



All the Small Things

Know how to make the most of your space-challenged bathroom through right fittings, colour, textures and light.
By **SHELLY ANAND**



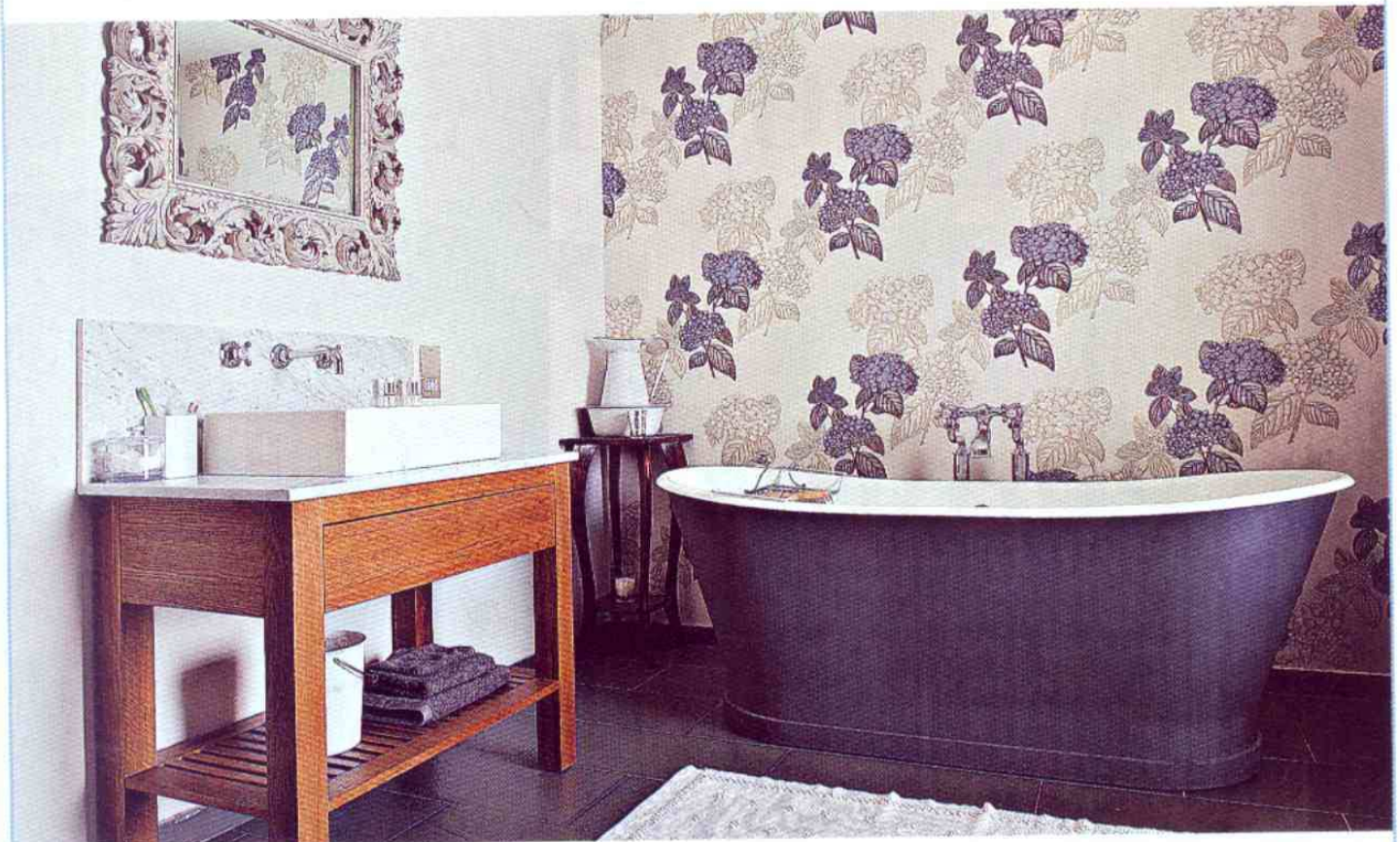
Vanity units with drawers make the bathroom look less cluttered (above); wall-hung vanity is ideal to clear the ground space (right)

