

Design Ideas for Every Room

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Kitchen

The kitchen is the hub of your home. It can be homework central, snack bar and entertainment area all in one—not to mention the place where you feed your family. You want it to look great and stand up to the daily wear and tear. Start with a large island or bar area where the kids can do homework and have an after-school snack. Choose a solid-surface countertop to handle anything you can throw at it while maintaining its beauty. Slab cabinet doors are easy to keep clean. Choose low-maintenance flooring that will look good in the high-traffic area.

To accommodate entertaining, be sure there's plenty of room to navigate around the space. Several surface areas create gathering spaces. Two sinks make prep for parties a breeze. Fill the bar sink with ice to hold easy-to-access drinks.







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Living Room

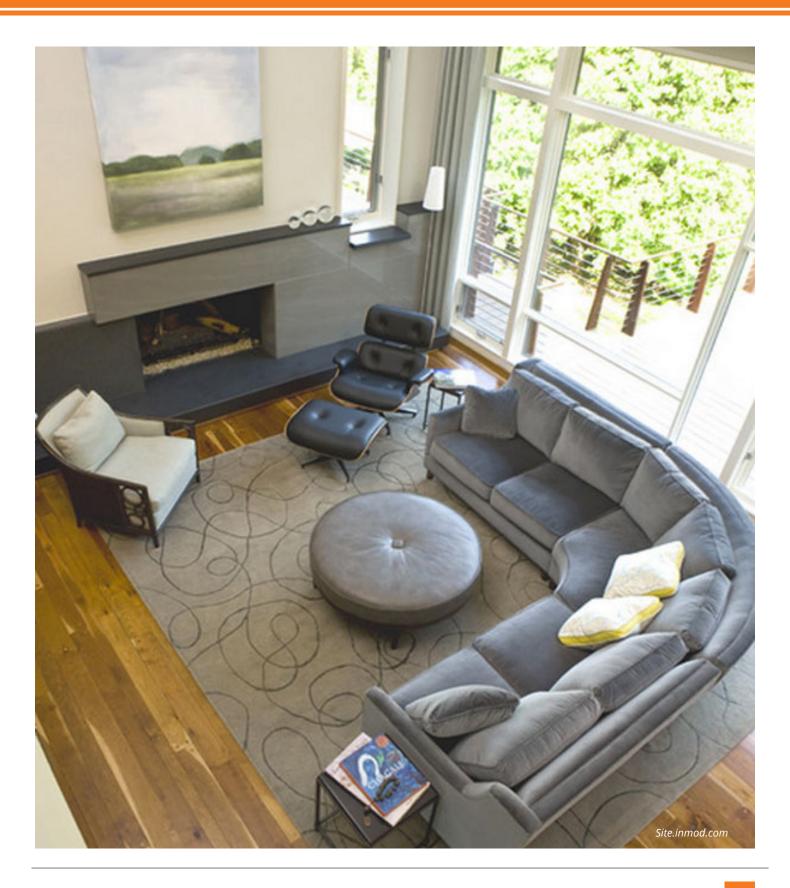
Create a relaxing place to unwind in the evening by coloring your living space with a neutral palette and subtle pops of color. Bring an organic feel to the space with textures and materials such as sisal, wood and textured concrete or stone. Keeping photos and other decorative items to a minimum alleviates clutter, which creates a much more comforting space.

Anchor the seating area with a large area rug. Orient the furniture to best capture the views or a comforting fireplace.





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Home Office

Whether you like to keep your work in plain sight or have everything hidden behind closed doors, an organized home office not only looks nice, it functions better for you and your business. A U-shaped workspace offers ample storage and desktop. Overhead shelving can hold books and manuals.

For a minimalist look and one that gives the illusion of more space, opt for a simple desk with open legs. Wall-mounted storage keeps more floor space visible, also adding to the illusion of space. Keep office necessities such as pens and paperclips in storage boxes to keep clutter to a minimum. If your office requires carpet, choose a low-profile option so your rolling chair will roll. To be even more efficient in your design, choose carpet squares that can easily be replaced if one or more gets worn.







