

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

A good life

- LITTLE HOUSES RICH IN HEART & STYLE
- SCENTS TO LIFT THE SPIRITS
- HEALTHY & COMFORTING RECIPES FOR YOU

SUNRISE COLOURS
FEEL-GOOD SHADES FOR HAPPIER DAYS

PETITE PLOT? NO PROBLEM
INSPIRATION FOR COMPACT GARDENS

'MY DYSLEXIA HELPED ME FLOURISH CREATIVELY'
 Childhood challenge to successful country business

THE JOY OF SMALL SPACES

Paint tricks for tiny places

How to squeeze in a bathroom

Big ideas for bijou rooms

FUTURE

£5.99

03 >

9 770951 301983

MARCH 2026 • ISSUE 319

PRINTED IN THE UK

MARCH 2026

FIVE FOUNDATIONS OF

PETITE POTENTIAL

Overcoming the limitations of small rooms with these clever design ideas will help you create the illusion of more space

I

ON REFLECTION

Fitted cabinetry is often one of the best storage solutions for small bedrooms, but its bulky stature can make a room seem even smaller. By adding mirrored doors, it can make a space feel bigger. 'Mirrored cabinetry expands a space visually, reflecting light and creating the illusion of depth, and makes fitted furniture feel lighter and less imposing. It's a practical solution that combines function with a sense of spaciousness,' says Jayne Everett, creative director at Naked Kitchens. For country homes, antiqued finishes can bring a heritage touch. 'Consider the tonal quality of the glass, ranging from cool, silvery hues to warmer brass finishes,' adds Jayne. →





Shaker wardrobes in Soft Green, starting from around £25,000, Naked Kitchens

Glazed walls ensure this diminutive boot room, designed by Sims Hilditch, doesn't feel poky



2

GLASSY TOUCH

Glazed walls are not just the preserve of modern, minimalist interiors – they can also prove transformative when carving a room out of an existing space. ‘Glazed partitions allow light to flow freely between the spaces, blurring boundaries, reducing visual weight, and making even the smallest spaces feel open,

connected and generously proportioned,’ explains Christina Bull, studio lead and interior designer at Sims Hilditch. Opting for wooden frames and painting in a cosy shade – like this soft sage – or leaving the grain exposed, will complement the look and prevent it from jarring with the traditional interior.

SIMS HILDITCH COURTYARD ROOM
AT WOVHOUSE 2025
PHOTOGRAPH CHRIS HORWOOD

3

SOFT SHADES

Be cautious of using white in smaller schemes. 'People often think that bright whites make rooms feel larger; however, it can have the opposite effect, creating harsh lines. Warm whites or light neutrals in a tonal scheme offer a softer alternative – especially in a room with lots of natural light,' says Ruth Mottershead, creative

director at Little Greene. The same applies to the ceiling. 'Avoid using a pure white as this can create a stark contrast against the walls, drawing attention to the room's height and emphasising the petite floorplan. Instead, consider a lighter tonal version of your wall colour for a softer contrast that doesn't dominate the eye.' →



Walls painted in Masquerade Mid intelligent matt emulsion, £70 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

Bethany Linz Fresco
Stripe wallpaper,
Milton & King.
Bathroom designed
by Simply Bathrooms



4

EARN YOUR STRIPES

Rooms with lofty ceilings but a small footprint can often feel disproportionate. 'Here, the aim was to retain the spacious feel while introducing warmth and character,' says Sophie Harrold, director at Simply Bathrooms. 'By running panelling up to around 1,900–2,000mm, the eye is drawn upwards, but it's the continuation of the

stripe above the panelling and onto the ceiling that transforms the space. This continuity stops the room from feeling chopped up and creates a seamless flow. The stripes were carefully chosen to be open and painterly rather than overly structured. Using a watercolour-style wallpaper allowed the room to feel gentle and inviting.'

FEATURE HOLLY REANEY
PHOTOGRAPH ADAM CARTER PHOTO

5 FLORAL FANTASY

Blur the boundaries between walls and ceilings by dressing both in the same intricate print. 'Unifying walls and ceilings in one design also allows quirks, like awkward angles or a sloping ceiling, to fade into the background rather than dominate the space,' says Mary Graham, co-founder of Salvesen Graham.

'When choosing a print for pattern drenching, look for a good repeat of pattern, rather than large, isolated motifs, as it helps to smooth joins between different areas, making the room feel larger. Mid-scale designs, gently flowing motifs and stripes are especially effective, creating a sense of continuity for a cohesive space.'



PHOTOGRAPH JONATHAN BOND

Featured is Flora Sprig wallpaper in Meadow, £208 a roll, Salvesen Graham