineering consultancy Arup. The eco-friendly park will be constructed across an area of 240,000 m² and will host many software developers, modular buildings and clean energy equipment. The purpose of the park is to build a strong environment for clean technologies, research and education to help attract and reduce exposure to higher support equipment in the region.  

"The eco-friendly park will be a great start to the growth in further phases in a feasible manner," says Vivek Gupta.  

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Experts say, a black and white themed room has a better impact on you if utilised with a third accent color. A black and white scheme can work with gold, silver, grey or green.  

**Black and white scheme**

Black and white scheme works well with anything. Black and white scheme can work with gold, silver, grey or green.  

**Light fixtures, pain or in one bold piece of furniture is eye-catching and sharpens any decorating scheme.**  

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