

“*Making the most of every corner is an art*”





# LIVING IN A FEW SQUARE METRES



*Small living  
space, great  
quality of life*

How would we like to live in the future? Or to put it another way: how much and what kind of space do we really need to live? It's a topic that more and more people are trying to come to grips with. On the one hand, living space is becoming ever more expensive and scarce. And on the other hand, new ways of thinking are clearly gaining some ground, a conscious attempt to live in a way that is more aware, more climate-friendly and environmentally conscious and more mindful – and to return to a simpler, more basic existence.

Downsizing is a term that is often used to describe living on a smaller footprint. What is meant is a downsizing of our needs, far removed from omnipresent consumerism; a reduction in everyday objects and interior furniture and fittings. In addition, an excessive need and waste of resources can be avoided simply through living in a smaller home. If you have less space, you cannot buy as much and you will automatically use less energy.

But what really motivates people, especially with a view to the future, to move into a tiny home? Is it the maxim that 'less is more'? Or are factors other than those already mentioned even greater inducements for a reduction in practical terms? And are minimalist, innovative living concepts also suitable for families in their everyday lives, or do they work only for singles and couples?





Cabinets for cleaning utensils, bags and school books are stashed away under the stairs that lead to the children's room.



Marnie's cupboards are neat and tidy. There is always sufficient space for the essentials and everything is within easy reach.



The kitchen worktop extends out to the terrace and doubles as a bar counter as the window can be flipped open.



Whether indoors or out, Marnie always sets up her workplace in pleasant surroundings where she will be undisturbed.



Climbing challenge, route to the bed and storage space – the multiplex-panel staircase has many functions.



Clothes rails, shelves, boxes, coat hooks – everything in the kids' room is also neat and tidy.



The children's accommodation extends over several levels, with space to play on one and bedrooms on the other two. The girls love their realm and the child-friendly stairs.

The table is the heart of a multi-purpose corner. It serves for dining, playing, drawing, chatting and as a desk.







A projector transforms the sliding door into a home cinema screen.

## Apartment No 2

**WHO?** A room for a teenager

**WHERE?** In the family apartment

**WHAT?** Various different functions and cool design in a small space

**FAVOURITE FEATURE?** The multi-functional box



The clothes cupboard very gently glides on small wheels out of its recess.

Instead of many small pieces of furniture, there are now only a few elements in this room.



Sleeping, chilling, storing - all this can be done in the multifunctional box that takes up half of the room.



The kitchen utensils and foods are kept in self-made cupboards and hanging shelves.

The concrete walls and ceilings were retained, and an expert took care of modern installations such as the lighting technology.



Industrial look: the designers had the welding work on the cupboards and shelves done by the car workshop around the corner.

*Apartment No 3*



The free-standing staircase is a sculptural feature and it also provides a lot of storage space.

## *Apartment No 3*

**WHO?** A couple with a cat

**WHAT?** Turning a shell with a small footprint into a beautiful home and making as much as possible yourself

**FAVOURITE FEATURE?** The experience of creating the interior yourself despite little technical background knowledge



The sofa cushions sit on a platform which conceals storage space and a pull-out table.

A ladder leads to the sleeping area for overnight guests on the upper level.



Space-saving sliding doors connect and separate the rooms on the first floor from the landing.

When it's not in use, the fold-down wall-mounted desk in the reading corner is simply folded back up.

# Flexible LIVING

Here today, there tomorrow. The mobile home of South Africans Khanyi and Dawn could just as easily stand in a backyard as in a green meadow.

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The tiny home rises out of the meadow like a work of art. Its plain façade is made from lacquered wood, while the extravagant roof is clad in metal.

Who needs a large house when everything that is important fits a cleverly designed space of 17 sq m (183 sq ft)? Certainly not these two.







The bathroom is hidden in one of the cubes, while you will find the shower in the hallway, right in front of the bathroom door.




The kitchen base units are permanently fixed. The shelves above, on the other hand, can be rearranged as desired.

For the time being, Khanyi and Dawn have settled in their paradise outside Johannesburg. They love the panoramic views of the wide landscape, into which their tiny house fits like a sculpture. The couple did not want to commit themselves for long years and initially leased a meadow with a view. Who knows, maybe one day they will put their mobile home on the beach or in the city centre? The interior of the house is just as flexible as the location. The 17 sq m (183 sq ft) are real all-rounders: you shower in the hallway, eat, work and relax in the kitchen. The work area also doubles as a guest room, with a corner for laundry drying and storage space. Sleeping happens under the roof: the bed is directly under a large porthole window on a recessed second level. A ladder leads up, so narrow that it does not have any impact life on the ground floor. Thanks to the window front, which can be completely opened to the terrace, the entire mobile home is bright and flooded with light.



With such a garden, who wouldn't opt for the outdoor life? The open window front helps to blur the boundaries.



If friends come to visit while it is raining, they can still be comfortable on the patio.





And the white-painted walls, cupboards and shelves make the small room appear bigger than it actually is. The atmosphere is far from cold or sterile, however, because the wooden elements, such as the floorboards, the folding table and various plywood boxes, introduce warmth to the room. The couple have managed to set colourful accents with the use of cheerful orange, blue and turquoise items, dotted around their home. For multiple purposes, a shelving system has been fixed to the walls, the elements of which can be changed as required. Instead of closed fronts, the homeowners opted for open shelving. It looks nice and light and sets colour accents. Several boxes provide flexible storage space. Khanyi and Dawn are not however in dire need of space - before they moved into their new tiny home, they cleared out a lot of unnecessary clutter. They found the experience of getting by with fewer things liberating. It gives them a wonderful feeling of freedom. ■

Desk 'lite': a socket, a small shelf and space for the laptop - that's all one needs.



Sideboard, kitchen table or a very large board: the table can be unfolded or refolded, as required.



View of the desk from the kitchen table. The floor-to-ceiling window gives a view and an impression of spaciousness.