

# FRAME

THE NEXT SPACE

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## DARK RETAIL

## PLYSCRAPERS



## LIGHT THERAPY

## VARIOUS ASSOCIATES

## REFILL REVOLUTION



## 29 m<sup>2</sup> in London

Highlighting how period properties can be better utilized when converted into smaller-unit accommodation, Proctor & Shaw's Shoji Apartment is named for its sleeping pod with translucent sliding doors inspired by Japanese shoji screens, whose mezzanine location creates storage beneath – something sorely lacking in many small living spaces – and helps the 29-m<sup>2</sup> space feel larger than it is. By capitalizing on the London building's tall ceilings, the designers managed to fit in everything from a walk-in wardrobe and king-size bed to a substantial kitchen and six-seater dining table.

proctorandshaw.com



Stale Erkeem

seemingly unbuildable spaces such as narrow urban infill sites, Studio Z and Proctor & Shaw have explored the challenges of working with existing housing complexes. In London, the latter came up with what it deems a prototype for micro living in buildings with small footprints yet generous ceiling heights. Granted, Proctor & Shaw had almost three times as many square metres to play with as Studio Z did in Hong Kong, but both approaches share a focus on flexibility and a reductive attitude towards materiality. They highlight how muted and restrained palettes can help to calm the senses and create

a feeling of spaciousness, while the incorporation of storage will help petite interiors feel less cluttered and therefore bigger. Slidable and foldable surfaces can transform not only an interior's look and feel, but also its function. In the words of Antonin Yuji Maeno, cofounder and lead architect of Cutwork, another studio addressing the increasingly inaccessible housing market: 'It's no longer about the amount of square metres we live in, but about living in "polyvalent" spaces that are designed to be reconfigured to fit all our intimate and social needs.' **TI**

