

COUNTRY ALMANAC®
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Home Office Anywhere!

Small Room DECORATING

HOW TO LIVE
LARGE IN
SMALL SPACES

'Best Use Of Space' 50 Storage Winners

HGTV
DESIGNER
MAKES
312 SQ.FT.
ROOMY

HOW A SMALL
RANCH FITS
A BIG FAMILY

FENG SHUI
TRANSFORMS
A BOXY LOFT

10 REBORN
KITCHENS

\$7.95



1 4>

Hardworking Hardware

A vanity that's actually a beautiful piece of furniture is as glamorous as well as practical option. Ready-made, narrow vanities that mimic fine furniture and will fit into the most modest bath are available from such manufacturers as American Standard, Kohler and Signature Hardware, but converting an heirloom or flea market dresser into a vanity would make a very personal statement, too.

GO FOR GLAMOUR

In a small bath, even one bold design element packs a punch. One of today's most striking upscale features is a vessel sink. They come in glorious colors, shapes and textures, and you can fit one on top of a table, dresser or pedestal. Perched on a glass pedestal, a vessel sink isn't just devoid of bulk—it qualifies as a piece of sculpture!

A single wall of stone is another fabulous upgrade. Slate's colors and textures will never fail you; to double the effect, install a mirror panel on the opposite wall. Or, you might want to install a medicine chest that's recessed into the wall. Surround it with a fancy frame so it reads like a mirror. Another option: Treat the shower to a super showerhead or body spray fixture.

Lighting is important in the bath, too. Designer Linda Klein of Princeton Junction, New Jersey, urges you to think elegant sconces rather than recessed ceiling lights. For natural light, she loves the idea of installing a skylight. "Getting in touch with the sky makes morning showers so much better," she says. "Mirroring a wall opposite a window also brings in more natural light."

MAKE IT OVER... ON THE CHEAP

The least expensive way to give a bath new style is with paint, wallpaper and accessories, and there again, the sky is the limit. You can go anywhere with a new look, from Swedish country to urban chic, from Victorian to contemporary.

To make a small bath appear larger, there's no question that taking a neutral stance works best. As Linda Klein says: "Cool, pale colors reflect light, so the space appears larger, and if you paint the woodwork, trim and door the same color as the walls, they'll 'disappear,' again seeming to enlarge the room. Add color via accents if you think those neutral walls are too bland. But having said this, sometimes it works to paint a bath a bold, deep color. It makes it look like a little jewel."

Designed as practical spaces, bathrooms often have a diminutive footprint on the floor plan, and manufacturers today offer fixtures to fit. Rachel Turner, marketing manager for Signature Hardware, notes that the company has many products for small bathrooms, like corner sinks and corner toilets that can really help maximize space. "Our 24- and 30-inch vanities are great for

smaller bathrooms because they have a relatively small footprint but provide much-needed storage space. The console-style vanities, like the Manhattan [below], have a bottom shelf that can be used for folded towels or toiletries, which really comes in handy when there's not much room available." Check out other offerings and view more at signaturehardware.com.

1 The Abbey Hammered Copper Slipper Soaking Tub is one of a kind, featuring a wide, deep interior in a mere 48-inch-long profile.



2 The Square Corner Basin has soft, sleek lines and can fit into a corner or on a countertop.



3 Rippled lines highlight the surfaces of the easy-fit Regent Corner Toilet.



4 Open-shelf construction and two bottom drawers combine for handy storage in the Metro Espresso Vanity.



5 Space-saving design is at your hands with the Tutto Round Corner Lavatory Bowl with Chrome Towel Rail.



6 Frosted glass gives an open, modern feel to the 24-inch Manhattan Console Vanity Cabinet. Topped with a Vessel Sink, it's a sculptural focal point for the bathroom.

