

The Fix

Four rooms with problems. Four smart solutions.

BY MICHAEL HARRIS



The Study

Designer: Alda Pereira, Alda Pereira Design

PROBLEM: A cramped brick-and-tile solarium that's neither an indoor nor an outdoor space.

SOLUTION: Rather than let the room languish in limbo, Pereira invented a nook for paying bills and other light office work in this Olympic Village condo. "We kept things very open," explains Pereira. "Overhead lighting maximizes space—we didn't fill the desktop with a lamp." Pereira

did break a couple of rules with the scale of the chandelier, but since it's white, it doesn't take up a lot of visual space. A patch of carpet softens the acoustics. (It's a hard, narrow room.) A wall of black and white photographs adds depth and texture to the space.

The Kitchen

Designer: Franc Ranieri, Ledingham Design

PROBLEM: How to pull off glamorous entertaining in a limited space.

SOLUTION: Even in a two-storey penthouse in Coal Harbour, space is still an issue. The owners wanted an open kitchen that remained clear of messes during parties. Ranieri installed a prep zone for caterers, which is hidden around the corner. The "show" kitchen (pic-

tured here) never brings down the party: two 36-inch Sub-Zero fridges and a 30-inch Wolf wall oven are finished in carbon stainless steel, to complement the deep warmth of mahogany panelling. Storage garages flank the range, sliding shut to hide other appliances.



The Bathroom

Designer: Andrew Barker, AJ Barker Design

PROBLEM: A low ceiling, creating a claustrophobic feel.

SOLUTION: The clients at this penthouse suite in Yaletown wanted a more spacious master bathroom, without stealing square footage from the adjoining bedroom. Because the dropped ceiling was full of pipes and couldn't be raised, Barker introduced a lozenge-shaped coffered ceiling detail between the pipes, creating the illusion of height. Gold leaf and concealed lighting add drama and a hint of luxury, while a two-person glass-encased shower—replacing a bulky bathtub—further enhances a feeling of spaciousness.



The Living Room

Designer: Adele Rankin, CHIL Design Group

PROBLEM: Preserving the view through floor-to-ceiling windows.

SOLUTION: “We wanted to make sure that the first thing people focused on as they walked in was the vast downtown and ocean views,” says Rankin of this False Creek condo. “So we kept everything low and transparent.” All tables are made of glass and wood, and the sofa is less bulky than most, thanks to

a low back and subtle lines. The palette, too, nods to the view: deep blues, creams and chocolates are accented with burnt oranges and yellows, to play off the cityscape in both daytime and at dusk. Broad windows make stronger palettes advisable; rich colours will stay bolder in sunlight.