

Do 'Micro' Apartments Provide an Answer?

June 3, 2013 | businessinsider.com

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Aaron McConnell doesn't mind sharing a kitchen with seven neighbors. He's fine in living quarters with just enough room for a twin bed, a corner desk and little else. Closets? Forget about it - he stores his clothing and other possessions on shelves and hooks.

McConnell's small-scale home life is part of a hot trend in U.S. real estate - micro apartments. "I like living in a community," he says. "It's kind of fun, very social." It's also affordable for McConnell, 28, who pays \$737 a month for his apartment in Seattle as he embarks on a career in civil engineering.



The Element 10 Mini-Suites, a microhousing unit that is home to 36 residents in Seattle.

Tiny apartments like McConnell's are cropping up in major cities around the country to meet the demand of people who are short on cash but determined to live in areas with otherwise pricey rents.

Micros, also known as "hostel-style" apartments, usually offer less than 200 square feet (18.5 square meters) including private bathrooms, and they typically come furnished, sometimes with built-in beds and other amenities to save space. Most feature a group kitchen that may be shared among eight units, although units in McConnell's complex are equipped with microwave ovens and small refrigerators. *(Seattle code allows up to eight unrelated people to live in one dwelling unit, as long as they have their own individual living quarters and a shared kitchen. Projects meeting this threshold aren't required to undergo design review.)* They also include Internet connections and utilities in the price of the rent. There are no elevators.

In Seattle, rents for micro apartments range from about \$500 to \$1,000, while a one-bedroom apartment rental in Seattle averaged \$1,223 this spring.

[For more on this story, click here >](#)

and here...

[The next big thing in urban living in Vancouver >](#)

[Micro-apartments face backlash >](#)

[Make the Micro Apartment a Little More Livable >](#)

[The Fight Against Small Apartments >](#)

Posted on WinnipegRentNet.ca

