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By clicking continue below and using our websites or applications, you agree that we and our third-party advertisers may: transfer your personal data to the United States or other countries, and process your personal data to serve you with personalized ads, subject to your choices as described above and in our privacy policy. this link is to an external site that may or may not meet accessibility guidelines. Money is a limited resource for most of us, so you want to spend it wisely. We often buy things that end up collecting dust a few weeks later. To contain this kind of expense, shop based on the life you have, not the life you want. In Apartment Therapy, writer Nancy Mitchell says a simple question can help you reduce a lot of unnecessary spending: Am I buying this for the life I have now? If not, you may be buying for a fantasy life. Buying a closet full of super chic clothes, for example, when your day-to-day life is quite casual, can be a waste of money. Chances are you don't use these items often. Or, you can even buy things for a lifestyle you're hoping to live soon. Mitchell explains: I just moved to New York after waiting and wanting to move to New York for almost two years, and during that time I accumulated a ton of New York stuff, things I was sure would be absolutely perfect and necessary for my city life. I have all these things... because I was anxious about my future in a new city, and I thought I could make the transition smoother by having all the right things already. So now I have wool sweaters that I can't wear because my office is regularly heated to a toasted 85 degrees, and clumsy giant rain boots that sit in my apartment because I realized after that I was here for a week that ankle boots would do the job much better. The lesson is the same: buy for the life you have now, and it's best to make sure your purchases don't go to waste. Clear doesn't cut all impulsive spending. If you want a new TV, you may as well use it in the life you have. But that doesn't necessarily mean you're not impulsive. If you are guilty of buying things you never use, though, this advice will probably be helpful. G/O Media can receive a commission For more details, check out the full post. Reduce in unnecessary unnecessary asking yourself this simple question | Apartment Therapy Photo by Berit Watkin.Two Cents is a new lifehacker blog about personal finance. Follow us on Twitter here. Source: Stack Commerce Everyone can write, but not everyone is able to write well. Even if you're not a professional writer or plan to be one, having superior writing skills can benefit many facets of your life. From writing an email to your boss about how you deserve a promotion or putting together a Craigslist ad and attracting people to buy your old office, having the proficiency to weave compelling and powerful words together can take you places. 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Thanks to active urban revitalization efforts, new residential buildings and chic restaurants were popping up a few blocks from his office in the heart of Little Rock, Arkansas. The possibility of a comfortable home just a quick ride from work made its suburban excavations (a 2,800-square-foot courtyard-style house) and its displacement feel less and less attractive. There was an inherent challenge to change, however. The loft-style apartment pitts chose in a skyscraper with panoramic views of the southwest city skyline and the Arkansas River meant he would have to climb to just 993 square feet of living space. I knew this would be a great place to have friends, and I love entertaining, he says. But it needed to feel like a real home, which seemed problematic in such a small area. To help the loft live large, Pitts enlisted his brother, Brett, and Kevin Walsh, co-owners of Bear-Hill Interiors, a local interior design and retail store. When we first saw the apartment, we agreed that the view was wonderful and should be touched, Walsh says. But when was at the front door, you could see almost the whole place. It needed to be divided into functional zones, without making it feel closed. With this goal in mind, design design created two partitions containing storage and other practical features that make dividers function as built-in furniture. These organize the apartment in distinct spaces-foyer, kitchen, living area, room without blocking light, view or traffic on foot. The partial wall of the lobby, for example, contains in its reverse the kitchen sink, the preparation counter and cabinets. Similarly, each side of a standalone closet that separates the living and sleeping rooms contains open display shelves, closed storage and a central niche with a flat-screen TELEVISION. Painting all the walls of the apartment a quiet sage green, one of Bryan's favorite colors, helped unify the space, making it feel more expansive. Adding to the effect are the dark stained maple floors throughout. Keeping furniture low and dressed in compatible and muted earth tones is another designer trick that enhances the sense of space. It also helps make windows the focal point, Walsh says. Thus, the view becomes part of the interior, making the apartment look much more open and cozy. For added appeal, the designers opted for textured padding with crispy style and masculine feel, including room armchairs in taupe wool flannel and the custom padded headboard of the cream-colored linen