



## Tips For Designing Odd-Shaped Spaces Like A Pro

*Make the most of your square footage with these expert tips for transforming less conventionally-shaped rooms into seamless additions to your home.*

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No two homes are the same! From size to layout, each property offers a little something different. By embracing odd-shaped rooms within the home, one can create a unique and beautiful aesthetic in any living space. ESTATENVY connected with Mara Wierschke of Peabody's Interiors to get the scoop on making the most of this square footage. Avoid Tiny Decor When designing for a small space, homeowners may assume that decor must also be small. Wierschke explained that this technique is actually a common mistake, and can create a dollhouse effect within the room. "I always make a point to plan for a large piece or two in every small space I design for," she said. "The answer might need to be small-scaled upholstery, but then use a large piece of art or a tall bookcase. This creates a space that is suitably scaled, but not small on drama or an adequate focal point." Embrace a Darker Color Palette Another common myth in designing for a small or odd-shaped space is that the use of

light colors will open up the space. Wierschke cautions homeowners not to put too much faith in this belief, as it can be hard to fight nature. Instead, she recommends opting for a darker palette. “In a tiny room, there would be no reflective benefit to a light, bright paint color. Why not go dark? In these shadowy spaces, corners can almost disappear, allowing the color to cozy up an already small space.” Understand the Volume of the Space Leave no stone unturned when evaluating the space. Each element of the room can be used to your advantage in order to create the designed aesthetic or effect. With the right placement, you can turn the positive aspects of the space into the focal point and shift attention away from less favorable characteristics. “In other words, don’t get caught up in the “footprint” only of the space. Understand the volume—or the visual space. Properly focussing on things like height, light, and borrowed space, or clear openings to adjacent areas, can help maximize enjoyment of an otherwise odd space,” said Wierschke. Borrow Light Lighting can make a world of a difference in transforming a space! If you would like to avoid installing bulky light fixtures, Wierschke recommends taking advantage of a well-placed mirror. “The concept is called ‘borrowed light’—to hang a mirror is as good as adding another window. It immediately opens up the space. Every small room should have one,” she explained.