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Clutter-Busting Closet Makeovers

100 decorating ideas

Big Style for small rooms

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Matt Damon Gary White

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contents



12 easy living
Create a haven for entertaining family and friends with these stylish solutions for living large regardless of size constraints.

26 art smart
Show off your personality with eye-catching displays crafted from treasured collectibles.

30 dining in
Say goodbye to TV trays—we show you how to carve out room for an eating area.

38 fresh fare
Whip up a space-stretching kitchen by mixing a light and airy mood with attractive functionality.

48 dress for success
Fashion a work zone that fits in any room in the house using our style-savvy strategies.

SPECIAL SECTION: Closet Organization
Tame the chaos of cluttered closets by taking cues from our three space-efficient makeovers. For more details, see *page 5.*

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56


66


82

contents

56 easy on the eyes
Introduce layers of pattern and texture to create a bedroom worthy of sweet dreams.

66 petite luxury
We share showstopping examples of tiny baths that prove small changes can make a big impact.

76 find it, use it
Look to your home's nooks and crannies to find extra storage and room for relaxing.

82 live it up alfresco
Step outside to discover underutilized space that's primed for fresh-air living and entertaining.

in every issue

3 editor's letter

96 end note

Find It!

Look for this icon throughout the issue to find great sources for the products pictured on our pages or for similar items.



on the cover

Horizontal plank walls treated to a crisp coat of white paint create a space-enlarging backdrop for casual slipcovered furnishings and colorful accessories. For more details, see *page 14*.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHN BESSLER

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editor's letter

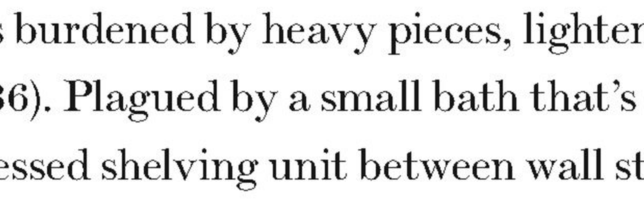


Small spaces come with challenges, but there are always clever ways to make them work.

I like to share this wisdom with my husband when he points out the limitations of our tiny home office. After working on this issue, I know it's possible for us to transform our crowded workroom into a functional, pretty space. I just point him to the ideas in our "Dress for Success" section (page 48), where, for starters, there's an inspiring strategy for turning a bookcase into an attractive organizing center (page 49).

Finding stylish solutions for your small-space dilemmas is what we're all about. If your dining room is burdened by heavy pieces, lighten the mood with a glass-top table (page 36). Plagued by a small bath that's short on storage? Find space for a recessed shelving unit between wall studs (page 66). And if you're like me and have a closet that could work wonders—if only you knew how to make it work—check out our special closet organization section (page 5).

Throughout the issue, you'll find easy decor updates for every room in the house—and a few nooks and crannies you may not have thought about. We've also tucked in dozens of Find It! icons to help you locate sources for our favorite products. We hope you'll put our 100+ ideas—which are culled from the Better Homes and Gardens® family of magazines—to work to convert your small-space problem zones into smart, cozy rooms.



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MARKETING DIRECTOR STACY SHAPIRO FELDMAN stacyshapiro.feldman@meredith.com

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Account Manager SABRINA PLITT sabrina.plitt@meredith.com

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Senior Integrated Marketing Manager KATHLEEN KEANE kathleen.keane@meredith.com
Marketing and Sales Coordinator ARIEL KAYE ariel.kaye@meredith.com
Promotion Art Director GEOFF BOCK geoff.bock@meredith.com

DIRECT MEDIA Fax: 212/499-6757
Advertising Director GRACE CHUNG-MUI grace.chung-mui@meredith.com 212/499-6719
Account Manager KIM BROWN kim.brown@meredith.com 212/499-6723

ADVERTISING OPERATIONS 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50309-3023
Advertising Operations Manager LIBBY EHMKE *Senior Product Manager* DAWN TURNER

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MPA

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order in the house

Say good-bye to frustrating search missions and hello to organizational peace of mind with a top-to-bottom closet makeover.

bedroom



kitchen



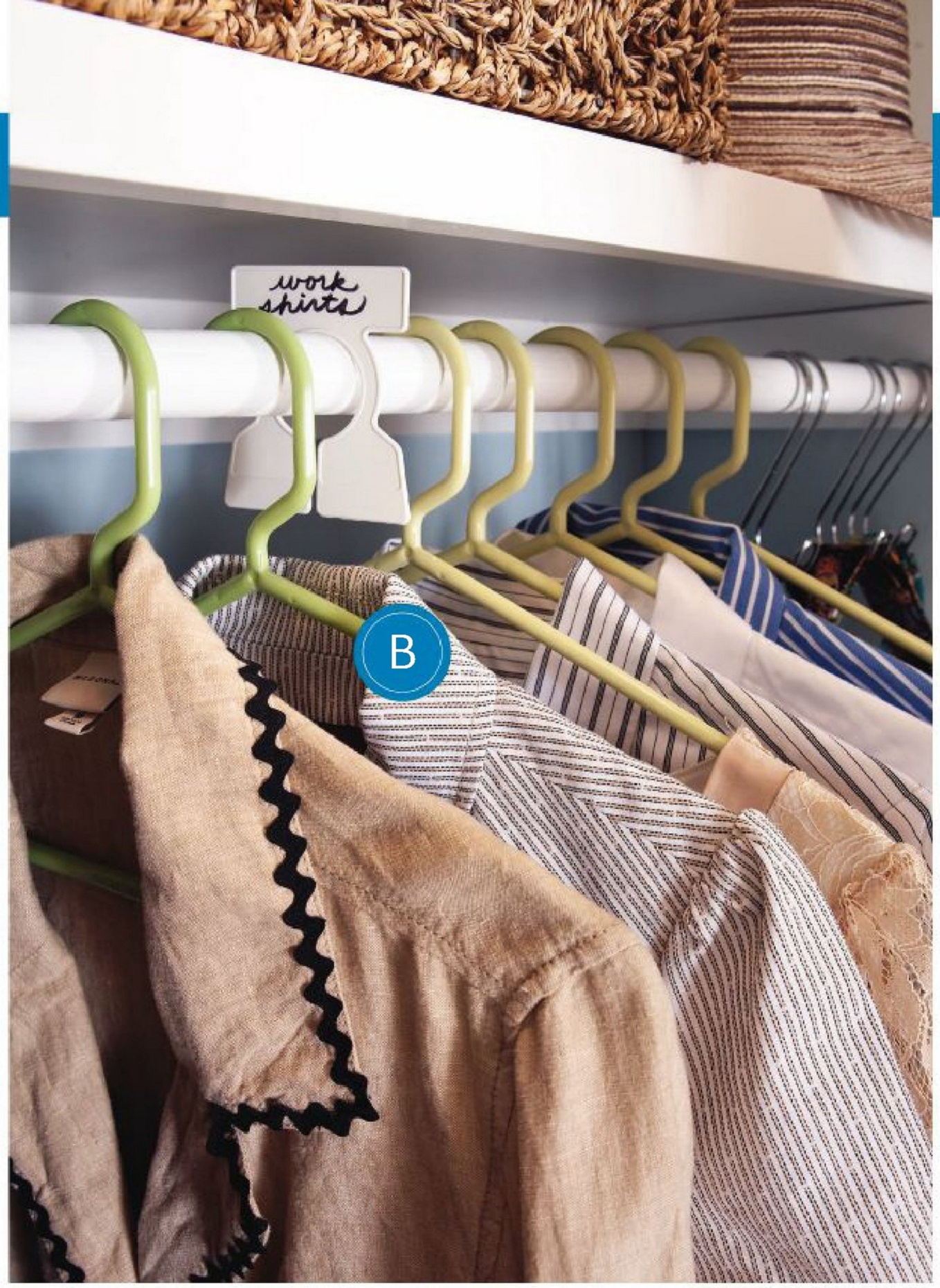
bathroom



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clothes closet

Tackle a crowded closet by completely emptying it and creating piles of items to keep, repair, donate, or toss. Further break down the keepers into clothes of the same type so you can see what kinds of storage you need.

A. Shape up. For improved efficiency, replace the standard rod-and-shelf system with a "T" divider. This will separate your closet into two compartments—one for long items and one with two rods for shorter garments.

B. Hue clues. Choose one style of hanger for your closet, but stock up on a variety of hues. Assign each hanger color a different type of clothing to make quick work of finding what you need.

