



SMALL SPACES

A PERFECT FIT

One designer shares space-saving lessons learned on a made-to-measure NYC home

BY GWENDOLYN PURDOM

At only 950 square feet, the detached two-bedroom designer Sarah Zames was brought on to completely redo didn't leave much wiggle room. So Zames, principal of Brooklyn-based firm General Assembly, worked with the homeowners (both artists) to make the most of every cranny, designing to the couple's specific needs with customized shelving, multipurpose furniture, and lively art. "I like to think of New York renovations as doing tailor-made suits for people, and that means that sometimes things come down to an inch or two," she says. "The key to planning a space well is to be conscious of that." ❧



Flanked by a park instead of the usual New York City buildings, the house has access to natural light that Zames wanted to showcase. Custom white oak suspended shelving in the kitchen and an open floor plan let light into the house from different angles.

Investing in custom furniture is a worthy expense in a small space, Zames says. By measuring the homeowners' things and analyzing how they would personally be using each part of the house before starting the project, she ensured everything had its place. Friends' artwork added an extra personalized touch.

With limited space, pieces that serve multiple functions are key, Zames says. The homeowner's basement studio doubles as a guest bedroom with a foldaway Murphy bed. Kitchen benches upholstered in Marimekko fabric open for bulk storage—a rarity in most cramped city dwellings.

