HOMEWISE

Create Space in your Home

Remodeling your home doesn't always entail a huge DIY project. Sometimes the smallest remodels can make the most difference for families.

If you live in an older home, there is a chance that you are having to live with older styles. If you want to modernize your living areas or create more space for you and your family, here is a list of options for you to look into.

OPEN THE FLOOR PLAN

Most older homes do not have an open floor plan. Modernize your home by taking down walls to allow your home to flow better. Your entryway is the first part of your home people see when they visit. Your entryway should allow for you and your family to enter and exit your home efficiently. Place open shelving and wall hooks for your children to place their shoes and jackets. This would also be a good place to keep your car keys so that they are available for you when you need them but out of the way when you don't.

Your living room is an area where your family and extend-



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REAL ESTATE 101

Structural Check

If you're planning to knock down a wall, it's imperative to get a structural engineer to evaluate the project first. Structural engineers are required to be licensed in the U.S. Angies List offers tips on interviewing a structural engineer for the job at **bit.ly/2QcZ6R8.**

ed family gather to talk and have fun. It's important that your living spaces have adequate room to accommodate occupants. Especially if you host family gatherings and holiday gatherings. You can maximize space in your living areas with furniture. Use ottomans with secret storage to store video game accessories and extra remotes. Coffee tables

with open shelving can help give you a modern look that maximizes space. Instead of buying a big TV shelf that takes up space in your living room, hang your TV on the wall. A floating TV is a popular trend in modern design.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SMALLER AREAS

Home offices are booming in popularity. If you have a spare room that doesn't serve any purpose, convert it into your home office or homework room. Place a desk in the middle of the room for your kids to get their homework done. Open shelves and wall hangers can be placed to store school items, technology or other school items.

Your laundry room is another essential part of your home for storage. Turn your laundry room into a mudroom to store extra clothing items you don't want to keep in closets or areas around the house. A mudroom is used to store items like rain boots, shoes and other items that you would not want to keep in your closets. Open shelving in a mudroom can maximize storage space for cleaning or laundry supplies. Counter space for folding and a hanging area is another good use of space that is modern and practical.

You can find broken outdated furniture, broken appliances and many other old unwanted items in many family's garages. Get rid of all those items and take advantage of the extra space your garage provides. Install overhead grid racks that can be used to place luggage, holiday decorations, recreation equipment and lawn equipment.

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Real Estate Tips and Advice



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HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Buying power: also called purchasing power, it is the amount of goods and services that can be purchased by a given unit of currency, taking into account the effect of inflation. **SOURCE:** CFPB.org

AD SPACE