Take That, Tokyo! San Francisco Approves 290 Square Foot ‘Micro Apartments’

The San Francisco Planning Commission has approved a controversial proposal for 290-square-foot micro apartments, the smallest such units in the city. The approved project, located at 424 Divisadero Street in the Mission District, will be the first in the city to comply with the new regulations.

The five-story building will contain 51 micro apartments, with 14 of them measuring just 290 square feet. The remaining units will range in size from 390 to 590 square feet. Each apartment will feature a small kitchenette, a bathroom, a murphy bed, and a fold-down desk. The layout is designed to maximize space and functionality, with built-in storage solutions and multi-functional furniture.

The project is expected to be completed in 2023. It follows the city’s efforts to address the housing crisis and increase housing density, particularly in areas where infill development is feasible. The approval marks a significant shift in San Francisco’s approach to residential development, signaling a move towards more compact and efficient housing options.

Despite the controversy surrounding micro apartments, the city has been looking for innovative solutions to the housing shortage. Critics have argued that such units do not provide adequate living space, but proponents argue that they offer a valuable option for young professionals and those seeking to downsize.

This project is just one example of the city’s ongoing efforts to address the housing crunch. The San Francisco Planning Commission is expected to review additional proposals in the coming months, with the aim of approving similar developments.

In conclusion, the approval of this micro apartment project is a significant step forward for San Francisco. It demonstrates the city’s determination to find creative solutions to the housing crisis and offers hope for those seeking affordable, efficient living spaces.