



SMALL SPACE LIVING
special

small space STYLE GUIDE

A scaled-down living zone doesn't mean you have to scale down your look. We share tips, tricks and furniture finds to help design your petite rooms

WORDS & STYLING JONO FLEMING PHOTOGRAPHY NIC GOSSAGE

STYLING ASSISTANCE: NONCI INYONI, LUCY FRANCIS, THE DISAPPOINTING SONS ARTWORK COURTESY THE ARTIST & .M CONTEMPORARY



SMALL STOOLS can be easily tucked away under the table when not in use.

BENCH SEATS will feel more like bespoke joinery with a custom upholstered cushion.

FEATURE WALL LIGHTING brings a sculptural focal point to your room without taking up floor space.

DINING AREA 'Bobby' stools by Daniel Tucker, from \$515 each, DesignByThem, designbythem.com. 'Arte' dining table, \$4047, Jardan, jardan.com.au. **On table**, from left: Ichendorf 'Bouquet' vases, \$145 (green) and \$165 (pink), and Ichendorf 'Kokeshi' bottle, \$220, all Jardan, as before. 'Daybench' bench, \$2499, Blu Dot, bludot.com.au. Back cushion upholstered in 'Windswept' fabric in Mountain Green, \$200/m, Quercus & Co., quercusandco.com. 'Knoxhult' kitchen cabinet, from \$120, IKEA, ikea.com.au. 'Norwegian Rose' marble tile, \$329/sqm, Teranova, teranova.com.au. *The Disappointing Sons* artwork by Michael Taylor, \$4750, .M Contemporary, mcontemp.com. Nordlux 'Manhattan' wall light, \$370, Lights Lights Lights, lightslightslights.com.au. **LIVING AREA (opposite)**. See page 41.

You've heard all the rules about designing a small space - use light colours, avoid clutter, place your furniture close to the walls. But when it comes to choosing furniture and storage pieces, there is one overarching idea to keep in mind - versatility. If your key living zones are modest, then every piece has to justify its worth with maximum flexibility. Different rooms call for different functions, and it's worth thinking (hard) about how you really use each room, so you can plan a layout that fits with your lifestyle.

First up, the dining area, which may be combined with the kitchen or living space in a small home. Flow is very important here, especially in tighter spaces. Circular and elliptical-shaped tables will allow easier movement around the room and avoid any sharp corners. Pairing a curved table with a slimline bench against a wall works well. Fewer dining chairs clears visual clutter from the room, and a bench can be handy for squeezing in extra guests when needed. Pick small, light-framed chairs or even a pair of stools that can be tucked right under the table when not in use, or easily moved to other rooms.

Next? The living area. In petite floor plans, it's often combined with the entry area, which means it needs to look good and offer storage options. The key is maximising the vertical space. Think wall-mounted shelves with hanging space below, combined with a bench with baskets underneath it. That's shoes, coats, hats and keys sorted in one spot. The flexibility of these pieces will help relieve the clutter associated with compact spaces. Furniture that has multiple uses is essential. Consider ottomans and coffee tables that can be used as storage, as well as a footrest or casual seating, or sofas with built-in side tables. This is where form and function meet for the best results.

Don't forget the bedroom, where you spend your precious sleep time. If you don't have much space around your bed, choose slimline furniture. A bed frame raised on legs will look lighter than a base and ensemble. Wall-hung shelves and lights will free up even more space, and a ledge behind your bed can also be home to propped artworks or accessories. Mirrors are an old trick to effectively double the sense of space in any room, including your sleeping zone.

Small-space living doesn't have to be limited. Keeping flexibility to the fore means smart design that will allow you to live big. **10**

vertical storage

If floor space is at a premium, the only way is up! Add height to your room with practical vertical solutions.



By Lassen 'Frame 35 Rail' storage system, \$1300, Fred International, fredinternational.com.au.



Karpenter 'Simply City' shelf, from \$599, Life Interiors, lifeinteriors.com.au.



Gebrüder Thonet Vienna GmBH 'Coat Rack' bench, \$3530, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au.



Bella Casa 'Malmö' open wardrobe, \$1049, Temple & Webster, templeandwebster.com.au.



MULTIPURPOSE SHELIVING can act as storage and display in one. You can even incorporate it into a gallery wall.

DOUBLE-DUTY PIECES mean maximising their function while staying in a small footprint.

STOOLS AND OTTOMANS are a top alternative for extra seating in a small space, and they're easy to move about.

