

How to make a small room appear bigger?



Do you live in a small apartment and would love to have more space?

Do you struggle with giving an airy feeling to your tiny home?

Adding square feet to their space is the most sought effect when people are calling interior designers.

And now, do you know that you can add those desired square feet to your home without doing renovations?

In this guide, I will reveal the best tips to push your walls and give this small room a totally different feeling.

**Are you ready?
Let's go!**



The general vibe of your space



KEEP IT SIMPLE

When it comes to adding space to your room, the main mantra is to keep it simple.

Minimalism is your best friend in this quest.

Avoid clutter, complicated patterns, and overwhelming colors.



Avoid clutter

A cluttered room is the best way to make the space feel smaller and cramped. Avoid clutter, mess, accumulation of items and accessories.

Try to maximize storage and only display the essential elements of your decoration. Not every surface of the room needs an accessory.

Why not leave this console top empty? It will immediately add a feeling of tidiness and amplitude.

A little tip for maintaining a tidy space is to be intentional about every element in the room.

If you're a little like me, you have crushes on accessories and decorative elements every time you enter a lovely shop. And it can be challenging to prevent yourself from buying all these beautiful items.

But if you have a small space, you **NEED** to be strict with yourself. If one thing comes in, another one needs to leave.

Otherwise, you will find yourself with this cramped feeling within only a few weeks!

Trust me, nothing gives an airier feeling than a tidy and decluttered space.



Avoid complicated patterns

Busy and complicated patterns can easily overwhelm a space and make it feel narrower. If you can avoid patterns, it's a great solution. Large plain walls will appear larger than a patterned one. Same for furniture and accessories.

And if you absolutely want to use a pattern, go for the simplest options, like stripes.

Don't use many contrasts as they will 'break' the space and make the room appear smaller.

Use textures instead of patterns to add interest and character.



Avoid overwhelming colors

Dark colors absorb light and, therefore, immediately make the room feel smaller.

Use light colors to emphasize the negative space and the light.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LIGHT IN YOUR SPACE



Natural light is your best friend to add square feet to your room.

If you are lucky enough to have great natural light, use it and emphasize it.

Don't block the light and the view with curtains, for instance. Or don't install a lot of accessories on the window sill.

Let the light flow!

And if you don't have enough natural light, don't worry.

You can still create an airy feeling in your space.

Cheat a little and use artificial light. Don't leave dark corners in your room, it would make it feel way smaller!

Don't be shy about adding light fixtures to your space.



CREATE RYTHM IN YOUR ROOM

Making your eye travel throughout the space will give you a sense of amplitude.

To achieve this effect, use lines in your interior, mainly vertical and horizontal lines.

Play with:

- your furniture (a long sofa with clean lines)
- wallpaper (vertical stripes from floor to ceiling)
- the light fixtures (a chandelier hung pretty low with a long electric cable climbing to the ceiling)
- the decorative accessories (drapes hung way higher than the top of the window to bring your eye upward).

And be careful: clutter will also make your eye travel throughout the space, but in the wrong way, and that won't achieve the desired effect of a larger area.

Now that we defined the room's general atmosphere let's dig into the more practical aspect of making your space appear bigger by talking about how walls can drastically impact this feeling.





The walls

The walls are the shell of your room. Forgetting them in your quest to add square feet to your space would be a huge mistake.

If you should remember only one piece of advice about the walls, remember to paint them light colors.

Dark colors absorb light and will reduce the space. So please don't paint them in a dark color!



Also, avoid too bold colors, even if they are not really dark. Bold colors will overwhelm the space, still making it feel smaller.

If you want to be 100% sure of the result, go for very light shades of white, cream, or light gray.

If you want to add a little color, opt for extra light shades of blush, green or blue.

Want practical advice?

