



Never Too Small

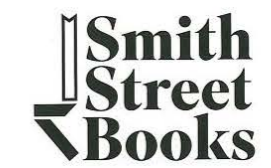
Reimagining
Small Space
Living

Created by Colin Chee
Written by Joel Beath
& Elizabeth Price

Never Too Small

Reimagining
Small Space Living

Created by Colin Chee
Written by Joel Beath &
Elizabeth Price

The logo for Smith Street Books features a stylized graphic of a book spine on the left, with the words "Smith", "Street", and "Books" stacked vertically to its right in a bold, serif font.

**Smith
Street
Books**



Diversify 11

Introduction	6
Cairo Flat	12
Tara	20
Type Street Apartment	28
George	36
The Warren	46

Amplify 57

Boneca	58
Architectural (dis)Order	68
El Camarín	76
Lycabettus Hill Studio Apartment	86
Loft Houses	94
Private Apartment Milan	102
Chelsea Apartment	112

Expand 121

Rattan in Concrete Jungle	122
Piano Apartment	132
Yojigen Poketto	142
Riviera Cabin	152
Itinerant	160
Loft Buiksloterham	170

Revive 179

Cairo Studio	180
Karoot	188
Brera	196
Barbican Studio	204
Small Town House	212
Darlinghurst	222
La Petite Maison d'Hôtes	230

Innovate 239

Microluxe	240
Alex	248
Tree House	258
Urban Cabin	266
Pets' Playground	274

Credits	284
Floor Plans	286
About Never Too Small	294
Acknowledgements	294



Pets' Playground

↗ 42m² / 452ft²
👤 Sim-Plex Design Studio
📍 Yuen Long, Hong Kong

There are few better examples of small-footprint, high-density urban living than the walled city of Kowloon. The tightly packed Hong Kong complex is one of the most documented examples of how communities can adapt and evolve to accommodate basic needs, regardless of the constraints of space.

Architect Patrick Lam of Hong Kong's Sim-Plex Design Studio acknowledges the effect such an upbringing had on his design philosophy. 'This long-term experience of living in a tiny space drove [me] to investigate the possibilities of expanding a limited space.'

As its name suggests, this 42-sq-m (452-sq-ft) apartment in Yuen Long hosts some very special, and well-provisioned-for, residents. The owners engaged Lam to create a home that catered for themselves and their parrot, as well as the owner's elderly mother and her cat.

Housing pets in small apartments can be tricky. A roaming animal with its own sanitation, feeding, exercise and 'lazing around' needs can easily encroach on an already minimal space. However, designing a home that was as generous to the pets' needs as it was to humans was non-negotiable; it would take considerable planning and imagination.

Morning sunlight is welcome to most humans, but wakes up noisy birds; cats spend most of the day lying around, but they do need a space to be playful and rambunctious; and any space with various functions must be safe and easily used by an elderly person.

Three frosted glass sliding doors are the key feature of this home. Floor to ceiling, they glide gently to create a division between the master bedroom and the dining room. Not only do they provide much-needed privacy, but also let sunlight filter through the apartment.

The living area is raised to cleverly conceal additional storage that otherwise would have used prime horizontal real estate. Ecological melamine-faced board in a light maple finish lifts the custom cabinetry and drawers, and is elegantly topped off by four stools that are light enough to be moved by all (human) residents. Another clever element to minimise the use of floor space is the dining room table, which elegantly slides out from the kitchen cabinet.

