

## 40

WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME

BIGGER,  
BRIGHTER,  
LIGHTER

You don't need big bucks and burly builders to get more space and style at home. It's quick and simple with these clever decorating tricks

STYLING MIA ASKER PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD POWERS STORY JODIE THOMSON

**OPPOSITE** Case Study **bed**, queen \$3300, Spence & Lyda. Finn Juhl birch **tray table**, \$950, FY2K. Naska chrome **lamp**, \$525, Gineico. Villeroy & Boch City Life **creamer** (used as vase), \$55, Empire. Orrefors Tantarella **carafe**, \$155, Orrefors Kosta Boda. Art Stripe block **clock**, \$290, Dinosaur Designs. Attiki **trays** (under table), \$29 each, Papaya. Pia Wallen **slippers**, \$119/pair, funkis Swedish Forms. Actil First Line **sheet set** in snow, queen \$165.90, **quilt cover**, queen \$199.95, both Sheridan. Perugia **pillowcases**, \$195/pair, Moss River. Waffle **blanket**, \$345, Orson & Blake. Waverly pink **mohair throw**, \$190, Plane  
[whiteonline.com.au](http://whiteonline.com.au) Wavy **pillowcases**, both in Yellow, Lilac, Mauve, Watty! Velvet Maroon, Watty! White Lavender.

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# 01

Horizontal stripes painted across a feature wall are a clever way to make a skinny space seem much wider.

# 02

White bed linen is crisp, timeless and creates a more spacious feel than a large-patterned bed cover.

# 03

A low-lying bed gives you the same stretch-out space as a taller bed, but makes the room appear huge and airy.

# 04

Use an accent colour to add some punch to streamlined colour schemes and interiors. A couple of bright cushions, a striking throw or one dramatically coloured armchair is all you need.

# 05

Mini bedside tables will keep a little bedroom feeling roomy. Think laterally for a compact look that's big on practicality, like this tray table with handy baskets underneath for extra storage. >



# 06

A framed mirror propped against a bedroom wall will visually double the size of a room, and look gorgeous at the same time.

**07** A folding screen is an easy way to hide clutter and give a room a clean feel without the need for bulky wardrobes. Go for a light colour or texture so it blends with your walls.

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**OPPOSITE** Goya mirror, \$1995, Design Warehouse. Antona **sideboard**, \$6450, Fanuli Furniture. Artek **screen**, \$2740, Anibou. In Your Dreams **pyjamas**, \$110, Papaya. **Nightdress**, \$295, Plane Tree Farm. **Jewellery**, Dinosaur Designs. **LEFT** Top to bottom: Cotton House Liberte standard **pillowcases**, \$49.95/pair, David Jones. Allegra **pillowcases**, \$77/pair, white damask **flat sheet**, queen \$160, Allegra **flat sheet**, queen \$167, all Moss River. Actil First Line **sheet set** in snow, queen \$165.95, Sheridan. Cotton House Madonna single **bedspread**, \$249, David Jones. Pure soft **combed cotton throw**, \$425, Papaya. White **mohair throw**, \$155, Empire. Blush Capri **cotton throw**, \$149, Moss River. Artek 90D **stool**, \$375, Anibou. **BELOW** White Nova MkII **blind**, 120x150cm \$49.95, Freedom. Cream square **planters**, \$16.95 each, cuddlebug **plants**, \$6.95, both Honeysuckle Garden. Resin **rings**, from \$40 each, Dinosaur Designs. **For stockists see page 152**

**08** For an expert decorating look, group items – such as framed happy snaps or collections of ornaments – together rather than spreading them all over the room. Big on style, small on clutter.

**09** Sleek venetians let you totally control the amount of light that comes in, give you privacy and are more streamlined than fancy drapes.

**10** One or two types of pattern is plenty for maximum effect. Any more will suffocate a smaller room.

**11** Use delicious textures on sofas, cushions, curtains and rugs, instead of lavish patterns. These will add interest and luxury to a minimal space, without overwhelming the room.

**12** Good-looking storage solutions, like a designer magazine rack, will soak up all your bits and bobs and look fabulous. >



