

HOMES & GARDENS

THE ENDURING CHARM OF Country Style

STUNNING STRIPES

The pattern that
wins every time

KITCHENS THAT WORK

Inspiration for
pantries, boot rooms
and laundries

FLOOR SHOW

Fabulous
stockists to know



STRIKING
IDEAS FOR
SMALL SPACES



SMALL WONDERS

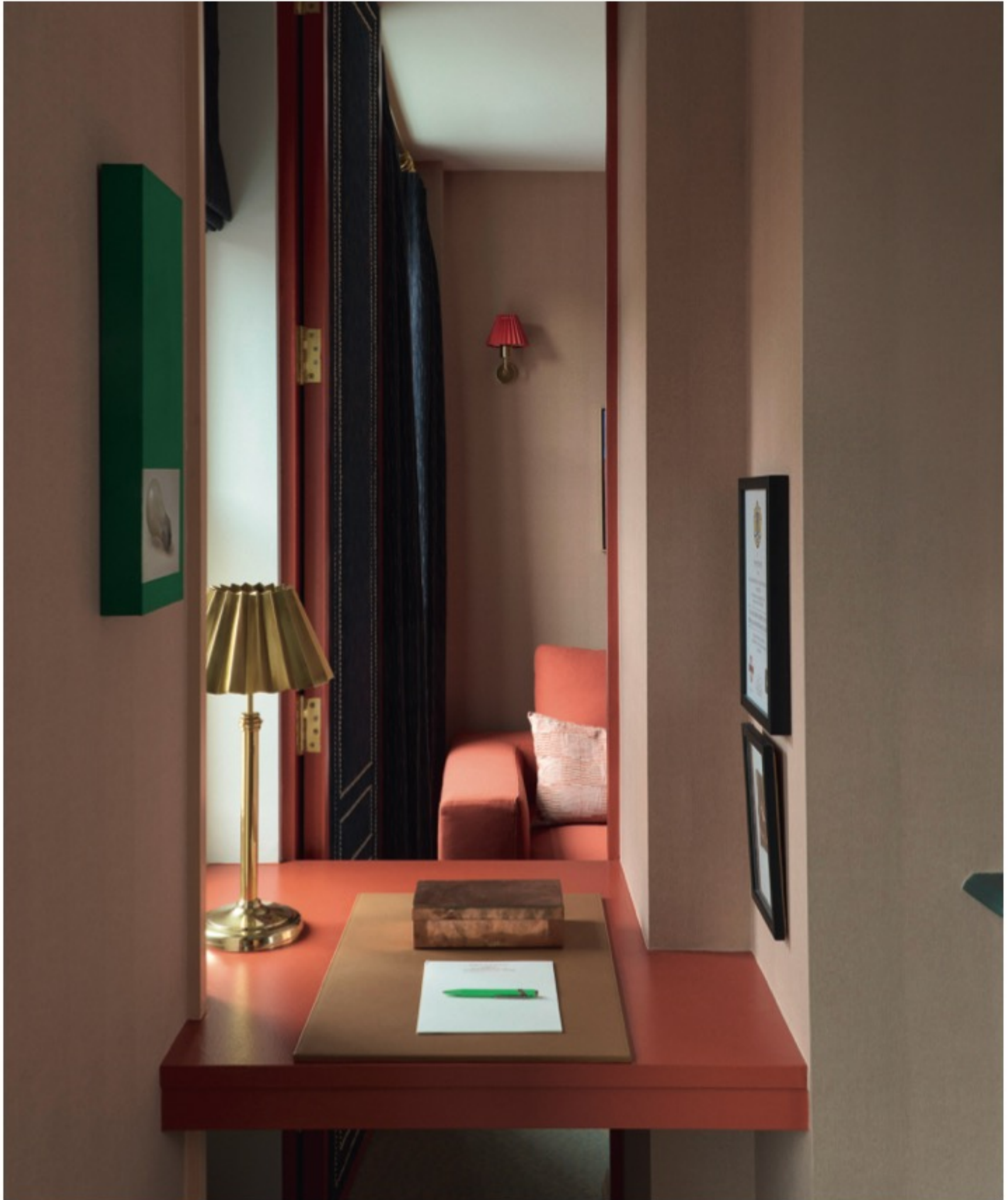
Compact spaces can deliver big style statements, as these ingenious examples show

FEATURE ARABELLA YOUENS

AROUND THE CORNER

Knocking down the wall between the kitchen and laundry room in this house in Suffolk, designed by Charlotte Crofts, resulted in enough space to accommodate a small island and seating area by the window. "The curve of the bench helps to soften the corners and repeats the shape of the spandrel detail on the cupboards," she explains. To make a design feature, she's brought in tones of yellow and green to contrast with the summer pudding pink on the joinery.