C. Bright idea. Shed light on early morning wardrobe decisions with a battery-powered peel-and-stick light fixture. $10; *stickupbulb.com*.

D. Attention-grabber. Use over-the-rod S hooks to display purses and totes for the easiest selection.

E. Transparent style. Protect dressy shoes and make it a cinch to spot them by stashing them in clear drawers. $8 each; *containerstore.com*.



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food pantry

An organized pantry or cupboard starts with an overhaul. Remove everything first, delineate zones on each shelf for different items, and only put back those things you use on a regular basis. Establish a hierarchy for shelves by storing lesser-used items at the top and must-haves at eye level.

A. Eye spy. Invest in a tiered spice rack to use the full depth of a pantry and make it easy to find what you need. $29.95; *containerstore.com*.

B. ID it all. Maintain order by adding office supply store labels to shelves.

C. Ready to shop. Attach a clipboard on the inside of your pantry door to display preprinted grocery lists. Hang a marker so it's easy to note items you need.

D. Stack 'em up. Got deep drawers? Add a space-saving dispenser to line up canned goods. Dry-erase tags make it a snap to relabel plastic containers.

E. Tailored fit. Make the most of available space by turning tall boxes sideways and installing under-mount shelves.

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get inspired

Plan. Create. Enjoy.
You know the feeling: the satisfaction when a project comes together perfectly.

Realize your dream.

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For more super efficient, tidy tricks for pantries, visit

BHG.com

bhg.com/pantrystorage

E

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A
B
C

linen closet

Store everyday items at eye level and stash seasonal supplies, such as flannel sheets and beach towels, on the hard-to-reach top shelf. Heavy items are best kept near the bottom of your closet.

A. Fresh spin. Store medicines on a tiered lazy Susan for easy access.

B. Hangers at hand. Use the back of the closet door to hang freshly pressed hand towels and bed linens from rods.

C. Support system. Divide and conquer your piles of sheets and towels by placing them on large expandable closet shelves. $15; *containerstore.com*.

D. Handy host. Keep a basket stocked with necessities for guests tucked away on a top shelf.

E. Tucked away. Organize beauty products in baskets labeled for each family member. They're super portable and easier to access than items in drawers.





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Umbra® Tubby Organizer



Add some style to your home, while maximizing your storage! The Tubby Organizer is a terrific countertop organizer for your kitchen. Perfect for utensils, dishwashing wands and more! Also great for the office, art supplies and fresh-cut flowers. Five oversized acrylic sections for ample storage.

Price: $19.95
Source code: *TUBORG*

save space
and
organize your
kitchen

OXO Rotating Spice Organizer



The OXO Good Grips Rotating Spice Organizer neatly holds over 20 standard spice bottles, making them easy to identify and access. The organizer has two side-by-side turntables and a raised back shelf to provide easy access to hidden spices. The Organizer is sized to fit the standard depth of kitchen cabinets.
Price: $18.95, Souce Code: *SPICEORG*

To order: call 800-678-5752 or visit readershopping.com

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easy living

With savvy furniture choices, chic storage solutions, and clever arrangement tactics, you can transform any space-challenged living room into a cozy haven for entertaining and relaxing.

Find It! Go a little wild with this Zebra Rug from westelm.com

WorldMags

See how this living and dining room came together in just two days at

BHG.com

bhg.com/easyliving

01 pattern at play

Boost the wow factor of a diminutive space by covering a focal-point wall with tone-on-tone wallpaper. To avoid nail holes in the paper, hang art with removable mounting strips.

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Find It!

Check out mainecottage.com for occasional tables similar to this one in a rainbow of hues.

02 winning combination

Neutral furnishings and walls reflect light, making a small space seem larger. But going neutral doesn't have to equal safe and boring. Add a few colorful accessories, such as a painted table and boldly embroidered pillows, for a pop of personality.

WorldMags

03

shine big

Glam up a living room with a sparkly chandelier. This antique crystal fixture, which is large in proportion to the space it illuminates, makes a dramatic statement.

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04

throw in a curve

Adding round elements to an angular room creates eye-pleasing flow. In this living room, an oversize ottoman, round coffee table, and drumlike rattan side table balance the straight lines of the sofa, storage unit, and trimwork.

05

flex your muscle

For flexibility, skip a traditional rectangular coffee table in favor of smaller, portable pieces. Here, two square side tables sitting together equal the visual heft of a single piece yet are easy to move when called into action elsewhere in the room.



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Find It!

Create your own masterful wall art using fancy plates and platters from replacements.com.

Find

06 neutral plus one

Sticking with a monochromatic color scheme is an easy way for the color shy to reduce visual clutter and create a pulled-together look. In this living room, a blue hue the same intensity as the tan sofas maintains a serene mood.

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07

scale matters

It may sound counterintuitive, but a few oversize furnishings can make a small space appear larger, while too many small pieces can create a claustrophobic feeling. A sofa capped with a chaise lounge helps this room live large in form and function.

Anchor a living room with the sculptural Platner coffee table from knoll.com.

Find It!

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shed some light

Help your living room issue a warm invitation after dark with these lighting pointers.

- **Add layers of illumination.** Ambient or overhead lighting provides brightness to support a room's activities. Task lighting supplements ambient lighting by casting light directly on a subject, such as a book or crafts project. Accent lighting calls attention to a special feature, such as an architectural element or piece of art. A mix of all three offers mood-altering flexibility.

- **Cozy up a corner with an accent light.** Set behind a plant or a side table, a floor lamp can brighten a dim nook.

- **Install mini accent lights on wall art.** With focused illumination, prized pieces of art and family photos look better during changing day-to-night light.



08 clean sweep

To make the boundaries of a room disappear, flank windows with draperies that match the hue of the walls. The furnishings in this all-white space almost appear to float, making the room look larger than it really is.

09 picture window

To add height and drama while capitalizing on natural light, hang drapes high and wide around windows—try about 3 inches below the ceiling or crown molding. Amplify the illusion of a tall window by hanging a blind right under the curtain rod.

Find It! To find sources for products and to get the lowdown on this room's DIY renovation, visit younghouselove.com

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10 sweet seat

Mimic the look of trendy, extra-deep designer sofas—and score space for guests to sleep—by using a daybed to anchor a living room. Look for a daybed with a solid back for all-day lounging support. Cap off the ends with a pair of bolster pillows to echo the rolled arms of a sofa.

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11 well read

Instantly cozy up a seating area with a backdrop of books. A built-in corner unit does the trick in this living room, but you could get the same look with ready-made shelves. The key: position at least one comfy seating piece directly in front of the books.

