

KITCHEN + BATH IDEAS

**Get
More!**
28 Ways to
Maximize
Your
Space

Pick the
Perfect
Refrigerator p. 26

**BEST BATH
STORAGE
SOLUTIONS** p. 32

**How to
Stretch
A Small
Budget** p. 30

28 WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SPACE

Try these creative ideas for making the most of compact kitchens and baths.

writer ANDREA COOLEY





THIS PHOTO: “The bathroom may be small, but that vanity is a workhorse,” says architect Ili Nilsson, who designed the custom unit with two sinks, storage galore, and a no-nonsense look. **OPPOSITE:** Paired with Carrara marble countertops, the vanity’s modern faucets make a strong style statement.



OUR BEST
SMALL
SPACES

sensibly stylish

SMART DECISIONS ADD
UP TO A CHIC SMALL BATH
THAT'S RESALE-WORTHY.

writer and field editor LISA MOWRY
photographer EMILY J. FOLLOWILL



ABOVE: A recessed medicine cabinet tucks between the vanity mirrors to maximize storage. **TOP LEFT:** This polished-nickel showerhead offers adjustable spray. **TOP RIGHT:** Open space underneath a vanity makes a bath feel larger, so the architect added legs to the cabinet. **OPPOSITE:** Shades of gray—from the light Carrara marble tiles on the floor to slate-color porcelain on the walls—distinguish the spacious tiled shower.

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s a real estate agent in the Atlanta area, Thomas McCullough knows what home buyers look for in a master bathroom. “Many buyers now prefer to have dual sinks and ample storage, and rather than a separate tub taking up space, they tend to want larger shower areas,” Thomas says.

So when it was time to remodel the master bath in his own bungalow, Thomas and architect/designer Ili Nilsson decided to gut the existing room, which was less than 100 square feet, and start over with a new, more efficient design. By taking over two small closets, they gained some space, but they still decided to forgo a tub in favor of a hardworking double vanity and a spacious walk-in shower. “We did everything with an eye toward resale, but also chose what a single man would like, so the bathroom has a masculine feeling,” Nilsson says.

The dark-stained vanity takes advantage of vertical space by extending to the ceiling. It offers two sinks, upper storage for towels, plentiful drawers and cabinets below, and even a small medicine cabinet located between the two mirrors. Hidden electrical outlets help conceal clutter.

Nilsson added legs to the vanity unit to make the look more furniturelike as well as to better highlight the handsome, small-scale Carrara marble floor tiles running underneath. “Using little tiles on the floor and walls provides visual texture,” says Nilsson, who also used dark porcelain that resembles slate in the shower area.

She likes the high-contrast look of light and dark in the bath, going against conventional wisdom that an all-white palette is the best choice for a small space. “Yes, all-white bathrooms are open and airy, but when you add other neutrals, mirrors, and textures to a small bathroom, there’s a richness involved,” the architect says. “Small spaces can definitely pull off dark colors, and in fact, that keeps a bathroom from looking too sterile.”

Thomas appreciates the addition of a relocated window to bring in natural light (another feature he often hears home buyers seeking). The bathroom also seems true to the home’s architecture—another selling point. “I like that Ili designed a master bath with a modern feel,” Thomas says, “but it also fits seamlessly with the rest of the 1940s house.” **KBI**

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 138.

Takeaways

- 1** Small spaces benefit from cabinetry that reaches to the ceiling to increase storage.
- 2** Though small, the vanity makes room for two sinks to boost function—and value.
- 3** Using tiles in a mix of colors and textures adds dimension.
- 4** Even an older home can pull off a modern design with a few classic elements mixed in, such as marble countertops and tile.

A SEE-THROUGH GLASS DOOR HELPS A SMALL BATH FEEL OPEN.