

THE SPRING ISSUE

beautiful
design MADE simple

DESIGNER

CYNTHIA SODA

SHARES HER PERSONAL

SPACE

PLUS

FIND OUT WHY

**HOME
IMPROVEMENT**

TV IS NOT
REALITY

10 *and beautiful*
KID-FRIENDLY
DESIGN
IDEAS



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR Space

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There are so many amazing opportunities to work with spaces in a home. Some homes offer open spaces where strategic furniture layouts help to make the space feel intimate, whereas other homes have a more traditional layout, with smaller rooms that need creative planning to get the most out of the space. Regardless of the space, it is important to be thoughtful about which furniture is selected and what design details can contribute to the overall impact and use of the room.

I have had the pleasure of designing both large and smaller spaces. My goal is always the same: create a space that is intimate, warm, and inviting—somewhere my clients can be excited to welcome their guests but also kick back and relax on their own. I enjoy identifying nooks in homes where value can be added to make the space shine.

In a small mid-town home, I recently turned a tight front entrance into a glowing, functional first impression. When I first met the clients, the front foyer felt dead and utilitarian. Its décor desperately needed a sense of movement while also improving the function of the space. As the only practical entrance to the home, it was vital that we accounted for daily coat and shoe storage. We also had to make sure to have a beautiful surface where mail and keys could be conveniently placed. Classic floral wallpaper was chosen to breathe life into the space. It immediately gave the foyer a lift and a sense of cheer. A custom walnut shelf was hung with stunning satin brass brackets. We added bright lighting, and for additional practicality, a row of mosaic tiles at the edge of the hardwood floor, where wet boots and shoes could be left to dry. Now the front entry greets homeowners with cheerful décor designed to accommodate the daily demands of the space.





For another example, always moving forward with practicality at the forefront of our designs, we turned an awkward corner of a family room into a miniature children's study. Designed to offer a convenient landing place for children after school, this corner of the room has twin desks, one on each side of the space. It is near the kitchen in case homework help is needed, yet far enough away to offer privacy and a bit of quiet. The space was designed in beautiful neutrals so as not to take away from the sophisticated interior of the adjacent kitchen and family room. Outfitted with all the necessities of a home office—a great work surface, file drawers, and lots of storage—these desks can be used by kids and parents alike.

In a New York City apartment, we tackled a dark corner of the kitchen to reinvigorate it with new life. When space is at an ultimate premium, having an eat-in breakfast table is a true luxury. We utilized bench seating to make every inch count and add space so that friends and guests could be invited over to share a meal. A chic custom kitchen table with a hardworking Corian top shows at the center of the space. A hammered metal base adds a reflective touch, which shows nicely in the otherwise-dim corner, and classic bleached white side chairs finish off the seating. Topped with a stunning hand-blown bubble chandelier, this eating nook is the perfect place to spend a New York minute.





In contrast, a large home we designed in Toronto had a bright and airy breakfast room that needed to be dressed. Although size was not an issue, space was still a consideration. With the refrigerator located close by, we had to ensure the furniture sizing was in proportion to the space available. Nothing could be compromised: the fridge and freezer had to have easy access, and we also needed to guarantee a table large enough to seat six people. Not an easy task! We chose a lovely oak dining table with beautiful whitewashed side chairs. The chairs, upholstered with a family-friendly fabric, were the perfect blend of comfort, style, and function.

Regardless of where you hang your hat, your home offers endless possibilities and is the perfect place for you to express yourself. Although it's sometimes challenging to achieve that perfect balance, there's always a smart style solution waiting in the wings, proving to us that whether your living space is small or expansive, there's truly no place like home!