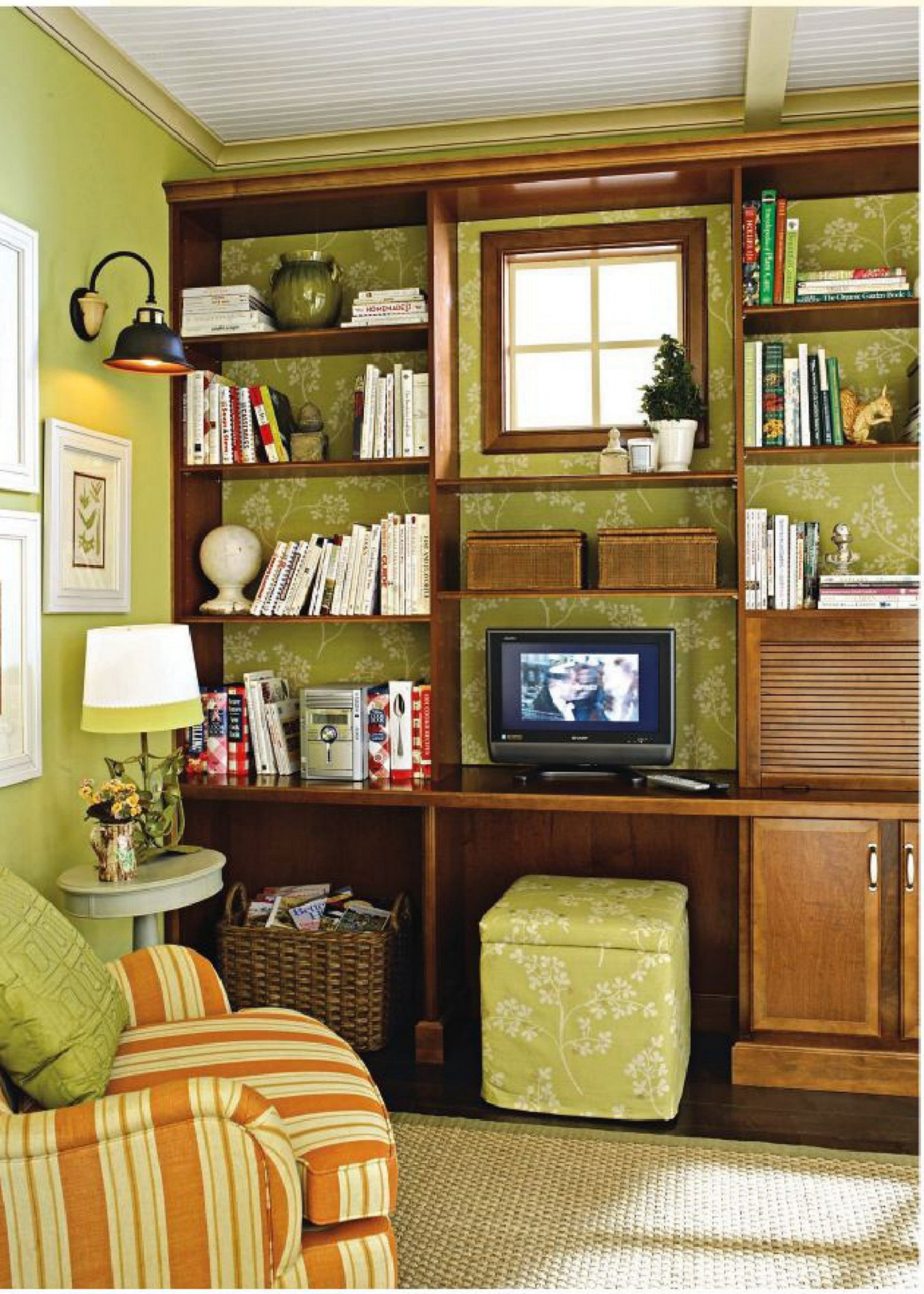


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sort, toss, condense

If magazines, toys, and DVDs threaten to consume your living or family room, take back your space with these quick tips.

- **Pare down paper piles.** If you have a stack of magazines you've been meaning to read, recycle all but the most recent issues. The average person can keep up with three magazine subscriptions per month. If you have more, pare them down. Stay on top of catalogs by recycling the old one the day you receive a new copy. After you've read a catalog or magazine, instead of saving the whole thing, just clip the articles of interest and tuck them into plastic sleeves in a binder.
- **Put baskets to work.** To contain toys in the main family living zone, give each child a small basket for storing a few of their favorites. Return anything that doesn't fit in the baskets to their bedrooms or play spaces. For secret toy storage, use an ottoman (or two) with lids.
- **Get rid of DVD containers.** Instead, store CDs and DVDs in binders filled with plastic sleeves. Group all the liner notes alphabetically in a covered box.



12 on the shelf

Create a mini home office and an all-in-one storage station for books and media by framing one wall with a shelving unit. A window and pretty wallpaper peek out from between these shelves to keep things light and bright.



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13 put a lid on it

Employ a coffee table or ottoman that doubles as a storage unit. In this living room, an oversize wicker box, mounted on wheels for easy maneuvering, offers a hiding place for extra blankets, reading materials, and DVDs.

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14

on the bench

Tuck a small bench under a taller coffee table so there's always a spare seat or footstool at the ready. Double-duty benches also fit well beneath console and sofa tables.

15

stripe it rich

Stretch the visual height of a room with vertical stripes. The bold black stripes on the draperies in this living room draw all eyes upward and echo the regal style of the Swedish-inspired furnishings.

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16

back to front

The dark backing on a bookcase can suck the light out of a room. Keep the mood light and airy by painting the interior a lively hue. For even more personality, wallpaper the inside of the bookcase with a fun pattern.

Find It!

Make a bookshelf look pretty with a damask wallpaper. Try Owensboro from thibautdesign.com.

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art smart

Put your favorite artwork and collectibles on display and watch as ordinary surfaces blossom into personalized, standout features.



17

class act

Add no-fuss sparkle to a tabletop or mantel with a group of vintage glass bottles. Keep the scene interesting by varying the bottle sizes and tucking a seasonal sprig of greenery into a few of the vessels.



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18

group therapy

A hodgepodge of collectibles can make a small space seem messy. To maintain control, simplify what you collect. Stick with items that are a similar size or hue. Gather your favorites in one spot for major impact sans the clutter.

Find It!

Make a style statement by displaying your collections in a glass cabinet. Find similar cabinets at homedecorators.com.

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19

connect the dots

To avoid an awkward space between artwork and furnishings, use vases, lamps, and mementos to bridge the gap. Just a few overlapping items help the eye read the pieces as a single unit. Coordinating colors and a sea theme are the keys to this arrangement's success.



20

make a show of it

Transform wallpaper or art paper scraps too pretty to toss into bold artwork. Prime and paint a variety of inexpensive wood plaques from a crafts store to serve as frames, then adhere the papers with wallpaper glue. To make arranging easier, lay out the plaques on the floor before you put nails in the wall.





21

illuminating display

Light up a room by showing off a few of your favorite things inside a glass lamp base. To make this lamp, look for a cork-stopper lamp kit and insert it into a bottle. Add a bulb, plug it in, and you're done!

22

united front

Display an assortment of prints in identical frames to create a strong focal point that's visually equivalent to a large piece of art.

For more expert advice on hanging art, visit

BHG.com

bhg.com/artsmart

23

great mates

Partner a built-in window seat with a table and a few chairs for an entertaining zone with flexibility. This nook is a favorite family breakfast hangout, but it's just as nice for snuggling up alone with a book during quiet times. When guests come to dinner, the bench supplies ample seating for all.

Find It!

Blue wicker chairs from **mainecottage.com** bring a splash of good cheer to this breakfast room. For a similar look, spruce up a secondhand wicker set with your favorite paint hue.

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dining in

Savor great friends, family, and food with one of these strategies for gathering everyone around the table.



24

all-inclusive

With no legs to knock knees against, round pedestal tables make it a cinch to seat a few extra guests comfortably. Devoid of sharp edges, their curved tops are easy for everyone to navigate around.

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Find It!

For historical light fixtures with a modern edge, visit circalighting.com.

25

slim lines

Use a rectangular table to carve out an eating area in a long, narrow room. This simple farm table is a touch wider than an armchair and snugly seats six without impeding traffic flow.

Find It!

The lines of these secondhand chairs pop thanks to a fresh coat of paint. Find similar chairs at ebay.com

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26

surface matters

All-white color schemes lighten and brighten even the darkest of rooms, but they can fall flat if they lack textural interest. A stone table with iron legs adds dimension and grounds this white dining area, while a crystal chandelier adds shimmer overhead.





27

tight fit

When you need to squeeze a lot of function into a little space, opt for armless chairs. Their streamlined profiles are ideal for tucking under any size table. In this corner, a backless bench and two slipper chairs gather around a reproduction midcentury modern table, creating a nook for family meals in a sliver of space off the kitchen.

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Find It!

This aluminum Dandelion light fixture from **moooi.com** bursts with energy—literally.

28

starring role

Introduce personality to a breakfast nook with a bold light fixture. The sculptural quality of this fixture delivers a touch of whimsy that's supported by a lively orange, yellow, and blue color palette.

Find It!

These Eames Molded Plastic Armchairs from **hermanmiller.com** are modern classics.

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29

diner inspired

Take a cue from family-friendly restaurants and install a banquette. The casual arrangement lets you seat more people in less space. Plus, storage units under the benches hide everything from art supplies to bulky platters.

Check out more space-savvy banquette styles at BHG.com

bhg.com/banquettes

WorldMags.net

simply delish updates

With a little recovery work, you can transform dull furniture—particularly secondhand dining chairs with removable seats—into striking pieces. Erase a dated finish with a fresh coat of paint, then tackle the seat cushions with these tips.

- **Flip 'em.** Recovering seat cushions is easy if the seats are removable. Just turn the chair over and unscrew the seat using a screwdriver or cordless drill.

- **Slip into something up-to-date.** Rip off the old fabric, replace any batting, and re-cover with new fabric. Lay fabric facedown on the floor and cut it so you have at least three extra inches all around for wrapping.

- **Mind your edges.** For a smooth finish, fold and pleat the fabric edges on the chair underside. Use a staple gun and work all the way around the seat to secure the fabric.



30 clear choice

Glass tabletops virtually disappear, allowing the eye to travel through a room. The transparent surface also allows decorative bases—like the delicate scrolls of this old garden table—to shine without weighing down a room.



