

By Ivan Meade
Photographed by Joshua Lawrence

WHITE SPACE

Leaving behind Manhattan's frenzy for Victoria's calm, acclaimed New York architect/designer James Gauer transformed a Shutters condominium into a space so heavenly minimalist, it's almost like living on a cloud.



FUNCTIONAL LIVING

For small spaces, choose furniture that serves multi-functions. The leather and fabric chairs can be turned to face the fireplace for contemplation, or toward the sofa for conversation. The sofa is usually the largest investment piece in a room, says Gauer, so it's important to choose a high-quality piece that will hold its beauty over time.

SOPHISTICATED SUBTERFUGE

To hide the baseboards, Gauer cleverly introduced a teak and bamboo architectural detail. He also brilliantly incorporated the use of shadow lines where the floor meets the baseboards, and around doors and cupboards, to conceal any natural imperfections of the space.













OPEN TO CREATIVITY

A narrow hall between the foyer and the kitchen became more spacious when opened up to the kitchen. The custom shelves, featuring the photography of Gauer's partner, Joel Goldsmith, are set back two-and-half-inches so they don't interfere with traffic flow.

Glass-front upper cabinets are ideal for small spaces, giving a feeling of airiness. The custom stainless steel drawer pulls are echoed throughout the apartment on cabinets, doors, and furnishings, another example of tying everything together to create a feeling of unity.









SIMPLICITY AND SYMMETRY

Two small offices showcase visual symmetry. By mirroring each other, they make the space appear larger or smaller as the doors are opened and closed. Floor-to-ceiling aluminum pocket doors with white glass allow the passage of light while maintaining privacy. Whereas details such as built-in shelving are often the first to go in small spaces, Gauer feels it is these details that truly elevate a design beyond the ordinary.



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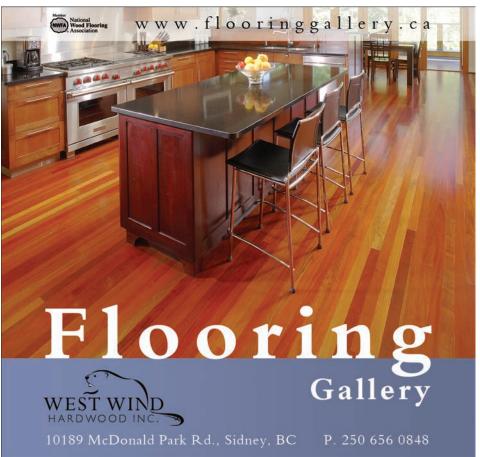


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755 Humboldt Street, Victoria







THE SMALLEST SPACE

Breaking free from Shutters' original design specifications, Gauer extended the limestone floor tiles 42 inches up the walls of this powder room to create a sense of flow and continuity. The room was originally larger, but Gauer opted to decrease its size to create more space in the foyer. The door's pivot hinges make it appear part of the wall when it is closed. A floating sink, perfect for small bathrooms, doesn't take up floor space and creates a feeling of more space.

SOURCES

Designer: James Gauer architecture + design

General Contractor: Gordon Dangerfield, Right Hand Builders

Painting Contractor: Indelible Paint Works

Millwork: Window sill and library shelves: Steve Burgess; MBR headboard: Ernie Schellenberg

Audio Visual: Sound Hounds

Product Resources: "Feng" sectional: Didier Gomez for Ligne Roset, from Living Space; "Contours" coffee table: Didier Gomez for Ligne Roset, from Living Space; "Cinema" lounge chairs (by fireplace): ICF; EcoSmart fireplace: Vancouver Gas Fireplaces; "Risom" lounge chair (in MBR): Jens Risom for Knoll; draperies: Ruffel and Brown; "Aladina" dining chair: Luciano Bertoncini for Bellato, from Living Space; dining banquette: custom design by James Gauer, fabrics by Knoll, fabrication by Peter Michl Furniture & Upholstery

Art Resources: Painting: Maria Middleton; photos above dining banquette: Doug Schwab; photos above fireplace and in gallery across from kitchen: Joel Goldsmith; photos above headboard: James Gauer



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