



300 square feet apartment
Madrid, Spain

Case Study

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THE CHALLENGE

In this cosy, small apartment which is 300 ft² and located in the Malasaña district, Madrid, Spain, we first considered whether or not size could condition one's enjoyment of a home. Our conclusion, based on making real use of all three dimensions and designing spaces with dual functionality, is obvious. "Ingenuity does not require square feet, it requires good ideas."

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Despite the apparent small scale of the project, we have learnt a great deal from this work and drawn lots of positive conclusions, demonstrating that interior design should not be limited to large-scale activities and that the seemingly humblest of work can become a challenge, that small can become big, that ingenuity and innovation must always come before budgets and, above all, we have concluded that in the world of interior design and architecture, size does not matter...or does it?

THE ACHIEVEMENT

The original space has been compartmentalised into the minimum necessary parts, the bathroom and bedroom. In the latter, a sliding partition, made from translucent glass with an upper guide which is concealed in the suspended ceiling (*ROLLGLASS serie*), offers great transformational potential. It doubles the size/integrates the living room and bedroom while allowing natural light to enter without sacrificing privacy, thanks to the material chosen; both areas are independent of one another when required.

At all times we have used interior design to transform a small number of square feet into cubic feet which have been put to the best possible use, working with and considering volume rather than floor space.

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The living-dining room and kitchen come together in the centre of the apartment and the daytime area, although each room has a dual function, which is not usually the case. We have very little floor space, so the kitchen furniture is also the furniture for the living room. The dining table conceals the kitchen when it is not in use and, furthermore, it does not occupy the space which is serving another purpose at that moment.

In short, the volume functions and is arranged according to its use, with order and ambiguity being the tools we have used to achieve this. Thus, the simple shapes of the furniture mean that the areas are not so readily recognisable by the items by which they are traditionally identified, such as an extractor hood or vitroc ceramic hob to recognise a kitchen or chairs around a table to recognise a dining room.

Around the perimeter and top of the bathroom there is a partition made from the same translucent glass as that of the bedroom, thus ensuring that both the desired natural light enters and that there is a great sense of spaciousness. We have selected a 1 inch x 1 inch "glass finish" tile which made it possible to convert the walls into flooring with a simple half-round turn. The bathroom fittings are suspended, leaving the floor area completely free and without corners thanks to the geometrical design, all of which improves hygiene and makes it easier to clean the space, which are both hugely important factors when designing the room.



ROLLGLASS offers a major opening leaving an entrance zone free of tracks.

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