

Big Ideas for Small Spaces



One look at the New York Collection by Cindy Crawford Home, and you can see how it's just perfect for small dining rooms. The glass-top table, available at The Room Place, eliminates the heavy look of a dark colored table top, and gives way to a well-lit and airy space. The sideboard has a slim profile that seems to hug the wall, leaving plenty of room for a walkway and dining comfort.

Do you get frustrated when it comes to decorating the smaller rooms in your home? It's a common decorating problem, but there are many tricks you can use to open up the tiniest of spaces, and still manage to squeeze in all the necessary home furnishings.

Don't overlook the amount of vertical space available in any small room. Armoires, china cabinets, and bookcases can work well in small spaces for the amount of storage and interest they provide. And, remember that china cabinets aren't just for dishes. They can also be filled with conversation items such as heirlooms, books, and special collections to add elements of your unique personality to your space.

After you've chosen the furniture for your small space, it's time to decide on a paint color. Most decorators recommend light colors for small spaces. However, a light color doesn't have to mean going with sterile shades of white. Any shade of beige, lighter greens, and gray often work well in small spaces. In addition, some decorators recommend tricks for playing up ceiling height in small spaces, as the illusion of height creates a sense of more space. Suggestions include crown molding, and two-tone paint combinations with the darkest shade closest to the ceiling.

The New York Collection and other selections from the Cindy Crawford Home collection are available at The Room Place. Visit www.theroomplace.com for more information.

Create a Bedroom to Grow with Your Child



Every mother wants her child to have a playful, age-appropriate, and well-organized bedroom. But, children grow so quickly that it's often difficult to decide which furnishings to choose. Here are a few tips from The Room Place for choosing a child's bedroom furniture, and decorating a child's bedroom.

Bed, Dresser and Nightstand: When selecting major pieces for your child's bedroom, it's important to consider your child's present and future needs. After all, bedroom furniture is a major purchase, and should be designed to last for years.

For example, selecting a well-constructed, full-size bedroom furniture set which will bring years of enjoyment is often a better long-term value than choosing a toddler bed or other cartoon character-themed items which your child will likely outgrow within a few years. In addition, classic furniture styles with neutral wood finishes will accommodate many decorating themes, and your child's changing preferences over the years.

When selecting a child's bed, don't forget about the possibility of hosting sleepovers with friends! A trundle bed, like the one shown above, provides a comfortable place for a friend to settle in, and can be neatly tucked out-of-sight when not in use.

Accessories: After selecting major furnishings, you'll want to add the finishing touches to your child's bedroom by bringing in fun accessories that express their unique personality. Accessories can be easily changed as your child grows and changes, so they provide a great way to bring in their favorite characters, animals, and television shows. Don't forget a small lamp for reading bedtime stories, and a nightlight to scare away any fear of the dark.

Storage: When choosing furniture and accessories for your child's bedroom, look for items with shelves and built-in storage compartments. Bins and baskets added to a simple bookcase make great places for storing and organizing blocks, toys, dolls, and books.

The children's bedroom furniture shown above is available at The Room Place. Stop by any of our showrooms, or visit our website at <http://www.theroomplace.com>.

A Home Office that Works for You



Does your workspace create more stress than your job? For the work-at-home professional, a clean, organized and well-decorated home office space is essential to a productive work day. Here are a few decorating ideas from The Room Place for creating a new home office, or transforming your existing one.

The ultimate goal of any home office should be to create an atmosphere that lends itself to productivity. For most of us, this means clearing away clutter, finding storage space for necessary items, and selecting comfortable, well-designed office furniture.

So, where should you start? The largest piece of furniture within your home office will likely be your computer desk, so it's a good place to begin. When selecting a desk, look for a piece that will comfortably hold your computer, printer, and still provide you with enough space to spread out a few files, books, or other paperwork as you work.

Since many of us often use our home office for personal business as well as work, look for a desk with separate storage spaces for work and home files. Many home office furniture sets

offer add-on options such as a hutch or additional filing cabinets. Keep in mind that you may want the option to add pieces as your business grows or your needs change.

One often overlooked home office item is the desk chair. Even if you're on a tight budget, don't skimp here! Choosing the right chair for you can prevent hours of discomfort and back pain. Look for desk chairs with back support and adjustable height settings.

Don't forget to add those special, comforting touches to your home office space. A warm shade of paint, a green plant, a floral arrangement, artwork, or pictures of friends and family can provide welcome relief from the daily grind of conducting business.

The office furniture shown above is available at The Room Place. Visit www.theroomplace.com for more information!

Not a Morning Person? Maybe it's that Old Mattress!



Did you wake up grumpy this morning? Checked your mattress lately? There's no greater guarantee of a lousy day than a worn out, saggy mattress that leaves your body aching due to a lack of support for your body's unique shape.

The good news is that mattresses have come a long way in the last decade. New technology and space age foams offer many more options for a good night's sleep than we've ever had before.

Experts recommend replacing your mattress at least once every ten years. If you're due for a new mattress set, there are several options to consider, including the firmness of the mattress. If you have back problems, you may want to go with a firmer mattress for added support. People with small frames should consider a softer mattress, while those with larger frames may require a very firm mattress in order to support their extra body weight.

If you're looking for added comfort, check out some of the pillow top mattresses on the market today. The added softness and extra layer of support can make even the firmest mattress seem like a cozy retreat. The pillow top mattress shown above is a Simmons Beauty Rest™ mattress which is available at The Room Place.

If you haven't replaced your mattress in several years, you'll probably find today's mattresses to be much thicker than the one you currently own. Many mattress sets now come with an extra-thick mattress and lower profile, much thinner, box springs. These sets work well with traditional bed frames as well as trendier platform style beds.

The Room Place offers dozens of the latest mattress choices by top manufacturers. Stop by one of our Chicago area showrooms and we'll be happy to help you find the perfect new mattress for getting a great night's sleep.

It's All in the Accessories



After you've chosen a new sofa, side chairs, or other major pieces of living room furniture, it's time to move on to accessories- all the little things that turn 'just any old house' into a warm and inviting home. Here are a few suggestions from The Room Place for putting the perfect finishing touch on your living room.

Accent lighting is one of the fastest and most effective ways to create a sense of warmth in your home. A pair of table lamps placed on either side of your sofa can create a sense of symmetry

and balance within the room, and provide low-wattage lighting sources that eliminate the glare of traditional ceiling lights. If you want to define a second seating area, a hanging lamp placed over side chairs or a table will do the trick.

Candles, like the ones shown above, are a great accessory for placing on end tables, coffee tables and ottomans. Even if you don't light them, candles create a sense of warmth in the room. And, if you're looking for a fragrant effect, the inviting aromas of vanilla, cranberry, and sugar cookie candles are all great choices for creating a sense of home.

Mirrors can work wonders in any living room, especially when placed over a sofa or fireplace. Carefully placed mirrors can be used to reflect light into dark spaces, reflect a beautiful outdoor view from a nearby window, and create the illusion of space in tight quarters. And don't forget, groups of smaller mirrors in place of one large mirror can give your room artistic flair.

Artwork doesn't have to be expensive to give your room a unique feel. From landscapes to abstract paintings and sculptures, your choice of artwork should reflect your personality and tastes. In addition, textured fabrics, family photos, and small items of interest placed in matching frames can create a one-of-a-kind wall grouping over a sofa or sectional seating.

The Room Place offers all the accessories you need to put those special final touches on your living room, bedroom, or family room. Visit any of our Chicago showrooms or www.theroomplace.com today!