31 picnic-style perks

Flank a long dining table with benches to maximize seating and create a come-lounge attitude. These stocky, armless benches lend casual comfort to an open dining area.

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32 transparent design

It doesn't take much for a small space to feel crowded and cluttered. Keep the view open and bright with clear acrylic pieces, such as these chairs, which serve up generous seating while maintaining a low profile.

Find It!

Check out these acrylic Louis Ghost Chairs by Philippe Starck at unicahome.com

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fresh fare

Fool the eye and stretch the dimensions of your kitchen by pairing open storage with character-building details.

The walls in this kitchen feature a smoky blue hue called Quiet Moments (#1563) from benjaminmoore.com.

Find It!

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33

smooth refrain

Streamline the look of a small kitchen by concealing appliances behind cabinetlike fronts. Here, covering the range hood and dishwasher with beaded-board paneling allows a single row of cabinets to flow without interruption.

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34

long lines

For a low-cost, high-style backdrop for open shelving, try extending beaded board from backsplash to ceiling. The vertical lines draw the eye upward, stretching the visual dimensions of a kitchen.



35

double duty

Need extra prep room and seating? Try anchoring a kitchen with a bistro-size dining set instead of an island. In this kitchen, a butcher block tabletop paired with a pedestal base provides an ideal work surface that can be dinner-ready in a snap.



WorldMags.net

Bring a little star quality to your kitchen with this Moravian Star Pendant from barnesandwagner.com.

Find It!

36

open to change

Solid upper cabinet doors can close in a petite kitchen. Welcome a lighter, more casual attitude with glass or fabric inserts. Or follow the lead of this kitchen and try cane inserts.

WorldMags.net

37 shelf lining

Save cash and keep a kitchen light and airy by lining a wall with open shelves instead of upper cabinets. Display special-occasion dishes on top shelves and everyday items on lower ones.

To stash more cooking gear in less space, check out
BHG.com
bhg.com/kitchentools

WorldMags.net

dreaming of granite

Granite countertops take any kitchen from drab to fab, but with a price tag of $50 to $100 per square foot installed, they're a pricey upgrade. Get your granite and stay within budget with these pointers.

- **Take your measurements.** Granite is sold by the square foot, so a counter that is 2 feet deep and 9 feet long will require 18 square feet, plus the amount needed for edging or a backsplash. To make price comparisons easy, map out the surfaces you want to cover in your kitchen and determine the square footage before you start shopping.

- **Go straight to the source.** Bypass kitchen stores and home centers. Instead, shop directly at a granite yard to snag a better price per square foot. Just keep in mind that hiring a fabricator to install the granite can significantly raise the overall price. For a clear comparison, look for a granite yard that offers fabrication as part of their services.

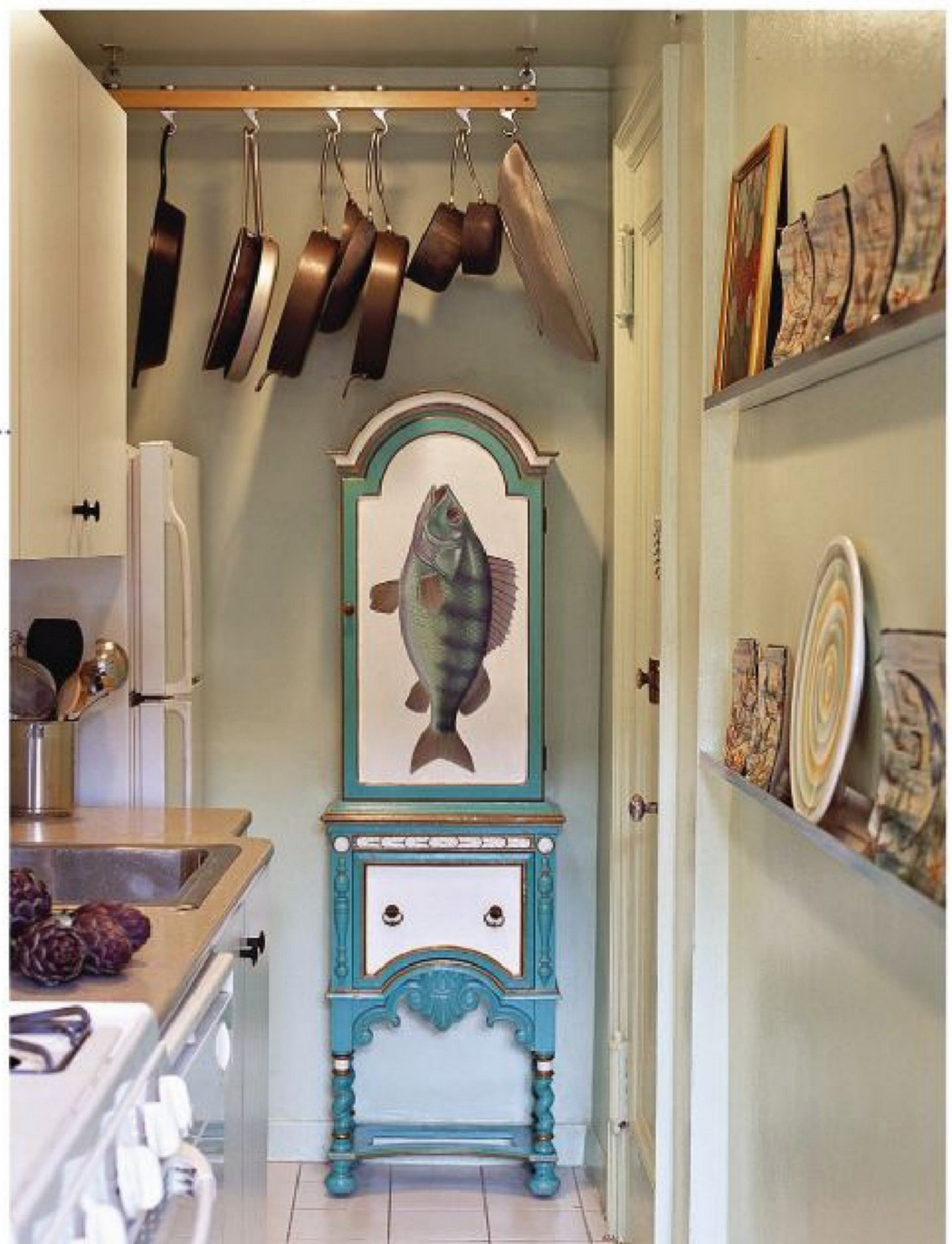
- **Skip the frills.** Save money by choosing a standard edge. Fancy edge details add a hefty price (starting at $30 per linear foot). Or do without the edge altogether by asking a carpenter to add wood edging after the countertop is installed.



39

make a splash

Create an eye-catching focal point without dropping a lot of cash by lining the wall behind the cooktop with decorative tile. Most 1×1-inch tiles come preassembled on 12×12 sheets of netting, making installation and custom-fitting a cinch.



38

hanging around

Pots and pans are notorious space hogs. To free up valuable cabinet space, hang pieces from a pot rack. There's no need for a fancy island in order to put a rack to work—this kitchen proves that any horizontal space can play a supporting role.

WorldMags.net



40

above board

Stretch the limits of a kitchen by extending open shelving above windows and doors. This collection of servingware and dishes blends with the all-white cabinets and walls.

41

tall order

Turn an unused corner into bonus storage with a cookware stand. Stash bulky pots and pans on the shelves, or use them to keep everyday plates and bowls handy.



WorldMags

42

now you see it

Open a boxy kitchen to the rest of the house without a major remodel by cutting a window out of a partition wall. A small countertop and two barstools turn this pass-through opening into a breakfast nook.



43

soft squeeze

Most families live in the kitchen, so why not take a comfort cue from the living room? The sofa landing zone in this kitchen is a favorite place for sleepy kids to hang out in the morning and for homework time while dinner simmers.

WorldMags.net

44

up, up, and away

Reach for the ceiling with kitchen cabinetry, and discover extra room for everything from cleaning supplies to little-used champagne flutes. Cabinets wrap around the ceiling line in this kitchen like a decorative border.





45

country casual

Introduce a touch of country charm to any kitchen by swapping out undersink doors for a café curtain. Use a tension rod to make hanging the fabric a snap.

WorldMags

paint perks

For a quick kitchen pick-me-up, try a coat of paint. Today's home centers and hardware stores offer paints for every surface. Check out these nifty new products.

