

Small decorating and design hacks with big impact



Plant power

Go big on greenery. Hilton Carter, author of *Wild Interiors*, says room size matters when it comes to plants. 'If you're looking to bring a plant into a room with high ceilings, I'd suggest opting for a larger one or hanging a pot from the ceiling so that it pulls your eye higher up, allowing the space to feel more full. For a small space, smaller plants are key, as well as utilising shelving to get them off the floor.'

GET THE LOOK For a similar chair, try Form velvet dining armchair, £338 for two, Danetti

PHOTOGRAPH BY HILTON CARTER
WORDS BY HILTON CARTER
PUBLISHED BY CICO BOOKS, £16.99
PHOTOGRAPH BY HILTON CARTER



Paint by numbers

A quick and easy way to refresh is by painting accent woodwork. Give traditional corning and skirting boards a contemporary update by painting them in a contrasting colour to the walls, using your chosen shade throughout the woodwork in the room to create a cohesive look. Here the floorboards are given the same treatment creating a cosy, cocooning feel.

GET THE LOOK For similar woodwork, try Down Pipe estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Fireplace tiled with Majadas tiles, from £5.30 a tile, Bert & May

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL MASSEY



Sunshine state

A fresh lick of paint on your back door and bar stools will lift the mood in a room without having to commit to a complete redecoration. Simply introducing one bold colour can make a huge impact, even if the rest of the scheme is otherwise neutral. Here, yellow brightens up the whole kitchen, while complementing the cool blue undertones of the room.

GET THE LOOK For similar paint, try Mister David 47 in intelligent satinwood, £73.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene



Into the wild

The downstairs cloakroom is one of the smallest rooms in the house, but also the one most of your guests will see, so it's an ideal opportunity to show flair. 'If there's one room you can take risks in, it's the bathroom,' says House of Hackney's decorating consultant, Steve Corcoran. 'To make a big splash, opt for wallpaper in a deep, rich shade, which will contrast beautifully with white ceramics and metallic finishes.'

GET THE LOOK Limerence wallpaper, from £125 for a 2m roll, House of Hackney

PHOTOGRAPHS MATTHEW WILLIAMS

On the tiles

Make a big impact with a new splashback. 'Not only are tiles practical but they can create an eye-popping focal point, making the whole kitchen look effortlessly stylish,' says Louisa Morgan, creative director at Mandarin Stone. To make a real impact, look out for bold colours, intricate detailing and textured finishes. 'Don't be afraid to use pattern - you can't go wrong if you opt for something you love,' she adds.

GET THE LOOK Bazaar Valetta glazed terracotta tiles, from £166.40/sq m, Mandarin Stone



PHOTOGRAPH (DISPLAY TYPE) PAUL WATSEY

Display type

We so often forget to incorporate art into a bathroom, but it is a great way of adding warmth and character to the space. Provided it is out of the way of any splash zones and in frames, creating a salon wall with some of your favourite pieces of art and photography creates something beautiful to draw your eye as you soak in a relaxing hot bath.

GET THE LOOK Gallery wall, prints from John Lewis & Partners, family photographs and antique art. **Bath**, CP Hart





Reflection factor

The use of mirrors to create the illusion of more space in a home is a tried and tested trick. Antiqued mirrors - with slightly mottled and smoky finishes - offer a more subtle look, but are just as effective at bouncing light around the room and increasing the sense of space. Apply panels to an entire wall for an all-out dramatic look.

GET THE LOOK For similar antiqued mirror glass, try Rupert Bevan, where bespoke commissions are priced from £540sq m



PHOTOGRAPHS (REFLECTION FACTOR) SARAH HOGAN, (VANITY FAIR) ANNA STATHAKI

Vanity fair

A dedicated pampering area to get ready in sounds like a luxury, but is attainable if you are clever about it. All you really need is a space with good natural light where you can add a few shelves. In this master bedroom, a vanity area has been created within the built-in storage, complete with shelving, a mirror and there's even room for a stool.

GET THE LOOK For similar bespoke storage, try Neville Johnson, where prices start from £3,000



FEATURE YVETTE MURRELL AND TERESA CONWAY
PHOTOGRAPH SIMON BEVAN

Artistic licence

Staring at the same four walls all day long? How about a colourful cubist mural in your home office. Oranges and pinks can have an energising effect, whereas blue hues evoke a more soothing feeling. If you're not up for picking up the paintbrushes and having a go yourself, check out wall mural panels or wallpaper to get the look.

GET THE LOOK A Walk in the City - Afternoon wallpaper by Hermès, £870 a panel; skirting and architrave in Cobalt 50 perfect water-based eggshell, £70 for 2.5ltr; door in Delft Tile 53 perfect water-based eggshell, £70 for 2.5ltr, all Designers Guild