



TRENDING

[After-Christmas Furniture Deals](#)

[Color Trends 2024](#)

[Timeless Kitchen Cabinets](#)

When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. [Here's how it works.](#)

Shopping

4 Designer Tricks to Make the Most Of Even the Smallest Space — What To Do When Every Square Inch is Precious

Designers revealed their best-kept secrets for optimizing small spaces.

Shop their recommendations here

Sign up to our newsletter



(Image credit: Jonathan Adler)

Jump to category: [Color](#) | [Multifunctional Furniture](#) | [Mirrors](#) | [Reduce Visual Clutter](#)



BY [JULIA DEMER](#)
PUBLISHED 8 DAYS AGO

Residing in New York City, a locale infamous for comically small apartments, non-existent closet space, and dormitory-style kitchenettes, I find myself navigating the challenges of a place where real estate comes at a premium. Like many others in this bustling metropolis, I've had to get quite creative with how I utilize my limited space.

Every square inch is precious to me, so when it comes to creating the illusion of space, I'm eager to explore any [small apartment ideas](#). Seeking expert advice to address the challenges of furnishing in the face of limited space, I reached out to professionals not only for my benefit but also for anyone grappling with the same issue.

This isn't just a New York City problem – whether you're attempting to maximize a small guest room or dealing with a square footage challenge elsewhere, the desire to create an illusion of more room is universal. Read on to discover the best-kept secrets of interior designers for optimizing even the tiniest of spaces.

[Consider these designer-approved small kitchen ideas.](#)

HOW TO MAXIMIZE LIMITED SPACE

Livingetc knows design. ✔ We spend hours testing and comparing the latest products, bringing only our edit of the very best to you. [Find out more about how we review.](#)

COLOR



(Image credit: [LAYERED](#)).

Interior designer S.A. "Sam" Jernigan asserts that color is a crucial element where breaking the rules can yield significant benefits. She suggests considering dramatic hues for the walls or ceiling, but advises against heavy contrast, as our eye is always seeking contrast and "stops" when that's found: "In a more diminutive room, washing over architectural elements that might typically be painted in a contrast (e.g., trim) color can instead be painted in the same hue as what's adjacent or behind them - thus creating a clean, unbroken sightline, which then serves to visually expand the space."

While maintaining a singular color palette achieves this, [Artem Kropovinsky](#), founder of Arsign, a NY-based interior design studio, favors a lighter one for its ability to brighten the room and create the illusion of a more expansive space.



Natural Tan Cotton
Basketweave Window
Curtain Panel

[View at CB2](#)

Price: \$39.95

These elongated curtain panels create the illusion of a taller room. Ideal for white or cream-colored interiors, they add a touch of sophistication. Choose black for darker rooms and enjoy the transformative effect.



Malone Oatmeal Tufted
Wool Rug

[View at Burke Decor](#)

Price: \$398

According to Sam, low contrast is the key to maximizing small spaces. This is one of the [best rugs](#), with its subtle design, provides compelling visual interest without overwhelming.



Ashford Molded Classic
Wainscot Wall Panel
(16"W x 28"H x 1/2"P)

[View at Amazon](#)

Price: \$15.91

Introduce depth effortlessly with these picture frame wall panels. Low in contrast, they are a cost-effective solution, easy to install, and exude a luxurious feel.



(Image credit: [Studio Duggan](#))

Challie Stillman, VP of Creative at NY-based design store [Resource Furniture](#), suggests opting for multifunctional furniture to open up a room and make it feel larger. For example, in bedrooms where the bed occupies most of the square footage, folding it away when not in use maximizes the available space.

Professional home organizer Laura Price adds that an ottoman sofa is another excellent example of multifunctional furniture, providing extra storage built into the sofa, perfect for storing blankets or bedding, achieving two purposes with one piece.



Dez Murphy Bed

[View at Wayfair](#)

Price: \$1,329.99

Was: \$3,850

Meet your perfect home office and guest room solution with this chic Murphy bed. Compact and modern in its storage cabinet form, it effortlessly transforms to accommodate a full or queen-sized bed.



Mordecai 90" Upholstered Sofa

[View at Wayfair](#)

Price: \$1,149.99

You'd never believe that this glam corduroy sofa doubles as a sleeping space. Seating two comfortably as a couch, it effortlessly converts into a twin-sized bed for overnight guests. Raved about for its comfort, it seamlessly combines style and functionality.



Terrence Boucle Upholstered Storage Bench

[View at Wayfair](#)

Price: \$393

Was: \$636

Enhance your bedroom or entryway with this boucle upholstered bench, providing a stylish solution to conceal throws, toys, or knick-knacks. The soft-to-touch boucle upholstery adds texture, making it a sophisticated and practical addition to your space.

MIRRORS



(Image credit: [Jonathan Adler](#).)

Mirrors are the go-to optical illusion for designers aiming to enhance our perception of space. **Sam advises** against using small-scale mirrors in smaller spaces, recommending larger mirrors as a "verse optical illusion" that fools the eye into perceiving a space as more expansive than it is. The frame matters, too. Instead of choosing a greater number of subdued mirrors, **Sam suggests** opting for a couple of larger mirrors with a more substantial appearance. The placement of mirrors is equally crucial, with designers favoring unexpected locations, such as behind large furniture pieces or in room corners.



Rectangle Wood Mirror

[View at Wayfair](#)

Price: \$459.99

Embrace rustic charm with this grand mirror surrounded by solid teak wood. A lovely focal point for any space, this mirror brings warmth and character, making a bold statement in solid teak.



