

BEFORE & AFTER  
PIEB

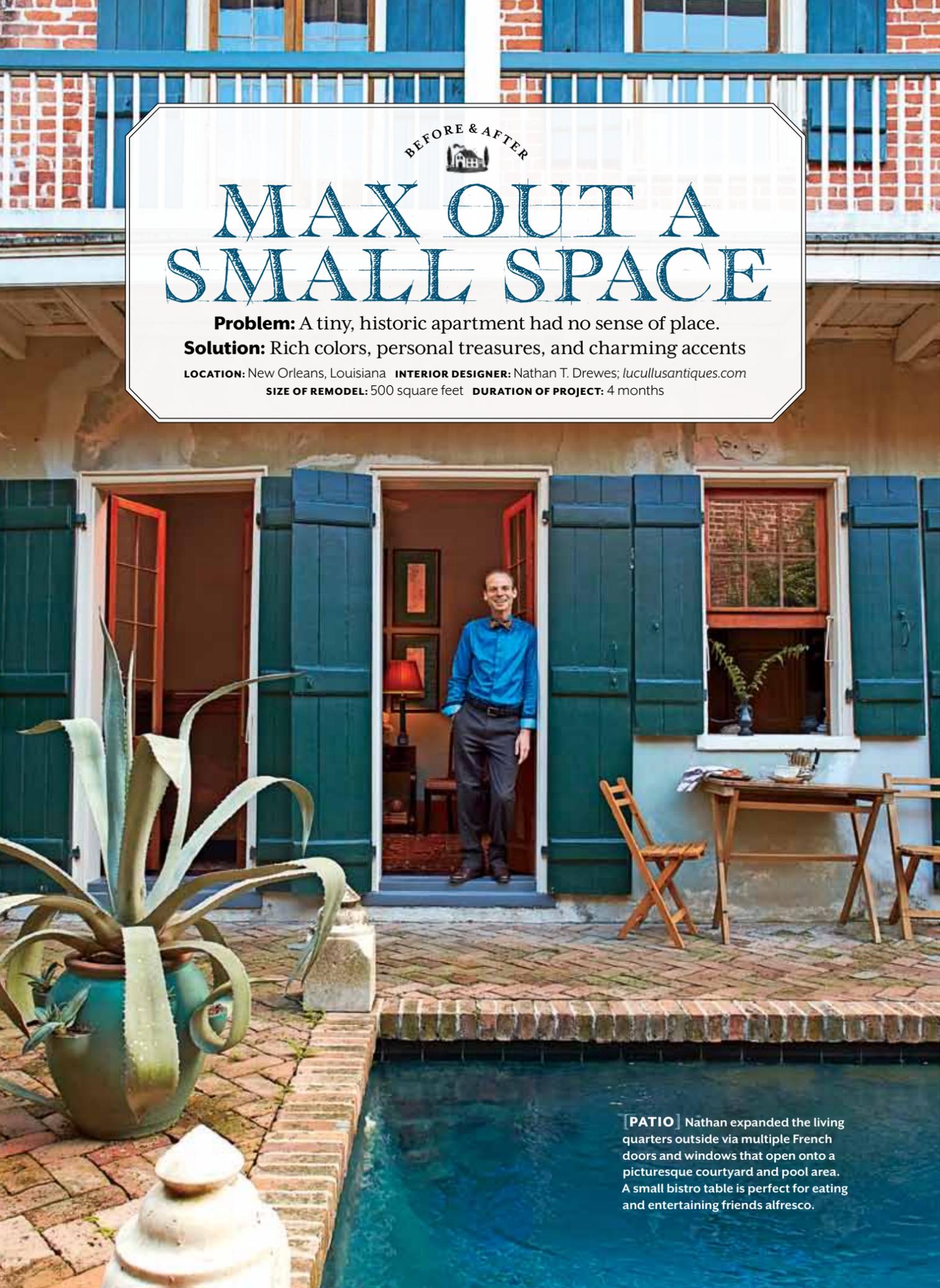
# MAX OUT A SMALL SPACE

**Problem:** A tiny, historic apartment had no sense of place.

**Solution:** Rich colors, personal treasures, and charming accents

**LOCATION:** New Orleans, Louisiana **INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Nathan T. Drewes; [lucullusantiques.com](http://lucullusantiques.com)

**SIZE OF REMODEL:** 500 square feet **DURATION OF PROJECT:** 4 months



**[PATIO]** Nathan expanded the living quarters outside via multiple French doors and windows that open onto a picturesque courtyard and pool area. A small bistro table is perfect for eating and entertaining friends alfresco.



## [LIVING ROOM]

A new paint palette created a rich base for Nathan's antique furnishings. In addition to the floor and walls, he painted an 8-inch band of deep red around the base of the walls to stand in for millwork along the floor line.

The floor is painted Midnight Blue by Benjamin Moore.



**T**

his 9-foot-deep apartment in New Orleans was living rather small until designer Nathan Drewes came to its rescue with big ideas for taking it back to its 1830s glory.

The first order of business in regaining the apartment's regal feel was choosing an assertive color palette borrowed from one of Napoleon's palaces. Then, instead of cluttering what little floorspace he had, Nathan selected a few large furniture pieces for seating, workspaces, and storage.

"Most people think only small furniture should be used in tight spaces, but bigger pieces and layers of interesting objects amp up a room," says Nathan.

He accessorized with neatly composed arrangements. A tall ladder in the living room adds height and stores Nathan's collection of magazines and books. Several large wall hangings and vintage Turkish rugs add color and pattern to the rooms without taking up any square footage.

The painted wood floors help tie the outdoors to the home's interior—the soothing blue adds depth and brings in the color of the courtyard pool, creating a cooling effect during the hot Southern summers.



BEFORE

A clever way to turn clothing into artwork: Suspend it from a curtain rod in a prominent spot.



The placement of the vintage rug accentuates the length of the room, giving it a spacious feel.

**[LIVING ROOM]** To give the eye a rest from the abundant color and pattern of the accessories, Nathan skipped patterned upholstery. He instead opted for tactile velvets and shimmery silks in solid shades of deep pink, mustard, and light blue.



**[BEST RENOVATION TIP]**

“WHEN REMODELING A SPACE FROM THE 19TH CENTURY, FORTITUDE, FLEXIBILITY, AND FORGIVENESS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POWER TOOLS, DEEP POCKETS, OR PERFECT CARPENTERS.”

—HOMEOWNER AND DESIGNER NATHAN DREWES

**[KITCHEN]**

Dark metal kitchen cabinets visually recede into the wall (another way to suggest spaciousness) and highlight Nathan's simple, elegant kitchen staples. A little blue table pushed against the wall comfortably seats two and doubles as counterspace in a pinch, while adding old-world appeal to the petite cooking zone.



**[BEDROOM]**

In the bedroom, Nathan poured on the blue hues. The walls, a soothing medium shade (Sugar Bag Light by Farrow & Ball), set this more private room apart from the adjacent living area. The brilliant color plays up the snug factor of the cozy 9- by 10-foot sleeping space. Nathan selected an antique Empire bed and placed it in the corner to maximize floorspace. The bed, which is larger than a twin bed but slightly smaller than a double, allows for enough square footage to include a small bedside table and chair.

A large grid of framed art can actually enhance the scale of a small room.