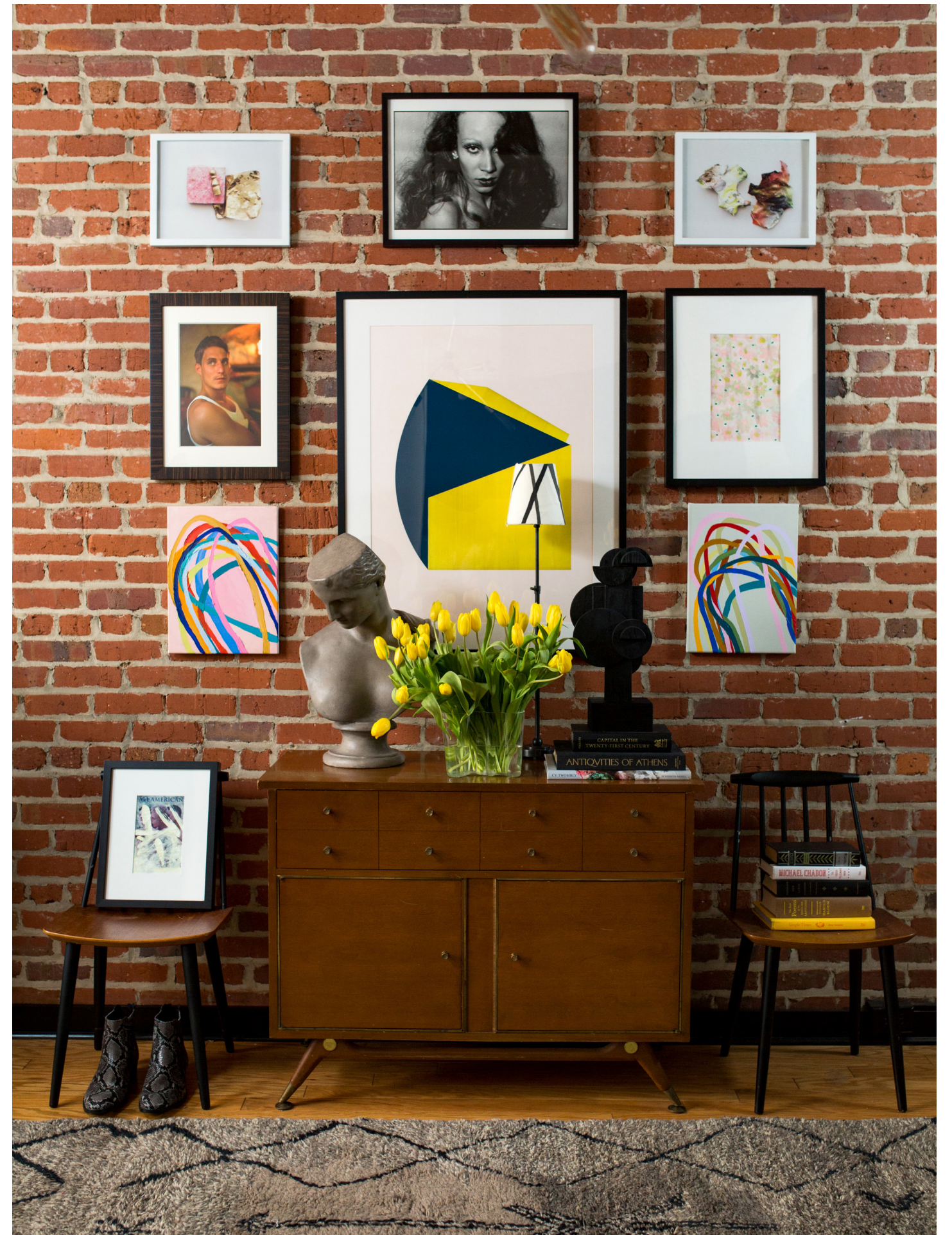


small space

BIG

STYLE

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It doesn't get much cozier than the downtown Durham condo designer Robert MacNeill shares with his partner Paul and their two cats. The two-story space has just one (giant) window, one internal door, and is made up of less than 800 square feet. But the couple has maximized every inch and infused the space with style, sophistication, and cozy elegance.

"The spaces truly do flow together like a loft," Robert says.

The loft-like space is housed in one of the last original downtown Durham warehouses to be built. Coincidentally it was one of the first to be converted to condos, back in the eighties.

"It paved the way," Robert says, for a downtown lifestyle many Durhamites are now accustomed to.

Downtown Durham charmed Robert immediately, he says. "The vibe reminded me of Chicago. It feels like a neighborhood in a way," Robert says.

The condo's main living space, downstairs, is where Robert says the couple spends most of their time.

"We bought the biggest, comfiest couch we could find," he says. In addition to being a cozy landing pad in the condo, the living area serves as a guest room when the couple hosts family





and friends.

The bedroom is small, Robert says, but it doesn't feel like it. Because there aren't any actual walls, the room feels grander and more spacious than it is.

Storage is everything in a small space, and Robert says a great closet system and storage for their books make all the difference. "Books are one of the things that make a home cozy," he says.

Beautiful books can be found throughout Robert and Paul's home. They are artfully stacked on chairs, furnishings, and shelves. The arrangements serve not just as storage but as stylish vignettes to draw the eye around the space. Plants also go a long way in making a space cozy, Robert says. As does art.

"The vibe reminded me of Chicago. It feels like a neighborhood in a way."

Art hangs throughout the home warming up the brick walls and keeping the space from feeling too severe. Plants, including flowers, are sprinkled throughout the condo. Yellow tulips accentuate the couple's other sunny accessories which bring even more warmth, and cheerfulness, to the home.

Color and wallpaper also pack a punch in Robert's condo, which manages to somehow feel chic but not overdesigned.

It's no coincidence that Robert's space strikes all the right design chords. He and Brittany Roux own the popular [Roux MacNeill Studio](#) based in downtown Raleigh. Roux MacNeill Studio opened around two years ago after Robert and Brittany worked together for years in design. The two collaborated well in the past and that spirit of collaboration is everything at Roux MacNeill Studio. Collaboration isn't just important between the two of them, Robert says, but between them and their clients.

"Collaboration just makes projects better," Robert says.

And Roux MacNeill Studio projects are about more than just a completed space. They are about experience.

"Our process is a journey," Robert says. "We think the experience is as important as the finished project."

COZY-UP WITH BRITT & ROB'S TIPS FOR A COMFY HOME

The Roux MacNeill Studio duo break down how to make it nice

1

Signature Scent:
We consider candles an essential design element. Nothing is better for setting the mood.

2

Well-Read:
In this digital age, books still add interest to a space like nothing else. Stock up at a local book sale on a budget.

3

Layers of Lighting:
Don't rely on just one light source. Say yes to lamps, sconces, and chandeliers. And everything should be on a dimmer.

4

Cozy Up:
Furniture doesn't have to stay put. Move things around, creating intimate spaces for conversation within a room.

5

Outdoors-In:
Bring life to your space with plants of all types and sizes. Even faux plants can do the trick.

