

# Key themes

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By Ali Morris, WGSN-homebuilidlfe, 23 May 2012

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## Space saving

Smaller homes, open floor-plans and multifunctional rooms continue to be top trends in consumer housing preferences. Renters and buyers are looking for something more modest, but they still want the amenities and spaces in these smaller homes.

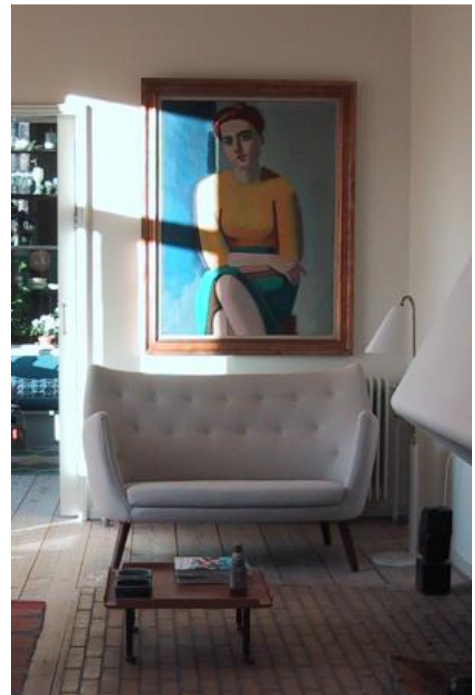
Changes in demographics, high fuel prices, longer commutes and traffic congestion are generating more interest among home buyers to relocate into smaller homes in urban settings that provide attractive lifestyle benefits.



Vancouver, Canada



Source: As seen at [www.myhomerocks.com](http://www.myhomerocks.com)



Poet sofa by Finn Juhl



Copenhagen, Denmark



Casey Patten and David Mazza, Washington, DC

## Practical and efficient

Homeowners look for value and how features contribute to the efficiency of their lifestyle, such as walk-in closets in master bedrooms and well-designed laundry spaces. Functionality is now preferred over larger kitchens or more bathrooms. Single-storey spaces also make it easier for the elderly and those with disabilities to navigate the home. Practicality and multiple use rule. See our in-depth report on the [multifunctional furniture in the versatile home](#).



Lyndsay and Fitzhigh, Brooklyn, New York by Todd Selby



Laundry room



Shanghai



Storage stairs



Culver City, California

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## Flexible organisation

In smaller spaces, new organisation systems and multipurpose furniture is important. Entryways are being outfitted for storage and homeowners want more functional use of wall space. Overall, consumers do not want any wasted space in their next home and are seeking real value.





Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Apartment in Paris by H2O Architects



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



New York



Bibliochaise by Nobody & Co



Brooklyn, New York