



7 Small Room Details That Make Compact Spaces Look More Polished — "They're Subtle Tricks That Feel Surprisingly High-End"

Just because you have limited square footage doesn't mean you should sacrifice the sort of details that guarantee a luxe-looking room

To give a small room the kind of wow-factor typically associated with professionally designed spaces, incorporate an element of surprise. It could be a splash of bold color (the [unexpected red theory](#) still has us in a chokehold), wallpaper hidden inside a cabinet, or a striking contrast in materials.

These moments don't have to be dramatic — they just need to catch the eye. In a compact space, details that prompt a second glance instantly make a room feel more considered, design-led, and ultimately, more expensive.

For interior designer [Annie Kantor](#), her motto is design in unexpected places. "Few projects benefit more from this thinking than a small one," she says, and they don't need to take up space, either. "Look around and find the everyday pieces in your home. They likely present the perfect opportunity for a design upgrade with no additional space needed."



A pop of bright color, a surprising wallpaper moment, a contrasting material — an element of the unexpected will always bring drama and intrigue to a smaller room.

(Image credit: Maestri Studio Interior Design. Fireplace Screen by Modern Metal)