



STYLE SOLUTIONS

CHOOSING A DECORATIVE STYLE IS A VERY PERSONAL EXERCISE. WHETHER YOU LOVE BRIGHT SHADES AND BOLD PATTERN OR ARE DRAWN TO MUTED TONES AND SUBTLE PRINTS, MAKING THEM WORK IN A SMALL SPACE CAN BE A CHALLENGE.

USING COLOUR AND PATTERN

It's a fact that white and light shades will make an interior feel larger and more spacious. White reflects more light than any other colour, as well as offering an air of meditative calm that's conducive to relaxation. Fresh and clean, it also provides a great backdrop for other elements. However, in a space without much natural light, bright white can look cold and grey. The effect

will depend on the natural light in an interior – cool northern light will bring out the blue tones in a colour, while sunny south-facing light will make it look warmer and yellower. If you prefer a pale backdrop, it's worth painting test swatches in a selection of off-white shades to find one that works perfectly in your interior.

At the other end of the colour spectrum, the dark and moody look also suits small spaces,

ABOVE LEFT A hint of pattern is often enough. Here, a contemporary geometric print cushion nicely unites the soft blocks of taupe and duck egg blue in the bed linen and the vibrant blue of the lighting wire.

ABOVE RIGHT Fabric lengths make pretty tablecloths. They are a good way of introducing pattern to a small dining space and a great style solution for refreshing an interior in an instant.

especially those not afforded much natural light. In such spaces, bright white can appear dingy and dull. Instead, embrace the gloom and go for powerful and glamorous dark tones to add visual drama. They particularly suit tiny rooms that want a softer, more intimate mood, such as an indulgent bathroom, as well as areas where there is very little natural light – a narrow hallway, for example. Very deep shades work wonderfully when teamed with

subdued lighting to create a sumptuous and luxuriously rich feel. The secret to making these sombre shades work is to stick to a restrained palette of three or four shades from the same tonal range. As ever, it's important to do a swatch test and to view it at different times of the day to understand how natural light will affect the paint colour.

Colour can also be used to deceive the eye and give the impression of more generous proportions than exist in



ABOVE RIGHT Pops of vibrant colour will add a burst of positive energy to even the most diminutive of rooms. If you don't want to commit to a whole-room scheme, consider painting single pieces of furniture to create a focal point.

RIGHT Dark, shadowy tones can work well in small spaces, particularly those where a subdued mood is required. A restricted palette of a few complementary shades works best – in this French apartment, a strong statement has been made by using shades of grey, black and inky blue. The sober hues are complemented by boldly patterned rugs.

