

THE HOME OBSERVER

THE NEW DECORATING MANTRA
THINK BIG! BE BOLD! MAKE YOUR MARK!

BIGGER IS BETTER

Breaking the Rules has never been more rewarding. It's almost a truism that one should scale down furniture in small spaces. But the interior designer, Clodagh, doesn't buy into this. "Over-scaled pieces make a room appear larger," she says. The headboard (upper left) is in a bedroom so small that the upholstered headboard had to be built into the mirrored wall.

Think outside of the box. Just because a 650-square-foot space starts as a squared-off studio (below) does not mean that needs to be its final incarnation. Christina Sullivan and Susan Bednar, partners of Tocar, Inc., designed sleek, curved storage cabinets that changed the shape of this once-conventional apartment into a space that seems infinitely bigger and more interesting. Not only did they use the floor space well, but they also used the ceiling like artists: lowering it to cover pipes, raising it to create the impression of added height and confirming the design-in-the-round motif.

When you've got it, flaunt it. Nothing is more enviable than a high ceiling and a huge wall space (right) that's begging to become a focal point — as in this penthouse designed by Laura Bohn Design Associates, who chose a seven-foot-long silk-screened photograph by Don Freeman that's just enough out of sequence to become an abstract work of art.

Photographer: Daniel Miller

