



# SIDE SHOW

Whether you are furnishing your bedroom from scratch or remodelling an existing area, there are a few golden rules to follow when dressing up your space

Report: Ava James

Previous page (p83): "More and more of our clients are demanding super-luxurious dressing rooms, which should be a paradise of rows of Jimmy Choos and Louboutins," says Jenny Weiss of Hill House Interiors. "We will always ask our clients for their exact requirements, so we can specify the precise number of shelves, racks, rails and drawers." The dressing room in this master bedroom features damask-effect glass sliding doors. Contact Hill House Interiors for price details.

Below: An upholstered headboard is the focal point of this luxurious guest bedroom by Halo Design Interiors. Lighting is essential for bedtime reading so Halo has sourced crystal table lamps with silk shades. A similar bedroom would cost around £12,000.



**W**hether you like to spend time unwinding in your bedroom or only go in there to sleep, the purpose is essentially the same – to recharge your batteries. As such, furnishing it in a way that makes you feel relaxed and comfortable is vital. In KBB's experience, the best bedrooms are well planned, so start by thinking about how your bedroom is going to be used and how you can incorporate this into its design.

### Planning the space

It is a good idea to sketch out a floor plan of your bedroom, noting the dimensions and taking into account windows, doors, radiators and light switches. "It might seem like an arduous task," says Lucy Powles of Cocovara, "but it will save you a lot of time and hassle when it comes to moving furniture around."

The size and shape of your bedroom, as well as the location of windows and doors, will dictate where you position furniture. Always start with the bed and place it so that you and your partner will be able to get in and out with ease. Try not to put it in a corner so that you have to clamber over a sleeping person to go to the bathroom during the night.

Make sure you leave enough space either side of your bed for bedside cabinets. "It is important to take into account power sockets and fitting details when planning your bedroom," says Linda Holmes of LuxDeco. "Your bedside tables should be used to hide any unsightly sockets, particularly for bedside lamps."

Then use your plan to work out which pieces of furniture should go where. If space is limited, be prepared to compromise on how much will fit.





Left: An accent chair, chaise longue or even a small sofa is great for lounging on before bed. Enhancing the romantic feel of this master bedroom is a glass Porta Romana chandelier and mirrored dressing table. Prices on application from At Home Interiors.

Right: Known for its handcrafted kitchens, John Lewis of Hungerford has extended its portfolio to include bedroom furniture. From fitted to walk-in wardrobes as well as a range of freestanding furniture, including bedside tables and vanity units, each piece is made by craftsmen at John Lewis of Hungerford's Oxfordshire workshop. Collections include the Artisan bedroom range, from £5000.



### Hit the shops

When it comes to sourcing your chosen furniture, save time by making a shortlist of the shops you would like to visit before you leave home. Magazines, design blogs and interiors books will help you narrow your options, and browse the retailers' websites to get a feel for their ranges.

Take along your wish list, together with your room plan and any paint samples and fabric swatches you have collected. The better prepared you are the more productive your shopping trip will be.

"Don't settle for cheap and cheerful. Choosing a piece of furniture for its pretty cover alone is a nightmare waiting to happen," continues Lucy Powles. "Check it is well made, has interesting details and classic lines. You can always re-cover the upholstery in a fabric of your choosing or re-finish the frame."

### Online shopping

High-street shops are limited by the space they have available, but online shops often let you view the full breadth of a product portfolio and compare and contrast the choices for yourself. "The commonly perceived dangers of online shopping are that the service may not be up to scratch, the product received may not be as described, the payment method may not be secure, the company could be bogus and not deliver the goods, or that the after-sales service may be lacking," says Robert Clark of Kitchen Door Workshop.

Ensure you shop safely by following a few simple steps. "Word of mouth has for a long time been one of the best ways to find a reputable supplier, but how does this work online?" adds Robert. "Independent

"Multimedia systems are common additions to bedrooms, and we would always recommend investing in beautiful cabinetry to conceal those unsightly wires."

JENNY WEISS, HILL HOUSE INTERIORS

review websites can be a great resource for getting the low-down on any company you're thinking about shopping with. On these websites, you can get a frank understanding of a company's products and services, as their customers have reviewed them. Look at the overall score rating, the time period and how many reviews this is for; you need a good solid number to ensure the reviews are trustworthy and reliable." In addition, make sure the company has a physical address and phone number and find out what its returns policy is. ►

Bottom right: "Bespoke wardrobes by Roundhouse Design maximise space by utilising the full height of the bedroom. Metro matt lacquer bespoke wardrobes with integral handles and walnut interiors start at £4000.

Opposite page, bottom: "Our designers can take advantage of every extra inch of space, from navigating around slanted ceilings, alcoves and tricky corners to ensuring your new wardrobe is a perfect fit," says Richard Hammonds of Hammonds Furniture. The bespoke nature of Hammonds's fitted wardrobes means that all prices are available on request.

