



DecorBEYOND™ Accent Furniture That Multitasks

Interior designer Sandra Espinet on creative ways to get the most out of accent furniture.

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Interior designer Sandra Espinet draws inspiration from her extensive travels to South America, northern Africa, Europe, and Asia. Since 2000, Sandra has lived in the coastal town of San José del Cabo, Mexico, where she owns Square One Interiors and Gallery. Sandra's work has been celebrated in books such as *Houses by the Sea*.

Furniture That Works Overtime

Multitasking furniture in small spaces is always a good idea. In smaller bedrooms, you can save space and multitask by using a desk as a nightstand. The key is to make sure that the desk is the correct scale and not too large. An ordinary, office-style desk probably wouldn't work, but there are many small writing desks that can look good in a bedroom.

You can also use a dresser as a nightstand in order get extra storage space. The key is the height—you should limit the height of the dresser to 28 or 30 inches or to the height of the mattress. This will help keep the room from appearing too bulky and looking like a closet.

A studio apartment could be the perfect example of a multifunctional space in which all living occurs. In tight spaces, less is more and each piece has to be perfectly planned to avoid clutter and create visual space.

Using multitask furniture is not always a space issue. Sometimes it can simply be done for aesthetic value. Often, large built-ins can double as bookcases, TV cabinets, and storage areas. A great example is one I did for a client in which we built a bookcase that doubled as a nightstand and dressers. It was not only functional and space saving but also created a great look.

I've seen people make many mistakes when trying to multitask. For example, using your dining table as a desk is probably not a good idea, because it will always look messy—and cords going across the room from the dining table never look attractive. Using a small kitchen desk up against a wall would be a better solution.

Tip: Take a few minutes to carefully think about which multi-functions you're trying to achieve before you buy anything. Knowing what you need before you set out to shop always helps narrow the choices.