



LIVING LARGE IN A CONDO

up with the latest trends. “Trends are of the moment, not enduring,” she says. In order to create a sense of sophistication that lasts, she says to consider three primary things: space planning, light, and scale.

“People make the mistake of shoving their furniture up against the walls,” she says. “Then there’s this big gap in the middle of the room. It creates a disjointed feeling, and a sense of crowding. When you pull the seating away from the walls, you appreciate the room, and give the furniture space to breathe. Look at it as the mat around a piece of artwork.” Area rugs are another great way to delineate a seating grouping. “It lends it cohesion,” Elaine says. She says it helps, too, to buy pieces that don’t come all the way to the floor. “When a sofa has legs, when it’s open underneath, you have a sense of the room expanding beyond that. When it stops at the floor, your eye line terminates at the sofa. It can actually make a space feel a little uncomfortable.”

Another great way to instantly lend a professional air to your décor is with lighting. Elaine says try lighting the walls instead of the middle of your rooms.

“Try putting floor lamps behind your sofa between it and the wall,” she says. “It, too, really gives an effect that the room is expanding.”

Finally, especially in a condominium, you’ll want to think about scale. “At last, the furniture industry has caught up to the urban environment,” Elaine says. “There are a lot more right-sized selections from many more retailers, in every price point, from Ikea to Cassina. There’s recognition now that urban spaces warrant great pieces that are often called upon to do more than one thing, but more importantly, are scaled appropriately. They need to fit, not overtake the space.” She says she’s seen, for example, some stunning open-shelf room dividers that can be filled up for more privacy, or left virtually bare for a minimalist look that lets lots of light through the space.

In any case, she says the best approach is to move in with the minimum, and discover for yourself how your new life at B.streets should look — where the light is throughout the day, where your traffic patterns are, how you want to use the spaces. “You can lay it out on paper,” she says, “but it’s never the same as experiencing it.” **B.**

Vertical living is rapidly becoming the height of style. With lobbies, entertainment and fitness facilities, lounges, party rooms, guests suites and more all contributing to an enviable modern condominium lifestyle, urbanites have access to a level of professional design expertise most detached-dwellers can only dream of — like the internationally renowned, award-winning firm Cecconi Simone, whose touch brings such vivid life to the interiors at B.streets.

When it comes to designing your personal space, founding partner Elaine Cecconi says she encourages her clients to create classic elegance that doesn’t grow dated, rather than trying to keep



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