room. These fabrics work well because they look masculine and durable, Walsh says. And since they're neutral, you can change the look easily by adding shiny pillows and accessories for a quick mood lift. According to the general palette, the kitchen features a walnut-stained ash cabin and a backplash of soft-green glass tiles. Its 4-by-6-foot glass and steel island, the only thing that stifles it from the living area, does triple duty as a prep desk, dining table and buffet for the frequent cocktails Pitts hosts. This has become such a comfortable place, he says. All my friends like to gather here and watch the sunset. Perfect palette To prevent the scheme of a seating area color from looking bland, designers Brett Pitts and Kevin Walsh, of Bear-Hill Interiors, have combined smooth and nubby textures that add depth and interest to the room. Folio flannel wool club chair in taupe #8699-03. Larsen, through Cowtan & Tout, 212-647-6900 Scroll velvet cotton armchair #LFY10812F olive trees. Ralph Lauren, 888-475-7674; rhome.polo.com. Nubby sofa, Arnett chenille in #HW0844KB tan. Hinson & Company, 212-475-4100 This content is created and maintained by third parties, and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content in piano.io Long and happy accustomed to holidays Special occasions at his father's retreat, the younger generation of a Texas family - nine brothers in total - began to feel more than a little cramped into space space their own families have grown. Not surprisingly, meetings for this tight-knit clan began to take on the magnificent proportions of a convention that required great strategic planning, and not least was just figuring out where everyone would sleep. Finally, to simplify this task, the family called the talents of designer Sheridan Lorenz, who, upon learning that there were usually at least fifty people on the ranch, began to appreciate the real scope of the task she had undertaken. Thanks to the family patriarch's prediction, an idyllic setting in Piney Woods, east Texas, was purchased as a family retreat in 1968. Wedged between two state parks and boasting three larger lakes and a number of smaller ones, the property was ideal for fishing, boating, cycling and simply relaxing. But there has always been a shortage of rooms —although the family built a six-bedroom guesthouse in the early 1980s. This family is huge and continues to grow, says Lorenz's sister, Meredith Dreiss, who helped design the project. One year they set up tents and another year they rent Winnebagos, but they had to keep the engines running and they were really noisy, she says. Things culminated in July 1999, when the clan looked forward to the next Thanksgiving/Christmas Bed crisis, and admitted that they were running out of options. Their solution was to get Lorenz to design three new cabins. In turn, Lorenz called Kathy and Doug Joslyn, contractors who had built a recent kitchen addition to the inn. Their question, of course, was whether they could build three identical cabins in just four months. We told her we could start next week, doug says. Fortunately, Lorenz had a good idea of what she wanted to do. His creativity was stirred by a catalog for Andersen Windows. That's all I needed, he explains. I like to design a house around windows—they make or break a house. The next day, Lorenz had a work plan —three identical cabins next to the redwater (with 22 windows) stained the color of the shell, with standing metallic sewing roofs that would aesthetically connect the structures to the main store with metal roof. Together, the three seemingly tiny cabins can easily provide comfortable sleeping and living space for at least 12 guests (four in each chalet). It was actually very ingenious how Sheridan managed to get so much room to sleep in these 300-square-foot buildings, her sister says. Shotgun-style dwellings are deceptively simple. From the front door, they appear to be a single room, with a seating area at the forefront and a bedroom beyond. A bathroom and a small kitchen kitchen are on the right hand side. But, lorenz says, I used two pocket doors extra-wide to separate the two bedrooms so that a sleeping sofa could be placed in the living room to serve as a spare room if necessary. In addition, she allowed no but two doors in the bathroom, so that would be accessible from both the living room and the bedroom. Sitting in the cabins was in the hands of Dreiss, a trained archaeologist. I went outside with a measuring tape, a compass and a lifting kit and put it as I would an archaeological site, she says. She hung the three cabins next to the dirt road that hugged the lake, the main destination, and the main view for many guests at the ranch. The two sisters decorated the huts with a single phone call to the Pottery Barn catalogue. We ordered lamps, tables, table lamps, bath and kitchen lamps, sisal mats, leather upholstered headboards, coffee tables and accessories, lorenz says. Just before Thanksgiving, the furniture was in place and the cabins were almost finished. Just as family members were driving down the road, the painters were putting 'Don't Touch' signs on the doors, Lorenz says. The whole family loves these buildings, Says Dreiss, and now no one wants to stay at the inn —they all fight over who stays in the huts.. This content is created and maintained by third parties and imported into this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content in piano.io piano.io