- **Update old appliances.** If your stove or dishwasher is in good working order but lacks the luster of stainless steel, consider painting it with stainless-steel paint. The water-base paint provides an automotive-grade finish that covers wood, metal, ceramic, glass, and plastics. Thomas' Liquid Stainless Steel Paint (starting at $20 for a kit, including base coat, top coat, micro-foam brush, and instructions), Thomas' Kitchen Art, Inc.; *liquidstainlesssteel.com*.

- **Take the write approach.** Give an old door new life with chalkboard paint. The paint can be used on wood, metal, plastic, and glass. Choose from the traditional chalkboard colors of black and green. Chalkboard Paint (starting at $11 per quart), Rust-Oleum Corp.; *rustoleum.com*.

- **Try a sheer approach.** If the view from your kitchen leaves a lot to be desired, or if you're looking for privacy without sacrificing light, consider a semitransparent finish spray. Coat the entire window or use a stencil for a decorative finish. Frosted Glass Finish (approx. $9 for a 6-ounce can), Krylon; *krylon.com*.

- **Stick 'em up.** With magnetic latex paint, you can transform a wood cabinet door or wall into a magnetic surface for posting notes or displaying the kids' art projects and schedules. Simply coat the desired surface with magnetic paint and, once it dries, conceal the black surface with the paint color of your choice. Magnetic Latex Primer ($22 per quart), Rust-Oleum Corp.; *rustoleum.com*.



46

color pop

Give outdated cabinetry a fresh lease on life with paint. Sanded, primed, and painted, the cabinets in this kitchen now gleam a luscious lipstick red. Black granite countertops complement the new color scheme. A green glass-tile backsplash helps to lighten the space.

WorldMags.net

dress for success

Who says a home office has to be all business? Try these attractive ideas for tucking a practical work zone into any room in the house.

WorldMags

47

pretty and practical

For a cozy office space, skip the standard industrial fare in favor of furnishings commonly found in a bedroom or living room, such as a colorful bookcase and a fabric-covered slipper chair.

For an open-minded approach to office duty, consider this Spotlight Desk from crateandbarrel.com in a crisp white.

Find It!

WorldMags.net

Find It!

For these and more fashion-forward office supplies, check out seejanework.com.

WorldMags

48

fashion forward

For a work area that wows, stock up on pretty office supplies and coordinated desk accessories. Matching folders, boxes, and magazine holders add style and keep clutter to a minimum.



49

a fine system

Create a snazzy credenza by positioning individual filing cabinets side by side. A fresh coast of paint and new bronze hardware enhances the furniturelike illusion of this setup. Inexpensive molding attached to a dry-erase board and painted to match the cabinets adds a dash of panache to the weekly to-do list.



50

assistant in waiting

You can't beat a secretary for stashing office supplies and keeping hardworking paper piles a secret. It tucks perfectly into small and awkward spaces and offers roomy drawers for easy organization. Pull up an ottoman or side chair to convert it into a desk in a snap.

WorldMags

51

drop zone

Set up a multipurpose work station with a space-smart desk near your home's entry. Stack letter trays on top to keep items such as bills and outgoing mail in sight. Attach a toothbrush-and-tumbler holder from a hardware store to the side to hold pens, and a robe hook to keep purses and bags handy.

Find It!

Keep a petite space tidy with this Alve Secretary from ikea.com.

WorldMags.net

streamline your drawers

Let's face it: It's the little things that get under your skin when you live in a small space—like spending 10 minutes to find a paper clip in a drawer that has become a catchall for odds and ends. If it's time to whip your drawers into shape, read on.

- **Assess what's inside.** Empty the contents of your drawers onto a tabletop or large surface where you can sort them. Decide what to keep, what to toss, and what to move to a new spot. Throw away all duplicates and mysterious odds and ends.

- **Get the right gear.** Buy a drawer organizer—one with movable dividers works best. Also shop for small bins and baskets to pool like items inside the drawer.

- **Tidy up.** Fill—but don't overfill—your newly compartmentalized drawer, placing those things you use on a daily or weekly basis up front. Arrange the items you use less often toward the back.



52

divide and conquer

Quarter-inch-deep baking pans make perfect dividers for shallow desk drawers. Stow extra school supplies for the kids in one, bill-paying tools in another, and grab-and-go essentials—lint brush, lip balm, and sewing kit—in the last.



53

smooth extension

Add sliding trays to a bookshelf to turn vertical storage into easy-to-access horizontal drawers for scrapbooking papers and art supplies. Enlist small boxes to contain pens and paper clips.

WorldMags

Add personality to a desk setup with this Vince and Vincent Lamp in Pumpkin Blush from straydogdesigns.com.

Find It!

Discover more ways to squeeze an office into your home at

BHG.com

bhg.com/officestyle

WorldMags.net

54

pinup punch

Make your own focal-point bulletin board by mounting cork squares to a wall, covering them with grass cloth, and attaching molding around the edges for a frame. This bulletin board—adorned with business cards, a calendar, inspiration pages, and to-do lists—doubles as an eye-catching piece of art.

55

hidden agenda

Conceal electronics and paperwork behind closed doors with a small-scale office armoire. A slipcovered armless chair moves into position when it's time to work yet seamlessly blends with the living room during downtime.





56

work recess

Integrate a desk area under a run of built-in kitchen cabinets by stepping down 4 to 6 inches from the counter height. Transform the backsplash into a message center with a piece of cork. To squeeze in space for a chair, bump in the desk area 3 or 4 inches. This work zone is illuminated with puck-style halogen lighting.

WorldMags

easy on the eyes

Color, pattern, and comfort are the secret to sweet slumber, so dream big regardless of your room's square footage.

WorldMags.net

57

head of the class

Draw attention to features you love and away from features you don't by turning the wall behind a bed into a stunning focal point. Here, suede-covered panels add architectural interest and draw the eye up, giving the illusion of a higher ceiling. Neutral, low-contrast colors for walls, draperies, and bedding work together to make the room look bigger, as do boldly scaled accessories, such as the bedside lamps.

WorldMags.net

58

on the up and up

Reach for the stars with a four poster. Far from closing in a space, the lofty pillars pull all eyes towards the ceiling, making even the smallest room seem bigger. Sheer fabric panels cocoon this headboard in softness without adding visual weight.



59

dramatic fall

Create the illusion of soaring height by framing the headboard with a canopy. This antique bed is diminutive in stature but commands attention thanks to a simple swag of fabric loosely draped over two swing-arm curtain rods positioned just below the ceiling.

WorldMags

60

pillow props

A traditionally dressed bed usually showcases pillows leaning against a headboard. But when you don't have room for a strong focal point, stack fluffy pillows flat on the bed for a clean, streamlined look.

Find It!

White-painted floors are perfect for reflecting light. The color Stingray (#1529) from benjaminmoore.com does the trick here.

WorldMags

61 depth perception

Create the illusion of depth by painting a single wall a dark color. Crisp white walls and trim and hotel-chic bedding serve as a striking contrast to this bedroom's chocolate wall. A geometric pattern ties the two main colors together, while yellow photo mats and throw pillows introduce a playful pop of color.

Find It!

Use these X-Benches from **jonathanadler.com** as side tables, footstools, or portable seating.

WorldMags

the right mix

Combine colors and patterns like a pro with these quick tips.

- **Find a starting point.** When redecorating a bedroom, most people head straight for the paint chip rack to pick out a color scheme. But paint can be tinted to match just about anything, so try looking for color inspiration in a rug, favorite fabric, or new bedding instead. Then ask a home center to create a paint color to match your decor.

- **Vary the scale.** A formal or geometric pattern gives subtle energy when it is small in scale and has a neutral-color background. Small patterns are perfect for adding interest to windows, flooring, and linens in small spaces. For boldly colored, large-scale patterns, a little goes a long way. Try them on pillow shams or a blanket.

- **Provide rest areas.** White and solid colors, even if they're relatively bright, give the eye a place to rest and contribute to a peaceful feeling. Use solids liberally in petite rooms for space-enhancing results.



62 flipping out

Treat yourself to a seasonal change of scenery with curtains that reverse from linen to wool. Double-sided curtains are perfect for small-spaces where storage is at a premium—because the panels are always hanging around, there's no need to stash off-season fashions.



63 razzle dazzle

Use an oversize mirror to reflect limited natural light and the soft glow of lamps. In this bedroom, a tall mirror casually propped against a wall gives the small space added dimension. Two crystal lamp bases flanking the bed echo the gleaming mirror.

WorldMags.net

64

all tucked in

Floor-to-ceiling built-in bookcases flanking a bed create a natural nook for a headboard and eliminate the need for extra furnishings bedside. This alcove was pieced together by topping two ready-made bookcases with different widths of trim to mimic elaborate molding.

