

Making Space

When it comes to decorating smaller homes, design trickery is your best friend, says Resene colour consultant Nikki Morris.

High Shine

Using colours with a high light reflectance value can help bounce the natural light around the space and give it the illusion of being larger, brighter and more spacious. Colours from the Resene Metallics and Special Effects range, including Resene Scotty Silver and Resene Stun, are perfect for paler hues. Glossy surfaces, which reflect light, are ideal for small rooms, particularly when using inky paint colours, including Resene Dalek and Resene Magnetic. Use a higher gloss finish on darker elements, such as kitchen cabinetry, built-in shelving and fireplace surrounds, but keep the walls in a low-sheen finish to offset the gloss differences.



Resene Allusive

Resene Goldmine

DECEPTIVE FITTINGS

Give the illusion of more space with these quick fixes.

1. Place curtain rods close to ceilings to create height.
2. Extend the rod to about 10cm on either side of the window to make it look bigger and let in more light.
3. Pick simple Resene Curtain Collection window drapes in the same colour of the walls to blend in with and open up the space.
4. Hang mirrors near windows to reflect the outdoors or angle towards a focal point to give the illusion of more room.
5. Paint handrails and shelves to match your wall colour to help them blend in.
6. Choose smaller, less chunky furniture with open or no arms and exposed legs to allow light to filter under it.

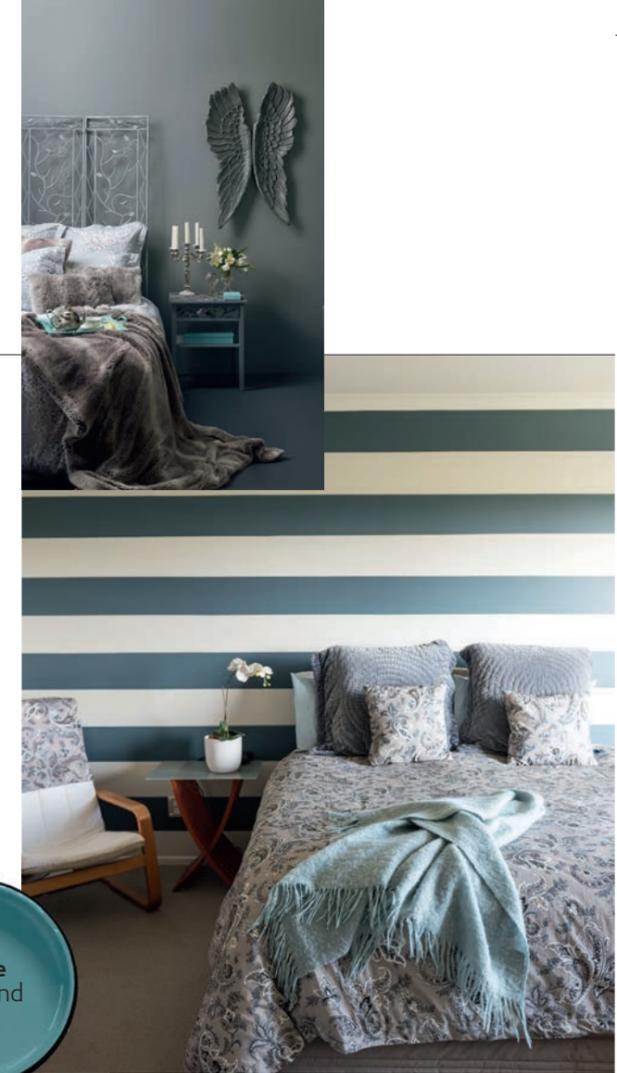
Down the Line

Consider horizontal stripes, which make a room appear bigger the same way a striped garment can make the wearer look larger. Similarly, vertical stripes make a low ceiling seem taller. A monochromatic colour scheme works extremely well in small spaces as it allows the eye to move easily around the room without obvious interruption by other colours. This can alter your perception of dimension and can make an interior seem more spacious. Another trick is to paint the walls and trims the same colour to make ceilings appear taller.



