

Staircases

Stairs might seem to have one of the simplest functions: providing access from one level to another, but strict regulations often mean that they consume a lot of space. When adapting stairs to fit small sites, there are a myriad of options that allow them to be multifunctional. They can double up as storage solutions, including shelving and cupboards, or, by using ladders, can condense the amount of space needed to the bare minimum.



Hanging bicycles from the stairs

Due to the small size of this low-cost sustainable house designed by [Interface Studio Architects](#), innovative solutions had to be found for storage. This included using generally underused spaces, like the underside of the stairs, that is cleverly used as a space to hang bicycles.



Stacked boxes of storage

[SABO Projects](#) has used a small desk space and storage wall to create a feature within the open-plan space of this Brooklyn loft apartment. Stacked timber boxes create storage within a partition wall that also accommodates a desk. The irregular combination of white and oak boxes also conceal stairs leading up to a mezzanine play area.



Stairs-cum-storage

This home in Koriyama, Japan, takes its cues from traditional Japanese carpentry techniques that combine staircases with storage in order to maximize space. Architect [Kotaro Anzai](#) has designed a bespoke staircase that features a myriad of drawers and pigeonhole cupboards built from plywood and ash wood. Handles shaped like numbers help to organize the storage in which the owners keep their crockery.