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With her hookah haven, "Top Model" CariDee English is the hostess with the mostest.

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small spaces, BIG SOLUTIONS

8 pieces that help you get the most out of limited footprints

By Shaila Wunderlich
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Living practically and attractively in a small space is a delicate dance. It requires colors and scales that don't overwhelm; accessories that look good but also perform a function, and a type of just-right storage and organization that keeps necessities at hand yet somehow barely noticeable. It helps to have the assistance of someone who has worked with small spaces, although even then, a



Small spaces, BIG SOLUTIONS

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Certain companies have made small-scale a permanent, premiere offering in their stables. One such company, Rowe, is currently featuring its Mini Mod collection as part of a sustainable-living exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York. Kitchen and bath manufacturers have been thinking small for some time now, too, downsizing everything from stoves to dishwashers to bathtubs.

The small trend is so big, as a matter of fact, that a single newspaper story could never do it justice. A more efficient way of handling it, perhaps, is to show off a small sampling of the smartest innovations to come out recently.

swunderlich@tribune.com

1. Callie Modular

Aspenhome's very versatile Callie Modular offers an entire living room's worth of furniture in the package of one sofa. Keep it connected as the main—and perhaps only—seating in a tiny room, or break apart and reconfigure into different seating arrangements (chaise longue, love seat, ottoman, corner chair, armless chair) when guests converge. Built-in metal connectors keep the unit hitched into the sofa state and fold in when you want to rearrange.

Cost: Order as many or as few pieces as you'd like; \$499 (corner chair), \$399 (armless chair), \$299 (ottoman), \$1,197 (three-piece group shown in photo).

Where to get it: Most Walter E. Smithe locations, 800-948-4263, smithe.com.

3. Series 200 Wall Mount

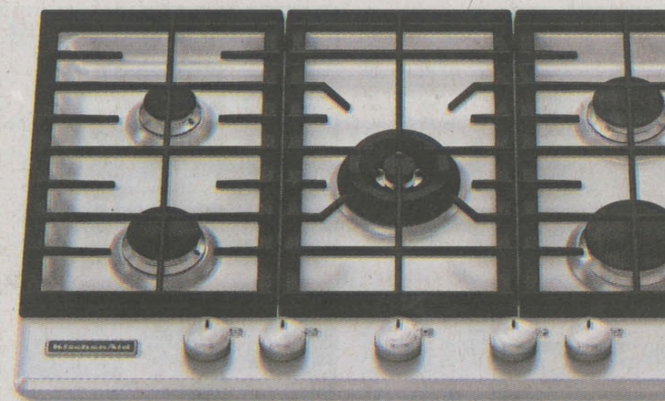
2. Versatile Vanity Collection

Sonia's new online "configurator" allows you to customize the sink, mirror and vanity arrangement that best fits your bathroom. Play around with arrangements online (sonia-sa.com/configurator/configurator.html) and bring your favorites to your local retailer. The collection's sleek, thin aesthetic and colored-glass finishes are especially fitting in the closetlike half-baths that populate so many Chicago condos.

Cost: \$155 (glass front of base unit) to \$2,450 (37-inch-wide glass top); a fully decked-out system can run up to \$8,000.

Where to buy: Hydrology, 435 N. LaSalle St., 312-832-9000; Community Home Supply, 3924 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-281-7010; and Banner Plumbing Supply, 1020 E. Lake Cook Rd., Buffalo Grove, 847-520-6100, bannerplumbing.com.

4. Affinity Laptop Cocktail Table



5. 30-inch, 5-burner gas cooktop

KitchenAid

KitchenAid figured out a way to fit the number of burners normally utilized by commercial ranges (five) into a non-commercial, 30-inch cooktop. How'd they do it? By placing one burner—the largest of the five—in the center and four smaller burners around it. All five burners are sealed for easy cleaning.

Cost: \$1,349

Where to buy: Call 800-422-1230 or visit kitchenaid.com to find a retailer near you.



6. Vapor Dining Chair

CB2

The clear, molded acrylic Vapor Chair makes it there at the same time. Seated around a table in a cramped room or tucked in a corner desk, it serves its purpose by making a big show of it.

Cost: \$179

Where to buy: CB2, 3757 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-755-3900; and cb2.com, 312-787-8329.