



625 square feet of Pop-Art Punch

SEDATE HUES PUNCHED UP WITH VIBRANT PINKS
COUNTER GREY
VANCOUVER DAYS.

Photography by Kim Christie

When designer Peter Wilds and his partner, Noam Gagnon, traded in their soulful 3,000-square-foot Chinatown rental for a compact west-end Vancouver condo, they knew hopping onto the home-ownership bandwagon would be a lifestyle adjustment. "For the first little while I felt as though I was living in a hotel," says Peter of the transition from their colour-saturated studio, where they had lived for 10 years. "I kept thinking, This is very nice, now when are we going home?" But being able to start from scratch did bring some thrills. By using a cohesive palette, smart storage and mod furnishings, the pair were able to create a space they now refer to as their "cloud in the sky."

LEAD A LAYERED LIFE

Unless you're an organizing guru, living in a small space means accepting a certain amount of bric-a-brac. Peter's solution was to turn it into art. By layering artifacts on top of stacks of books, patterned pillows over patterned pillows and dangling jewelry over objects, he was able to make artful displays out of his tchotchkes. "I love how these vignettes can be moved from room to room or altered for different colour configurations," says Peter. Stool (with horse statue), Red Corner Oriental Art.



STICK TO A PALATABLE PALETTE

Peter (pictured, far right, with Noam) suggests picking a palette and then trying your best to stay within that colour range. That said, just because it's a small space doesn't mean that palette needs to be restrained. "You don't have to go beige," he advises, "but your palette does need to be cohesive for the space to look unified." In his case, white, black, fuchsia and red form the basis for the condo's look — a punchy counterpoint to the city's drizzly, grey winters. Sofa, Natuzzi; Intel (above sofa), Mihrab Gallery; Designers Guild pillows, pink pouf, The Cross; painting (left) by Attila Richard Lukacs, Diane Farris Gallery; red resin artwork by Tom Burrows, Bau-Xi Gallery.

MAXIMIZE VIEWS

Tearing down the wall between the kitchen and living area meant giving up what little closed-off space they had, but for Peter, being able to take in the million-dollar skyline while he cooks made it a valuable trade-off. "Vancouver is all about the view," he says. "We lost a 'room', but it was worth the sacrifice." Creating one open area enhances the sense of space; glossy cabinetry, a huge mirror and a glass-topped dining table add to this sense. Cabinetry, Ikea; vase, stool, The Cross.



Styling by Stephanie Vogler, The Cross Décor & Design

DISPLAY WHAT YOU LOVE

An avid book collector, Peter had no intention of hiding his favourite pieces. "Books are art in themselves," he says of his multiple displays. By using them stacked as side tables, or arranging them for hits of colour on shelves, Peter makes a bold statement while personalizing the space. The open bookshelves reiterate the condo's airy aesthetic. Bookcases (painted), Ikea; rug, The Cross; white Eames armchairs, Inform Interiors.



LIVE IN BALANCE

Black and white, big and small, high and low — by creating a balance between these contrasts, Peter created a harmonious look in his condo. In the bedroom, the low bed is a counterpoint to the wooden deer heads high on the wall. In the living room, the black sofa offsets the white walls and rug, while its sheer size grounds the other furniture. Bed, EQ3; bedding, decorative pillows, Designers Guild throw, deer heads, The Cross; bedside lamps, Artemide.

"In a small space, every piece has to count"
— Homeowner Peter Wilks



GET CREATIVE WITH CABINETRY

Peter used Ikea cabinetry throughout the condo, retrofitting it with his contractor to get a custom look. By using the same cabinets everywhere from the kitchen to the bedroom, Peter was able to achieve an easy transition between living areas while ensuring he had plenty of hiding places. Floating the cabinets in the dining area and bathroom and increasing the visible floor space makes the condo look as large as possible.