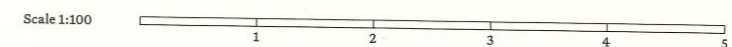
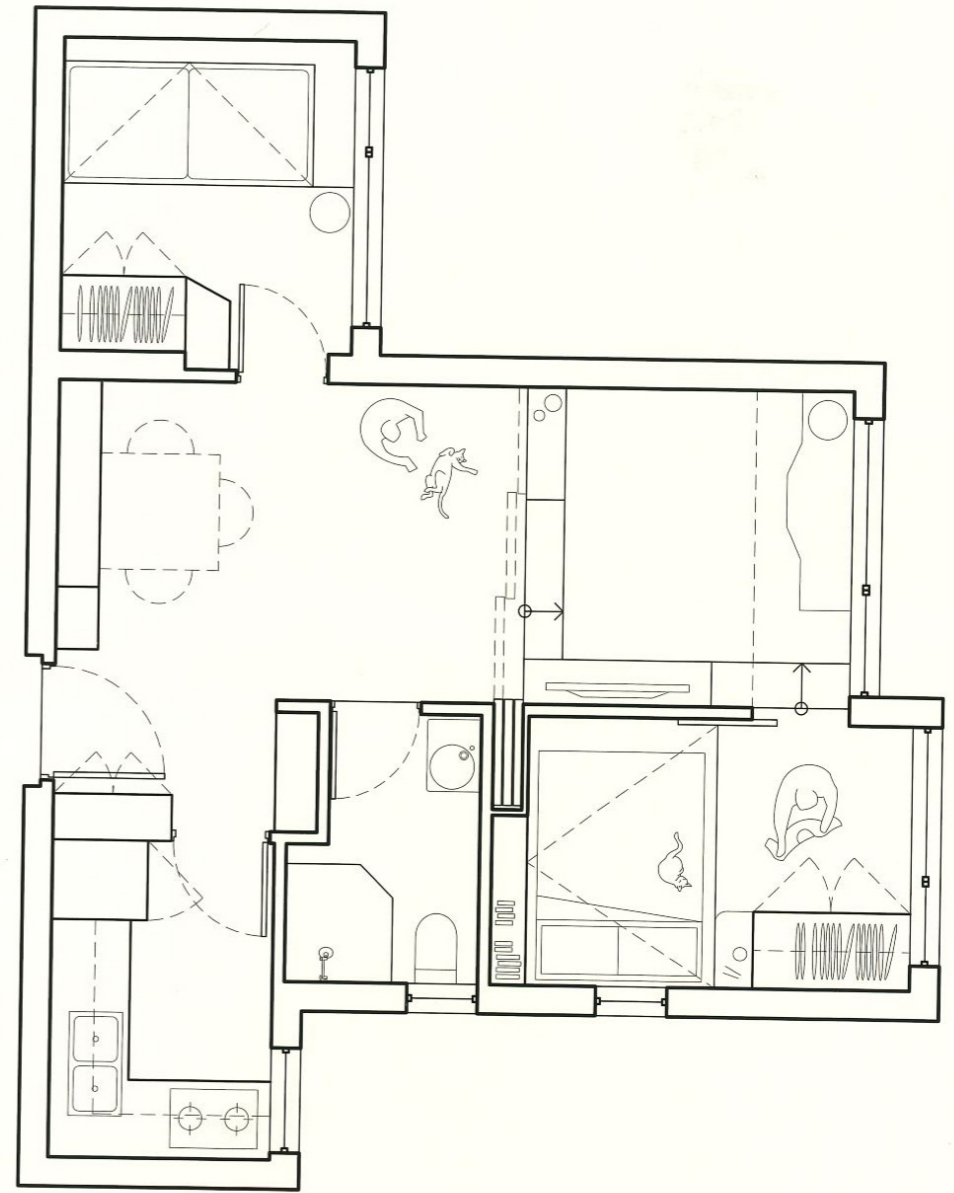
'We wanted to create a standpoint to achieve a balance between privacy and communion through spatial layout, bringing a new inspiration to the co-living social problems of young and elderly,' Lam explains.

It takes minutes to travel from Kowloon to Yuen Long, though there is a world of difference between the chaos of the walled city, and the foresight and execution on show in Pets' Playground. However, there is some consistency between Lam's time in Kowloon and his design here. For small spaces to function well, you must respect all members of a community – whether they purr, squawk or talk.



PAGE 274 In densely populated areas accommodated by high-rise apartments, the majority of a pet's life will be spent in the home, so the objective here was to make this space as comfortable as possible for everyone.

RIGHT The dining room table slides out when required and tucks away when not in use, ensuring there is plenty of space for rambunctious pets to play.





LEFT, TOP Raised floors provide a clear divide between areas and also made room for storage.

LEFT, BOTTOM By drawing the sliding doors across, some privacy can be created for both pets and people.

OPPOSITE The three sliding doors sit on rails across the roof and can be partially or fully drawn.







PAGE 280/281 There are plenty of places for the apartment's furry resident to play and safely explore.

ABOVE Designing for multiple residents and their pets' needs is challenging yet rewarding when harmony is achieved through understanding what's needed for privacy and play.

OPPOSITE Frosted glass ensures there is a flow of light from the main windows when completely closed off.





What does the future
of urban living look like?

Never Too Small explores this question through the lens of five small-footprint design principles and a showcase of 30 apartments and houses from around the world, all smaller than 50m² / 540ft². Full of inspiration we can each apply to our own homes, this is a book that proves living better doesn't have to mean living larger.

**Smith
Street
Books**

US\$40 | \$55 CAN | £30 UK

ISBN 978-1-92241-721-3



54000

9 781922 417213