kitchen aid

It doesn’t get much worse than this: 35 square feet, a low ceiling, no windows, and no vent.

John Yunis asked four fellow designers to tackle the ugliest little kitchen in the world

Most apartment dwellers have to wrestle with huge little problems. This number had an old, stained linoleum floor, cabinets so rusted and crusted we couldn’t open them, a terrifying fluorescent ceiling light, no overhead cabinets, and appliances that had seen better days. This is not a made-up room; it’s what Yunis encountered when he moved into his cramped Manhattan apartment. He persuaded four top-notch designers to come up with plans for the perfect small kitchen, complete with ample counter and storage space: appliances, including a refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher; attractive lighting; and practical floor, wall, and ceiling materials. No structural changes were allowed.
The handsome glass-fronted cabinets evoke a larger, grander kitchen, and the gleaming white wall tiles emphasize the point.

- Sub-Zero’s popular under-counter refrigerator allows for plenty of counter space.
- The under-sink GE dishwasher—a godsend in a space this small—is more than smoke and mirrors.
- The contrasting shades of the cork floor tiles make the space seem less boxy.
- The simple overhead light fixture by Urban Archaeology, a generous 11 inches in diameter, casts a warm glow.

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**stewart manger**

An ELLE DECOR contributing editor, Manger is a designer at the New York–based firm David Anthony Easton. Manger, who's accustomed to large-scale, big-bucks projects, had to approach this poky little space differently. "We couldn't put in a big fridge, a Garland stove, and double ovens," he says. We had to compact everything." The same design principles applied, however: "Functionality and a calm aesthetic are the driving force behind any kitchen."

See Resources.
resources

Items pictured but not listed are from private collections.

What's Hot!

Pages 56-58: Manhattan Bench, $1,340–$1,400; Manhattan Folding Screen, $3,994; Field Bench, $634; Metro Buttoned Chair, $2,500–$3,290; Flairton Sofa, $3,500–$8,100; and Field Trays, $148–$194; all by Couch Furniture (for stores: 800-592-2537) and to the trade from Baker Knapp & Tabbie (for stores and showroom: 800-59-BAKER).

Trend Alert


Fast Forward


Visionary


Rediscovery

Pages 100-102: Reissued furniture by Tommi Parzinger available through Purlumbo Gallery (972 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10021; 212-734-7630).