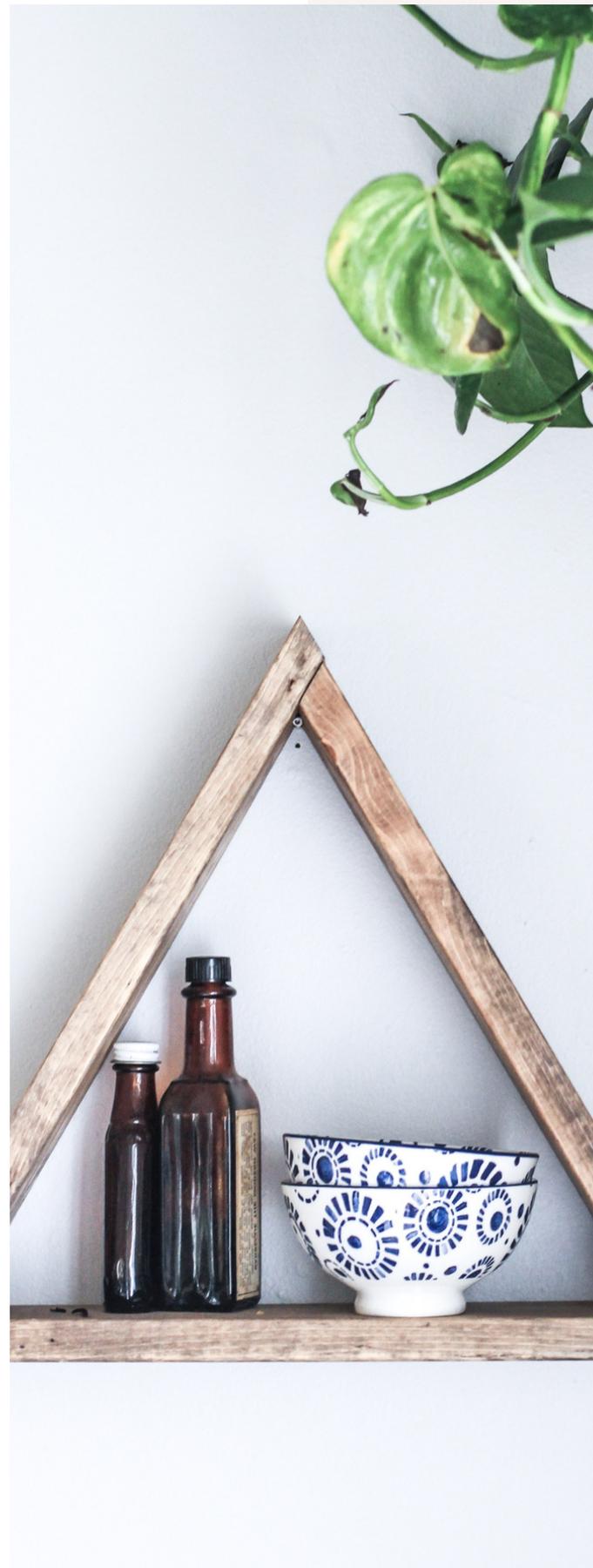
These are my favorites paints from Clare, a great paint brand: Whipped, Timeless, Penthouse, Classic, Chill, On point, or Neutral territory.

You can also blur the walls and ceiling limits by **opting for the same paint for both**. Erasing the boundaries between them will fool your eye and make the ceiling appear higher and the space larger.

Another optical effect you can use if you have moldings is to **paint them one shade lighter than the walls**. It will make the walls appear further, and therefore the space bigger!

Sometimes, unfortunately, you have to deal with the walls you have without being able to upgrade them.

In that case, don't worry! There are still many other ways to achieve the desired result of a larger room, particularly with your furniture's choice.



The furniture

Furniture plays an essential role in the overall vibe of the room.

It can make the space appear airy and spacious, or on the contrary cramped and small.

Choosing the right furniture is crucial in your quest to gain some square feet in your home!





CHOOSING THE PERFECT FURNITURE

First of all, keep in mind our mantra about minimalism.

Don't overload the place with an accumulation of furniture. Prefer one coffee table to three grouped side tables or a sofa to two armchairs.

As for the general clutter of the space, accumulating furniture will give the room a cramped feeling and make it appear smaller.

Light and transparent materials

As for the walls, furniture with dark colors absorb light and appear more voluminous than they actually are, whereas light colors reflect light.

If you install a black sofa in your small living room, it will appear bulkier than it is and draw all the attention in the room.

You really don't want that, as it will make the rest of the room appear way smaller!

Instead, go for light colors (cream, blush, light grey...) that will leave your room airy and spacious.





A great tip is to choose furniture the same shade as your walls, so they will blend in them and appear even smaller in the space.

And do you know what catches even less light and space than light furniture? Transparent ones!

Opt for transparent chairs like the Ghost ones or a transparent coffee table like the Peekaboo from CB2.

Use a clear shower panel or curtain instead of a colored one.

