



KEY INGREDIENTS

- Armless daybed
- Large, colorful rug
- Light walls

THE DAYBED LIVING ROOM

Our own living room faces a number of limitations: very tight space, low ceilings, and a fourth-floor location that can be reached only via a narrow staircase. What it does have going for it are great light and the fact that, structurally, it is in fantastic condition.

- **LAYOUT**—The rug was the first thing we purchased, and I chose it because it was large enough to go nearly wall to wall, providing a perimeter to the sitting area. Even though the room was little, and I knew we'd need small furniture, I still wanted it to feel luxurious and big somewhere!

For a sofa, we chose a daybed—not only because it was the only thing we could fit up our staircase and through our doorway, but also because,

ABOVE Although the colors in the throw pillows are bold, their patterns incorporate the neutral tones seen throughout the room, so they seem like a part of the plan and not a last-minute addition.

OPPOSITE Low sofas call for low side tables. We've avoided bringing in a coffee table so far, and use only a few little stools for side tables so as not to clutter the space.

■ **TIP** Cutting stools like this one from Ikea down to the exact size you want is a cheap, easy solution that can save you a lot of time trolling through shops.







Whether you inhabit a studio or a sprawling house with one challenging space, Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan, cofounder of the most popular interior design website, Apartment Therapy, will help you transform tiny into totally fabulous



\$30.00 (Canada: \$35.00)

ACCORDING TO MAXWELL, size constraints can actually unlock your design creativity and allow you to focus on what's essential. In this vibrant book, he shares forty small, cool spaces that will change your thinking forever.

These apartments and houses demonstrate hundreds of inventive solutions for creating more space in your home, and for making it more comfortable. Leading us through entrances, living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms, bedrooms, home offices, and kids' rooms, *Apartment Therapy's Big Book of Small, Cool Spaces* is brimming with ingenious tips and ideas, such as:

- Shifting the sense of scale through contrasting colors
- Adding airiness by using transparent collections
- Utilizing the area under a loft bed for a kitchen and mini-bar
- Tucking an office with chic vintage doors into an unused bedroom corner

In each dwelling Maxwell points out what makes the layout work and what adds style. Most of the "therapy" involves minor tweaks that can be accomplished on a limited budget, such as dividing a room with sheer curtains, turning a door into a desk, or disguising electrical boxes with art displays. An extensive resource guide, including Maxwell's favorite websites for buying desks, open storage solutions, and much more, will help you turn even the tiniest residence into a place you are always happy to come home to.



Part interior designer, part life coach, **MAXWELL GILLINGHAM-RYAN** is the cofounder of the Apartment Therapy blog network—which gets 3 million unique visitors per month. Frequently quoted in the shelter and mainstream press, Maxwell has been called a "Makeover Guru" by the *New York Times*. He is the author of *Apartment Therapy* and *Apartment Therapy Presents*.

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