

Right: Architect Bart Eyking didn't have much space to play with in this bedroom, so he selected a floor-to-ceiling mirror in order to create an illusion of space whilst lying in bed. A similar bedroom would cost around £7000.



Photography: Denise Keus

Small Wonder

Our top 10 tips for maximising functionality within a limited floorplan with clever furniture and furnishing choices

Words: Sophie Baylis



Photograph: Nathalie Priem



Blur the lines

Gabriel Holland Interior Design opened the ceiling up into the eaves of this 1960s house to create height and space. The next step was to run shiplap cladding up the headboard wall and into the apex of the roof. This was painted the same colour to blur the lines between the wall and the ceiling, again accentuating the feeling of space. A similar project would cost around £3000-£5000, depending on the size of the room.

Choose wall-mounted furniture

Wall-mounted bedside tables such as this one from La Redoute create a sense of space and room for additional storage underneath. Switch traditional bedside lamps for ceiling- or wall-hung pendants to create the illusion of height in a low-ceilinged bedroom and to free up space on a small bedside table. To create this scheme, interior designer Shanade McAllister-Fisher worked with a budget of £2500.



Take it to the ceiling

There's no shortage of space to stash stuff in this elegant bedroom by Keir Townsend, shown right. It is fitted out with bespoke units that frame the velvet-upholstered headboard and storage bed. Expect to spend around £10,000 for a similar bedroom.

When building cabinetry all the way to the ceiling, think carefully about what you'll use it for so you can keep well-used items within easy reach. Sigmar London skilfully used the space either side of this window seat for bespoke storage (below). The decision to take it to ceiling height keeps the bedroom clutter-free. Made out of MDF – more economical than timber – the joinery has been painted in London Cloud from the Damo collection by the co-founder of Sigmar, Ebba Thott. A sample pot costs just £5.



Photograph: Paul Riddle

Use the space behind the bed

Make space in a small bedroom by following the example set by interior designer Laura Stephens (shown top). "The storage behind the bed was actually created from an existing chimneybreast that was going to be difficult to remove, so we 'dug out' the recessed shelves and lit them with LED lighting," Laura explains. A starting price for a bedroom design by Laura Stephens is around £550.

Dixon Jones Architects, meanwhile, adopted a less-is-more approach with a simple shelf for bedside essentials, with handily placed plug sockets just above, and another for books (above). To keep the lower shelf clutter-free, the bedside lamp is neatly wall-mounted. Prices are available on application.





Photograph: Jake Fitzjones

Squeeze in secret storage

Now here's a neat idea by Clare Gaskin Interiors (below): a nightstand that's on wheels when you need it but slides away when you don't. It also blends in beautifully with the bespoke dresser. It is priced around £5500.



Photograph: Alexander W Hill

Benefit from a built-in wardrobe

A built-in wardrobe is a win-win in this loft bedroom by Carlson Stenner (left). It slots neatly under the eaves to make excellent use of an otherwise awkward space. Clare Pascoe of Pascoe Interiors, meanwhile, borrowed space from an adjacent bathroom, below. "Detail can cramp a room, so the wardrobe has a completely flat door, devoid of any panelling, that's painted to blend in with the walls," she explains. Prices on application.



Photograph: Nick Smith

Make a statement

Interior designer Bhavin Taylor was careful not to overload this bedroom with unnecessary pieces of furniture and accessories, shown above. "White walls and furniture keep the bedroom bright, which gives the impression of a larger space and allows for the House of Hackney wallpaper and Anderson Bradshaw bed to be the centre of attention," he explains. The budget was tight on this project so Bhavin opted for bedside tables from Dwell and Ikea wardrobes with flexible internal fittings.

Proving that white is not the only way to go, in this next bedroom (right), also by Bhavin, pattern is packing a punch. "Your home should reflect your personality, so if you love bold designs then don't hold back," he says. "Just be careful to get the balance right and consider the scale of the pattern and the colour palette – especially in a bedroom, as it needs to be restful space." The wallpaper in this bedroom is from Clarke & Clarke.



Photograph: TR Appleton



Work in a wall bed

Sarah Fortescue set up her design business in Hong Kong, where living space can be tight. This taught her some valuable lessons about the importance of storage. "In a small room, I would always use built-in wardrobes, as every inch of space is crucial and a freestanding wardrobe can lose you that space," she says. This guest bedroom (right and below) is particularly small, so Sarah has also designed a large cabinet to house a wall bed that flips down at bedtime. All cabinetry is painted in Little Greene's French Grey.



Under the bed

What this bedroom (right) lacks in width, it more than makes up for in height, allowing interior designer Violet & George to work in a wow-factor bespoke headboard, priced around £2470. It hasn't skimped on the size of the bed either, and, by going large with a super-king divan from Vispring (£3400), it has made sure that the room is comfortable to share. "Ensure the room is as de-cluttered and calm as it can possibly be by using areas such as under the bed to get things out of sight," advises Nicky Mudie of Violet & George. Contact Vispring to discuss the various drawer options for its divans.



Big up your window

A floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall sheer fabric behind the bed makes this small bedroom by 2 Lovely Gays appear bigger (right). This trick works well on a window wall too. "Taking the curtains outside the size of the window and filling the entire wall is a great way to make a window feel much bigger and brighter," Russell Whitehead says.

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