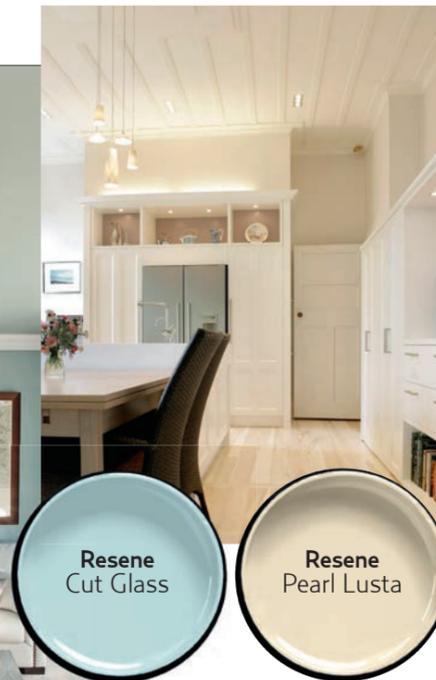
Resene Quarter Regent Grey

Resene Whirlwind



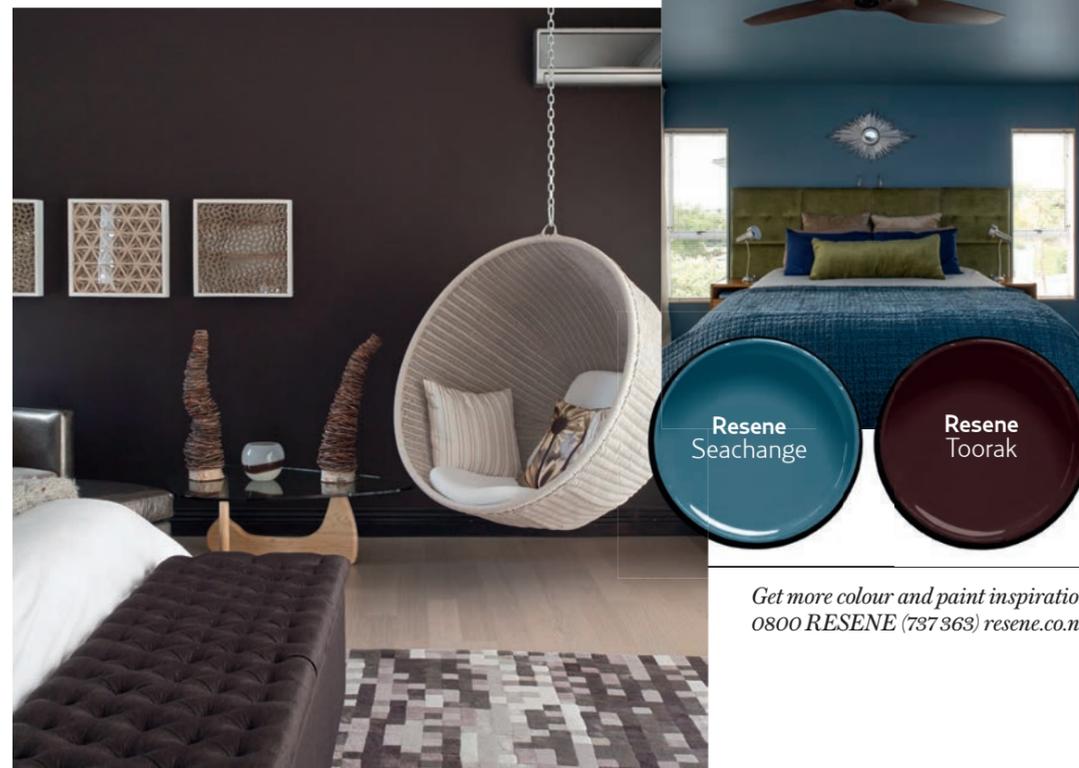
Colour Choice

Why limit yourself to white, when there are several design concepts that can make your room appear visually bigger. Certain colour combinations can fool the eye and make interiors seem more spacious. Pale blues and greens create a calming atmosphere that enlarges and brightens a space. They also combine well with other colours. Cream tones and icy blues is one of the best duos – try Resene Eighth Thorndon Cream, Resene Quarter Pearl Lusta or Resene Rice Cake alongside Resene Breathless or Resene Cut Glass. Versatile sea-foam greens work well with creams, yellows and greys. Just ensure you use soft lemon and creamy yellows, such as Resene's Gin Fizz, to create a sense of space.



Resene Cut Glass

Resene Pearl Lusta



Resene Seachange

Resene Toorak

The Dark Side

Darker shades can work well, but stick to neutrals such as blacks, charcoals, navy blues, chocolate browns and plums. Go darker in a room for a cocooning and moody vibe and add some brighter and happier colours as accents. Details like blankets, artwork, rugs and couches can all be in similar tones but with textural differences, and then use cushions, lamps and candles for pops of bright colour. Alternatively, introduce a dark feature wall in a room with two lighter shades for an airy but anchored look. Beware of reds, greens and mid-tone blues, which can call too much attention to walls, making a room feel smaller. Bold colours work best as accents.

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