

RICHARD LIBRACH*Architect*

This compact layout creates a strong three-some between the kitchen, living room and grand terrace, although a slightly longer galley, offering more breakfast counter space, with stools, would enhance and balance the partner-

ship of functions.

The absence of a "sense of entrance" is disappointing but can be remedied by pulling the entry door back to provide a larger foyer, and by widening the corridor by as little as one foot. The resulting design will give the user more than minimum functionality and basic code requirements.

The continuously glazed exterior wall offers natural exposure throughout but little available interior surface to inhabit. The master bedroom suite could be greatly improved by swapping the walk-in closet and the en suite. Remove the en suite door, put a wall in its place, and introduce a pocket door to the walk-in closet and an additional pocket door in there to access the en suite. This would provide the necessary wall space to furnish the bedroom. The bedroom door could also become a well-fitted pocket door, providing some much needed circulation space in this tight room.

Lastly, an obvious opportunity exists to provide a door from the second bedroom to the exterior, and that would take advantage of the spectacular terrace.

Richard Librach Architect Inc. is a full-service architectural firm.

DEE DEE TAYLOR HANNAH*Architect, interior designer*

In a corner unit with a tremendous amount of glazing, there is a basic principle to follow (even though there is a column in the way): Play up that view! The worst thing is to give this amazing corner space to a secondary use, which is

what has happened here. This is a case where the interior designer must be strict with the architect and insist on superior hierarchical interior space.

Be selfish. Don't put the guestroom in the corner; use that fantastic spot for your main space, namely the living/dining room. Put the master bedroom by the terrace, and let the guests stay where the master is presently. Use all the interior space for bathrooms and kitchen. Now, with this rearranged, you can begin to create beauty and simplicity.

With this amount of glazing, the window treatment becomes paramount. There should be a consistent system of sunshades that is automated to close off all the windows. On top of this system, there should be individual treatments of fabric to soften the look of the blinds. Be dramatic: Use full-height fabric that starts at the underside of the cornice and just breaks at the floor. Keep the hardware simple with a metal rod that is 5/8" in diameter, with metal rings and a simple pinch-pleat header. Line your drapes with flannel and feel the luxury.

Dee Dee Taylor Hannah operates Taylor Hannah Architect and is a principal in Montclair Construction.

ARIEL MULLER*Interior designer*

Upon entering the cozy suite, your eye is allowed to travel beyond, where wall-to-wall windows envelop the small living/dining area. Hopefully the view is nice, as this could help a lot to enlarge the feel of the space.

If a large, framed mirror is installed on the left wall of the living/dining area, it would greatly help to create the illusion of more space.

The living and dining furniture should be small in scale and be positioned in such a way as to allow access to the terrace.

The powder room is adequate, as is the kitchen (though it would be nice if the kitchen had a breakfast counter and a couple of stools for that quick bite or casual meal).

Even though this suite is modest in size, it still accommodates a stacked washer and dryer, which is a definite plus.

This small two-bedroom suite is probably better suited to be a one bedroom and den.

The master bedroom has an ensuite bathroom while the second bedroom's is around the far end of the unit (unless the guest is invited to use the master ensuite). The column in the corner of the second bedroom also limits placement of furniture in a room that is already modest in size.

Ariel Muller Designs has been designing interiors and custom furniture for almost two decades.