**RIGHT** Flower prints, 700x500mm \$185 each, Bubble Creative. Kosta Cramer extendable table, \$2040, Paulina chairs, \$824 each, both ECC Lighting & Living. Boda wind dish, \$64, Peter's of Kensington. **BELOW LEFT** Artek tiled trolley, \$4175, Anibou. **Chip & dip set** (at front), \$39, funks Swedish Forms. Snow swirl Matisse salad servers, \$85/pair, Dinosaur Designs. Orrefors Eden bowl (right), \$32, Iittala Aino Aalto clear bowl, \$52, Hackman Citterio Tools salad servers (in bowl), \$123/pair, Lintex parchment tablecloth, \$35, Marie Claire tablecloth, \$72, napkins, from \$5 each, all Peter's of Kensington. Linen rib rug, 2x3m \$1800, Rugs Carpets By Design. **BELOW RIGHT** JG Generation martini glasses, \$89.95/2, whisky decanter (right) \$129.95, both David Jones. Orrefors Merlot decanter (centre), \$314, Orrefors Kosta Boda. Orrefors Erik decanter (left), \$106, Peter's of Kensington. **Table, chairs**, both as before. **OPPOSITE** Norm 69 pendant light, \$299, FY2i. Pale green baby check curtain, \$28/metre, No Chintz. Birch console, 1800x300x800mm, \$1400, small glass vase, \$183, both Orson & Blake. Green swirl vase (on windowsill), \$145, tall white spot vase, \$520, both Dinosaur Designs. Lime bowl, \$19, Empire. Uovo egg table lamp, \$550, Gineico. Hackman Citterio chopping board & knife, \$152, Villery & Boch Amanti deep gourmet bowls, \$36 each, Villery & Boch Amanti gourmet plates, \$36 each, Côte Sud Cyclades napkins, \$19, all Peter's of Kensington. JG Generation hi-ball glasses, \$89.95/2, JG Generation goblets, \$89.95/2, Mascagni stainless steel cutlery, \$895/89-pieces, all David Jones. **Wall colour** Watty! Spring Burst. **For stockists see page 152**



# 13

Hang pictures up high to make your ceilings seem taller. Anywhere above eye level will do the trick.

# 14

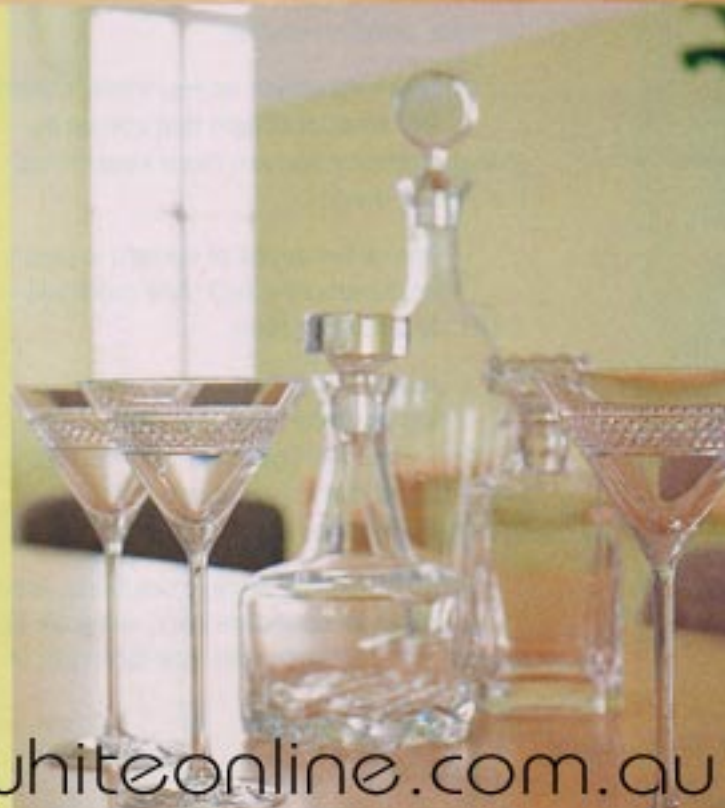
Frameless pictures will give your space a more streamlined feel than ones with bulky frames. Try paintings on plain canvas, or put prints behind clear perspex frames.



**15** Go for glass and crystal accessories where you can, as they'll capture every bit of daylight, and at night the light will bounce back like diamonds around the room.

**16** Portable pieces on wheels, like a mobile trolley, will come in handy when you're entertaining in a small space. Wheel 'em out when they're needed, then hide them away when the guests go home.

**17** Look for built-in storage in everyday furniture pieces, like a slide-out drawer on a trolley, a bed with drawers underneath or coffee table with bookshelf below.



**18** Paint part-way up a wall in one shade, and leave the rest white for a look that'll make ceilings soar. Stick to paler shades so there's not too much of a contrast between the colours.

**19** Light-coloured flooring will make your walls seem further away and skinny rooms much wider.

**20** Think scale when you're furnishing a room. A smaller room will look just right if the furniture's the right size. Likewise, bigger rooms need bigger pieces.

**21**

The best dining table for a mini space? One that extends out for when you've got extra guests. And go for one that's narrower than normal, say 700mm instead of 900mm.

