

Smart Storage

FOR SMALL SPACES

Add convenience and comfort to small kitchens and baths

COMPILED BY PATRICK McCOMBE

Living in a small house requires making the most of any potential storage space, particularly in the kitchen or bathroom. With the right kind of storage, you can prevent the clutter that makes these spaces feel cramped and unkempt, as well as the frustration that goes with it. Instead, you'll have spaces that are tidy and that feel larger than their square footage would indicate. What follows is a collection of the very best storage solutions we've come across in the last few years. As you go through the next few pages, you'll find that even the very smallest spaces can be put to good use, and you'll see that smart storage is often more about better organization than it is about creating additional space. We hope you'll use these ideas as inspiration for your own projects. If you come up with your own creative storage solution, please send us a photo. If we like what we see, we might include it in a future issue.

BREAKFAST BOOTH, CHINA CABINET

Despite its modest proportions, this kitchen feels larger than it is. One reason is the built-in booth beneath a bank of windows. The seat back is affixed to full-extension drawer slides, allowing it to glide upward to reveal generous storage spaces. Cabled counterweights make it easy to lift the sliding panel. A drawer in the top of the booth claims the rest of the space.

Architects Arkin Tilt Architects, Berkeley, Calif.; arkintilt.com

Cabinetmakers Bryan Harris and Greg Tolman, Emeryville, Calif.





DINING-ROOM DESK

A chest-high buffet cabinet separates the dining area from the kitchen in this house. The buffet turned out to be the perfect place to tuck an old-fashioned flip-down desktop in the service of 21st-century technology.

Designer/builder Chris Stebbins, Eugene, Ore.; chrisstebbins.com

Cabinets

The Cabinet Factory, Eugene, Ore.; thecabinetfactoryeugene.com



KITCHEN LAPTOP DRAWER

The kids eat their breakfast at this windowsill-height counter next to the kitchen cabinets. Once they are off to school, Mom pulls the laptop out of the drawer built into the side of the base cabinet, grabs a cup of coffee, and gets to work. An electric outlet in the base cabinet provides the power.

Designer/builder Paul Johnson, Portland, Ore.; pauljohnsoncarpentry.com



CLEVER CABINET

This efficient, highly functional cabinet is a key part of a redesigned farmhouse kitchen. The front of the unit houses the home phone. Above the phone are mail slots and open shelving. Below is a pullout drawer with an outlet for charging cell phones and cameras. The cabinet side contains a whiteboard with marker storage, a corkboard, key hooks, and angled slots for school papers.

Designer Dana Frey, Starline Cabinets, Chilliwack, B.C.; starlinecabinets.com



TUCK AWAY THE TOASTER

Storage space was limited in this compact modern kitchen, so San Francisco-based Hulburd Design invented a slide-out plywood platform behind the microwave to support a toaster and a coffee maker. The two appliances are behind a bright-red door that opens with a touch latch. Hiding these appliances reduces clutter and increases prep space on the butcher-block countertop.

Designer Hulburd Design, San Francisco, hulburddesign.com





NARROW VANITY FOR TWO

The cabinet that contains this farmhouse sink is narrower than a traditional double vanity, so it takes up less room in a small bath. Even with a space-saving vanity, the sink's ample size keeps water contained and provides enough room for sharing. The vanity's glass pulls and the sink's two cross-handle faucets maintain a look that's consistent with the home's Tudor style and vintage.

Designer Ann McCulloch, Portland, Ore.;
annmccullochstudio.com



HIDEAWAY KITCHEN TABLE

When his Montauk, N.Y., clients requested a pullout table to seat extra dinner guests, Chris Greenawalt came up with a two-legged steel table that slides in and out of a chase between the countertop and the cabinets below. A steel plate bolted to the end of the table prevents it from coming out altogether.

Designer Chris Greenawalt, Charlestown, Mass.;
bunkerworkshop.com