65

wide-angle approach

Expand the visual square footage of a small bedroom by wrapping the walls with horizontally aligned boards. The rough texture of these planks, installed with the unfinished side out, lends a pleasing "washed" finish to the wall color—setting the stage for a casual beach theme.



WorldMags.net

Find It!

This fresh paisley print, called Siddhartha, is available through a design professional from tyler-hall.com.

66
royal treatment

Although it goes against most decorating rules, sometimes the most natural place to position a bed in a petite room is in front of a window. Make the most of an awkward situation by framing the window with eye-catching curtain panels topped with a valance. Enlist a low headboard to provide a comfy backrest while maintaining the view.

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67

salvage savvy

Add instant interest to a ho-hum space with a headboard crafted from architectural salvage. Scrolly wrought-iron pieces, carved armoire doors, elegant mantels, and distressed mirrors can all serve as dreamy props.

68

beauty and brawn

Keep a bedside area light and airy by opting for a nightstand that shows a lot of leg. Despite its see-through framework and glass shelves, this two-tiered table provides ample space for reading materials and a lamp.



69

basket case

Create an instant linen closet by stashing lidded baskets under a bed. Prevent scratched floors or carpet snags by adding stick-on furniture sliders from a hardware store or home center to the bottoms of the baskets.



WorldMags

70 great frame-ups

Blank wall space above a bed goes from bland to brilliant with a trio of frames. Create your own custom mats by covering plain mats with decorative paper or leftover wallpaper. Simply cut the paper to fit, then use double-stick tape to adhere it.

Find It!

Wake up your toes ever-so-gently with a super-plush sheepskin rug from potterybarn.com.

WorldMags.net



71

stowaway

Keep things tidy by building a recessed shelf between the studs in a wall. Thick walnut shelves add a modern touch to this bath.

petite luxury

Make a big splash in a pint-size bath by indulging in chic fixtures and glamorous finishes.

WorldMags.net

Hang bath essentials from a Bistro Train Rack from **restorationhardware.com**, which is designed to mimic a train luggage rack.

Find It!

72

out in the open

Overly compartmentalized rooms appear smaller, while open spaces create the illusion of size. To maintain an open view, trade in a traditional shower curtain for clear-glass doors. Continue the bath flooring into the shower to amplify the effect.

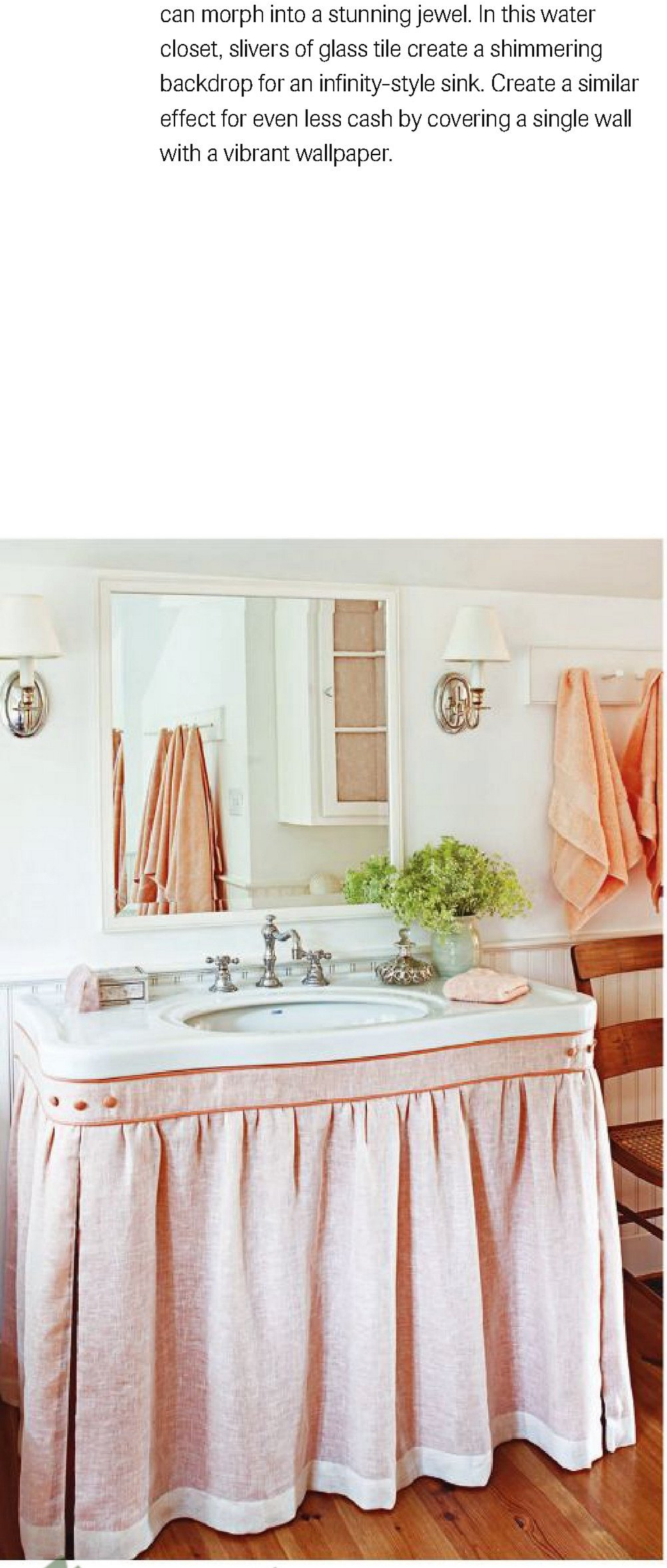
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73

bath bling

With a touch of sparkle, a diminutive powder room can morph into a stunning jewel. In this water closet, slivers of glass tile create a shimmering backdrop for an infinity-style sink. Create a similar effect for even less cash by covering a single wall with a vibrant wallpaper.





74

skirting the issue

Vanities with cabinet doors are great for hiding personal items and cleaning supplies, but opening and closing the doors in a long, narrow bath is tricky. Instead, opt for a pretty-yet-practical vanity skirt that lets you keep bath paraphernalia under wraps yet accessible.

WorldMags.net

75 slim picks

Use tall cabinets to make the most of limited floor space. The shelves flanking this sink create eye-pleasing symmetry while serving up open and closed storage options. A medicine cabinet mounted on the window boosts privacy while allowing light to stream into the room.

Who says a medicine cabinet has to be square? Look for a multitude of shapely options at home centers or online at homedepot.com.

Find It!

Check out a gallery of more pint-size baths that live large at BHG.com

bhg.com/smallbaths

WorldMags

76

depth perception

Extend the sight lines of a small bath by adding a window to an exterior wall. In this space, the window draws the eye through the room, making it seem larger.

The numerous grout lines in this classic hexagon-pattern tile floor from **americanolean.com** provide built-in slip resistance.

Find It!

WorldMags.net





77

behind the scenes

Create secret storage by mounting a framed picture to a cabinet door. Ready-made shadow boxes outfitted with pictures on the front serve the same purpose where recessing a unit isn't an option.



78

support crew

Put cap trim tile to work as simple and stylish ledges on which to rest shelves in an open cabinet. A stairwell directly behind this wall provided room for the storage and display alcove above the toilet.

WorldMags.net

Find It!

This bathroom is as soothing as a cup of joe thanks to the paint hue Cappuccino from the Flax Collection at restorationhardware.com.

79

open up

Visually lighten a floor-to-ceiling built-in cabinet by combining open shelves with solid doors. Towels, soaps, and glass canisters are perfect candidates for open shelving because they're decorative and functional.

WorldMags.net

illuminating pointers

Light the way to a brighter bath with these tips for updating tired fixtures.

- **Replace shades on sconces** and other existing fixtures. For coordinated color in a jiffy, look for self-adhesive lampshades from a crafts store. Peel off the wrapper and use it as a cutting pattern, then smooth on your fabric or paper and add trim if desired.
- **Consider low-voltage rail systems** for accent lighting. They are discreet, flexible, and often customizable. With an adapter, you can easily replace existing overhead or recessed lights with rail systems.
- **Look up.** Sconces may be closest to the mirror—and therefore most often viewed—but overhead lighting makes a big style impact in a small room. If your ceilings are tall enough, consider a chandelier for glamour and gently diffused light.



80 added features

Minimize clutter on bath walls by attaching towel rods to the side of a freestanding vanity. For an extra dash of panache, change out a standard mirror for one with a decorative frame that complements the style of your vanity.