**22**

Lighter timbers will make bigger bits of furniture look right in a smaller room, without hogging the whole space. Choose beech and pine over cherrywood or mahogany. >

**23** Arrange your furniture so there's plenty of room to walk through and the room still feels open, no matter how small it is.

**24**

Hang a giant mirror facing a window to bounce loads of sunshine and light back into the room. Like having two windows!

**25** A single, dramatic light shade or lamp will make a big style statement in a room, and will draw the eye more than a collection of little lamps.

**26**

Icy cool colours like duck-egg blue or minty green will make little rooms grow before your eyes. Seriously, chilly shades trick your eye into seeming further away so work brilliantly in small spaces.

**27** Several side tables do the same job as a big coffee table in the centre of the room but won't take up half as much space. And you can easily move the tables around.

**28** Sofas that sit on legs appear to take up far less space than those with heavy bases that hit the ground. For an elegant finish, go for legs in slick, shiny chrome or polished timber.

**29** Stick to the same flooring material throughout your house to give a sense of a flowing, open space.

**30** Slide-away furniture, like a set of neat nesting tables, will give you lots of function for just a little bit of space.

**31** See-through perspex furniture will bring light and sparkle to a dingy space. It's also pretty groovy. How about some cute little tables or stools?

**32** Pale-coloured fabrics are your best bet for bigger furniture like sofas, as they'll make the pieces seem more streamlined and blend into pale-coloured walls.

**33** A roomy rug will define a living room space and give a more airy feel than a lot of little rugs scattered every which way.

**LEFT** Atlanta leather 3-seater sofa, \$3950, Atlanta leather 2.5-seater sofa (just glimpsed), \$3580, Gilda floor lamp, \$1260, all Fanuli Furniture. Teal octagon cushion, \$160, aqua Dupion silk pillow, \$69.95, cashmere crinkled throw, \$1750, all Ruby Star Traders. White lacquer mirror, \$395, books, both Orson & Blake, Nelson 5452 end table, \$1005, Spence & Lyda. Cut and loop rug, 2000x3000mm \$1749, Designer Rugs. Tundra laminate maple flooring, \$19/square metre, Wilma curtains, \$25/pair, both Ikea. Teardrop vases (on windowsill), \$15.95 each, Villeroy & Boch city life creamer, \$55, Aria teacup & saucer, \$11, all Empire. Square, ice-blue swirl lamp, \$400, Dinosaur Designs. **Wall colour** Dulux Karma. **RIGHT** Beech veneer Lack wall shelf, \$59, Ikea. Corban & Blair twin box frame, \$50, Villeroy & Boch City Life coffee pot, \$165, both Empire. Leather photo frame, \$55, Orson & Blake. Blue swirl Dirk vase, \$95, Dinosaur Designs. Kosta Boda Atoll bowl, \$49, Blue Nagool suede cushion, \$43, both Peter's of Kensington. Dupion silk pillow, \$69.95, Ruby Star Traders. Atlanta leather 2.5-seater sofa, \$3580, Fanuli Furniture. **Wall colour** Dulux Karma. **BELOW LEFT** Clear lucite tables, \$449.95/nest of 3, Room Interior Products. Orrefors Mingus glass pitcher, \$70, Peter's of Kensington. Newson hi-ball glasses, \$49 each, Empire. **BELOW RIGHT** Dux Roto sheepskin armchair, \$3729, Dux Roto footstool, \$1699, both Scandinavium. Magazine rack, \$59, Orson & Blake. Wilma curtain (behind), \$25/pair, Rosalinda Veck curtain, \$69/pair, both Ikea. Pod vase (far left), \$24.95, Seed vase (far right), \$29.95, both Ruby Star Traders. Stem vase, \$85, Dinosaur Designs. **For stockists see page 152**

**34** Simple colour schemes work best in smaller spaces, as they'll give great impact without crowding the room. No more than three colours is the general rule.



## 35

Floating wall shelves topped with beautiful things add 'mmmmm' to a plain, boring wall, and they're a much more compact option than heavy bookcases.

## 36

Stick to the same colour for walls, ceiling and woodwork. More streamlined for the eye, and a good way to disguise any ugly architectural features.

**37** A row of floor-to-ceiling curtains add height to any room. Disregard the top of the window and hang the curtain rail as high as you can. Allow drapes to drop all the way to the ground for a tall-feeling room.

**38** Layer sheer fabrics over regular curtains for a more floaty, soft feel to lighten up a room. By hanging them on separate tracks, you can leave the sheer curtain in place during the day to maximise and filter the natural light.

**39** Built-in storage will always look sleeker than freestanding pieces, especially when the doors and drawers are painted the same colour as your wall.

**40** Freestanding armchairs and ottomans take up less space than sofas. Look for quality, well-designed ones which are just as comfy as sprawling on a couch. **hb**

