



COLLEGE LIFE

## 5 Decor Tips From A Small Space Stylist

AUGUST 24 by NATALIE ZISA

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One thing that manages to make me excited about going back to school is decorating my dorm room. I genuinely think a bedroom is a reflection of the person who lives in it and I always try to decorate so that mine is an accurate representation of who I am. Plus, there's a lot to be said for making your dorm room as home-y as it can be. But I'd be lying if I said I didn't wish for a Pinterest-type room to be the end result.

Though the Lala is equipped with articles on [DIY projects](#), I wanted to do my research and enlist the help of a professional. Andrea Diano is a small space stylist at Dormify where she constantly gets asked questions on how to decorate dorm rooms *and* tiny apartments. (Which I'm pretty sure is what my future has in store for me.) Read on for Andrea's advice on how to best style your small space.

### Not sure where to begin? Think about your personal style.

The first question I get asked as a stylist is where to even begin when it comes to styling their space. A room should always be a reflection of those who dwell in it. So, my favorite way to get inspired is to take a look at your own closet. What is it that draws you to your favorite dress or sweater that you love to wear? Are you more attracted to neutrals or bold, bright colors? Do you wear a lot of patterns, or do you prefer simple solids? Thinking about these things can really help figure out what themes and pieces you'd be most comfortable with in your space.



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## Opt for a duvet cover instead of a comforter.

Duvet covers are extremely versatile and perfect for a small space! They're easier to clean, since they slip right off the insert, which is perfect if you don't have laundry on your floor or building. Covers are much easier to store, so you can have a few styles on hand in case you like to switch things up for the seasons. Many duvets come reversible as well, so it's another great way to keep your space interesting by having access to two looks for the price of one. My favorite thing about duvet covers is that you have the opportunity to control the filling and customize your comfort without sacrificing the style. Since duvet covers are removable, you get to choose whether you like a natural down filler or down alternative (especially if you're allergy prone), and if you like heavier weighted covers, or lighter ones.



## Don't be afraid to add textures to your look.

Faux fur, sequins, velvet, and studs. Don't hesitate to experiment with different textures when it comes to details like throw pillows and blankets. Break all the rules by mixing a variety of patterns and materials together to achieve a stylish look. For example, don't be afraid to pair foil metallic details with cozy knitted pieces. You'll be surprised how effortlessly chic it looks all together.



## Go all the way up (with storage).

When working with a small space, try to minimize what you keep on the floor when it comes to storage. Take advantage of vertical space and use storage that stacks! The more floor space you have available, the larger your room will feel.



## Make the most of your (small) wall space.


When it comes to styling small spaces, most people get stumped with how to dress their walls. One simple way to do this is by finding a tapestry that speaks to you. Tapestries are

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naturally interesting pieces that actually add more dimension to a room and make your space look bigger. Mirrors are another fun (and functional) way to magnify your space!



Images via FYeah, Cool Dorm Rooms

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