Amelie Grand Floor Mirror

[View at Arhaus](#)

Price: \$1,199

Was: \$1,499

Overcome space constraints with this oversized Pinterest-worthy floor mirror. Its massive presence exponentially increases the perceived space in your room.



Rosé Mirror

[View at Ethnik Living](#)

Price: \$704

Was: \$949

Experience the epitome of organic beauty with this irregular mirror. Seamlessly blending into any home, it radiates a relaxed vibe. Best hung vertically, though it's versatile enough to be displayed horizontally, offering flexibility in styling.

REDUCE VISUAL CLUTTER



(Image credit: [Studio Duggan](#))

Laura emphasizes that one of the easiest ways to maximize small living spaces is by reducing visual clutter. The organizational expert elaborates, “having excess items on surfaces, unnecessary furniture, or even too many plants all contribute to visual clutter, which makes the room feel smaller and can make us more stressed. For areas of the room that feel overcrowded, try taking a few items away; you’ll be surprised at what a difference it can make.” For those wondering where to store extra items, concealed cabinets, as recommended by Artem, or stackable storage boxes are fantastic options, particularly suitable for cupboards with tall shelving.



Wicker Storage Bins with Lids, Set of 3

[View at Amazon](#)

Price: \$35.98

These stackable seagrass storage baskets are so appealing that they don't need to be hidden. Their neutral, earthy charm complements various spaces, providing a stylish solution for organized storage that effortlessly merges with your decor.



Moab Bleached Mindi Wood Credenza

[View at CB2](#)

Price: \$1,699

Achieve ample storage without visual clutter with this raised credenza from CB2. Its elevated design creates the illusion of a more airy space, combining functionality with a sleek and modern aesthetic.



Mid Century Bathroom Storage Cabinet

[View at West Elm](#)

Price: \$249

Tackle bathroom clutter in style with this chic mid-century modern cabinet. Featuring a towel rack underneath, it ensures all your essentials are in one place, seamlessly blending form and function.

Don't leave without exploring these [small apartment living room ideas](#).

Be The First To Know

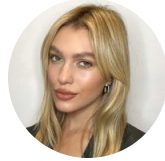
The Livingetc newsletter is your shortcut to the now and the next in home design.

Subscribe today to receive a stunning free 200-page book of the best homes from around the world.

SIGN ME UP

- Contact me with news and offers from other Future brands
- Receive email from us on behalf of our trusted partners or sponsors

By submitting your information you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) and are aged 16 or over.



Julia Demer 

Style editor

Formerly covering fashion at L'Officiel USA, style maven Julia Demer brings her love of design to Livingetc's world of interiors. As the title's Style Editor, Julia's work reflects a sharp eye for detail and an innate passion for aesthetics. Her journey began with a strong foundation in design, honing her craft at renowned establishments like The Row and even establishing her own eponymous fashion brand. Julia's design background is evident in the way she thoughtfully curates shopping edits, always maintaining a focus on emerging trends while preserving timeless sensibilities. For Julia, fashion and interiors go hand in hand, reflecting her lifelong commitment to perfecting the art of style.

Taboola Feed

3 Toxic Foods For Dogs: The One Meat You Should Never Feed Your Dog

Common pet food can shorten your favorite dogs life

Dog Food Discovery | Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

10 things you should never throw away when decluttering - 'these are the things you'll regret later down the line'

Don't go overboard when organizing your home by throwing away these fundamental items

Livingetc

Most Windows Users Didn't Know They Can Block Ads (Do It Now)

Chrome users can now block all ads and speed up their browsing; not only will you reduce your data usage but also protect against malicious links. It's now easier than ever!

The best free VPN of 2023

We help you pick the best free VPN service in 2023, explaining the pros, cons, and risks. Avoid VPN scams and get a free VPN for streaming Netflix.

They Don't Want You Owning One, But It's Not Illegal

Everyone loves hiking, but a few know this military hiking stick that makes hiking a piece of cake.

TactiStaff | Sponsored

Learn More

The #1 Toilet Cleaning Hack I Wish I knew Sooner

1 scoop dissolves grime, hard water stains & everything else. Simply pour, wait, flush!

Splash Foam | Sponsored

Learn More

LATEST



'Don't Throw Them Out Just Yet!' This Household Waste Can Be Used to Protect Sensitive Garden Plants From Frost
Sometimes the best and easiest solutions are right there in front of you if you're looking for ideas to give plants some TLC during a cold snap

BY SARAH WILSON



How to Declutter Your Home Before the New Year – 11 Small Tasks You Can Fit in Before 2024

In that panic to get your home ready for the holidays? We have you covered with our guide to decluttering your home before 2024 begins

BY HEBE HATTON

USEFUL LINKS

BUYING GUIDES

[The best wall mirrors](#)

[The best blenders](#)

[Gorgeous children's desks](#)

[The cosiest blankets for autumn](#)

HOW TO

[How to hang wallpaper](#)

[Create the perfect gallery wall](#)

[Tips on painting a room](#)

[Hiring an interior designer](#)

INSPIRATION

[Grey living room ideas](#)

[Ideas for boy's bedrooms](#)

[Small living room ideas](#)

[Ideas for grey kitchens](#)

Livingetc

US

CONTACT
FUTURE'S
EXPERTS

TERMS
AND
CONDITIONS

PRIVACY
POLICY

COOKIES
POLICY

ADVERTISE
WITH US

CAREERS

DO NOT
OR SHA
PERSC
INFORM

