



ADDING CHARACTER

Janet Lee, Manhattan-based author of *Living in a Nutshell: Posh and Portable Decorating Ideas for Small Spaces* (Harper Collins, 2012), thinks of a pied-à-terre as "an alter ego waiting to come out," an opportunity to experiment with décor, art, color and textures an owner might not risk in a primary residence. "The part-time pads I've seen of late suffer from generic box syndrome, chosen more for location, budget and convenience, without a hint of character," says Lee, who owned a clapboard country house in Columbia County, N.Y., and kept a modern pied-à-terre in Brooklyn for a "few unforgettable years." She sees the pied-à-terre as a revolving design lab and prefers to take a more flexible approach to the décor. Call it instant architecture in which little tricks are used for big effect. Among Lee's favorite ideas: covering an entire wall with salvaged picture frames all painted the same color and mounting a gel-fuel fireplace on wheels so that it can easily be moved to any part of the apartment.

Lee also emphasizes lighting, using a "fill, accent, glow" method. Ambient light is the main layer of light that's used to fill the room. Task lighting, such as a reading lamp, is for accenting and defining zones. It adds depth and dimension to otherwise flat surfaces. And then there's what Lee calls a "glow" layer, which can be anything from the shimmer of candlelight to the reflection of mirrors and crystals. It is this layer, she says, that "amplifies the size and glamor of tight quarters."

Every true home needs one's personal stamp. Sometimes the less often a home is used, the more it's needed. As designer Higgins says, the most important part in designing a home is that it reflects who the owner is. "It's not just about creating a look, but making sure the homeowner feels connected to it personally."

PIED-À-TERRE LIVING

Interior design for the part-time home

BY LYNA BERT GARRO

High style, low maintenance and practical layouts—these are the hallmarks of a pied-à-terre. In this, our most mobile and demanding class of living, the owner doesn't just want a place to live; they want a place to live well. It's about maximizing luxury without the usual compromises of a primary home.

REWORKING THE RULES
Standard design rules of the full-time home do not apply. Instead, a designer should focus on what the owner wants to make an apartment as a great pad in an urban area. The focus is on the furniture and how it can be used in a variety of ways.

It's not about the business of the home; it's about the lifestyle. The owner is an individual who wants to live well, not just live. The owner is an individual who wants to live well, not just live. The owner is an individual who wants to live well, not just live.

Another challenge is the limited space. The owner wants to live well, not just live. The owner is an individual who wants to live well, not just live. The owner is an individual who wants to live well, not just live.