

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER



DESIGN FOCUS
with Randall Waddell

Small rooms can be beautiful – especially when you decorate them using a few tricks of the trade.

Begin by making a list of the functions you want the room to serve, then employ space-expanding techniques and choose furnishings that support them.

You can fool the eye with mirrors which reflect and amplify light and can create the illusion of twice as much space, but take careful consideration of the placement – whether hanging or leaning there should be a focal point such as artwork placed opposite so they reflect something interesting; or you can use moldings or paint techniques to create perspectives that keep you from feeling closed in.

In furnishing small spaces try to incorporate multipurpose pieces such as an ottoman that does triple-duty as a coffee table, a seating element, and a storage spot for books or blankets, but remember to always keep the scale of the furnishing to the correct proportions of the room, this does not mean however that because the room is small that you should use undersized chairs or rugs, which can make diminutive space seem even smaller.

Use elements like a large Sisal rug which are a great component for island living as they are

virtually maintenance free and they stand up to our open air living better than carpets thus you can use them as a great base for the style of the furnishings and colours of the room, adding a covered wicker storage basket can be used as a side table and as a storage solution, a full or queen size bed turned on its side becomes a great deep couch, keep your wall colours to a muted tone and use artwork to be your colour splash. The room can then give you the advantage of playing double duty as a guest room or a TV room.

