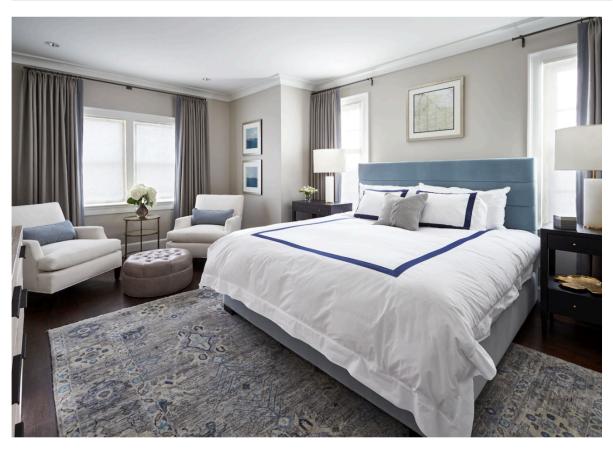**Real Estate**

Choosing the right colors and finishes can make a small room feel larger

Use a rug that is as large as possible. A small rug makes the space feel smaller. The rug should fill the room while not going under the nightstands or dresser. (Use a rug that is as large as possible. A small rug makes the space feel smaller. The rug should fill the room while not going under the nightstands or dresser. Greg Powers)

By **Michele Lerner**

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If you're in a one-bedroom apartment or condo, you may feel it's too small for you to enjoy. In many newer buildings, bedroom space has been shrinking in favor of larger living areas, a luxury bathroom and a bigger closet. No matter what size bedroom you have, some design choices can make the room seem larger and calmer — more like the haven you crave.

We asked Tracy Morris, owner of Tracy Morris Design in McLean, Va., for her advice on how to make a small bedroom feel larger.

Here are the tips Morris recommended in an email:

- **Choose the right-size rug**. Use a rug that is as large as possible. A small rug makes the space feel smaller. The rug should fill the room while not going under the nightstands or dresser. Be sure to add a rug pad for extra softness.
- **Pick the right lamps**. Lamps should be around 30 inches tall to add height to the space. Use bulbs that are 2700k for a warm, cozy light in the space.
- **Layer window treatments to add softness**. Use a sheer-lined Roman shade that lets light in the space, but that you can keep down during the day for privacy. Layer drapery with blackout lining on top for light protection.
- **Don't use undersized furniture**. In small spaces it is tempting to use small pieces, but it can have the opposite effect and make the space feel even smaller.
- **Use a variety of finishes**. Using different complementary finishes adds visual interest to the space. A space that is too matchy-matchy can feel very heavy.
- **Paint the walls and trim in the same color**. Using two different colors chops up the space. Use a matte finish on the walls and a semi-gloss on the trim.
- **Use a light color on the wall**. Paint options include Benjamin Moore Tapestry Beige OC-32 and Benjamin Moore London Fog 1541.
- **Choose artwork that inspires**. Artwork is a very personal thing but try to find something that speaks to you and is calming. Opt for a single large piece of artwork instead of a gallery wall, which can break up the space and feel overwhelming.

Read more:

[Don't be afraid to be big and bold when picking a rug for your home](#)

[How to decorate a newly built home when you're on a tight budget](#)

[Over-the-top lighting can be an inexpensive way to upgrade your home](#)