

# Rearranging space can provide more room

Your present home can be rearranged to provide more room than you ever thought possible, according to Sally Clark and Lois Perschetz, two decorating writers who recently wrote a book on space-making ideas they have discovered over the years.

The title of their book is self-explanatory: "Making Space: How To Decorate and Renovate to Get the Space You Need from the Space You Have."

Most people assume they must do without needed space or move, ignoring the space they already have, the two women say.

Instead, they suggest you look for extra space along the walls, at ceiling height or in the corners of rooms. If necessary, create what you need by building or buying two freestanding closets along one end of a room and using the space between for shelves, a desk or table, a sofa or bed.

Our goal has been to show it is possible to improve space, explained Perschetz.

The solutions we show work in all types of homes, added Clark, who are both former editors of House Beautiful Magazine.

To householders and apartment dwellers who find their possessions over-running their space, the two women offered some room-by-room suggestions for improving the situation.

"Approach your home in terms of needs instead of focusing on the traditional use of the room," said Perschetz.

For example, in a dining room, move the table out of the center of the room over to one side. This frees the room to become something more than the rarely used setting for holiday dinners that it is in most homes, she said.

Moving the table makes it possible to bring bookshelves or home electronic equipment and some seating and convert the room to a family center. With careful planning, you'll still be able to use the room for holiday dining by moving some of the new furniture to one side.

If you don't have a dining room, but want one, look for a spot that can be converted. One person whose home is illustrated in their book carved a dining room out of a foyer by using a drop-leaf table that seats six comfortably when opened.

In the bathroom, the space most often wasted is the area above the shower head and below the ceiling. The two suggest you build shelves above the tub for towels and other items.

Both admitted to pet peeves against standard bathroom vanities. "They are too small," said Clark. Instead, she suggested mirroring the area above the sink and building more commodious shelves to one side.

If two bathrooms would relieve the morning rush, but there isn't room or money enough to cover their construction, try adding a second lavatory and toilet and continuing with only one tub. By creating a second small half-bath that connects to the existing tub, you've solved the problem and used less money and space than a second full bath would require.

Using wall space more creatively is also a way to get more mileage out of your kitchen. They suggest employing products such as grids or pegboard to hang utensils out in the open. An overhead pot rack accommodates pots and pans and makes them more accessible. It also frees valuable

cabinet space for other items.

They see three possibilities when dealing with a tiny kitchen. Depending on your decorating taste, you could opt for floor-to-ceiling cabinets and no clutter. Or, you could outfit the kitchen with niches and nooks so there is a place for everything. A third idea would be to use kitchen utensils as accessories. Hang plates on cabinet door-fronts, suspend herbs from the ceiling, display knives and other utensils in decorative pitchers.

In a high-ceiling room, opt for establishing two levels of activity. You can build in and carpet platforms that open to reveal storage or stack mattresses one, two and three high to create a series of seating "steps."

Unused spaces exist in every home, they said. Look for them under the stairs, in corners or in narrow hallways which can be likely resting places for narrow pieces of furniture.

Under the stairs, for example, you could install a bunk bed for occasional guests, a small half-bath or a household desk and telephone center. In the corner of any room, you can wedge in a triangular cabinet, table-top or series of shelves.

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