LIVING AREA Woud 'Tojbox' entry storage, \$1520, Luumo Design, luumodesign.com. 'Vilto' storage stool, \$32.99, IKEA, ikea.com.au. 'Bronte' sofa (with cushions), \$1299, Life Interiors, lifeinteriors.com.au. Woud 'Baenk' bench, \$1490, Luumo Design, as before. Natalie Rosin 'Jardan Editions' candle (on bench), \$145, Jardan, jardan.com.au. 'Monte #0713' rug, \$3660/195cm x 295cm, Pampa, pampa.com.au. Gubi 'Mategot Dedal' shelves, \$419, Luumo Design, as before. On top shelf, from left: Natalie Rosin 'Collage' vase, \$255, Jardan, as before. A Body Of Water Series I artwork by Giorgia Balbac, \$310, Luumo Design, as before. On middle shelves, from left: Yvonne Terkildsen 'River Egg' vase, \$149, The DEA Store, thedeastore.com. 'Cloud' tulip vase in Chalk, \$39, Marmoset Found, marmosetfound.com.au. Public Holiday 'Gravity' planter, \$89, The DEA Store, as before. 'Cloud Bell' vase in Icy Pink (on bottom shelf), \$49, Marmoset Found, as before. Other artworks, clockwise from top left: Black And White Ink On Paper artwork by Kyle Murrell, \$385 (framed), The DEA Store, as before. Surf On Dusk art print, \$590 (framed), Blacklist Studio, blackliststore.com.au. Cactus Love artwork by Tania Mason, \$440 (framed), The DEA Store, as before. A Body Of Water Series II artwork by Giorgia Balbac, \$420, Luumo Design, as before. Planters on entry storage and bench, clothes, hangers and books, stylist's own.

double duty

Go for form and function; these items all have more than one use. Smart designs can include extra storage or multiple functions.



Swedese 'Drum Planter' side table, \$962, Fred International, fredinternational.com.au.

'Ekebol' sofa, \$599, IKEA, ikea.com.au.



Harto 'Abel' ottoman, \$980, Clickon Furniture, clickonfurniture.com.au.



Len 'Softscape' armchair with lamp and side table, \$6617, Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au.



For details, see page 41.

round tables

Eliminating corners from a table permits easy movement around a room and still allows for seating.



'Clear Top' 100cm round dining table, \$279, Temple & Webster, templeandwebster.com.au.



Knoll Studio 'Saarinen Tulip' dining table, \$7570, Dedecce, dedecce.com.



'Woodrow' dining table, \$1900, Fenton & Fenton, fentonandfenton.com.au.



Karimoku New Standard 'Colour Wood' dining table, \$2760, Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au.

slimline

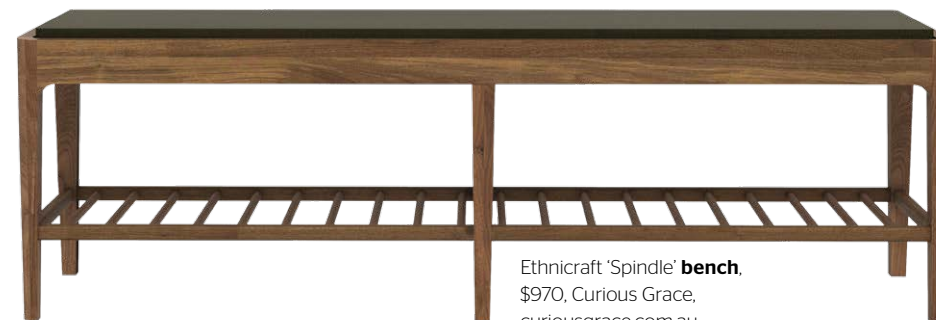
Keep things simple and replace chairs with benches. Extra guests are easy to fit in with these sleek options.



Staple&Co 'Ash' bench, \$3380, Project 82, project82.com.au.



'Vera' bench, \$399, Castlery, castlery.com.au.



Ethnicraft 'Spindle' bench, \$970, Curious Grace, curiousgrace.com.au.



'Orb' dining bench, \$699, West Elm, westelm.com.au.

wall lights

Wall-mounted lighting is an easy way to save space and introduce a sculptural feature to any room.



Frama '90' brass **wall light**, \$499, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au.



Louis Poulsen 'AJ Wall **light**, \$1239, Cult, cultdesign.com.au.



Bover 'Beddy A/O2' **wall light**, \$890, Special Lights, speciallights.com.au.



Buster + Punch 'Hooked' **wall light**, \$260, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.



Seed Design 'Laito' **wall light**, \$395.89, Monduluce, monduluce.com.

mirror magic

Create the illusion of space with reflections. Mirrors are excellent for bouncing light and making a small area feel double the size.



Gubi 'Adnet' **mirror**, \$1219, Luumo Design, luumodesign.com.



Cibo 'Eco' bamboo **mirror**, \$939, Reece Bathrooms, reece.com.au.



'Half Moon' **mirror**, from \$109, The Minimalist, theminimalist.com.au.



Kristina Dam Studio 'Rotating' **mirror**, \$995, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au.



'Nomi' **mirror**, \$299, Country Road, countryroad.com.au.