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81

corner unit

Open a small, square bath to smoother traffic flow by positioning the vanity in a corner. An oval mirror fits perfectly where two walls meet. For eye-pleasing symmetry, flank the mirror with matching sconces and the vanity with coordinating towel rings.

Find It!

Custom sconces from **erinadamsdesign.com** coordinate with this bath's sassy blue sink.

Find It!

Splashes of water bead up on this skirt, which is made from indoor-outdoor Sunbrella fabric available from **calicocorners.com**.

WorldMags.net



82

show a little leg

Cabinetry doors can visually weigh down a petite bath. Keep things light and airy with a furniture-style vanity. With this unit, baskets hold supplies on the bottom shelf, ensuring the undersink area provides plentiful storage.



83

high style

Plenty of natural light, wall-to-wall glass shower doors, and white woodwork create an expansive impression in this small master bath. To live up to its focal-point status, the shower is wrapped in luxurious marble tile. A simple white vanity balances the splurge.

WorldMags.net



84

secret storage

Transform an entry into storage central by converting a dresser into a charging station for cell phones, music players, and digital cameras. The drawers are ideal for concealing power strips. Clear the path from dresser to outlet by using a hole saw to drill aligned 1½-inch holes in the back of each drawer and the back of the dresser.

find it, use it

Discover space you didn't know you had by using repurposed furnishings, shelving, and creative seating to convert dead zones into functional areas.

WorldMags

85

defining design

Old houses are known for having awkward nooks and small rooms. Instill order by assigning each space a purpose. Here, a writing desk converts a tiny alcove off a hallway into a petite office and catchall space for keys, bags, and mail. Linen drapes line the windows and passageway, buffering noise and providing privacy.

WorldMags.net

86

make an entrance

If your front door opens smack in the middle of the living room, carve out an entry zone by installing a short wall. Outfitted with bookshelves on one side and a simple bench on the other, this wall multitasks without blocking light. Cubbies below the bench stash gear.

For more style-savvy entry strategies, check out BHG.com **bhg.com/entryway**

Pick up this hand-sewn patchwork pillow and a pillow printed with the numeral of your choice from reddoorhome.com.

Find It!

WorldMags.net

entry points

Cut mudroom chaos with these quick tricks for organizing family supplies.

- **Make it personal.** If your mudroom is short on space, place a bin for each child in the laundry room or by the stairs. Corral school paperwork that needs signing in a basket by the phone.
- **Hang it up.** Place hooks at each family member's height to make hanging coats a breeze. An extra hook for backpacks and bags helps keep things tidy.
- **Create a message center.** Write notes and reminders on a mudroom blackboard that both kids and adults can reach.
- **Lay down a catchall.** Keep floors clean by encouraging family members to leave shoes on a cookie sheet by the door.
- **Stash everyday items within easy reach.** That way children can use and put away each item by themselves.





87 new heights

Showcase more of your favorite things—including books, collectibles, and photos—by lining the walls of a stair landing with built-in shelves. Keep a small footstool on hand to easily reach items on the top shelves.

88 hidden assets

Don't let odd angles hold you back from claiming every last inch of usable space under a staircase. A butler's pantry, a nook for a pullout recycling bin, and a magnetic message board bring big-time function to this under-stair area.

WorldMags.net



89

stack 'em and rack 'em

Free up space in a laundry closet for a sink and drying rack by stacking a front-loading washer and dryer set. For easier access, ditch clunky bifold or accordion doors in favor of curtains.



90

instant mudroom

Convert a tall, skinny bookcase into a dynamic entry storage piece by removing shelves and outfitting it for your grab-and-go lifestyle. Brace the back of the bookcase with a 1×3 board affixed with hooks for coats and bags. Use a three-tier office supply caddy as a moveable junk drawer and pretty fabric totes to corral seasonal gear.

WorldMags

91

bare bones

Pair an oversize mirror with an acrylic console to create a barely-there vanity. Look for a console with a slim width to accommodate traffic in a tight space.

Lighten the mood of any room in the house with this Peekaboo Clear Console from cb2.com.

Find It!

WorldMags.net

live it up alfresco

Redefine the boundaries of your home by creating an open-air room for dining, lounging, and entertaining.

92

step to it

Create an instant patio—no building skills required—with pea gravel. Level out the desired surface area, lay down landscape fabric to keep weeds to a minimum, then top with 2 to 3 inches of gravel. For added interest, incorporate concrete stepping stones to form a path.

worldmags

93

backdrop props

Need attractive privacy in a hurry? Follow the lead of this tiny yard, where backerboard and salvaged plywood—stained and attached to a custom-built frame—create a modern backdrop for a simple seating area. A bench crafted from cinder blocks and topped with a plank of wood covered in outdoor fabric offers up an extra place to perch just off the deck.

Go modern with these metal lawn chairs from spacify.com.

Find It!

WorldMags

94

under the big top

Turn any backyard into an outdoor room with a ready-made gazebo tent. Basic, lightweight models are available for as little as $100 from home center stores. For a more intimate, enclosed setting, hide the tent's structure with weather-resistant fabric panels. Attach roller shades to the tent rails to create privacy and shade.



For a permanent, year-round structure, consider working with a contractor or specialty pavilion company. This pavilion is similar to the ones available at tuuci.com.

Find It!

Find It!

Create a cozy outdoor room in a flash with a weather-resistant indoor/outdoor rug from potterybarn.com.

WorldMags.net

95

border patrol

Look to a knee-high retaining wall to help you multitask in style. A single wall can define the edges of a room, create a formal framework for plantings, and serve up extra seating. Recessed benches stand in as love seats in this urban backyard, creating a cozy conversation zone.



For more ways to relax and dine outside, visit

BHG.com

bhg.com/alfrescodining



96

high-rise dining

A well-appointed outdoor kitchen island can cost several thousand dollars—but with a few savvy material choices, you can dine alfresco on a budget. For rock-solid support columns, stack inexpensive cinder blocks, then spruce up the concrete with a decorative paint finish designed to mimic natural stone. Top the blocks off with a countertop made from 1×1 wood planks positioned vertically and connected to each other with undermount deck screws. To extend the life of the wood, stain each plank before assembling the countertop.

Find It!

Find flowerpot hangers at hangapot.com

WorldMags.net

97

in living color

Revive an old fence with an eye-pleasing arrangement of suspended flowerpots. Use a tape measure to map out the design on the fence, then attach pot hangers. Spray-paint the petite pots and fill them with colorful annuals for easy, affordable outdoor art.



98

pinstripe fencing

Revamp a ho-hum fence with bamboo canes from a home improvement store. Canes about 1 inch in diameter easily attach to most fences with nails or screws. Add even more character by extending the canes above the top of the fence.



99

natural beauty

A funky container can bring a little green to places where plants wouldn't normally grow. Position your arrangement on an old table or chest, and use the extra surface area to display natural souvenirs, such as shells, stones, pinecones, dried leaves, or driftwood.

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iwwf

information worth writing for

Good information can be hard to find so Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications' IWWF showcases the manufacturers, products, service providers, and ideas home enthusiasts like you want most — all in one place.

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Appliances

Bosch



Bosch redefines efficient performance. Our Vision™ washer, with smart stain removal technology, automatically hits the precise temperatures needed to remove all types of stains in a single load while using up to 64% less water and 61% less energy per load than the average washer. Bosch, Invented for Life. Free. CIRCLE NO. 1

Broan-NuTone



Cook in the right light with the new Broan® EVOLUTION™ range hoods. These range hoods offer best-in-class lighting, doubling the illumination of the cooking surface. Plus, they offer the quietest operation and largest filtration area of any range hood in their class. Broan® EVOLUTION™. Illuminate the possibilities. www.Broan.com. Free. CIRCLE NO. 2

Dacor



Since 1965, Dacor® has redefined the modern kitchen, offering a full line of innovative appliances that have been handcrafted with exquisite design and performance details to enhance life in the kitchen and ultimately improve the quality of the life in the home. Free. CIRCLE NO. 3

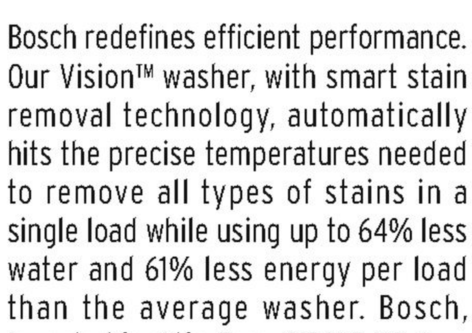
Sub-Zero and Wolf



Interested in all that's best in today's culinary culture? We invite you to learn more about the leaders in food preservation and cooking technology, Sub-Zero and Wolf. See exceptional kitchens. Become inspired. Visit subzero.com. Free. CIRCLE NO. 4

