

House Beautiful



PAINT

Small Spaces

Short on square footage? Designers share strategies for rooms that go deep and bold—or light and bright.



NARRAGANSETT GREEN HC-157
BENJAMIN MOORE

"In the powder room of an old farmhouse on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, we applied this color—a tone that oscillates between teal and navy—on the walls, ceiling, and millwork, blurring the boundaries of where planes intersect. Using a dark color to completely envelop a room adds drama, which a small space can handle."

THAD HAYES



MOUSE'S BACK NO. 40
FARROW & BALL

"The most successful small spaces are dark and cozy, because—let's face it—it's impossible to make a tiny room feel airy and spacious. I love this warm brown, which is earthy and rich like the forest floor, paired with a crisp white ceiling. The contrast allows your eye to pick up on the edges of the space, giving it more volume."

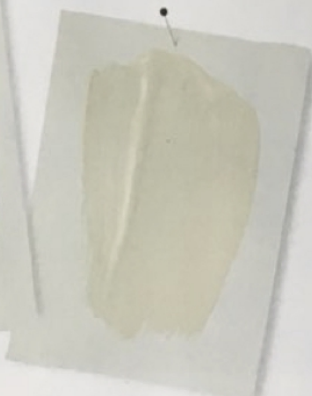
JEFFRY WEISMAN



INCARNADINE NO. 248
FARROW & BALL

"When I suggested this classic red for a modest guest bedroom in Florida, I initially met some resistance from my clients. But they went for it, and, with Marrakech as my inspiration, I added a large antique bronze wall mirror and arabesque-patterned table lamps. The end result was dramatic and glamorous—they loved it!"

DOREEN CHAMBERS



NATURAL TAN SW 7567
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

"If I've used a lot of white in a house and I want something just a little bit different, I reach for this shade. It reminds me of a fine off-white linen, oak, or napa leather. It's perfect for narrow spaces because the warm tint keeps the corners of the room from feeling gray."

UMA STEWART



NIGHTSPOT C2-743
C2

"Deep, saturated colors give the illusion that the walls are receding. For a showhouse in San Francisco, I turned a small area into a home office, wrapping the space in indigo. By keeping furniture to just the essentials and adding art, bookshelves, and a unique light fixture, I created a dynamic, layered effect."

KARI McINTOSH



MINSTREL HEART 1297
BENJAMIN MOORE

"To make a tiny guest bedroom under the eaves of a Hamptons house into an intimate retreat, we painted the ceilings, walls, and trim a deep pink. Painting all of the room's elements the same color leaves the focus on the art, the fabrics, and the views out the windows. On sunny mornings the room glows, and in the evening, it feels warm and restful."

PERRY SAYLES