BEDROOM Bedhead covered with 'Cloudburst' **wallpaper** in Chairo, \$76/m, Quercus & Co., quercusandco.com. **On bedhead, from left:** 'Gabriella' **half-mirror**, \$795, Sarah Ellison, sarahellison.com.au. Mist 'Rib' **vase**, \$240, Jardan, jardan.com.au. Luxuriate 'Green One' **candle**, \$149, The DEA Store, thedeastore.com. 'Ledlux Polo' **LED wall light**, \$99.95, Beacon Lighting, beaconlighting.com.au. Menu 'Gridy Fungi' **shelf**, \$279, The DEA Store, as before. Maison Balzac 'J'ai Soif' **carafe and glass** in Mint (on shelf), \$95/set, Incu, incu.com. 'Cloud Bubble' **vase** in Burgundy (on windowsill), \$24, Marmoset Found, marmosetfound.com.au. **Pillowcases** in Fine Check, \$110/set, and **quilt cover** in Fine Check, \$380/queen, all Major Minor, majorminorwares.com. **Quilt cover** in Bordeaux (part of a set), \$425/queen, and European **pillowcase** in Bordeaux, \$79, both In The Sac, inthesac.com.au. Lrnce 'Fatimaa' **throw**, \$1200, Jardan, as before.

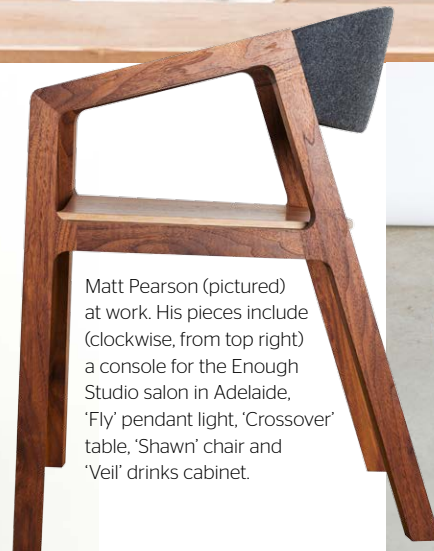
A SHOWPIECE MIRROR in a compact zone can almost act as your artwork in the room, as well as doing its 'day' job.

WALL-MOUNTED BEDSIDE TABLES are a practical space-saver and an elegant solution in snug bedrooms.

ONE of a KIND

Furniture that's tailor-made for your space is the ultimate in personal style. We find five local designers to watch

WORDS VICTORIA BAKER



Matt Pearson (pictured) at work. His pieces include (clockwise, from top right) a console for the Enough Studio salon in Adelaide, 'Fly' pendant light, 'Crossover' table, 'Shawn' chair and 'Veil' drinks cabinet.



Matt Pearson HENDON, SA

"I strive to create pieces to be woven into the fabric of the family home - objects that become a living, breathing part of the family," says Matt Pearson, who set up his Adelaide studio in 2013.

Working mostly with solid timber, he's a keen collaborator. "I try to use at least one other material such as brass, concrete, leather or fabrics in every piece," he says. "This gives me the chance to work with other makers, and I love the challenge of learning about new materials."

Matt works mostly on custom furniture pieces, and enjoys the dialogue with his clients. "Some clients want someone to 'remake' a design they've seen elsewhere," he says. "This isn't what I do. The commission process works best when there's some back and forth between the client and me and we can really break down their wants and needs, and I can design based on my own process and aesthetic style. That way, they'll understand what has gone into their piece of furniture and really cherish what has been created."

See Matt's work at mjpstudio.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (MATT PEARSON) PORTRAIT: WORKSHOP; WILSON & LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY; (ENOUGH STUDIO) PIPPI MOUNT, (FLY) BRUCE MOYLE, (CROSSOVER) SHAWN HEDI WOLFF



Jason Stancombe GEELONG, VIC

"Design is to be valued," says Jason Stancombe. "In any design field, there's a large amount of time invested in ideas, design, prototyping, refining, experimentation, adjustments and production."

After 16 years in branding consultancies, Jason was inspired to step away from the screen and work with his hands. He established Relm Furniture in 2014 and, from a workshop in Geelong, works on a range of stools, tables and storage pieces. "Originally I was drawn to the rustic nature of solid timber, and I have learnt to integrate it with other materials such as steel and aluminium, in modern shapes and finishes," he says.

Starting with the idea of bespoke furniture, Jason makes a range of products that can be customised with different timber selection, stains, finishes and powder-coat colours. "I offer a range of standard sizes, but also allow my customers to customise the products to suit their individual requirements," he says. "My aim is to create well-considered, creative and functional products that are defined by simple, clean lines and beautiful proportions."

Find Jason at relm.com.au.



