

RENO HOME



CHERYL CHENAULT

By Cheryl Chenault ASID, RID

Small space, BIG STYLE

BRINGING BIG DESIGN STYLE INTO A SMALL ROOM is both a serious challenge and an opportunity to push the creative envelope. Clear boundaries are essential, and editing is key. Deciding what goes in and what to leave out makes all the difference. Here are seven big style ideas, creative considerations from pattern to lighting, to keep in mind when furnishing your small space. Just because space is at a premium doesn't mean you have to come up short on style.



GOT PATTERN?

As poetry often has meter, visual patterns have a rhythm, which causes the eye to move quickly and with ease from one element to another. The result is a distraction, which occurs because our eyes are naturally drawn to the lyrical repetition of pattern. Using sharp, clear colors is one of the best ways to expand a small space.

Maharani, a wallpaper by Henry Wilson for Osborne & Little, osborneandlittle.com.



OUT OF SIGHT

Keeping clutter to a minimum is truly important in a small space. Incorporate furniture pieces that add character as well as provide a hidden means for storage. This table has a lift-off lid that reveals storage space for a throw, pillow, or remote controls.

*Lacquer Bunching Table
A Gump's Exclusive, gumps.com*



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Unexpected accents with texture bring delight and refined detail when placed against the smooth backdrop of cabinetry or furniture. As one of the more subtle design elements, texture increases interest by adding variety and arousing the sense of touch when used in small-space compositions.

Primitive Collection Cabinet Hardware by Clodagh for DuVerre, duverre.com.



LIGHTEN UP

Lighting serves to define areas and activities within a room. The soft, curving lines of this fixture add dramatic height and ambient light to a small interior. Instead of thinking of lamps as an afterthought, introduce lighting as a sculptural centerpiece and build your room design around an engaging visual element.

Morning Glory Torchiere by Aqua Creations, ayalaserfaty.com



SEE CLEARLY

Acrylic furniture, glass, and mirrors all are fantastic solutions for small spaces. An acrylic end table is a glamorous and unmistakably modern element with transparent contours. Our eyes visually pass through the piece, which promotes the illusion of additional visual space inside the room.

Lorna Acrylic Side Table from Oly Studio, olystudio.com



KEEP A LOW PROFILE

Scale and proportion are two of the most important elements in room design. The correct sizing of pieces will create harmony and good proportion. Furnishings with a low back height fit comfortably and work well in rooms with a low ceiling. With legs that lift off the floor, the room will feel more spacious.

Aspre Club Chair, Christian Liagre at Holly Hunt Designs, hollyhunt.com

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BRANCH OUT

This luxurious hand-knotted rug presents an interplay of red abstract blossom shapes against a light ground. Exciting visual interest is enhanced as the branches extend past the boundaries and fall from the edge. This type of implied pattern extension will expand and open up a small space.

Plum Area Rug from Fort Street Studio, fortstreetstudio.com