

Country Living

October 2010

NEW LARGER SIZE!

Your ultimate *Halloween* handbook

83 scary-fun ideas for pumpkins,
crafts, cupcakes, and more



Quick
and clever
treats!
SEE PG. 55



PLUS:
Easy little
ways to update
your home


COUNTRYLIVING.COM \$4.50





LIVING LARGE IN A LITTLE HOUSE

Lizzie Carney rewrites
the rules of small-space
decorating in her
1,000-square-foot Illinois
bungalow.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue strapless dress with a pink and white patterned sash, is sitting on a wooden table. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The room has dark walls with several framed pictures and documents. One of the frames contains the text "Sabor BLUNDER".

OLD RULE White walls are a must when square footage is limited.

NEW RULE Dark colors create the illusion of depth in small rooms.

Lizzie Carney painted every wall the same custom-mixed charcoal hue; the floors throughout wear a paler shade of gray. In the living room, contrasting color and texture come from pink pillows and weathered woods: oxidized oak shutters and a coffee table made from reclaimed lumber.



OLD RULE Cramped quarters call for clean lines.

NEW RULE Ornate, embellished details give even the tightest spots a sense of grandeur.

Carney found this opulent chandelier in Belgium and the vintage refrigerator at an El Paso, Texas, flea market. Her kitchen island, by Euro Trash, incorporates parts from an antique sideboard; the stools are Ikea bargains.

OLD RULE
Hidden storage
is key to keeping a
tiny house tidy.

NEW RULE
Why waste
precious basement
space on boxes
when you could have
a dining room
and a wine cellar?



From the outside, Lizzie Carney's home in Jacksonville, Illinois, looks like your garden-variety 1930s bungalow. But appearances can be deceiving. Step through the front door of the 1,000-square-foot house and you might think you've entered a sprawling French château—complete with luxe antiques, crystal chandeliers, and sumptuous satin drapes. Clearly, this is one gal who's not about to let a lack of space cramp her style. Instead of dreaming of a bigger place to accommodate the finer things in life, Carney insists on living in the right now. "Don't wait to enjoy the good stuff," she urges. "Use your china when eating a hamburger. If you love a piece of furniture, find a way to make it work."

Which is exactly what she did. Forget the conventional wisdom that dictates diminutive scale and clean lines for tight quarters. The decor of this little cottage demonstrates how large,

ABOVE Stacked Belgian grape-gathering crates hold bottles of vino in the basement-turned-wine cellar. The space also functions as a dining room, thanks to an oak farm table surrounded by a mix of vintage chairs from Europe.



ABOVE Carney uses the house's second bedroom as a dressing area. She covered the ottoman in pink denim from Walmart and fashioned the Union Jack carpet by spray-painting an outdoor rug. ABOVE RIGHT Gilded frames gussy up custom closet rods.



OLD RULE Get extra mileage out of a guest room by having it double as an office or den.

NEW RULE Turn over the entire room to a single indulgence, like a walk-in closet.

dramatic pieces give tiny rooms a dose of grandeur. Carney, who scours flea markets abroad as a stylist and designer for the import firm Euro Trash, literally brought her work home—via an elaborately carved French bed frame, a gilded Belgian mirror, numerous European vintage chairs, and reams of chocolate-brown velvet from Paris. “It’s a misconception that dark colors make a place seem smaller,” says the designer, who painted every wall charcoal gray. Such continuity, she explains, “creates the feel of endless space.”

But to really understand her luxurious, rebellious approach, you have to check out the basement—now a full-fledged wine cellar!—and what’s supposed to be the house’s second bedroom. Outfitted with wooden rolling racks, an oversize pink ottoman, and a vermilion vanity, the room serves as a walk-in closet of fantastical proportions. Carney casts an eye toward a row of frilly frocks and declares, with typical carpe diem enthusiasm: “I say, wear a fancy dress, even if you have no place to go! You can make every day a special occasion.” ♦



OLD RULE Small places require small furniture.

NEW RULE Bitsy often leads to busy. Instead, opt for fewer, larger pieces.

The queen-size bed, a French antique, makes one big statement. Behind it, gray curtains mask an oddly placed window. The duvet is from Anthropologie.

Living Large in a Little House

PAGES 106-111

Four luxe finds echo Lizzie Carney's lavish boudoir.

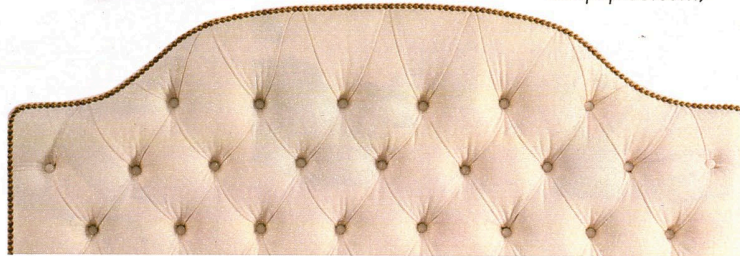


▲ **CHANDELIER** Channel Carney's vintage French fixture with this affordable option. (\$299.99; lampsplus.com)

PAINT Add instant sophistication with Benjamin Moore's Amherst Gray. (\$37.88 per gallon; myperfectcolor.com)



▲ **FABRIC** Up the wow factor of upholstery or drapes with this coral satin. (\$5.99 per yard; hancockfabrics.com)



◀ **HEADBOARD** This tufted stunner (available in more than 100 fabrics) evokes opulence. (\$449-\$589 for queen, 62"W x 50"H; ballarddesigns.com)