

THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House



1. Pile On the Pattern
When used in such a small space, this silk ikat wallcovering's large-scale print seems energizing rather than overwhelming. The 1820s French mirror's reverse-painted frame keeps the graphic patterns coming.

CHIC BATHROOMS

Powder Rooms with Pow

The secret to pulling off these 10 big-impact looks in petite square feet: Decorate them like any other room.

THE ESSENTIALS / powder rooms



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6. Texturize the Walls

A powder room behind a staircase embraces its tininess and becomes a moody, exotic jewel box with all-over Moroccan fretwork. The perforated panels allow light to filter in while camouflaging less-than-perfect walls.

7. Just Go for It

Without the moisture and humidity from a shower to worry about, an heirloom-worthy grandfather-style clock can have pride of place. Ideal for filling a narrow span of wall, the time-piece complements the nattiness of the tailored bands of black paint.

8. Bring In Furniture

Fitted with a marble top and an undermount basin, an 18th-century Swedish mahogany commode morphs into a vanity. Strips of antique ikat fabric, applied like wallpaper, keep the look current.

9. Splurge Strategically

The combination of a few luxe touches—delicate Baguès-style sconces, an intricately carved Italian Baroque mirror, an antique French-limestone floating vanity—creates old-world elegance and a sense of fantasy without leaving the house.

Designers: 6. Laura Kirar Design. 7. Garrow Kedigian Interior Design. 8. Markham Roberts. 9. Babs Watkins Julie Watkins Baker, and Eleanor Cummings. 10. Tobi Fairley & Associates (next page).