

# SMALL WONDERS

*If your bath feels more like a broom closet, the problem might not be how much space you have, but what you do with it. Take cues from these four baths, which use a variety of tactics to make the most of their petite dimensions.* WRITER Mallory Abreu



## Refresh with Natural Colors



*Color can quickly take over a small space, but an accent wall or pops of outdoor hues can make a room feel clean, organic, and homey.* That's exactly what homeowners Eleanor and Claude Estes aimed for when working with architect Don Cooper to build a breathable interior. This cozy bath's splash is a nod to the Florida shores outside. "We wanted a relaxed, peaceful feel," Eleanor says. "I love blues and grays inspired by the water, so we incorporated them throughout our space." Clean lines and crisp cotton-whites balance out the blues and keep the space feeling light and fresh. Frosted glass partitions define the shower and toilet areas, providing privacy while still allowing light through. A porthole window continues the nautical theme and breaks up the prominent solid-color wall.



## Limit the Materials Palette

*Spaces designed with children in mind often end up as busy montages of prints and energetic colors.* Not so in Grace Shults's bathroom—a room with a palette inspired by the teen's favorite hotel, the St. Regis. "Elegance, sophistication, and a little bit of glam—that's what she was looking for," designer Matthew Quinn says. Using antique knobs from the original St. Regis in New York City as a catalyst for his design, Quinn developed a space that is at once ornate and refined. "It's all about minimizing the amount of materials," he says. "If what you see in the background is cohesive with what you see in the foreground, it makes the space feel elongated and continuous, and less busy." Quinn uses what he calls the "rule of three." In the case of stonework, for example, he combined bubble tile, gray stone, and a striated marble backsplash, all of similar coloration, for a neutral yet visually engaging mix. Mirrored cabinet doors bounce light around the room, creating the illusion of more space.







## Let in Natural Light

*Before architect Andrew Mann took on this Victorian home's cramped and dated bath, the space felt about as appealing for its users as a can is for a sardine. Taking square footage from an adjacent utility room, Mann opened up floor space and constructed a separate toilet room—with wall-hung storage above the toilet—for extra privacy. In the main room, a floating walnut vanity and chrome fixtures maximize both floor and counter surface area. After that, Mann says, it was all about bringing in as much natural light as possible and then doubling that light—and the perceived amount of space—with an expansive mirror. A frameless skylight over the shower makes the space feel vertically infinite, and allows for a smooth transition from glass tiling to California sky. "It gives you this kind of awing moment," Mann says. "You can look up while taking a bath or shower in the morning, and you just see the sky."*

*For the shower, we liked the reflective quality of the glass tile—it gives this lightness that really brings the space to life.*

—architect ANDREW MANN





## Get a Handle on Clutter

*Nobody leaves more clutter in their wake than a pair of teenagers—a truth interior designer and homeowner Brooke Kelly knows all too well. After her daughters went off to college, she remodeled their small bathroom with a focus on storage and light. Custom wall-hung cabinetry and a matching ebony-stained floating vanity provide a sleek space to stow what Brooke calls “all the lotions and potions and hair ties.” The low-profile sinks, seamlessly integrated into the countertop, and modern wall-mount faucets maximize counter space and make cleaning easy. A backlit mirror adds depth to the room’s slimmest section; it slides up to reveal more storage, with a mirrored interior so primping can continue whether open or closed. Replacing a bathtub with a frameless shower allows the floor surface to continue without visual interruption, making the room feel more spacious.*

