

“Small spaces take a lot of thinking through, but get them right and they can be both practical and full of charm”

KATE ASLANGUL, Oakley Moore



DRESSING UP

Dressing rooms – especially when filled with natural light – make good bedfellows with reading spaces – a secluded area to switch off. Interior designer Christiana

Kehrer created a dressing room and reading area from a small bedroom, using a warm olive-green palette.

LANDING SPACE

Half landings can play more of a role than a passing space. The design duo behind Spencer & Wedekind created what they call a ‘think box’. Fluted glass doors can be closed to create a study area outside the bedroom. When not in use, the chair is stored in a cupboard opposite.

SINGLE OUT

Built-in bed nooks work well in awkward shaped rooms. This design by Emma Ainscough was for a guest bedroom. ‘My client was happy to celebrate the small space and make a joyful single room,’ she explains. ‘With green views out of the window, it doesn’t feel claustrophobic.’

PHOTOGRAPHS (DRESSING UP)
ALEX JAMES; (LANDING SPACE)
FELIX SPELLER; (SINGLE OUT)
CHRIS HORWOOD

3 OF THE BEST NESTING SIDE TABLES

These gems are as stylish as they are space savvy



Mambu nested side tables, £895, Oka



Burl nest of two tables in walnut, £399, John Lewis



Moon tables, £3,852, Ochre

SHOPPING HOLLY RANSOME

Top tips for tight spaces

Alice Bettington, co-founder of Golden, reveals the right pieces and artful design ideas to make best use of compact rooms

- Storage ottomans are a fantastic option for busy families who are short on space: toys can be tidied away at the end of the day and the room transformed from a family room into a place for adults to relax.
- If the layout allows, built-in seating can be useful to give both an extra place to sit as well as additional storage in more awkward spaces.
- We love to use slipper chairs instead of bulkier armchairs in small sitting rooms.
- Pouffes can be hard-working pieces, doubling as side tables or as an extra place to sit when entertaining.
- Bold patterns and colour work well in small spaces, so don't be shy about embracing them. Colour drenching is an effective approach and helps bold colour and pattern to feel calm and intentional.
- If there is good ceiling height in more compact rooms, we tend to embrace it with custom joinery, running bookshelves high up the walls or over door frames. Consider the depth of the joinery, though; anything too deep appears heavy in a smaller area and encroaches on valuable floor space. Taller, more shallow pieces will always look more elegant.
- Opting for the same colour or similar tones on walls and shelves helps to create a seamless effect rather than high-contrast painted joinery, which might feel heavier.
- Area rugs that fill the floor space and sit beneath the furniture work better than smaller alternatives, which can look too busy and disjointed.
- In smaller rooms, we would always steer away from very bulky curtains and keep them sleek and more refined. Blinds are the better option if your floor space is really limited – for example, in a small bedroom where you need to have enough space to move freely around a bed, as you won't have to factor in the curtain stack. 🛏