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MONEY MATTERS

The architects skipped fancy chandeliers and instead went for simple and affordable porcelain keyless fixtures with bare bulbs. "Even basic architectural lighting is pricey," says Maier.

"We preferred to save our money for bigger items that would have a large impact, like the cabinet unit." Another splurge was the gigantic piece of waxed plate steel that wraps the galley kitchen.

VISUAL A/C

Because it is so hot most of the year in Austin, the architects wanted to paint the unit a "cooling" color. They selected a Benjamin Moore hue called Lemon Freeze, that, according to Maier, is the visual equivalent of lemonade, "or perhaps a margarita, depending upon one's mood."

benjaminmoore.com

CONSOLIDATION PLAN

In order to add storage and a small workspace to their home in Austin, Texas, architects John Maier and Ulrike Zelter shoehorned two closets, a pantry, a bookcase, a media center, and a mini-office into a large, centralized cabinet. The unit also serves as the divider between the living space and the other areas of the home.

COMPACT COMMUTE

The sliding door reveals a pullout desk and a small but very user-friendly home office housing a computer, a Bisley metal cabinet, and adjustable bookshelves. The metal chair, an indoor-outdoor dining chair by Emu, can be snagged from the dining table whenever someone needs to get to work.

bisley.com

emuamericas.com

