

## EXPERT: TRACY L. MORRIS “Add space and air by lightening floors”



**3 Mirror, mirror on the console.** A narrow hallway with an open stairway in a two-story Georgetown home had just enough space to fit the homeowner’s existing mirrored console. “We were going to put it in a bedroom, but we found that it helped open up the space,” says Bethesda, Maryland-based designer Tracy L. Morris. And its generous storage within made the piece the go-to place to stash linens, candlesticks and everything else needed in the adjoining living room, where space was at a premium, says Morris, who worked on the project with interior architect and developer Isabel Lanier.

**4 Lighter and longer.** To make a small open living area with a big soffit and the adjoining kitchen and hallway seem larger, designer Tracy L. Morris, whose eponymous firm is based in Bethesda, Maryland, lightened the hardwood floor. “If you go darker it will shorten the ceiling by about 6” vertically, and we wanted to do the opposite and make the ceiling look 6” taller,” she says. More tricks to expand space: a monochromatic color scheme of beiges and grays, lower-backed upholstered seating in the living area and no wall between the kitchen and living area, though the peninsula counter offers some division. Morris also left the brick wall exposed to warm up and add texture to so much neutrality.

*Photos this page: Angie Seckinger*