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Bathroom

Don't let the scale of the bathroom dissuade you from being creative! Punch up the small space with big designs and décor. First, decide on a design style and plan out what you'd like to do with your new bathroom design. A designer can help you create a layout that maximizes the space you have. It may be a good idea to visit a design show room and take a look at some products and examples to help narrow your ideas. A designer can help bring your ideas to life or even just present you with more options you didn't know you had such as installing a window, vanity selections or built-in shelf space.

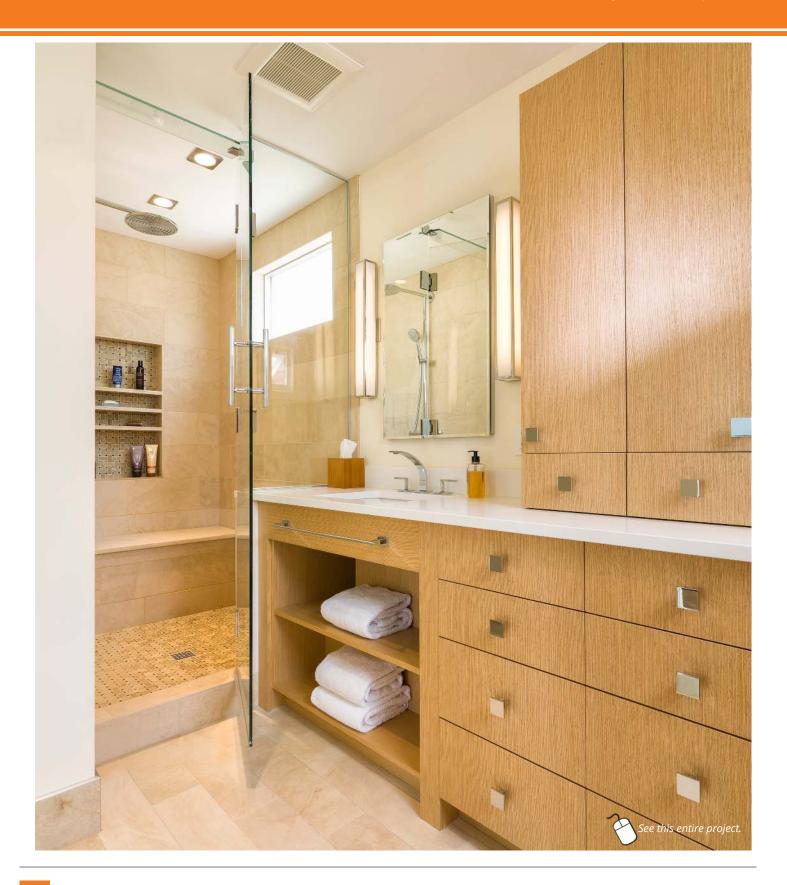
A powder room is a great place to take chances with design because it's small and a low commitment. Because it's often seen by guests, decorate the space with pretty hand towels and luxurious amenities. It's also a great place to experiment with more costly materials such as gorgeous glass mosaic backsplash tile. Since the space is smaller, treat yourself to the beauty of quality materials. Consider artwork and handcrafted bathroom hardware.

Go bold with your color! Bathrooms are one place in your home you can get away with bold color and bold design. Forget conventional decorating wisdom that dark colors make a room feel dark and smaller. Try rich colors like merlot, navy, chocolate or pine green paired with high gloss finishes like lacquer, metallic or glass that reflect natural and artificial light to counter the bold colors and help keep the space bright.





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Master Bedroom

The purpose of a master bedroom is relaxation, rejuvenation, and privacy and it should reflect that. Many couples are investing in a bedroom renovation to expand their space for additional seating, create an area for a fireplace, or to install floor to ceiling windows. After finishing a long day of work, you deserve to have a place you love to escape to with the one you love.

