FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT Thursday, September 30, Page 10A



.

1254



Small, from page 9

and yellows, because she believes that those colors are too strong and cause the walls to appear closed-in.

Both of the designers agree that proportion is the key to furnishing small spaces, "Especially when space is at a premium, several appropriate-sized pieces work better than clusters of miniatures," Wilmering says, "Many people believe they should use miniprints and groups of small pictures." In Yates' experience, some people

move in the other direction, filling limit-

"It's a common misconception that there is nothing interesting you can do if the space is small. It takes creativity and planning, but any space can be made useful and pleasing."

ed space with overstuffed, large furniture that crowds a room. The consensus is to avoid pieces that are too large or too small, but go for well-proportioned, functional furnishings that do not overwhelm the room with quantity or size.

While color and flooring can create the illusion of space, it is possible to make a small room truly functional and not simply create illusions that do not

lend themselves to usefulness.

Both Yates and Wilmering have recently worked on spaces that must be useful. "I recently did the lounge of a dental office that was 10° by 10°," Yates says. "It was important to create as many seats as possible in an attractive space. Instead of using couches and crowding the room, I went with two wing chairs, an ottoman and a desk with a chair beside it, creating five seats. This not only worked on a visual level, but allowed dental clients to maintain their personal space.

Wilmering often works to convert small rooms into home offices. To accommodate the needs of a home office, she often recommends custom wall units, built to the exact specifications demanded by the space she's working in. The wall units provide neat, efficient placement of tools, such as fax machines, personal computers and coniers, while retaining the floor space available in the room.

Both designers stress that the owner must be comfortable with whatever colors and furnishings are selected. As Wilmering puts it, "My design

firm believes our function is to help our clients find their own style. Trends will come and go, but if clients remain true to themselves, they will continue to love their interiors for years to come."

THE INFINITY

