

**Q** “The cloakroom is the one room all my guests see, so how can I use the décor to create wow factor?”



Alison Johnson  
Otta Design

**A** “The smaller the room, the more dramatic you should be. Take inspiration from the bathrooms in boutique restaurants and hotels to achieve a striking look. Don’t forget you can afford to be extravagant with your material choices as well, as the quantities will be comparatively small. A clever trick to make a room appear bigger is to decorate with darker tones, such as rich blues or even black with a soft-sheen finish. In turn the light reflects off the walls, giving an illusion of space. If you’re feeling brave, paint the entire room the same colour – even the ceiling.”



▲ It’s a small space, so you can afford to invest in high-quality décor. This project by architect Brian O’Tuama is a perfect example of how to use a mix of materials, including wooden panelling, wallpaper and patterned floor tiles, to wow your guests. A similar cloakroom project would cost around £5000 to £7500.

[brianotuama.com](http://brianotuama.com)

◀ You’ll definitely impress your guests if you decorate your cloakroom with dramatically designed wallpaper. A good example is this cloakroom which features Farrow & Ball Lotus wallpaper, priced £112 per roll.

[farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)

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Get some rest and relaxation at home with our advice on creating your own spa bathroom.



# DESIGN SOLUTIONS

A downstairs toilet is a great addition to your home, but creating a stylish layout can be tricky. We've asked six experts for their advice on how you can make the most of even the smallest room

Words: **Sally Smith**

**Q** "What are the first key considerations when you are creating a new cloakroom?"



**Siobhan Hayles**  
Siobhan Hayles Interiors

**A** "A new cloakroom will, without exception, need an extractor fan to comply with Building Regulations, but they can often spoil the décor. I always try to fit the extractor as high as possible, above eye level and out of sight if I can. There are fans on the market which you can paint or even wallpaper over to fit in with your colour scheme. Cloakrooms can fit into the smallest spaces, but it's important you check whether you actually have enough headroom before you start. The floor-to-ceiling height must be at least 1.8m to allow your tallest guest to comfortably stand when using the toilet or washing their hands."

► This understair cloakroom still has plenty of headroom below the pitch to comfortably fit a toilet without cramping your guests. A standard door has been modified to fit perfectly under the stairs. A similar design would cost around £2500.

[otta-design.com](http://otta-design.com)



▲ Even if the cloakroom has a window, include an extractor fan as well for maximum efficiency, as in this scheme. A similar cloakroom by Siobhan Hayles would cost around £1400. [siobhanhayles.com](http://siobhanhayles.com)

► Getting a standard door to fit can be a problem if you have an awkward space under the stairs. Sliding or bi-fold doors make for a simple but effective solution. Crosswater's Glide II 70 vanity unit with a cast mineral marble basin is priced £925.

[crosswater.co.uk](http://crosswater.co.uk)