PHOTOGRAPH CHARLOTTE CROFTS



PHOTOGRAPH REBECCA REID

HARD WORKING

When space is at a premium, the trick is not to let somewhere to work from home slide down the list of priorities. Tom Bartlett of Waldo Studio created an ingenious design for a small apartment in London. The dining room and sitting room are divided by a chimney breast, so he knocked through and designed a wall-to-wall desk that can be accessed from either room or, when privacy is required, closed off by a set of felted folding doors. →



TOP SEAT

Banquettes take up less space than traditional dining set-ups because they eliminate both the need for clearance room behind individual chairs and the gaps between chairs. In this tall and narrow Victorian house decorated by Anna Haines, her clients wanted the open-plan kitchen to morph from somewhere the children could have breakfast to an elegant venue for dinner parties. Anna designed this curved banquette that can easily sit between eight and 10 people. The back support ensures comfort.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOZ GAGOVSKI



“Pattern can be a good companion in small spaces – an all-over design will make the room feel larger, softening any awkward angles”

CARLOS GARCIA, Carlos Garcia Interiors



PHOTOGRAPHS (LOOKING GLASS)
ALEXANDER JAMES; (BOOK NOOK)
MIKE GARLICK; (SNUG FIT)
82MM PHOTOGRAPHY

LOOKING GLASS

A built-in bench is a clever way to make use of a narrow gap between a door and a wall. Tom Cox of Hám Interiors was asked to turn this former boat and fishing store in Cornwall into a holiday let. Replacing a wall with glazing allows light through and gives a feeling of space.

BOOK NOOK

Rosie Bossom of Rosanna Bossom Limited designed this alcove for a flat in Mayfair. She's painted it in a warm green (Apple Smiles II, Paint & Paper Library) and added wall sconces in yellow. 'A nook is the perfect place to take a [colour] risk because it's contained,' she says.

SNUG FIT

When a partition wall is removed, the middle room in a Victorian terrace can become a forgotten space. Here, Polly Ashman replaced walls with glazing to create a light-filled TV room. 'Define the function and create the interiors for it, or it will tend to have no purpose,' she says. →

“Small spaces take a lot of thinking through, but get them right and they can be both practical and full of charm”

KATE ASLANGUL, Oakley Moore



DRESSING UP

Dressing rooms – especially when filled with natural light – make good bedfellows with reading spaces – a secluded area to switch off. Interior designer Christiana Kehrer created a dressing room and reading area from a small bedroom, using a warm olive-green palette.

LANDING SPACE

Half landings can play more of a role than a passing space. The design duo behind Spencer & Wedekind created what they call a ‘think box’. Fluted glass doors can be closed to create a study area outside the bedroom. When not in use, the chair is stored in a cupboard opposite.

SINGLE OUT

Built-in bed nooks work well in awkward shaped rooms. This design by Emma Ainscough was for a guest bedroom. ‘My client was happy to celebrate the small space and make a joyful single room,’ she explains. ‘With green views out of the window, it doesn’t feel claustrophobic.’

PHOTOGRAPHS (DRESSING UP)
ALEX JAMES; (LANDING SPACE)
FELIX SPELLER; (SINGLE OUT)
CHRIS HORWOOD

3 OF THE BEST NESTING SIDE TABLES

These gems are as stylish as they are space savvy



Mambu nested side tables,
£895, Oka



Burl nest of two tables in walnut,
£399, John Lewis



Moon tables, £3,852, Ochre

Top tips for tight spaces

Alice Bettington, co-founder of Golden, reveals the right pieces and artful design ideas to make best use of compact rooms

- Storage ottomans are a fantastic option for busy families who are short on space: toys can be tidied away at the end of the day and the room transformed from a family room into a place for adults to relax.
- If the layout allows, built-in seating can be useful to give both an extra place to sit as well as additional storage in more awkward spaces.
- We love to use slipper chairs instead of bulkier armchairs in small sitting rooms.
- Pouffes can be hard-working pieces, doubling as side tables or as an extra place to sit when entertaining.
- Bold patterns and colour work well in small spaces, so don't be shy about embracing them. Colour drenching is an effective approach and helps bold colour and pattern to feel calm and intentional.
- If there is good ceiling height in more compact rooms, we tend to embrace it with custom joinery, running bookshelves high up the walls or over door frames. Consider the depth of the joinery, though; anything too deep appears heavy in a smaller area and encroaches on valuable floor space. Taller, more shallow pieces will always look more elegant.
- Opting for the same colour or similar tones on walls and shelves helps to create a seamless effect rather than high-contrast painted joinery, which might feel heavier.
- Area rugs that fill the floor space and sit beneath the furniture work better than smaller alternatives, which can look too busy and disjointed.
- In smaller rooms, we would always steer away from very bulky curtains and keep them sleek and more refined. Blinds are the better option if your floor space is really limited – for example, in a small bedroom where you need to have enough space to move freely around a bed, as you won't have to factor in the curtain stack. 🛏