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P 32

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GOOD
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Small Spaces

Make every square inch count with these genius decorating and layout ideas for homes of all sizes

by MONIQUE VALERIS



Mount a pendant light by your bed.

Keep the nightstand free for books, glasses or even a potted plant by hanging a light on the wall or from the ceiling. Position it close to eye level when you're propped up to read, designer Kimberlee Gorsline recommends. "The bulbs in these compact fixtures give off a softer light," she says.



Try a bar-height table.

For a room that lacks square footage, extend the sight line vertically with a tall table and bistro-style counter stools. The strategy "gives the impression that the area is more spacious," says Creative Tonic designer Courtney Tartt Elias.



get the look
SUNWASHED RIVIERA
COUNTER STOOL BY
SERENA AND LILY, \$388.
SERENAANDLILY.COM

Nooks

Create a "room" under the stairs.

Shelves and cubbies as well as built-in seating can turn a formerly unused space into the perfect spot to put on shoes, stow keys or display decorative objects—or have an intimate conversation.



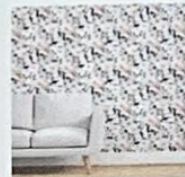
Photo: Courtesy of Two Hands Interiors. Design: Elizabeth Krueger Design. Art: Michael Kaseel.



Turn the attic into a bonus living space.

Consider designing a small area so it functions in several ways. Rachel Alcorn of Two Hands Interiors designed a custom built-in bed that also functions as a sofa, helping free up floor space for playtime. Several other seating areas provide zones for reading, snacking or playing games.

get the look



SIERRA FLORAL WITH GRAY PEEL-AND-STICK REMOVABLE WALLPAPER BY CRYSTAL WALEN, \$18 FOR 2' X 3', SPOONFLOWER.COM



RIFLE PAPER CO. WILDLAND WALLPAPER, \$118 FOR 27' L, 27" W, ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM

Lean in to your home's quirks.

Don't think of this room as a windowless closet—it's a secret nook! Designer Elizabeth Krueger gave her client's young daughter a play space with a little color, animal-print carpet and some creative thinking.

get the look



RAINBOW REMOVABLE WALLPAPER BY BELLEATTU KIDS, FROM \$25, ETSY.COM



WATERCOLOR RAINBOW PEEL AND STICK WALL STICKER, FROM \$31, SIMPleshapes.com



Bedroom



Hang a swing instead of a nightstand.

Even in a room with a small footprint, you can add unexpected elements such as a rattan swing in the corner of a bedroom. Designer Lauren Lerner decided to skip matching bedside tables in favor of a special touch befitting a kid's room. "Especially when designing a fun room like this, you can't lose sight of adding joy," she says.

get the look



RICHARDS OUTDOOR/
INDOOR WICKER
HANGING CHAIR BY
CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT
HOME, \$230, TARGET.COM



PRIMO WICKER HANGING
BASKET CHAIR, \$215,
GDFSTUDIO.COM



OUTDOOR/INDOOR
TASSEL HANGING CHAIR,
\$66, OVERSTOCK.COM



Room with bunks: Stephen Kartick, designed by Sandra Lucas of Lucas/Eilers Design; Murphy bed: Cris Nolasco Photography, designed by Home Front Build

Go horizontal with paneling.

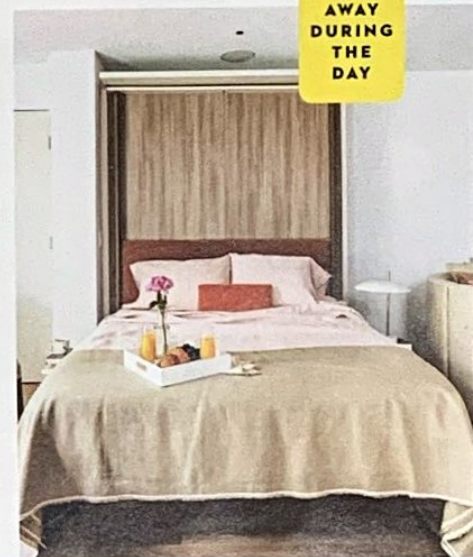
Let an interesting building material be a focal point. Designer Sandra Lucas skipped Sheetrock and opted for shiplap walls to make this bunk room seem wider.

Make magic with a Murphy bed.

A hideaway sleeping area is a smart way to preserve space if you don't have guests. "When the bed is not in use, the bottom of it features fixed shelves for storage as well as fold-down desks," says Home Front Build's Greg Roth.



★
FOLD
AWAY
DURING
THE
DAY



Dining



get the look



CAROL BUTTON BACK MID-CENTURY FABRIC MODERN **LOVESEAT** BY GDF STUDIO, \$389, DOTANDBO.COM



MONICA UPHOLSTERED **LOVESEAT** WITH RECESSED ARMS, \$350, OVERSTOCK.COM



EMMA MODERN FABRIC UPHOLSTERED **LOVESEAT** BY US PRIDE FURNITURE, \$260, WALMART.COM

Use a sofa as a banquette.

A small couch can function as an alternative to dining room chairs or a comfy lounging area between meals. And don't be afraid to go bold: Pairing white walls with a vibrantly colored sofa can bring a small space to life.