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JAN 25, 2013

MEN AND THE RISE OF MICRO-APARTMENTS

By [Paul Wachter](#) at 4:34pm



Timothy A. Clary/Getty

A 325 square-foot New York City micro-apartment.

About a decade ago, right out of college, I visited my friend John in Manhattan. We ordered pizza that night, and the following morning I tried to heat up the leftovers. But I couldn't get the oven to work. How do you turn the oven on, I asked John, who had been living in his one-bedroom apartment for about six months. "I don't know," he replied. "I've never tried to use it."

The young urban male — or female, for that matter — doesn't need a place to cook or entertain; he needs a place to sleep, fck, and shower. Privacy is nice, too. That's why micro-apartments, which are now being developed in some of the nation's major cities, are such a godsend.

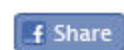
On Jan. 22, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, waving zoning restrictions that had mandated all new apartments be larger than 400 square feet, announced that 55 micro-units would be built on East 27th Street, Bloomberg Businessweek [reports](#). The units will be between 250 square feet and 370 square feet, with rents between \$973 and \$1873 depending on the renter's income. That may sound like a lot for such a small space, but the average price for a studio apartment in a non-dorman building in Manhattan is \$2,282.

Meanwhile, San Francisco [approved](#) the development of even smaller micro-apartments — each only 220 square feet and starting at \$959 a month. And Boston has approved 300-square foot units.

All of the units will have the basic essentials: bed, bathroom and micro-kitchen. The aesthetic is less exploited-Dubai-labor bunk than Star Trek living quarters.

There are cheaper options for big-city living — find roommates, live in the outer boroughs. But micro-apartments are such an obvious solution for young professionals who want to live in the heart of the city that it's a wonder it's taken so long for them to arrive.

TAGS: Housing, Micro-Apartments



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"Matters of great concern should be treated lightly. Matters of small concern should be treated seriously." —the Hagakure

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