Having a tiny bathroom doesn't mean that you cannot create a stylish, tasteful zone of your own. Even if it is limited in terms of the leg room available, you can still make good use of the area with a little creativity and a few space-saving ideas. You don't necessarily need to have lots of room, but should know how to embrace functionality and give a cooped up area an illusion of a big, luxurious one. We all know that small bathrooms can be a design and decorating challenge and demand maximum character in a minimal space. Here are some tips and tricks to turn around even the smallest room into an attractive and inviting bath zone.

WALL MATTERS

The more floor that's visible, the more spacious your bathroom will look and feel. Wall-hung sanitary solutions are the best bet for smaller washrooms. According to Renu Misra, Managing Director, Grohe India, "Replacing the vanity with a pedestal sink and going in for bidets and toilets that can be installed in the wall are some of the easy ways you can employ to clear out the floor space." When space is tight, every inch must be made use of judiciously. Wall-mounted vanity units with sufficient storage is a practical solution to stack away your things and keep the surface clutter-free. In fact, the market is full of vibrant and neatly designed vanity units which when introduced in the bathroom, will give it a makeover without much fuss.





STORE GAME

Try to keep the bathroom free of clutter at all times and do away with items not required on a daily basis. Try to plan your storage space carefully and install a few shelves on the wall to keep your necessities. Parushni Aggarwal, Owner and Creative Director, Studio Creo says, "Keep the look simple with very less or no cabinets. But if one requires a cabinet then have it buried into the wall for cosmetics and toiletries and a wooden linen cabinet below the wash basin." Make use of the corners and recesses to add to the space. Soap dishes, fittings and shelves should be recessed as anything protruding into the usable space will make the bathroom look even smaller. Go for tall wall console units with multiple shelves, install a shelf above the WC or put a storage basket under a floating vanity.

MIRROR MAGIC

Stay away from putting too many mirrors side by side in the bathroom as it will make the space look cramped up and less spacious. Also, avoid installing double mirrors by the side. A good idea will be to go for mirrored

Get a storage rack built behind the WC to keep toiletries (right); keep the walls in a muted colour palette (above)



Install a shower bath instead of a bathtub



cabinets and reflective surfaces as they make the room look bigger and spacious than it is in reality. Aditya Bhutani, COO, AIS Glasxperts says, "Mirrors are one of the simplest and most attractive ways of creating an illusion of space, are great reflectors of light and make a small bathroom look bigger." Use mirrored cabinets, glass shelves, glass sinks and shower enclosures.

MIGHT OF LIGHT

Take full advantage of any natural light available in your small bathroom. According to Varun Gupta, Joint Managing Director, Bathline Sensations, "Keep the window sills free of any items that might obstruct sunlight from entering the space." Installing a skylight or roof window will be helpful in bringing in some more daylight while adding extra light fittings can change the look of a small bath space.

COLOUR THERAPY

The colour tones of wall and the floor should be kept the same which makes the bathroom looks spacious. Go for a light colour palette to have an impression of

space. Pastels such as light blue and soft pink, and neutrals like whites and off-whites are the safest hues to give out a feeling of space and extra room.

GROUND TRUTH

Using large floor and walls tiles is one of the easiest ways to make a small-sized bathroom look bigger. Aggarwal says, "Using the same tiles on the walls as on the floor will visually expand the space. Remember that the size of the tiles should be medium or large as less grout lines give out a cleaner look."

SHOWER POWER

As space is at a premium, going in for a separate bath and shower enclosure will eat into vital area and make a small bathroom look further smaller. The question is do you really need to install a bath or could you make do with having a shower instead? Best way out is to opt for a shower bath. You can get a sleek looking glass enclosure, preferably in square or p-shaped design as it will solve the problem of less space and will also give you the pleasure of having a smart shower system.