

# HOMES & GARDENS®

## Perfectly formed

THE ART OF MAKING EVERY INCH COUNT

**SMART  
SHOPPING**  
PETITE SOFAS  
WISE BUYS FOR  
EVERY ROOM IN  
THE HOUSE  
AFFORDABLE ART

**MAXIMISE  
YOUR SPACE**

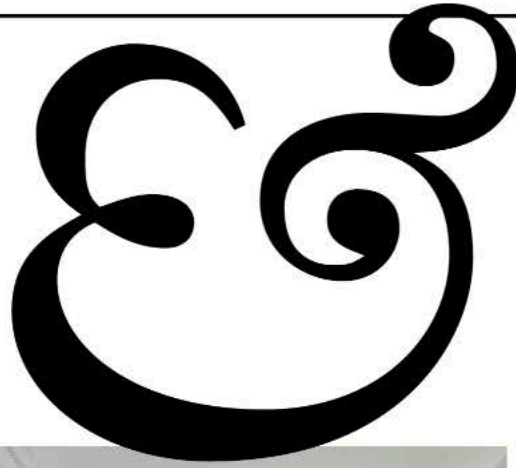
TIPS FROM  
INTERIOR DESIGNERS  
IDEAS FOR NARROW  
KITCHENS  
CLEVER  
SHOWER ROOMS

**NEW YEAR  
NEW LOOKS**

DECORATING WITH  
CINNAMON BROWN  
TRAVEL-INSPIRED  
FABRICS AND  
WALLPAPERS

FEBRUARY 2024





## **KITCHENS & BATHROOMS**

IN THIS SECTION ON THE HOME'S MOST HARDWORKING SPACES, THE FOCUS IS ON MAXIMISING EVERY INCH, GETTING ORGANISED AND CREATING STUNNING SCHEMES WITH THE NEWEST LOOKS



# A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING


## HOW TO CREATE STYLISH AND PRACTICAL STORAGE IN THE KITCHEN

**SMART AND STREAMLINED** If it's easy to find ingredients and equipment, cooking will be more enjoyable, while good storage can make the room feel less cluttered and more spacious. 'It is important to strike a balance between functionality and style,' says interior designer Irene Gunter, founder of Gunter & Co. 'For example, incorporating open shelves for displaying objects and cookbooks can provide storage as well as create a visually appealing space.' She also advises paying attention to the choice of materials to add interest. 'In my own kitchen, we painted the units in three different shades of blue and paired them with a limewashed full-height pantry unit and an island in a different wood stain to make it stand out from the pantry,' she says. Full-height cabinets eliminate dead space, while a ladder rail serves a practical purpose for accessing the top cupboards as well as adding a decorative detail.

**FITTED OR FREESTANDING?** Fitted furniture can deliver a cohesive result and be made to fit compact or awkwardly shaped rooms to maximise available space. Freestanding pieces can be moved and rearranged to suit your needs, and enhance a homely feel, but they may not offer as much storage capacity. Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio, recommends combining fitted and freestanding options if you want visual interest and versatility. 'Fitted furniture is best used around the working areas of the kitchen, to ensure the oven is at a suitable height, for instance, and provide storage for easy access to oven trays and dishes,' he says. 'The rest of the room can be furnished with freestanding pieces, which add flexibility and personality.'

**POCKET POWER** To maximise storage, especially in smaller kitchens, pocket doors can be a great solution. 'When every inch counts, pocket doors eliminate the need for swing room required by traditional cupboard doors, since they disappear into side pockets when the cabinet is in use,' explains Brani Hadzhi, head of design, Multiliving by Scavolini. 'Pocket doors offer a clean, uncluttered appearance, which can enhance the overall design of a space.'

**TOP DRAWER** 'Who hasn't scabbled about on their hands and knees trying to reach that seldom-used salad spinner at the back of a cupboard?' asks David A Sanders, sales manager at Blum. 'Drawers are better, as they offer full visibility and access to contents immediately.' Most modern drawers operate on full extension runners, so nothing gets hidden at the back, and are available in extra-wide sizes. Blum offers drawers up to 1,400mm wide, and its Legrabox drawer can hold a weight of up to 70kg in the wider options. Also look out for internal drawer organisation systems, incorporating utensil sections, pan lid organisers, built-in knife blocks, spice jar inserts and charging stations with USB ports.

**BREAKFAST IN A HURRY** 'A bespoke breakfast station is the ultimate storage solution for those who appreciate a tidy and efficient morning routine,' says bespoke kitchen designer Tom Howley. Designed to suit your needs, this space can house a built-in coffee maker, toaster and other breakfast essentials. 'When not in use, the station can be neatly concealed behind cabinet doors, preserving the overall kitchen aesthetics,' he adds. 

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### SOURCEBOOK: FREESTANDING STORAGE PIECES

**BRITISH STANDARD BY PLAIN ENGLISH**

The Mobile island, from £4,550, offers versatile storage and work surface, and is easy to wheel to where you need it.

**PILGRIM**

The Weft cabinet with peg rail, £839, is a wall cabinet with a hand-woven natural wood back, combining storage with delightful detail.

**PINCH**

The Mercier vitrine, £23,600, is a beautiful timber-framed glass display cabinet – the perfect showcase for elegant tableware.

**deVOL**

The double-door Curiosity cupboard, from £3,760, is available with a choice of hand-painted decorative backboards, £700.







The Hartford collection breakfast cupboard by Tom Howley; kitchens from £25,000



Fitted drinks cabinet with freestanding appeal by Ledbury Studio; kitchens from £70,000



Pots and pans are kept in a deep drawer with lids held in place in Blum's Ambia-Line storage system



Bespoke kitchen complete with brass ladder rail to access the top cabinets, by Gunter & Co