

Get maxi mileage from mini spaces



Apt: 300 square feet

Robert Nassar
Interior and product designer
West Village



Rana Faure

A lust-worthy kitchen in 8 feet: fab cabinets, bright backsplash and no food in sight.

— Biggest challenge:

"A really intrusive neighbor who tried to get me evicted" during renovations on the apartment he rents for less than \$1,500 a month.

+ Solution:

"I'd leave boxes of chocolate outside his door when I knew there would be banging." It didn't work, but ultimately, the cranky neighbor "was powerless. My landlord's used to people complaining all the time."

What he spent: Architectural expenses, \$5,000. (Nassar hired

contractors to seal up one doorway and create another and expand the kitchen from 3 feet to 8 feet.) The rug's from ABC Warehouse; bookcases and entire kitchen from IKEA.

Favorite resources:

Canal Street; IKEA.

Golden rule: No — surprise! — clutter. "It's the most crucial thing in a small space — you take off your shoes and the place is a mess. Keep everything out of sight. My vacuum is under my bed; my broom is in the large cabinet next to my bookshelf; my couch has storage built in behind it, underneath it — even under the cushions."

Best advice: Never try to rip off one look entirely. "Look in magazines to get ideas, but don't emulate them exactly."

O'Keefe says: "He has a simple color palette, good storage and the strongest sense of architecture."