

House Calls

By KATHLEEN HOM

Homeowner

Kathy Dudd

Neighborhood

Arlington

Problem

"I live in the smallest house in Arlington. It has less than 500 square feet," Dudd says. She and her gray tabby moved into the rental this fall, and she has had trouble arranging furniture to make the most of the 10-by-12-foot living room. Dudd wants to use the room primarily to watch TV from her couch and work at an oversize desk her dad built (though she's open to buying new furniture). She wants to keep the room light and airy. Because she's renting, she's limited to repainting and redecorating.

Designer

Dolly Howarth of Howarth Designs in Arlington, www.howarthdesigns.com.

Suggestions

Draw inspiration from elements in the room that cannot be altered, such as the warm wood floors and the brick fireplace. Stick to furnishings that fit the small scale and add color through accessories that can be changed easily. Pick scratch-resistant fabrics that won't show pet hair. And if you can get permission from the landlord, you could camouflage the awkward heating unit above the fireplace by painting the walls a light, neutral color so the unit will blend in.

GET A CLOSER LOOK See other recommendations for this room in a photo gallery at washingtonpost.com/housecalls.



Paint: Bristle for the walls, Architectural White for the trim and mantel. Both colors from C2.



Create an entertainment and storage area with a media stand flanked by two cabinets. Bellavista media stand from Crate and Barrel (www.crateandbarrel.com, \$999). Shanghai two-drawer letter- and legal-size file cabinets in warm cherry from Home Decorators Collection (www.homedecorators.com, \$219 each). A flat-screen TV will take up less space.



Lighting. Cairn table lamp in citrus with linen shade and black powder-coated cast-iron base, by Tracy Glover (www.tracygloverstudio.com, \$585). Le Klint floor lamp in black finish from Lighting Universe (www.lightinguniverse.com, \$753).



Pick ottomans, an armchair and a sofa proportional to the room's size. Stow leather storage ottomans in chocolate and red (\$159 each) and Brogue chair in Hunt Club Straw (\$999), both at Crate and Barrel (800-967-6696, www.crateandbarrel.com). Seventy-one-inch small-scale sofa in heathered lichen green, with faux leather trim in bark and walnut-finished legs, by Creative Classics (www.creativeclassics.com, \$1,360).



Glass vases and art add color. Vases from B'enko Glass Co. (www.benkoglass.com). "White Chairs on Cobblestones," by Bob Tetra, at Photo Journeys Abroad (www.photojourneysabroad.com, \$340 for matted and framed 15-by-22 1/2-inch print).



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