


making the most of what you already have

What if you've already built or purchased a home that feels a bit too small for your needs or the style you want to convey? "If you like where your home is but the space doesn't work for you, don't do an extensive tear-down—remodel instead," Sarah says. Even a smart redecoration can make all the difference you need.



The allure of an outdoor shower is unmistakable. Stretching your space to include simple amenities won't cost a fortune—the step also adds value and expands your living area.

GET EXPERT ADVICE

"If you're planning a renovation, talk to a designer," says Dave. A professional can help you get creative and assess what changes can be made, like creating a great room by knocking down a non-load-bearing wall between the dining and living rooms.

EXPAND OUTSIDE

Increase functional space by adding covered and screened-in balconies and porches, says Wayne. "The integration of an outdoor fireplace can create an outdoor room," he says. For example, a grill built into the back of a fireplace can turn a patio into a kitchen. Similarly, where appropriate, outdoor showers can help compensate for small bathrooms.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

If you have a small home, use bigger furniture, but less of it. People tend to put smaller pieces in a small home, but then it seems cluttered. To avoid this, instead of two loveseats, throw in a big sofa. Jeanne recommends using a sectional for seating in the great room, instead of a sofa and chair. "Sectionals open up that whole area and provide the right amount of seating," she says.