

Space matters everywhere in your home but arguably nowhere more so than in the bathroom. Having to keep your elbows tucked in as you step out of the shower is no-one's idea of fun. But fear not, by utilising some of these clever design strategies you can make the most of your space:

2 Focus on function "The biggest challenge in any bathroom is ensuring that it's exceptionally functional. All fixtures must interact smoothly and you need to have sufficient bench space and storage," says Daniela Santilli, bathroom business manager for Reece. "This can seem like a tall order when the floor space is limited, but remember your ultimate aim is to create a room that still feels light and spacious."

3 Weigh up what you can lose "Consider what's important to you," says Lee Hardcastle, bathroom designer and owner of Brisbane's Enigma Interiors. "Maybe you insist on a bath, or perhaps you would rather use the space for a luxurious shower. What you don't want is to squash everything in."

4 Keep it off the floor One of the best things you can do for a small bathroom is to choose products that increase the floor space and create the illusion of a bigger room, says Santilli. "Selecting a wall-hung vanity reveals more of the floor and tricks the eye into thinking the room is larger."

5 Embrace wall space "If you have the luxury of wall cavities you can access, there are some great space savings to be made," says interior designer Brett Mickan of BMID. "Recessed cisterns, shower niches and cabinetry all create the feeling of more space."

6 Forgo the frame "I'm not a fan of the shower frame or screen," says Carole Whiting, creative director of Whiting Architects, who designed the striking 3x3m Melbourne ensuite opposite. "A bathroom is a place for sensory experience and that should be more important than whether or not a bit of water is going to be splashed around." Here, the shower cavity is tucked beneath the sloping ceiling and has a barely there glass screen.

10 LET YOUR FINISHES SHINE "I TOOK THE BATH/SHOWER OUT OF THE ROOM AND INSTEAD DEDICATED THE SPACE TO A GENEROUS SHOWER ENCLOSURE," SAYS ARCHITECT DANIEL BODDAM OF A SMALL MAIN BATHROOM HE DESIGNED IN SYDNEY. "IN A NOD TO THE PERIOD OF THE APARTMENT, I SELECTED A BRUSHED BRASS SHOWER FROM THE ENGLISH TAPWARE COMPANY AND HAD A BRASS SHOWER SCREEN AND CHANNEL CUSTOM-MADE TO MATCH." ▶

7 Run joinery wall to wall "If the space and your budget allow it, opt for a built-in vanity that runs wall to wall," says Sydney architect Brooke Aitken. "It will make the bathroom seem larger and give you a good amount of storage space."

8 Have grate ambitions If you're hoping to do without a shower screen at all, one solution might be to consider running a strip of drain down one edge of the room, says Hardcastle. "In a tiny room it's hard for tilers to get enough space to work a fall into the floor. Running the grate along the wall will allow your tiler to achieve this with a large-format tile."



9 Tile floor to ceiling Create cohesion by using one material throughout, says architect Tom Ferguson, who designed the bathroom above with penny-round mosaics. "Mosaics create the illusion of more space because they read as a single surface."

TOP TILES



Lantern-style ceramic tiles in Sea and Light, \$24/260x350mm sheet, Di Lorenzo Tiles; (02) 9698 8737 or dilorenzo.net.au.



Everstone Water Cube glass mosaic tiles in Oxygen, \$72/m², Domayne; www.domayne.com.au.



Mos Evolution Hex porcelain mosaic tiles in White Taupe mix, \$180/m², Beaumont Tiles; beaumont-tiles.com.au.



Green Fleur glazed ceramic mosaic tiles, \$425/m², Tiles by Kate; (02) 9949 4300; www.tilesbykate.com.au.