

KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

SMALL
SPACES
SPECIAL

45+

PAGES OF READERS'
HOMES WITH IDEAS
FOR YOU TO STEAL

SPACE-SAVING
APPLIANCES
Fridges, over
hobs and more

BATH
SHOWER
How to have
both without
losing style

COVER STORY

*"We chose units
in dark teal
to add warmth and
an edgy look"*

Small but mighty

BRILLIANT WAYS TO MAXIMISE YOUR
HOUSE'S LAYOUT - NO COMPROMISES



Ask the Experts

Do you have a design dilemma or a renovation question you need a professional to answer? Each month, our team is on hand to help



1 Any tips on how I can redesign the layout of my small bathroom?

"One of the biggest challenges when remodelling a compact space is incorporating storage in a stylish way. Look out for units designed with a specific product in mind – for example a hidden basket for your towels or a drawer with individual compartments for toiletries. Another tip is to experiment with furniture in different shapes – such as a tall, narrow solution – to make the best use of a tight layout. Always consider the room as a whole, utilising pieces with different heights to maximise the useable space."

Margaret Talbot, marketing manager, Vitra

2 What's the best way to incorporate internal glass doors into my home?

"As well as zoning off spaces, glazed designs flood a room with the maximum amount of natural light. In a bedroom, bathroom, or dressing room, a translucent sandblasted finish will maintain privacy, but still allow light to filter through into adjoining spaces. Alternatively, you could install glass doors in the kitchen as a way to close off a utility room. This will allow you to separate the areas as needed, without entirely enclosing either room behind a solid door and fully cutting it off from the rest of your home."

Andy Briggs, interior designer at Spaceslide

3 What do I need to know before I choose flooring for my loft conversion?

"Start by thinking about the look you want to achieve, as it's likely you may lose out on space for furniture along the edges due to the awkward angles of the roof. There is also the possibility that you'll face problems in the subfloor build-up, which is used to strengthen the surface, so a thinner material may need to be used for carpets or vinyls compared to wood flooring. Additionally, the floor may well need laying over underlay and underfloor heating – so ensure you plan well and choose practically, with height dimensions in mind."

Gordon Lowe, managing director, Charles Lowe & Sons



4 I can't decide between a glass splashback or tiles for my kitchen – what is best?

"Ultimately, it always comes down to your individual taste, but there are a number of benefits to each option. Glass can be really effective in smaller spaces which lack in light, because its reflective properties can help make the area appear larger. Available in a wide range of colours and designs, glass splashbacks are also very easy to clean and you won't have to worry about grout, stains, or mould as the design is likely to be one piece. Opting for tiles, on the other hand, opens a whole spectrum of choices – narrow metro-style designs are very popular. The key is to pick out a feature area, such as a mantle, and turn it into a focal point. If you can't decide on only one, a complementary mix of both glass and tiles can work well too."

Andy Barrette, creative services director, McCarron & Co **KBB**

5 I want to add a bedroom on the basement floor. What should I consider?

"If you are constructing a new basement for a bedroom, planning requirements must comply with building regulations to ensure everything is safe. This means the room must have sufficient natural ventilation and access to direct daylight. Depending on the new scheme's layout, if you're converting a space in your existing basement, you may have to find a route for a light tube to drop down from above – it will allow natural light to reflect down to the lower level. The tube may measure up to 40cm in diameter. For extra illumination, add mirrors to reflect light around the room. They can also create the illusion of windows, which will make the basement feel more spacious and light."

Jonathan Woodcock, architect, Architect Your Home

Email your dilemma to kbbmag@taylorlistmedia.com or get in touch with @kbbmagazine on...

