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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. ➡

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“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.

“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.

“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.

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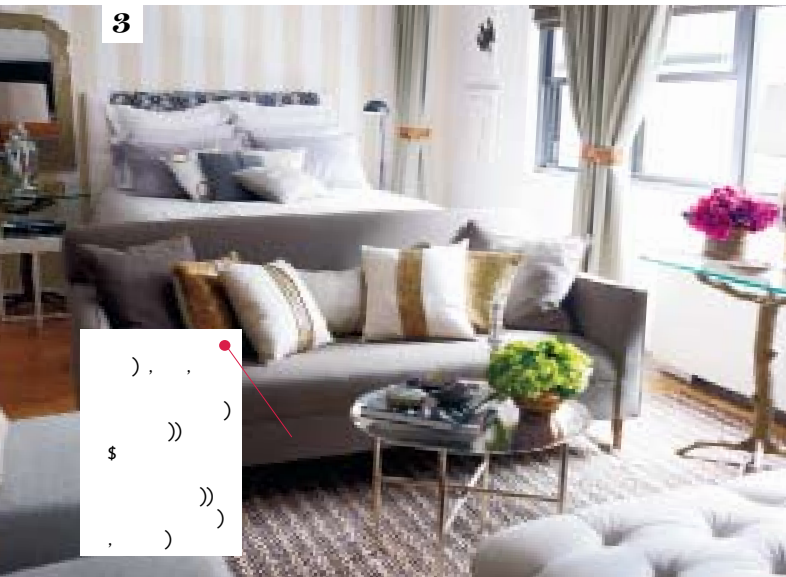
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Pottery Barn Teen desk lamps, \$65 each, pbteen.com. Make every on-display accessory a stylish one.



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



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



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“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.”

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.

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.”

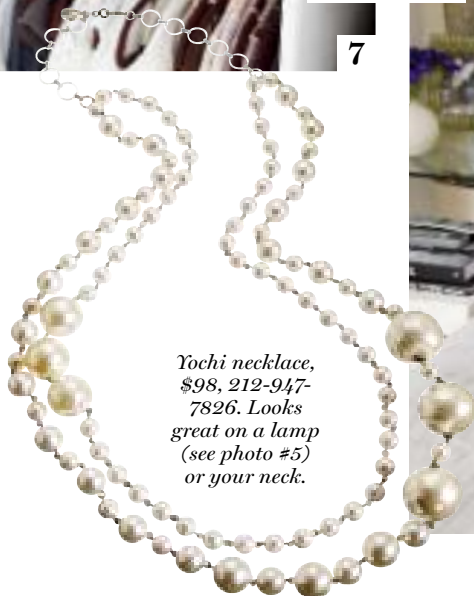
“Let me tell you, Marni’s closet did *not* start out looking like this,” says Berkus. “We started piles: ‘keep,’ ‘charity’ and ‘resale.’” (See page 118 for more tips!) He also used Hug-gable Hangers (hsn.com) to increase the storage space.



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