As well as designing the furniture for last year's Supernormal Natsu event (top), Jason Stancombe's (pictured) skill is seen in (from top) the 'Harris' stool, 'Crop' bar stool, 'Sim' table and 'Crop' stool.



Jeremy Lee MULLUMBIMBY, NSW

With a background in industrial design and an apprenticeship in furniture making underway, Jeremy Lee set up his business in a garage in early 2015, moving it to the Byron Bay hinterland when he and his family moved there in 2016.

"The community here is full of passionate creative people," he says. "Plus I live four minutes from work and five minutes from the beach, which really helps the work-life balance."

Jeremy works with timber and says, "The more I work with wood, the more I realise there is still so much to learn. Every species is different and every tree is unique." He designs and makes each product, focusing on limiting waste, re-using and recycling, and also works on commissions for custom work.

"A client will get in touch with a design or idea, we'll brainstorm and I'll come back with drawings or renders - then, six to eight weeks later, a new piece is created," says Jeremy. "I try to be as flexible as possible with customising my pieces and supporting my clients' needs. I really love making and creating in the workshop - every piece I make is a piece I would want to have in my own home."

Find Jeremy at jdleefurniture.com.



Wood craftsman Jeremy Lee (pictured) with his 'Big Z' bench, bar stool and stool. His range also features (clockwise from top left) 'Lo' chair, 'Finley' sofa in Green and Porridge, and 'Moki' pendant light.



Nathan Day VASSE, WA

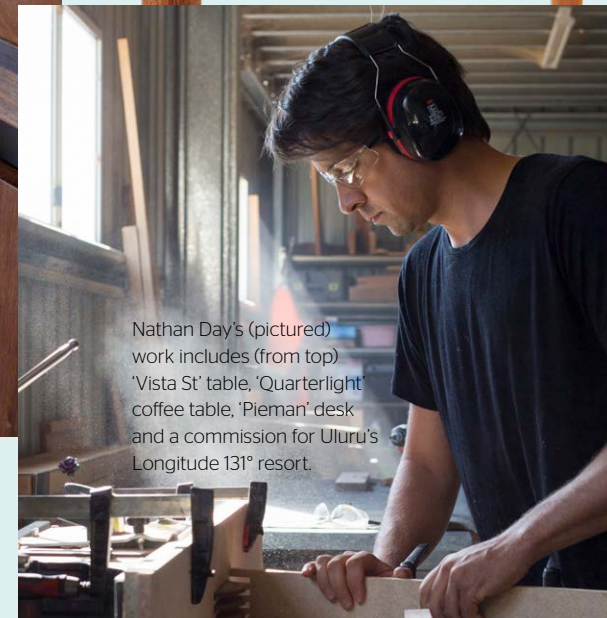
After four years in his parents' garage and three years in a winery storage shed in Dunsborough on WA's south-west coast, Nathan Day has just moved into a purpose-built workshop in Vasse, about 15 kilometres closer to Perth, with a team of seven.

Working mostly with solid timber, he nominates his favourites as local jarrah, blackbutt and blackwood, as well as the classic hardwoods oak and walnut.

"A lot of our work is custom-designed, but we also have core designs that are customisable," says Nathan. Normally clients come to us with a photo of one of our designs, then we tailor it to their size or desired timber. We've made our 'Vista St' table in sizes from 1800mm up to 7000mm."

His aesthetic? "Clean and uncluttered, with subtle but immaculate detailing," he says. "It's worth remembering that every piece is completely handcrafted. We have modern machinery, of course, but all our machines and tools are operated by craftsmen. There are no automated processes, so it takes time. It would be lovely if people thought of this as valuable, rather than expensive."

See more at nathandaydesign.com.au.



Nathan Day's (pictured) work includes (from top) 'Vista St' table, 'Quarterlight' coffee table, 'Pieman' desk and a commission for Uluru's Longitude 131° resort.



THINGS WE LOVE

(From top) An office desk, an ebonised oak credenza and a dresser unit are all creations of Tim Noone (pictured).



Tim Noone SYDNEY, NSW

Simplicity is the ultimate aim for Tim Noone, who creates custom furniture from his workshop in the inner Sydney suburb of Marrickville.

"I really enjoy being able to bring a simple piece to life with clever and elegant detailing," says Tim. "I want someone to love what I have designed and made for them when they first see it, and also for it to grow on them - so that the more they live with it, the more they appreciate it."

After an apprenticeship in joinery and further study in furniture making, Tim set up his business in 2012 and now works with interior designers and individuals, mostly using solid timber.

"In most cases, people come to me because they can't find what they're looking for in stores," he says. "I tell people that I can't make a custom piece for cheaper than it can be bought at a store. The reason to have furniture custom-made is because it will be beautiful. Ultimately, it's an investment in beauty - a tangible, tactile beauty."

Find Tim at timnoone.com.

