

# How to Do Anything Better Guide

BY JOANNA BOBER AND  
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BIG  
STYLE  
ON THE  
CHEAP

● **FANCY UP YOUR BOOKSHELVES**  
“Arrange books horizontally and vertically,” says Berkus. “They’ll seem like art.”

## How to Make a Small Place Feel...Big!

*Celeb decorator and OPRAH regular Nate Berkus used smart styling (and his HSN collection) to transform his 29-year-old sister Marni Golden's one-room New York City apartment into a chic home for entertaining. Keep reading for his genius tips for spaces of all sizes. ➔*

● **USE FURNITURE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**  
Berkus replaced Marni's café chairs with a love seat. Why? Now she can fit more people at her table. Love seat, \$500, hsn.com.

PROP STYLIST: JILL HENTZ; FASHION STYLISTS: ALEXIS ZIPP FOR SARAH LAIRD, INC. (FOR MARNI); KIRK SHANNON BUTTS (FOR NATE); HAIR AND MAKEUP: GLEN JACKSON FOR SEE MANAGEMENT; GROOMING: STEVE BERG; ON MARNI: TWELFTH STREET BY CYNTHIA VINCENT DRESS; MADE HER THINK EARRINGS; MEREDITH KAHN RING; HERMES CUFF; BRAIN AT WOOD SHOES; ON NATE: THEORY PANTS; BROOKS BROTHERS BELT; ROLEX WATCH; SEE GO SHOPPING FOR MORE INFORMATION



# How to Do Anything Better Guide

## 1 SPLURGE ON A COUPLE OF FOREVER PIECES.

“Whether you’re living in a dorm room or in your first apartment, resist that transient feeling,” says Berkus. “Save up for one or two pieces that you will still love in 10 years. You’ll have a space that you’ll want to *live* in, not just a place to change clothes and sleep.” Marni’s couch, which she’s had for years, is a good example.

## 2 EXPAND YOUR OFFICE TO YOUR WALLS.

“In a small home like Marni’s where you don’t have much surface space, a corkboard is a solve-all for places to put pictures, bills and keepsakes,” says Berkus. He made this extra-large one from a roll of cork and moldings from Home Depot.

## 3 EMBRACE THE OPEN SPACE!

“In a studio apartment, you have to be comfortable with everything being on display, and that includes your bed,” says Berkus. Instead of using a screen (“They’re so old-school!”), he suggests pushing a couch with a high back against the foot of the bed, which creates the illusion of separation. If you have extra space in your home, you can do the same with a guest room to make it also work as an office or den.

Continued on next page ➡

● **TRY A LINEN LAMP SHADE**  
“They look more opulent than paper ones,” says Berkus.

● **CONSIDER A CHAISE** It’s perfect for solo lounging or for squeezing friends on it.



1



*Pottery Barn Teen desk lamps, \$65 each, pbteen.com. Make every on-display accessory a stylish one.*

● **KEEP YOUR MEMORIES CLOSE** Marni posts shower and wedding invites here, as well as special tokens from her travels.



2

*Add pops of texture and color. Nate Berkus Tambourine pillows, \$19 for two, hsn.com.*



3

● **NEED IDEAS?** Berkus studies photos of old hotel lobbies for seating arrangements. We like *Hotel Spaces* by Montse Borrás (Rockport Publishers, \$40).





4



● **SIMPLICITY RULES** Says Berkus: "Try one elegant candlestick instead of a vase or pottery—it takes up less space."

*Cody Foster candlesticks, \$15 each, 800-595-5907 for store locations*



● **DECORATE IN ODD NUMBERS!** Lamp, picture, frame, flowers, dish. "Five looks better to the eye than four," says Berkus.

5

**4 CARVE OUT "LITTLE ROOMS."** "By separating Marni's studio into 'zones,' we created the feeling of living in separate spaces," says Berkus. The focal point of each space is a table: the Moroccan one in the "living room," the white lacquer one in the "dining room," and the desk in the "office."

**5 ADD SOME WHIMSY WITH COLOR.** Marni's palette is gray, beige and cream, so Berkus added some unexpected color with the blue chest. "Painting a piece of furniture is a great weekend project—and a cheap way to mix up your look," he says.

**6 MAKE YOUR BED THE CENTERPIECE.** In a small space, the bed should be as inviting as a couch, says Berkus. Layer your pillows and even consider an upholstered headboard; this one costs \$300 on hsn.com. "The bed is just yummy now," says Marni. "I have trouble getting out of it, which is a good and bad thing."

**7 REDO YOUR CLOSET.** "Let me tell you, Marni's closet did *not* start out looking like this," says Berkus. "We started piles: 'keep,' 'charity' and 'resale.'" (See page 118 for more tips!) He also used Hug-gable Hangers (hsn.com) to increase the storage space.



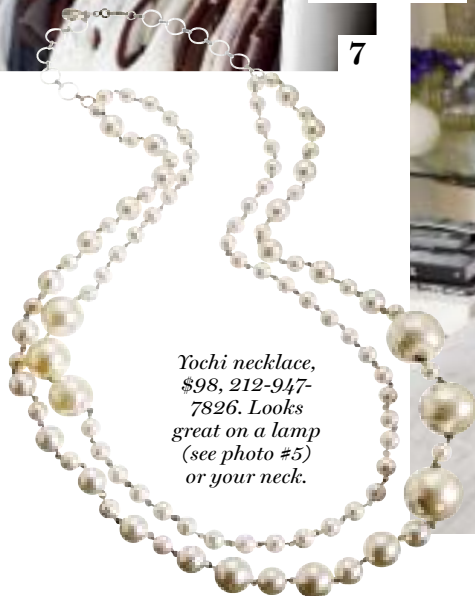
● **CLEVER STORAGE TIP** "Marni has a serious bag collection," says Berkus. "I used magazine files to organize her clutches."

7



● **MARNI'S TRICK** for keeping the place looking good? "I keep it clean, clean, clean," she says. "When you live in a small space, you have to respect it more."

6



*Yochi necklace, \$98, 212-947-7826. Looks great on a lamp (see photo #5) or your neck.*