



*Designer Neil Stemmet reveals the simple makeover moves that can completely change a room*

WHEN IT COMES TO DIY, it's often the small things that have a big impact on improving quality of living and enhancing aesthetic appeal. Here, design expert, collector and curator, Neil Stemmet of Konzept Design and Architecture looks at the elements that make a room and reveals his tips on how to ensure they work for your home with ease.

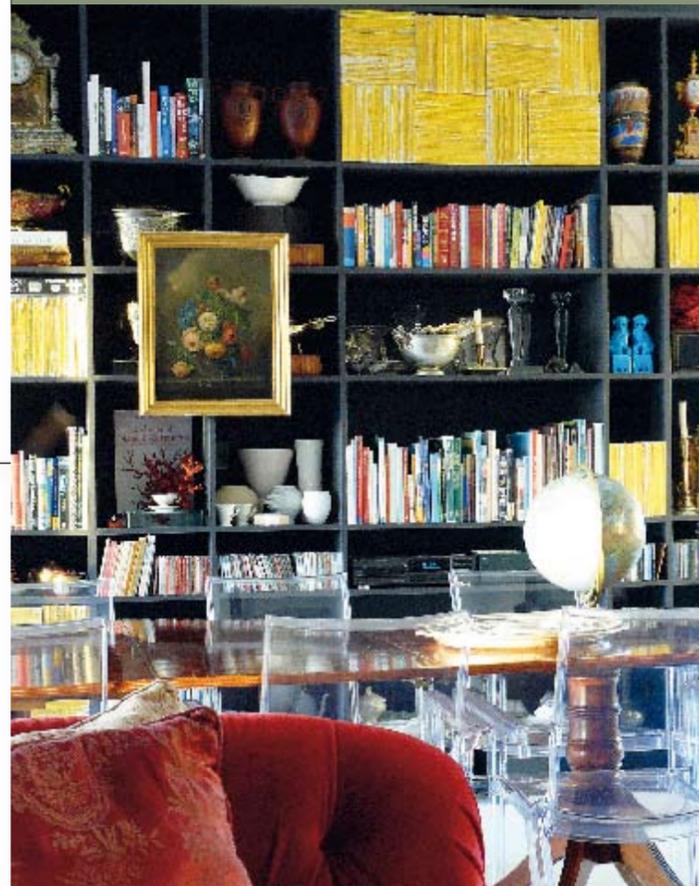
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**TIP 1** Use every square metre. In this compact bathroom, Stemmet kept the room open plan and removed the doors to create a feeling of spaciousness. A measure of privacy is provided by a low wall next to the toilet. Also, paradoxically, a large bath works better in this small space as it fits the room snugly and gives it a feeling of luxury.

**TIP 2** With minimal space for opening and closing doors, think about open storage. Recycle vibracrete for shelving as it's easy to clean and simple to construct. Simply build brick-and-cement uprights to support the vibracrete slabs and top with cretestone to form a countertop.

# SMALL CHANGE BIG DIFFERENCE



**TIP 3** Create a sense of order and contain clutter, while at the same time providing a point of visual interest by grouping all your ornamental objects together. Placed amongst your books in a floor-to-ceiling feature bookcase, they break up the monotony of the spines.

**TIP 4** Use leftover or recycled slate - painted black - as skirting boards to prevent dirty scuff marks ruining white floors and walls.

**TIP 5** Be resourceful with materials. Use surplus cement to cast your own tiles, to use either in a bathroom or surrounding a pond.

**TIP 6** Balance high-tech finishes, such as chrome and glass, with objects that have a handmade touch. Paper-mâché plates and rustic cement tiles offset the sleek minimal look of a bathroom.



**TIP 7** Group objects for unity. Here, all the frames were painted the same colour for a sense of curator cool.



**TIP 8** Choose stylish and practical ventilation options. Ceiling fans are ecofriendly and improve airflow. Cantilevered windows are another option as they direct air throughout the room and allow light in. And as they open at a 45-degree angle, they are also burglarproof.



**TIP 9** Create storage options wherever you can - that includes maximising the vertical areas, as well as the square metres. Mezzanine areas provide amazing storage potential for what could end up as dead space. Use them to their full potential for hanging space or display shelving. Here, a curtain can be hung across the width of the room to slide across for times when the bed needs to be hidden from view.



**TIP 10** Fashion a feature wall with texture and colour. By using dark colour on one wall, the room doesn't feel too small and provides a focal point. While the screeding is still wet, use a builder's level to create patterns.

**TIP 11** Sometimes it's more cost effective to buy bigger tiles and ask the supplier to cut them down to size according to what you want to use them for.



**TIP 12** For ultimate user-friendliness, place all door handles and light switches at wheelchair and child height. ▶

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