

"Downtown clients are willing to push the design envelope."



Pros and Condos

From classic elegance to space-age mod, these three designers are using their unique styles to knock down the walls of small-room design

BY ANGELICA BREM

Mixing well-edited furniture and decor for a look that is both functional and fashionable is an art form. Doing this in a tight condo space is a gift. So as more Austinites leave the 'burbs to snatch up glitzy downtown spaces in cloud-scraping residential towers, they are turning to some of the city's most savvy design pros to help them deck out their new homes.

Designer Laura Britt used her versatile style for a teen's small room in the stylish new Austinian for a snappy look that would make a Euro jetsetter blush.

The space is all crisp monochromes, with silver and white wallpaper, white floor-to-ceiling custom curtains and a white, '60s-era Eero Aarino Ball Chair that has a blast of Kermit the Frog green fabric. A black, gray and white medallion-patterned rug and a crystal

chandelier add a sophisticated sleekness to the room.

To maximize the space, Britt added a slim, tall secretary-style white-lacquer Ligne Roset desk, a corner-hugging love seat and a simple bed for comfy living, working and sleeping areas.

"I love working downtown because clients are usually in a space different than what they're used to and are willing and ready to explore, expand and push >>



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the design envelope," says Britt.

Designer Mark Cravotta knows this all too well. At the Four Seasons Residences, he designed a smart living space with high-back armchairs covered in velvet and space-saving custom bookshelves full of classic novels. Small sculptures and a hunting dog oil painting add an "understated luxury" that fits the Four Seasons' and homeowners' personalities. Working downtown, he says, brings variety that lets him create designs that are "freer."

Heather Plimmer went a different route with a soothing gray living room model at the W Residences. As director of design for the W, she jokingly says she designed the space just for herself. Using locally-sourced pieces, she added a casual, light-beige Verellen sofa and lounger, and took grey silk draperies all the way to the ceiling to give the space a larger appearance.

A stained-wood and lacquered coffee table animates the room with its shimmering surface. "Nothing over the top," says Plimmer. "Just one or two moves is enough to give a small space some life." ■