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**Small spaces**

**Double function and space with roomy ideas**

**I**F YOUR home has adequate storage, spacious workspaces and large areas for entertaining, you probably don't need to read on.

But if you're like most people, your house, apartment or condo probably falls short of the space you need for such activities as working on hobbies, exercising and having overnight guests.

Whether by choice or economic imperative, more and more people are moving to smaller homes.

Young couples can't afford large houses, and mature couples whose children have grown find they would rather spend their time and money elsewhere.

At the same time, our need is greater than ever for a nest where we can relax, for a home that is distinctively our own.

Owners of small homes have to be a little more creative and flexible than owners of larger houses, but it is possible to create a living space that lets you have it all.

**ASSUMING THAT** you don't have the money for major structural changes, you can still do much to open up and utilize small spaces.

Lorrie Mack tackles this problem in Cowan's delightful picture-filled book titled "Living in Small Spaces" (Little, Brown).

The first step, she says, is determining your needs. Who lives in your house, and what kinds of activities do they pursue? Does someone work from a home office? Do you use exercise equipment?

Next, you have to adopt your attitude to the project at hand and start thinking creatively. Don't be tied to tradition.

If you always shave or put on make-up in the bathroom, for example, you probably don't need a dresser in the bedroom.

If the master bedroom would make a great dormitory for several children or a convenient home office, nothing says it can't be used for just that.

**EXPLORE THE** possibilities of double-duty rooms.

Without excess furniture in your bedroom, could it also be a home office, a gym or a sitting room? With the addition of a love seat that folds out into a bed, could your study also be a guest room?

Would shelves in the garage free up space for your rowing machine and exercise bicycle?

Perhaps a kitchen pantry could be fitted with a desk and shelves to provide a headquarters for whoever pays the bills and makes shopping lists.

**CLUTTER IS** the archenemy of small spaces. Every piece of furniture and accessory should carry its own weight. Ask yourself what you can put to work or do without.

Bring your baskets down off the shelf and fill them with plants, mail, washcloths or kitchen utensils.

Get rid of non-functional items that crowd table and shelves and make rooms look smaller.

Examine nooks and crannies that could be exploited without huge amounts of carpentry. Cover a mattress and throw on a few colorful pillows for extra seating under a stairway.

Remove doors that aren't absolutely essential. Take out attic floors and ex-



A little ingenuity and creativity make the most of small spaces.

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