### Freestanding storage

Making sure you have enough storage in your bedroom is a priority. If you have a whole wall of unwanted fitted wardrobes, think about removing them and then take stock of the vastly increased floor space you have at your disposal. "Then you can start to plan properly by moving the bed around to different parts of the room, playing with different layouts and getting a feel for how you want to live in the room now that it doesn't have the clunky built-in items," says Declan Curran of HomeFix Direct.

Carefully selecting freestanding wardrobes, chests of drawers and bedside tables will ensure that all your storage needs are covered. "And best of all you'll have freedom to rearrange your room," continues Declan, "or change the furniture whenever the mood takes you, instead of being dictated to by gigantic units that restrict you."

Hiring a carpenter to make bespoke furniture is a popular option. However, if specially commissioned cabinetry is over budget, there are some beautiful off-the-shelf pieces out there. "If you wish, these can be easily customised by adding different doors, giving the piece a bespoke look," advises Jenny Weiss of Hill House Interiors.

### The benefits of built-in storage

Built-in storage is the way to go if you want all your clothes and shoes in one place. "While freestanding versions can act as chic accessories to fill space in a room, built-in wardrobes add a lot more character and simply melt into the architecture," argues Lucy Powles. They can also be built into awkward corners and under low ceilings to make use of space that freestanding furniture just wouldn't fit into.

If you're struggling to assess the space and work out how to make the best use of it, take advice from your retailer. Many of the leading ones have in-house designers who can help you with this. "The finish of your chosen wardrobe is also vitally important, as the right finish can brighten and add space to your bedroom. For example, using light colours or soft wood finishes can make a small room look bigger, as can high-gloss or mirrored finishes that reflect light around the room, so it is crucial to get it right," says Rachel Hutcheson of Sharps.

The bespoke nature of fitted wardrobes means you have the option to customise the internal storage to suit your lifestyle. "It's all about utilising the space that you have and making sure it's designed around you," explains Richard Hammonds at Hammonds Furniture. "Whether it's a slide-out rack for your shoes, extra shelving units or a simple wardrobe that easily fits all of your belongings, we've got the right solution for you." **[KBB]**

### Case study







Designer: Claire Pascoe of Pascoe Interiors.

Location: Spitalfields, London.

The brief: To bring mid-century flair to a top-floor bedroom.

The cost: Around £6000.

This bedroom shows how an eclectic mix of mid-century furniture offset with contemporary elements can result in a timeless interior that is not slavishly vintage. The bed is flanked by a pair of mid-century bedside tables in teak from Molten Vintage by Pascoe Interiors while the Danish rosewood sideboard and chest of drawers provide a platform for a series of vintage mirrors and frames. In the dressing area, Claire has fashioned open storage from a vintage hanging rail and stack of apple crates. The Bazaar Velvet rug, crochet blanket on the bed and pair of Kai Kristiansen chairs again from Molten Vintage lend a jolt of colour to the otherwise neutral space.





Above: "Whether you have high ceilings, steep angles or tight corners, Sherbourne takes it all in its stride and retains a classic and attractive look," says Rachel Hutcheson about Sharps's new fitted furniture range, available in a choice of four finishes – maple, cream, light oak and white. Prices for a fully fitted Sharps bedroom start from £2000.

Below: Doca UK's Mallorca Wardrobe Series includes mirrored Coplanar sliding doors, measuring 3600 x 2360mm and priced from £6000 per pair, and a range of walnut veneer internal options, including tie, shirt and jewellery compartments and trouser rails, priced from £420.

## SourceBook

AT HOME INTERIORS 01223 812551 or [www.athome-interiors.com](http://www.athome-interiors.com)  
 COCOVARA 020 7245 0203 or [www.cocovara.co.uk](http://www.cocovara.co.uk)  
 DOCA UK 020 3603 8835 or [www.docauk.com](http://www.docauk.com)  
 HALO DESIGN INTERIORS 01932 845885 or [www.halodesigninteriors.com](http://www.halodesigninteriors.com)  
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## NEXT MONTH...

How to create just the right mood  
with our guide to bedroom lighting.





Left: To capitalise on every inch of space, commission floor-to-ceiling wardrobes configured to your own specifications. Expect to pay around £1200 per linear m for tailor-made wardrobes by Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture. (020 7978 2349 or [www.barbara-genda.com](http://www.barbara-genda.com))

Below: Roselind Wilson Design designed this masculine master bedroom with a chocolate cowhide Firenze leather headboard and contrasting cream carpet. The client requested dark wood for a more intimate feel, which Roselind accessorised

with polished chrome cupboard handles. The bench at the end of the bed coordinates with the headboard. Prices are available on request. (020 3371 1779 or [www.roselindwilsondesign.com](http://www.roselindwilsondesign.com))

Bottom: The English Wardrobe Company offers a collection of handmade, handpainted wardrobes. The client here chose two Edwardian mirrored wardrobes fitted with double hanging rails and ample shelving. Crystal ball handles complete the look. (01483 225500 or [www.theenglishwardrobe.com](http://www.theenglishwardrobe.com))

