

Reclaim Wasted Space: Dining Rooms, Garages, Attics and Closets (page 1 of 3)

Explore the evolution of floor plans from previous decades and gather inspiration for designing a space that fits your lifestyle.

By Susan Kleinman

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Before: An Unwanted Eyesore

Designer [Deborah Gliksman](#) knew she needed an extra bedroom to accommodate her teenagers, but adding a second floor was too expensive. Meanwhile, says Gliksman, "the garage was unused, basically a repository for unwanted stuff and seemed the most cost-effective and practical solution."

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After: Everything in One Space

"And the dresser serves as a nightstand, while the divider serves as a TV console," Glikzman notes. There is plenty of storage in this pint-sized studio. Besides the ample clothes closet, there is an entire wall of storage behind the couch and a wall of kitchen cabinets. "We are part of the trend of home compounds," she says. "Above the studio is a wonderful, large office space and exercise room with a vaulted roof. We really have everything we need on the one property under two roofs."

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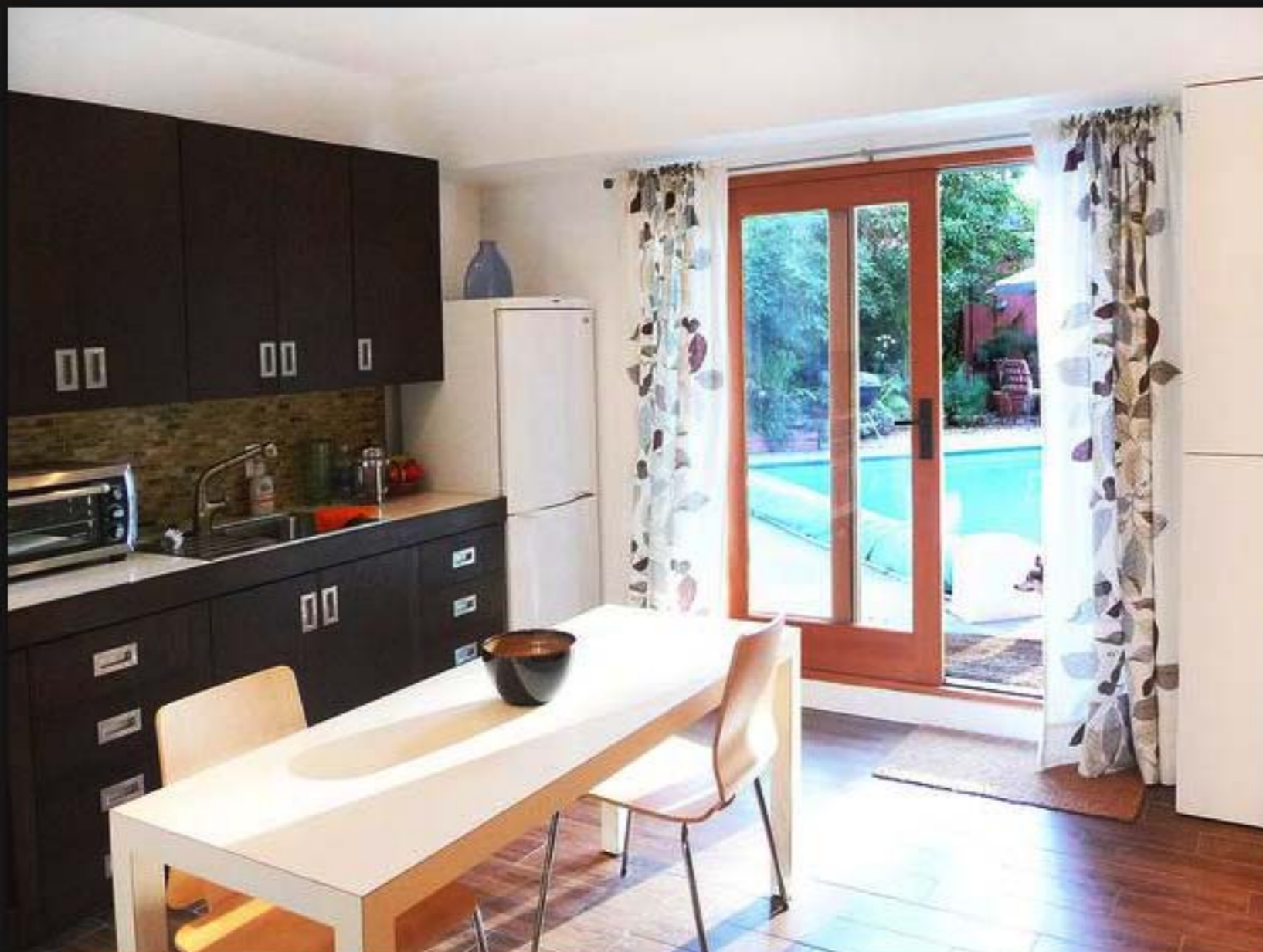
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After: A Functional Studio

Gliksman designed a full, freestanding studio apartment with a kitchen and bathroom, sleeping alcove and living space. "All the furniture is dual function to eke out the maximum efficiency possible," she says. "The kitchen table functions as an island and work desk."