



8 DECORATOR TRICKS FOR SMALL LIVING ROOMS

Decorating a living room is a challenging task, as it's often a multi-functional room for your family. It is even trickier working with a small space! A cramped dining nook can become worthy of dinner parties with a few smart strategies. Let these ideas inspire you to create the ideal space you want to redecorate:

LAYOUT

"Separate" your living space in an open floor plan, studio, or loft apartment to enlarge the room. Use rugs and/or furniture arrangement to visually divide living and dining spaces. Minimizing pattern use in a small space is a good idea; too many focal points can compete for attention. Clean and uncluttered lines with neutral colors and minimal furnishings look great.

FOCAL POINT

Pick a focal point. Whether your statement is a couch or unique coffee table, make one choice and let it shine! Complement your focus with the other furniture choices. No competition or clashing allowed!

FLOORING

Select a wider-plank hardwood or larger porcelain tiles for flooring, to make a living room feel roomier. Moreover, fewer seams or grout lines are easier to keep clean and present an uncluttered look. Small patterns in a smaller room, like parquet flooring or tiny, multicolored tiles are too busy for the eye, creating a cramped feeling.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Make full use of natural light from large windows as an unflinching space expander, and keep window treatments to a minimum. Uncovered windows allow plenty of natural light to flow freely into the room, connecting with the outdoors and creating an illusion of depth. Elaborate window treatments draw too much attention, can visually divide the room if contrasting in color, and make the room feel too enclosed. Use simple, sheer panels that blend with the color of the walls and keep them pulled back, if window coverings are preferred.

COLOR & WALLS

Use light colors on the walls to make the space appear larger. Keep your paint hues and dominant furniture colors light to brighten the overall mood. Opt for lighter colored flooring as well; having a small-range color scheme, [use shades of one hue,] can give the room a polished and unified look. [Darker colors can make a room seem cozier, but absorbs light instead of it, the space feel smaller.]

WALL DÉCOR

Know that, for paintings or wall hangings, less is more. Use one, larger piece rather than a grouping of smaller ones. The pattern issue with the flooring is similar to this category. Hanging multiple wall frames of different shapes and sizes creates disunity and can seem cramped.

FURNITURE

Opt for one larger piece to fill the space and decrease the look of clutter instead of multiple furniture pieces. Choose a delicate sofa and chairs with exposed legs for a small living room to create a sense of airiness. Avoid bulky sofas with massive armrests and backs.

MIRRORS

Accent mirrors, especially big ones. Mirrors make a room appear up to twice as large and give the illusion of greater depth. Select mirrored furniture such as accent tables, or a coffee table, or add a Moroccan mirror-tiled light fixture. **fyi**

Susan Strauss, known for her sophisticated interiors provides us with many fun ideas how to update your space in. Susan has her own full-service Design Firm located in New Jersey. From Residential homes to restaurants and retail stores, Susan has done it all. Her well-earned reputation as one of the premiere firms on the East Coast is firmly built on referrals and repeat clients.