

PRESS RELEASE

Think big, plan small

Not everyone is lucky enough to have a wonderfully spacious bedroom, but just because your bedroom is compact, doesn't mean you need to compromise on luxury and style. Anton Odendaal from leading furniture retailer, Rochester, offers a few of his top tips for decorating smaller master bedrooms in a practical, yet oh-so-stylish way.

05 July 2014, Johannesburg: Decorating a master bedroom can be a difficult task, especially when space is limited, but achieving a luxurious and stylish bedroom area can be achieved if you're smart about using the space in question. "It's crucial to take into account certain aspects, such as storage, your choice of colour palette and your particular décor style, right from the beginning - while planning your bedroom space," explains Anton Odendaal from leading furniture retailer, Rochester. By bearing a few design tricks in mind, it is easy to use a small space to your advantage and turn your bedroom, regardless of size, into an oasis of relaxation and chic luxury.

Smart storage

Storage is one of the biggest space-eaters in your bedroom, so it's important that it is a carefully considered element in the overall bedroom design. It is not something that can be sacrificed, however, it is important that it doesn't overwhelm the space either. "When it comes to storage, there can never be enough of it, so it is critical that you utilise every possible source of storage that you can," explains Anton. He says that the latest trend is under-bed storage: "Under-bed storage is an absolute blessing in a small space, as it utilises otherwise unused space. It comprises a drawer-like unit that rolls neatly out of sight under the bed, which can be easily accessed when required. Rochester provides purpose-built under-bed drawers in its Bexley and Augusta bedroom ranges, which blend seamlessly with the style of each range."

Anton notes that shelves are another great way to store things in a small room where floor space is at a premium: "Think floating shelves as these won't take up any floor space. Taking advantage of vertical space is crucial when floor space is limited. Also – consider stand-alone storage instead of built-in wardrobes, as these can be individually moved around to complement the room's décor, shape and size – think tall boys, bedside tables, armoires and chests of drawers in a matching style for a seamless overall composition. These are less expensive than built-in cupboards, and especially ideal if you are renting, as you can take them with you when you move."

Enlightened hues

When choosing a colour palette for small spaces, lighter hues are always a better option. "Lighter colours are well known for making a space appear brighter and bigger than it is, as they tend to open the space up. Whereas dark colours have a tendency to make a room seem like it's closing in on itself." Notes Anton. Light colours are really on-trend at the moment and will add a tranquil feeling to your bedroom space. They are also perfect for compact spaces, as they can be adapted to suit a variety of bedroom décor styles.

Anton says that smaller bedrooms will naturally feel cosier than larger bedrooms, and using light colours won't make the space feel too cold and sterile. He also notes that just because the main

colour scheme is predominantly light, doesn't mean you can't add colour to the scheme: "Adding colour by the inclusion of coloured soft furnishings, such as throws, curtains, bedding and scatters, is a great way of adding interest to any bedroom space, as it allows you to add splashes of colour without overwhelming the space. Also, if you tire of that particular colour, you can quickly and inexpensively change the entire palette without having to redo the entire room."

Pattern and texture

Decorating a small room is particularly difficult, as it's not likely that you'll want to use valuable bedroom space for trinkets and ornaments. Anton says that his best suggestion when decorating a small room is to use various textures amalgamated together in one composition in order to add interest to the space: "Use bedspreads and other fabric-upholstered furniture with an interesting texture or pattern, interesting floor rugs, or genuine wooden furniture for example. Headboards are an excellent way to incorporate style and interest into a small room without taking up hardly any valuable space."

However, although combining textures is great, Anton warns not to overdo it: "Small spaces call for moderation, so choose a decoration, picture or pattern that will act as a focal point for the room, and work out from there. This way, your choice of decoration will not only be more practical, but it will also have more impact from a design perspective, as it won't completely overwhelm the space."

Functional furniture

"Selecting the right furniture is vital to the success of the space," says Anton, "Which is why planning which pieces of furniture to include in this space is a very necessary step to getting the end look just right." He says that when buying furniture it is important to keep the size of your bedroom in mind, and to purchase pieces that are in proportion to the room in question: "If you choose oversized, large and bulky pieces for a small space, it will make the room seem crowded and even smaller than it actually is."

Anton notes that the best furniture for a small room should be compact, functional and simple, with sleek design lines and modern overtones. Side tables with draws that can be used in place of a dresser are a perfect example of functional furniture. It is also widely suggested that beds with footboards are avoided in smaller bedrooms as these cut off the space, instead of keeping it open and feeling bigger. Four-poster beds are another no-no in compact bedrooms, notes Anton: "Rather include a wonderful chaise at the foot of your bed to punctuate it – this will keep the visual lines open, while still providing a functional space to sit or leave your clothes."

ENDS

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