Being able to see your entire shower will make your bathroom appear bigger.

Be playful in the materials you choose. Think about rattan chairs that will let the light go through. Or maybe mesh elements.

As soon as the light can go through the furniture, you will add an airy feeling to your home!

Anyway, whatever color and materials you choose, avoid patterns!

Remember our mantra from the beginning? Keep it simple as much as possible!



Low and clean lines

You can also impact the feeling of your space by choosing perfectly shaped furniture.

First, again, simplicity is your best friend! Avoid complicated lines and curvy and bulky elements.

The cleaner, the better.

You need to make the eye travel throughout the room to emphasize the space. And the clean lines of your furniture will be the perfect vectors for it.





More than clean lines, try to choose low furniture.

By leaving a maximum of space above your furniture and under your ceiling, you will focus on the negative space of your home and will make it feel even airier.

For instance, prefer a low bed to a high headboard that will interfere with the empty space.

Exposed legs

Finally, a little trick to make the space feel airier is choosing furniture with exposed legs.

As for the walls, leaving a maximum of empty space visible is essential to make your room appear bigger.

And when you have exposed-legs furniture, a more significant part of the floor will be visible, again contributing to this spacious feeling.





Opt for an exposed-legs sofa, armchairs, tables, dining chairs, beds, media unit, etc... Every item you can put on its legs, go for it!

The midcentury modern style is an excellent fit for our goal to make our space appear bigger. Indeed, the elements of this style having low and clean lines with leggy furniture, it is perfect for you!

ADAPTING THE LAYOUT TO YOUR SPACE

I have great news for you!

Do you know you can gain square feet even without investing a single dollar? I'm not kidding! You can make your room appear way bigger just by changing your layout a little!

Making your room appear bigger is just about feeling.

Of course, you are not adding physical square feet to your home! But with little tips, you are giving your room a feeling of space. And this objective can be achieved just by moving your furniture a little.

To give this feeling, it is essential to keep the circulation in the room flowing.





Never block the pathway with furniture! Even if it seems the best solution, it will break the space, and you really don't want that!

Leave the pathway free from every obstacle, and you will be amazed by the result.

Try to push the biggest furniture against the walls and leave the small items in the open space.

For instance, in your living room, install the sofa against the wall, and install the coffee table and your armchair in the rest of the room.

Having the massive furniture installed in the middle of the room will break the space, and we now know this is really not a great idea.

The focal point

When you create your layout, you need to think about the focal point of the room.

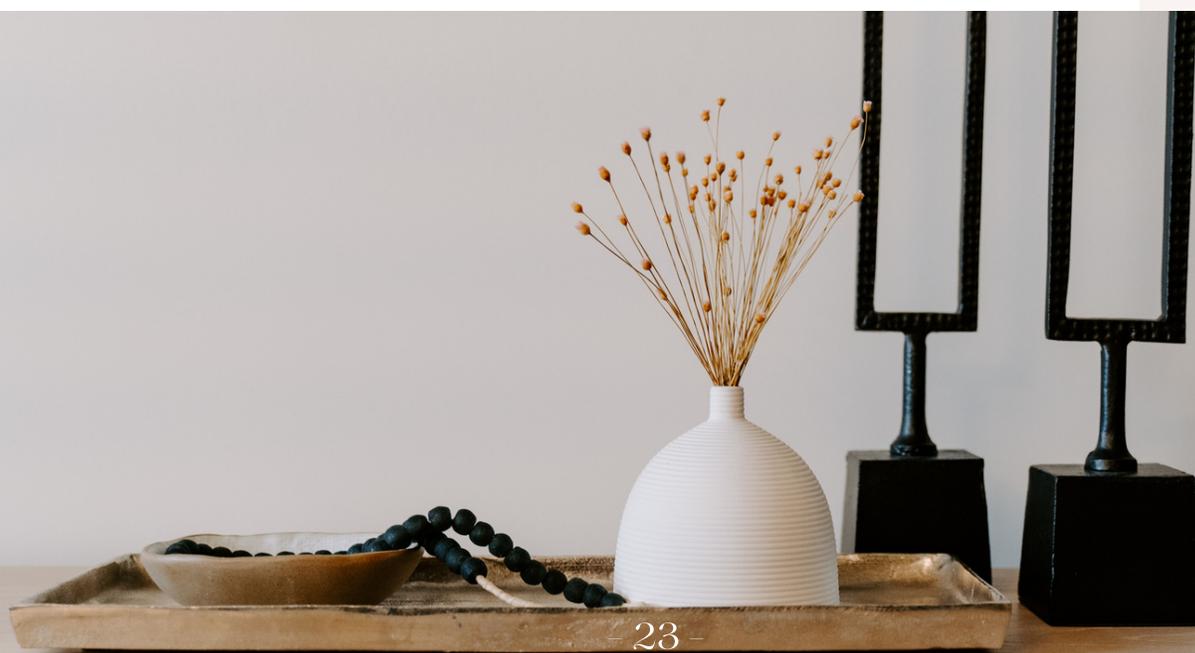
Usually, it is the most important furniture, like the sofa in the living room or the bed in the bedroom.

