

A swing-arm sconce spotlights the gallery wall that features a Cameroonian juju hat and original artwork by Jonathan Alfaro. A small cabinet beside the sofa holds the couple's vinyl collection. **Sectional**, West Elm; **coffee table base**, **throw pillows**, HomeSense; **sconce**, CB2; **picture mount** (on cabinet), Jonathan Adler; **cabinet**, Bex Vintage.

STEPS FROM **EVERYTHING** 550 SQ.FT.

A CALGARY COUPLE SWAPS
SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR A KILLER LOCATION
AND A LIFESTYLE THEY LOVE.

Design by ALANNA DUNN | Text by SAMANTHA EDWARDS | Photography by PHIL CROZIER



WHEN ALANNA DUNN bought her 550-square-foot condo in Calgary's trendy Mount Royal neighbourhood in 2014, she never imagined sharing the compact space with anyone else.

Then, chance stepped in: that same week, she met her future husband, Ryan Agrey, an architect with Stantec, and a year later he moved in. "We weren't sure if small-space living was for us, but I had just finished the majority of the renovations and felt like I hadn't had time to enjoy the changes yet," says Alanna, a senior designer at Reena Sotropa In House Design Group. In the four years since, she's continued to transform the condo into a bright home brimming with clever storage solutions that take advantage of every square inch.

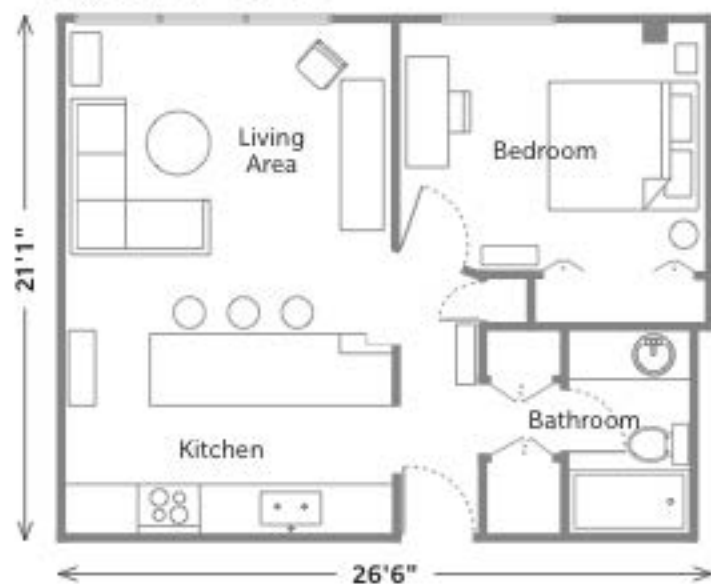
Located in a 1970s-era apartment building, the converted condo had choppy floor finishes and awkward architectural details like a column in the middle of the kitchen. To make the space feel more cohesive, Alanna painted all the walls, trim, ceilings and millwork the same crisp white and replaced the mismatched laminate, carpet and tile floors with white oak engineered hardwood. "It helps blur the lines

LEFT: Designer and homeowner Alanna Dunn hung her hats in the hallway because she couldn't find another place to store them, but it's had a surprising effect. "They add some fun colour, and now I wear them way more than I used to," she says with a laugh. She customized an Ikea shoe cabinet with quartz crystal knobs. **Knobs, Anthropologie.**



Alanna and her husband, Ryan Agrey, live large in their small condo.

Floor Plan



Produced by Stacey Smithers/ Floor plan illustration by Michaela Wong

SEE SOURCE GUIDE



SMALL-SPACE WISDOM FROM ALANNA

BUY LESS, BUT BETTER.

Since we're investing in fewer things and materials, we have the opportunity to splurge on more luxurious items like wallpaper or marble countertops.

MAKE IT LAST.

Choose durable finishes, fabrics and furnishings. We do just as much living in our house, but in half the space.

REDUCE YOUR RETAIL THERAPY.

I've had to curb my shopping habit! Since our closet is so small, I now buy high-quality brands because I own fewer pairs of shoes and jeans. It's become a lifestyle choice.

between one room and another," she says. Next, Alanna executed a "storage blitz," adding spacious pullouts to the kitchen's new Carrara marble-topped peninsula (which also functions as the breakfast bar), and a secret niche behind the bathroom mirror to store her many bottles of nail polish. "It gives us extra storage, like a medicine cabinet but without the bulk," she says.

To bring personality to the all-white space, Alanna layered pretty blush tones, mod patterns and bold black accents like interior doors that help balance the condo's existing black appliances. She also chose hardworking materials for the home's key pieces, like topping the coffee table, which doubles as an impromptu dining table, with a Caesarstone slab. "I didn't realize how hard we were going to be on the condo," says Alanna. "Since we have fewer pieces, the wear and tear is much greater. We needed to invest in quality staples."

Since it's downtown, Alanna and Ryan's home has become the de facto hang-out spot for their friends who travel in from the suburbs and gather here before heading out to dinners, bars or concerts. "We're happy to have storage challenges if it means the trade-off is living within walking distance of 100 awesome restaurants," says Alanna.



RIGHT: Since Ryan sometimes works from home, the couple made space for a desk in the bedroom. His chair was a lucky Kijiji find. **Desk**, West Elm.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The bathroom's classic white subway tile, marble countertop and black hex floor tiles create a timeless envelope. Unique touches such as the jade green cabinet handles and gallery wall add elements of surprise. **Wall tile**, Daltile; **mirror**, Ikea; **floor tile**, marble countertop, Icon Stone + Tile.

OPPOSITE, TOP: Brass detailing outfits the kitchen and the rooms beyond, adding a feel of glamour to the quaint quarters. **Door colour**, Jet Black (2120-10), Benjamin Moore; **door handle**, Banbury Lane.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: In the high-contrast kitchen, wicker and rattan bar stools create a graphic breakfast bar perch. **Sink**, Ikea; **faucet**, Brizo; **brass hardware**, Banbury Lane; **light fixtures**, The Home Depot; **marble countertops**, Granite Works; **stools**, Wayfair Canada.



Alanna had coveted this Kelly Wearstler wallpaper, which inspired the blush tones throughout the condo. "It's a luxury product, but because this wall is so small, it wasn't a huge cost," she says. **Bed frame**, Wayfair Canada; **table lamp**, West Elm.

