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Derek Frost's first London Home

If your home is small— even just one room— you will find lots of ideas in the next 14 pages

All urban space is expensive and gets even more expensive year-by-inflationary-year. For the young and ever-hopeful, these problems are intolerable. Rents are excruciating. Mortgages are difficult to come by. The resulting space is, too often, dismally meagre and minimal. Then comes the major problem: how to make available space not only habitable but comfortable and colourful. What is a well-planned layout for eating, chattering, listening and, of course, restful sleeping—apart from allowing scope for all those decorative impulses which are essential elements in all lively home-building, even in a one-room bed-sitter? Not everybody is born inventive, especially in the use of space, but some ideas are basic. In the following pages *House & Garden* shows six solutions evolved by bright occupants of constricted living-areas in London, New York, California and Rome. The spaces—and the problems—their owners had to contend with are different from your own but there are undoubtedly ideas in these ingenious solutions which could help you in dealing with similar space-problems which may concern your life-style. Some are of surprising ingenuity, all of sharp originality. But please remember that if you, too, want to be original in a structural way, make sure to consult an expert, whether architect or surveyor: he (or she) will help your plans to be approved by local authority.



Sleeping aloft to give three clear areas down below

PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL NICHOLSON

The chief problem in a one-room flat, as Derek Frost, designer of the flat in Holland Park shown here, points out, is also a major necessity: a decent-sized bed.

The obvious solution is to raise the bed decisively, that is to get it as near the ceiling as possible whilst still leaving as much height underneath to be able to form a sitting-area. This comprises a banquette which doubles as a narrow bed (guest, for the use of) with a bolster against the wall and lots of cushions.

The big pine table serves as a dining-table so long as host and guests have kept in good trim and, with cushions spread round on the floor, are prepared to take their meals oriental-fashion. Happily, most

visitors to the flat seem to find this prandial experience very easy to take in their seated stride, as it were.

A drawing-board in one corner turns the space into a mini-working-studio, with as many bookshelves as possible nearby. Storage proves to be adequate with two generous built-in cupboards: one in the room and one in the hall, plus a handsome pine chest of drawers.

A major pleasure of this arrangement is that within one confined space the owner or tenant evolves three totally different areas: (1) an enclosed sleeping space with a view down; (2) a low-level and very cosy seating-area and (3) an open, sunnier and lighter working-space by the window.



