

# Livingetc

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

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## THE NEW SIMPLE

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## SMALL SPACE SPECIAL

11 PAGES OF  
INSPIRATION  
FOR COMPACT  
LIVING

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- Statement rugs
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## Easy decorating...

NEW WAYS TO ADD CHARACTER TO YOUR HOME



STORAGE SOLUTION



GALLEY GLAMOUR

COMPACT LIVING



SMALL-SCALE LUXURY

## Small space style

A diminutive property needn't stifle your creative flair. With some smart thinking and a few artful touches, you can maximise your space and create a gorgeous, airy home

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They say size isn't everything. When it comes to your home, though, none of us would say no to a little bit extra. Here in the UK, we have the smallest living spaces in Europe by quite a considerable margin. There are, however, many advantages to living in a more compact home. 'Small spaces are more economical to run,' points out Elizabeth Willhide, author of *Small Spaces*. 'And because the surface areas you are dealing with are more limited, you can choose more luxurious materials and high-end details. Small-space living also concentrates the mind as, with

less room to play with, you need to be quite focused and selective – which is no bad thing.'

'Start by thinking about the house as a whole and assess the areas where things are tight,' suggests architect Mark Dyson. 'Think about your priorities and how you need to use the space, then you can plan multifunctional zones.'

Living in a restricted space means your home has to work much harder, but clever design, careful planning and a considered approach will allow it to run smoothly without compromising an inch of your own personal style. >

DESIGN  
& decorate

## 6 HAVE A RETRACTABLE TABLE

It's not just curfey that can be kept in your kitchen drawers. Here, a table pulls out and can be tucked away again instantly. Find a mechanism, £88.77, and table top, £29.55, to create similar at [kitchensupplies.co.uk](http://kitchensupplies.co.uk).

Living it  
clever  
thinking

## Kitchens

With so much emphasis these days on huge kitchen/living areas, it's easy to feel hard done by if your home is small. But, as Elizabeth Willhide points out, 'Professional cooks prefer a more compact kitchen as they are easier to work in.' If in doubt, get some professional design input and keep things streamlined; a smaller space will benefit from being as fuss-free as possible. Choose fitted units, which are the best option for making a small space work efficiently.

## CLEVER SOLUTIONS

- Many units finish short of the ceiling, which is a waste of valuable inches. Choose full-height storage and keep lesser-used items in the higher cupboards. Alternatively, install wire racks into any spare space.
- If necessary, compress the kitchen along one wall. '2.8m is the minimum width you can fit a compact but very usable kitchen in to,' says architect Mark Dyson. 'This will accommodate an under-counter fridge, oven, hob,

sink with a concealed bin, a slimline dishwasher and storage while still providing the minimum distance requirement between the sink and hob.'

- No utility room? 'House your washing machine and a dryer in a deep cupboard,' says architect Paul McNamara. 'Tide the appliances behind a folding door.'
- Keep cleaning materials, chopping boards and spices to hand with some custom-made splashback storage. All you need is 15cm at the back of the work surface to create super-slim storage for these everyday essentials.
- Mechanisms such as drawer dividers and magic corners keep things neat and utilise awkward spaces. 'Don't forget low-level storage,' says Gracie MacLaren of Dinwiddie MacLaren architects. 'Plinth drawers are perfect for storing flat items such as baking trays or tea towels.'
- Max the feeling of light in a space-starved kitchen with reflective surfaces, such as high-gloss lacquer, a glass worktop, chrome or even a mirrored splashback. >

## 7 INSTALL TALL FITTED UNITS

## 8 USE MIRRORS

Don't let valuable inches go to waste; instead, build seamless fitted units right up to the ceiling. Store everyday objects in the easy-to-reach lower cupboards, and other items higher up. For a similar kitchen, look at the Pepper range by Tiscuitaria.

Don't underestimate the effect a simple mirror can have on a space – and not just in bathrooms. A large mirror doubles the feeling of space and light in any room, and it's a glamorous and cost-effective alternative to tiles. Get glass cut to size at The Mirror Company.

Having a small space doesn't mean you have to scrimp on style. Be bold in a gallery kitchen with deep bands of colour on the walls, coordinating blinds and a sparkling chandelier as a centerpiece. Buy inexpensive Stalio blinds, from £18.99, at Ikea, and spray sections with Plast-kote paint, from £5.99.

A bulky ironing board can take up precious room in any kitchen cupboard, as well as being tricky to get in and out. Save time and space with a slick sliding board that pulls in and out in seconds. Find a board like this for £99.95 at [kitchenstorage.co.uk](http://kitchenstorage.co.uk).

## 9 BE BOLD WITH DECOR

## 10 TUCK AWAY AN IRONING BOARD



## A compact bathroom featuring a white pedestal sink with a chrome faucet, a mirror, and a small shelf with toiletries. The walls are covered in light-colored tiles, and a toilet is partially visible on the left.

**13** Double the glamour factor in an elegant bathroom with strategically placed mirrors. This narrow room appears to double in size with the addition of a full-height mirror at one end and a half-height one at the other, which also conceals hidden storage. Floor-length curtains soften the look. Get a made-to-measure mirrored bathroom cabinet at [bespokemirrors.com](http://bespokemirrors.com).

- 'Built-in bathroom cabinets don't need to be any more than 4in deep,' says Mark Dyson. 'It's possible to dismantle a standard wall and replace it with structural MDF carcasses to create storage without devouring precious floor space.'
- 'Lift units off the floor,' says Guy Morgan Harris. 'A room looks bigger if you can see the whole floor up to the walls.'
- 'Mirrors can be used to great effect, but too much can look kitsch,' says Mark Dyson. 'An L-shaped mirror [that goes round a corner] can quadruple the feeling of volume.'
- 'Boxed-in cisterns provide the opportunity to create extra storage, and why not reclaim the area under a built-in bath with bespoke drawers for towels or bath toys?
- 'We installed a raised walk-in shower where the floor lifts up to reveal a bath,' says Paul McAnulty. 'It also turns into a steam cabin, so it's multifunctional and compact.'

## A photograph of a bathroom interior. In the foreground, there are two white clawfoot bathtubs. A large, ornate crystal chandelier hangs from the ceiling. In the background, a white pedestal sink is visible under a large mirror that reflects the room and another chandelier. The walls are covered in light-colored wallpaper, and there are cream-colored curtains on the left side of the frame.

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simple  
solution

**14 FIT A MINI TUB**

If you've no space for a full-size bath, but don't want to settle for just a shower, then a space-saving Japanese-style tub could be the answer. It's shorter than the average design, but actually has a really deep. For a bath similar to this one, head to Onsenburo.