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## **EFFICIENT SMALL HOME DESIGN FOR URBAN DWELLERS**

Interior designer shares insights for stylishly living with less

AUSTIN, Texas – Living in a small home doesn't mean you have to sacrifice style or function. That's designer Carrie O'Neal's philosophy. In her business, Interior Design by Carrie O'Neal, Carrie – with a decidedly European sensibility – helps people make the most of their small spaces. This is especially handy for urban dwellers who have sacrificed square footage for the charms of city life.

Even the smallest of condos and homes can be designed for beauty and efficiency. O'Neal says small space dwellers who want to update their interiors should bring in only the most beautiful items that bring them pleasure.

“I start (re-designs) with an empty room and then invite pieces to the ‘party,’ ” she said. “Clients end up not inviting it all back in.”

Having raised her children in no more than 1,000 square feet, and living for 13 years in Spain taught the Austin designer how to make small spaces both efficient and beautiful. Since then, she's designed many small interiors, from a Spanish stone farmhouse and a home on the Mediterranean, to a tiny dwelling in Crested Butte, Colo., which won best construction project of the year.

“European living gave me a niche for (designing) small spaces ... celebrating simplicity and the joy of less,” O'Neal said. “Ultimately we all long for comfort -- so make it lavishly pleasing to your style.”

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