

# What would a DESIGNER DO?

Learn what the pros do when faced with common space-making challenges.



Varied horizontal stripes stretch the visual height and width of walls

PHOTO: LOVEYOURROOM.COM

## WANTED: Eat-in kitchen that looks like a dining room.

In a corner of this tight kitchen, Designs by Shoshana installed a custom table and leather dining chairs, along with a piece of contemporary art to play foil to the utilitarian part of the room. An upholstered bench sits under the table but, when it's pulled away from the wall, provides seating for guests. In the hallway, a modern buffet boosts storage and feels like part of the room.

## WANTED: More natural light in a long, narrow apartment with windows only at one end.

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## WANTED: Guest room hidden in the basement family room.

Aside from having to make a formerly dingy basement space light, bright and fit for a young family, Laura Stein ([laurastein.com](http://laurastein.com)) was asked to make room for guests. She designed this wall bed, complete with a storage ledge "headboard" and flanking cabinets to hold linens and more. Pull-out cutting board-style drawers stand in as desk and side-table surfaces. And the whole thing folds shuts to conserve floor space.



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRÉ



Built-in shelving maximizes a wide, recessed wall

PHOTO: TRACEYAYTONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

**WANTED:**  
Additional seating  
in a small combo  
living/dining area.

In the hands of designer Craig Kettles, this formerly rundown cottage became a warm family home thanks to features like this under-stair nook (which used to house the refrigerator). Although there's a comfy sofa nearby, "everyone loves to hang out in the nook," reports the homeowner.

**WANTED:**  
Divide living and  
dining zones  
without blocking  
natural light.

A sheer drape panel was designer Vanessa De Leon's solution, which enhances the rectangular room's height while taking advantage of floor-to-ceiling windows. To balance the vertical focus, she chose shallow furnishings with strong linear motion, which add a sense of length in minimal floor space.



PHOTO: GRIDLEY-GRAVES



PHOTO: KEN GUTMAKER

**WANTED:**  
Chef's kitchen  
amenities and old-  
world looks.

Andre Rothblatt, AIA, took on this challenge for his "serious cook" client, transforming it into a high-functioning heart of the home. The new: Stainless counters and subway tiles to the ceiling bounce light around the room, pot racks to make smart use of wall space and a pro-grade 6-burner range. The new-old: Shallow open shelves instead of upper cabinets and a rustic butcher block island on wheels.

**WANTED:**  
A bedroom that  
could grow with a  
young boy.

Jessica McClendon (*glamournest.com*) transformed this 4x8' nook into a bedroom when a family grew to include unexpected twins. To make it feel like a combo bedroom and lounge, twin and queen headboards frame a twin bed. All the elements can be pulled apart for future use, and accessories can easily mature.



PHOTO: SCOTT RICKELS

PHOTO: VANESSA DE LEON, VANESSADELEON.COM

