

Space planning is key when decorating a small room

Is there an uber-small room in your house that you don't know what to do with? Elaine Williamson of Elaine Williamson Designs in Dallas, Texas, offers the following suggestions on how to liven up the space:

■ **Space planning.** Choose a focal point for the room. A wall at the far end works best as it can pull your eye into the space. Painting this wall a deeper hue will help.

■ **Reflection.** Mirroring an entire wall gives the room a timeless look and creates depth and dimension.

■ **Accent furniture.** Keep all accent pieces light in feel. When your side tables and

cocktails table are heavy in shape or color, they have a tendency to add a visual weight to your room, making it appear small. If possible, keep the shape rounded and flowing.

■ **Baseline furniture.** Make sure all furniture selected for the space is smaller in scale. Lower profile, less bulky furniture will increase the perceived visual space, making it feel more open.

■ **Decor.** Do not over-accessorize your small space. Remember that less is more.

■ **Flooring.** To keep from feeling like the walls are closing in on you, choose neutral flooring and get a graphic rug that brings the focus down and around the space. When

choosing a bold rug, be sure to place a lighter-feeling cocktail table on top.

■ **Lighting.** Avoid hanging fixtures. When possible, use can lights or, if you have a more modern style, track lighting. This keeps the area above your furniture clear of visual interruptions.

■ **Storage.** To keep the cluttered feeling at bay, make sure that the furniture you select has storage options, such as an electronics console with drawers. Avoid open bookcases. They tend to give off a cluttered, closed-in feeling.

— The Patriot-News

