



SHUTTERS SYSTEMS

An ideal choice of window covering for small rooms. They are sleek, tight fitting, don't take up much space and unlike curtains and some blinds, don't clutter up the window.

'Tier on Tier' shutter design in Eggshell from Santa Fe Shutters
Pricing is size dependent and must be quoted by a Santa Fe Shutters stockist but start from £200 per square metre. santafeshutters.co.uk

creative SPACES



Small homes, small rooms and growing families have inspired some very creative designers to come up with solutions and ideas to make sure your home stays stylish as well as practical. Stylista Homes speaks to Alan Hughes, Director of the Interior Design Faculty at The Inchbald School of Design (www.inchbald.co.uk) about solutions to small spaces.

Where can I get ideas from?

There's plenty of inspiration out there and a lot you can do on a budget. This is all about looking and translating good ideas into useable methods to suit your own space. By all means look at magazines and other people's homes but the editing of what you see is the most important stage. You need to ask yourself if the idea you see is something you can live with in term of scale, impact and practicality within your own space.

Use your money to buy one or two statement pieces – invest in a designer piece of furniture, fabrics for the windows, and an antique piece of furniture or expensive lighting – and look to do the rest more cheaply. A New York loft or a Strawberry Hill in a two-bedroom flat in south London may be unfeasible, but you can certainly create an element of either in terms of reference and 'triggers'. However, you need to treat your findings in a more conceptual manner. You might take the colour treatments from the former or an element of historical detail from the latter or it might encourage you to be bold and stark in the case of the loft and more focused on the historical embellishments of your Victorian house if you take Strawberry Hill as your muse.

Take a more cost-effective approach by focusing on a more expensive finish which can then be combined with cheaper recycled or reclaimed material; everyone should consider sustainability and the patina age added to surfaces and older furniture is hard to criticize. Remember to look outside the spatial and research colour, detail and influence through ceramics, graphics, paintings, landscape and sculpture. You can find a yardstick in any area of the visual arts – isolate a piece you like and analyse what resonates with you (is it the texture, shape, colour mixes etc). Use this as a starting point for an approach to your small space.

The key to this perennial question is a combination of tone, simplicity and reflection – in other words a light touch with colour, no clutter and careful use of mirrors if appropriate.

The lighter, and slightly cooler colours, tend to make a space look larger but avoid high 'bright white' if the shape of the room is not good or if there are a lot of fiddly details – often white can draw attention to these less than successful elements.

If you really want to use a darker tone then keep it to the lower half of the space – floors, walls and lower level furnishing.

Colour needs light, so look at how you illuminate the space. You can create a feeling of distance using side lamps and floor lights to 'punctuate' the space and lead the eye to the furthest wall. Increase the importance of the windows, dress simply and leave the maximum possible glazed surface to let the light in.

Keep the space simple, do not overdress or accessorize it. By clutter I mean visual clutter, the complication of too much to look at. Keep patterns under control and keep furnishings 'lighter' in terms of the proportion of the wall surface they will occupy. Use mirrors in alcoves to maximize the light and increase the feeling of the space.



clever **SPACES**



REVOL TABLE/ BED

It is a smart wall bed and table. One simple movement turns the bed into dining table. The table always stays level and folds down underneath the bed base. You can also have a desk or sofa version instead of the dining table from £ 6,500 fcilondon.co.uk



UNDERSTAIRS SPACE

- Space 40cm micro basin with shroud - £277
 - Space wall hung wc with seat and cover - £433
 - Concept toilet roll holder - £38
 - Concept glass shelf - £77
 - Cone soap dispenser - £55
 - Waterways basin pillar taps with crystal acrylic handles - £120
- bathrooms365.com

ALAPE INSERT CORNER BASIN

(above) A compact solution for small spaces including cloakrooms and ensuites and the design neatly keeps all pipe work from view. The Insert 5 corner unit retails at around £530 including VAT and is available in shelf white. The unit measures 470mm x 350 mm.





BESPOKE HOME STORAGE UNIT

(above) Vertical home storage system, fitted with rectangular hinged and sliding drawers, shoe shelf and mirrored wardrobe door.

inhouseinteriors.com

BESPOKE LIVING ROOM AND OFFICE

Home office and living room, with bespoke storage unit, floating wall shelves and custom fitted desk. inhouseinteriors.com

