

SMALL SPACE SOLUTIONS

Top designers reveal how they work with
and enhance modest-sized interiors

'IN a small space it's best for things to feel generous. This will need to be tailored to your home, but ideas include a vibrant wallpaper in a bathroom or box rooms with luxurious floor-to-ceiling curtains, or an oversized sofa in a compact living room. Do at least one thing with gusto to make the space feel less mean.'

TOM BARTLETT, interior designer, Waldo Works

'DUAL-PURPOSE furniture is key. In compact single bedrooms we often design beds that can function as daybeds when they're not being slept in. In a child's bedroom we designed recently there wasn't even space for a bedside table, so we included an alcove and bookshelves behind the headboard to ensure that favourite bedtime storybooks were close at hand.'

SARAH PEAKE, creative director, Studio Peake

'MAKE bold wallpaper your friend. Space-challenged rooms are often the perfect places to make the boldest design choices, plus you will need far less wallpaper to cover a small downstairs loo or guest bedroom than a whole sitting room, so you can afford to spend more on something really fantastic.'

KATE GUINNESS, interior designer,
Kate Guinness Design

"DON'T BE AFRAID TO EMPHASISE
SMALLER SPACES LIKE HOME
OFFICES WITH DARK COLOURS.
ADDING DRAMA CAN HELP IN
CREATING TRANSITION BETWEEN
ZONES WITHIN THE HOME.
EMBRACE EVERY NOOK AND
CRANNY, BUT ALWAYS BE CLEAR ON
HOW YOU WILL USE THE SPACE"

NICOLA HARDING, interior designer,
Nicola Harding & Co



'WHEN creating an intimate dining area in a tight space, look at a built-in banquette or bench seating combined with an extendable table or a pair of tables pulled together. Individual chairs can then be added or taken away, according to the number of guests, providing a simple way to embrace both casual and formal entertaining in one. It's also important to consider the spaces between main rooms in smaller homes. Lobbies, landings and corridors can be designed to become something special, enhancing the journey as you move from one place to another.'

HENRY PRIDEAUX, interior designer,
Henry Prideaux Interior Design

'CHOOSING the right type of flooring, in terms of the pattern it creates, can go a long way to making a space appear larger. I like to use wood on a diagonal – the room will seem bigger than it is. When it comes to tiling, I prefer tiles where you don't obviously see →