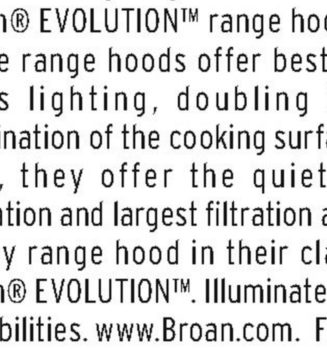
Cabinets

Thermador



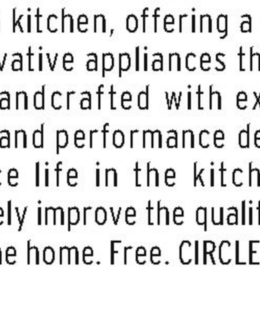
Thermador defines kitchen innovation. Our handcrafted appliances and their every feature and control are designed to make cooking easier, better and more rewarding. For those who truly love to cook, there is only one true kitchen leader. Thermador. thermador.com. Free. CIRCLE NO.5

U-Line



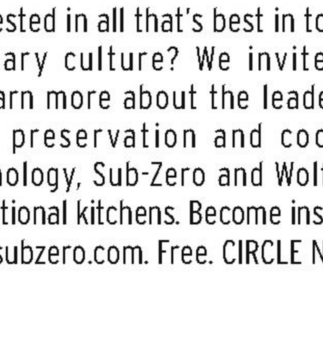
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Armstrong



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KraftMaid

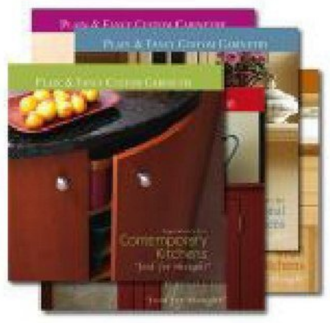


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Cabinets continued

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Countertops & Surfaces

Granite Transformations

GRANITE TRANSFORMATIONS For Kitchens & Baths

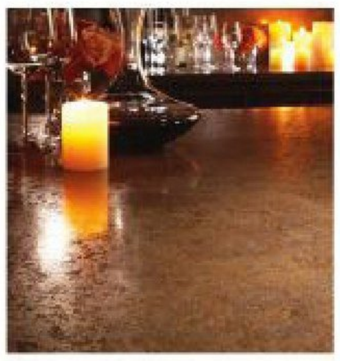
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Faucets, Sinks, & Plumbing Fixtures

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Moen



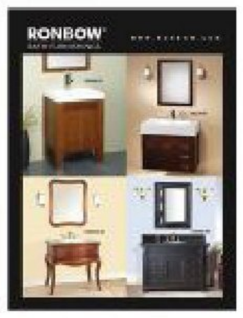
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Faucets, Sinks,
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Lighting/Lighting Controls

James Hardie



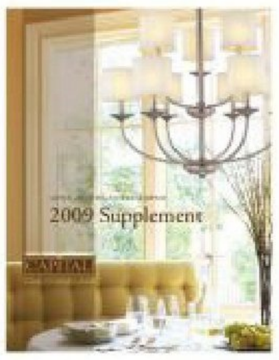
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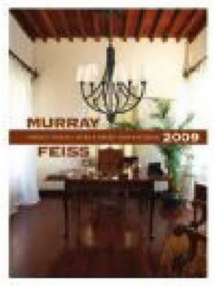
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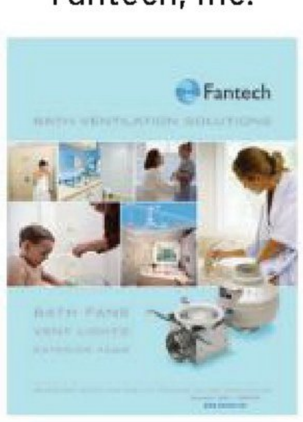
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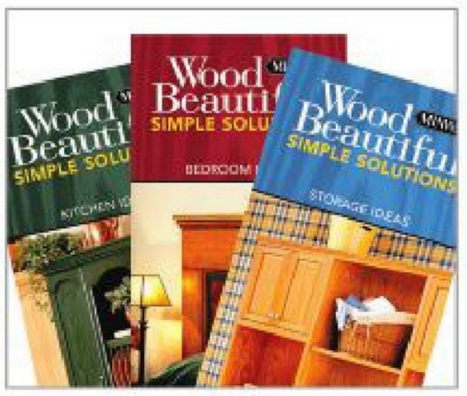
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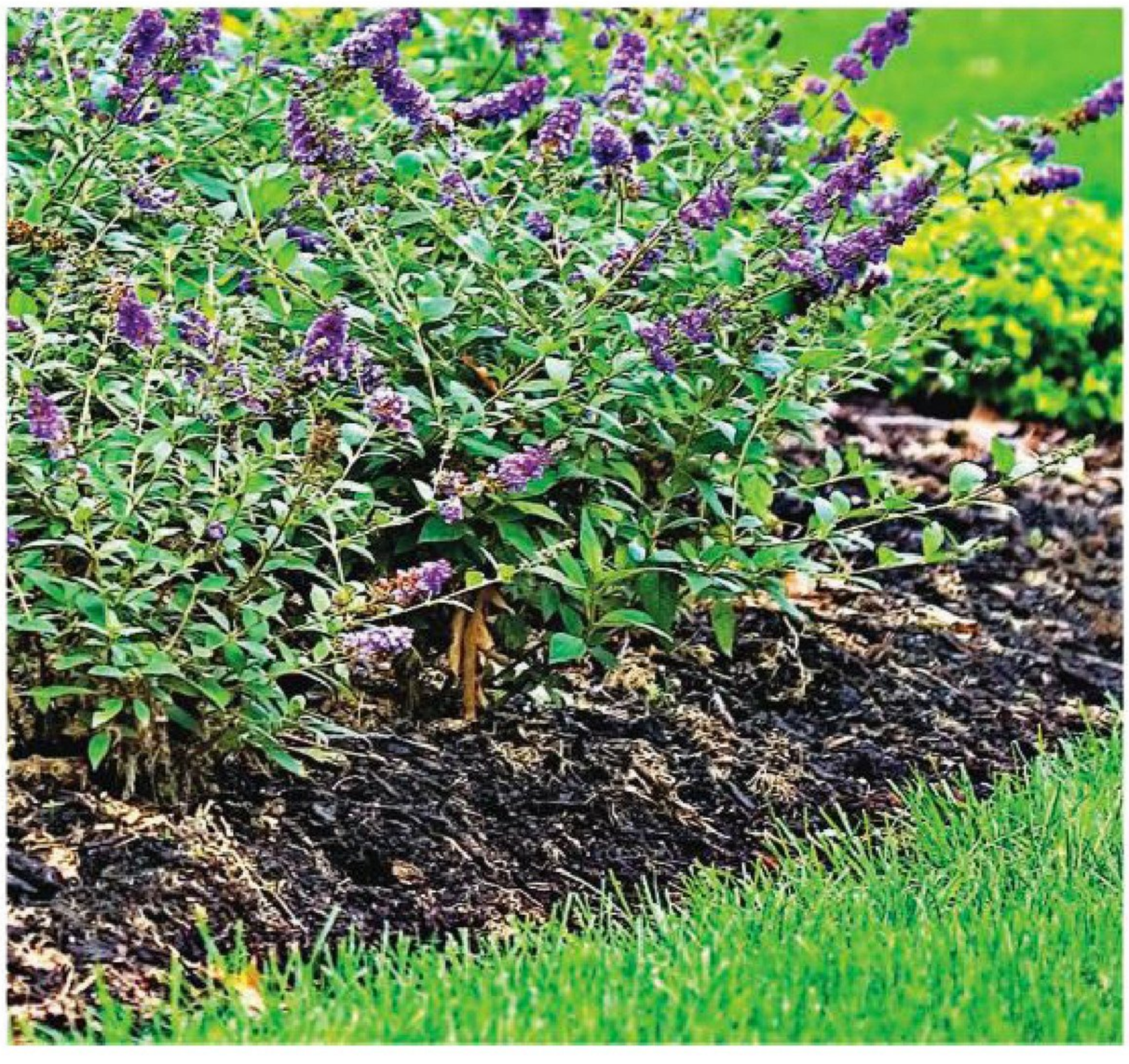
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end note

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