But you can also be playful and use a massive wall art or an oversized chandelier as your focal point.

If you have a bigger space, you can use different focal points in a same room, to add rhythm.

But in a small room, keep it to a minimum and only use one focal point.

Once you have chosen it, keep the rest to a minimum.





For instance, if you want to bring the focus on a colorful painting above the sofa, the rest of your furniture and decoration should be very simple.

While establishing the best layout for your home, think about this focal point and install it so you can see it as soon as you enter the space. It should drive your eye towards it.

Remember, the rhythm of the room, making your eye travel, is a great tip to make your room appear more spacious.

Finally, if you have a narrow room, an essential trick is being sure your furniture doesn't touch both sides of the room.

For instance, in your living room, your sofa can touch one wall or the other, but not both.

If it does, the space will appear so cramped it would be awkward.

And maybe it's time to change this way too big sofa!

The only exception is in your bedroom where a bed can sometimes touch both walls of the room.

It can make the space appear a little smaller, but you can take advantage of it by creating a super cozy feeling, like in a cabin.



The accessories

If you've been following me on Instagram (@[designbyanais](#)), you are aware of my passion for accessories.

They can totally transform a place, and forgetting about them is a HUGE mistake!

They are your interior design best friends!

When it comes to making your space appear bigger than it really is, accessories are essential.



MIRRORS

When it comes to emphasize space and light, mirrors are perfect. By reflecting the view and the light of the room, they double it. What a great way to make appear your space way bigger!

Place your mirror at 90 degrees with the window so it will reflect the view and appear like a second window.

Wherever you install them, mirrors are the perfect trick to extend your space, so don't be afraid to use them as much as you can in your decoration!



LIGHTING

We talked earlier about how important light is in your quest to add square feet to your room. Even if your place doesn't have a huge amount of natural light, artificial light can play an essential role, so don't neglect it.

But apart from adding light to your home, your light fixtures also have a great decorative impact that you can use at your advantage.

A beautiful chandelier can be a great focal point in your room. Try to hang it low to emphasize the space above it.

Moreover, its cable will create a vertical line, and we talked about how essential lines are to create movement and space in your room.



WALL ART

Don't forget our mantra of the day about simplicity.

If you have a huge home, you can be playful as you want, and accumulate as much art as you'd like.

But in your small home, keep it simple.

Prefer one big wall art to a gallery wall. It could give the space a cramped feeling, and we are definitely trying to avoid that!





As light fixtures, wall art can be a focal point in your room, so think about which art you would like to install while you are determining the layout of your space.

In fact, wall art can be a great option to add character in a small room as it doesn't overlap with the empty space of the floor.

If you want to use a statement element in your home, wall art is the best solution.

Prefer it to a bulky statement furniture that will use floor's space.

When installing your art, keep in mind the low lines we talked about for furniture.

The lower the elements are, the more negative space you will leave above, which is a perfect tip to make your room appear bigger.

So hang your art on the lower part of the wall, as low as possible, to leave as much space above as possible.



CURTAINS

As natural light is an essential part of making your space feel airy, using curtains can be tricky.

Choose the lightest fabric as possible, and the lightest colors too.

Having cream sheer curtains will still allow the light to flow, whereas dark grey velvet curtains will block it.

For the installation, the number one objective is to leave as much light as possible.

A simple trick is to use hardware larger than the window. So when your curtains are opened, they are on each side of the window and don't block one ounce of light.



I hope you liked all these tips about how to maximize your space and make your home appear way bigger than it really is.

Are you ready to go further and create the perfect decoration for your space?

Check my services [here](#), or [contact me](#) so we can chat about your project.



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