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# KITCHENS BEDROOMS BATHROOMS

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## How to buy a bathroom

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**WIN!**  
A stunning  
freestanding  
bath worth  
£4000

Also inside: Luxurious low-maintenance designs for a forever bathroom





# Perfect fit

Bespoke bedroom furniture can make a world of difference to the practicality and beauty of your bedroom

Words: **Amelia Thorpe**



Photograph: **Paul Craig**



**Previous page (p87):** Interior designer Sean Cochrane cleverly conceals storage in a luxuriously upholstered custom-made headboard in this elegant bedroom design. Prices on application at Cochrane Design.



**O**f all the rooms in the house, the bedroom is probably the most personal. It is an intimate and special place, a retreat away from the hectic world, where tranquillity is important – after all, good-quality sleep is essential. And, as fans of author and organising expert Marie Kondo will know, a clutter-free space is key to our wellbeing and to creating that all-important sense of calm.

After ditching the clothes you no longer wear, the books you’ve long since read and the shoes that are way too uncomfortable to ever see the light of day, the key to creating that uncluttered space is to make sure that you have excellent storage. The goal here is to be able to put the things you want to keep away neatly, so that they are easy to see, access, and enjoy.

**Perfectly tailored**

It is, of course, possible to buy a freestanding wardrobe, dressing table, chest of drawers and bedside cabinets, but they are not necessarily going to make the best use of space in your bedroom. This could be the time to think about made-to-measure storage. “Investing in bespoke bedroom furniture allows you to create a tailored storage solution to maximise the full usable footprint, whether it is a straight run, an awkward corner or an alcove,” explains Ashleigh Hanwell at Kindred. By customising the design to your individual requirements and bedroom space, you can maximise the width and height of the furniture and cope with any idiosyncrasies of the shape of your room or architectural quirks, resulting in more storage for your belongings and a more streamlined and less cluttered feel to your room.

In the same way that a bespoke kitchen is created around the way you like to cook, dine and entertain, so bespoke bedroom furniture is designed to suit what you want to put away and what you want to display. Whether you opt for



a simple run of wardrobes or a more extensive solution to create a complete dressing room or full master suite, the choice is yours. Begin by thinking about your needs and those of your partner if you share a bedroom. Carefully consider how much long hanging, short hanging, shelf, drawer and shoe storage you need. You can always measure what you have already as a quick starting point, remembering to factor in some ‘growing’ room, in case you add to your collections.

**Personal to you**

Bespoke furniture also provides an opportunity to create a statement design that is as individual as you are. You can specify materials and colours to match your room scheme or existing items of furniture, and a style that suits your taste and type of property.

Once you have your storage wishlist, you are in a good position to begin focussed discussions with a furniture company. You could follow up recommendations from friends and family to use a reputable local carpenter or joinery firm to make furniture to your specification, or choose a company that offers ranges of furniture made to fit, such as Sharps or Hammonds. The luxury solution is to opt for a fully bespoke design service from a specialist company or established

brand, such as Smallbone of Devizes or Martin Moore. Most interior designers will also be able to provide bespoke furniture, as part of a room design to deliver a complete turnkey solution if this is what you have in mind.

**Make an investment**

Although bespoke furniture tends to be more expensive than off-the-peg solutions, it is worth thinking about the return on your investment if you plan to live in your home for the long term. “While ready-made pieces are often more budget-friendly, there is a likelihood that they may need to be updated or recycled quite quickly,” says Ashleigh Hanwell, “but bespoke furniture, designed to suit your requirements, is likely to last longer and work seamlessly with your space.”

“For a bespoke bedroom solution, cost is dependent on a number of factors, including room size, amount of furniture required, style of furniture, material choices, lighting options and any other extras desired,” says Simon Tcherniak, designer at Neville Johnson. Expect to pay from under £1000 for a simple desk and shelving made by a local joiner, from £2000 for a fully fitted bedroom from a nationwide bedroom company such as Sharps, and from about £5000 for a luxury brand’s custom-fitted furniture. **[KBB]**

**Opposite page:** Customised drawer fittings will allow you to store your favourite accessories in style, making them easy to find when you are dressing and helping to protect precious items from damage. Bespoke bedroom furniture is priced from £15,000 at Martin Moore.

**Left:** It is not always easy to find upholstered furniture to suit the exact dimensions of your bedroom, so it’s good to know that NBB Recline offers made-to-measure sofas, sofa beds and armchairs to your specification. The shallow-depth Topkapi sofa is ideal for the end of the bed. Prices start from £1200.



**Above:** Some off-the-peg companies offer tailored elements, so you can create a furniture solution to suit your space, at an affordable price. The Parity furniture range, from £2500 for two double wardrobes and matching chest of drawers (as shown), also features bespoke desks, customised shelving and personalised internal storage. All from Kindred.

**Left:** Made-to-measure furniture can make the most of every inch of space, even in awkwardly shaped rooms. Here, a desk with shelving above, bench seating with drawers, and wardrobe fit neatly under the sloping ceiling. Prices start from £720 for the satin lacquer desk and shelving, including installation, from Barbara Genda.



Case study



**Designer:** Vicki Watson for Nonsuch & Knole.  
**The client:** Jo and Nick Collins.  
**Location:** Farnborough, Kent.  
**The brief:** The couple wanted to replace the tired décor of their bedroom with a smart and peaceful master suite with a touch of boutique hotel-style luxury.  
**Cost:** Bespoke bedroom furniture by Nonsuch & Knole starts from £4000.



“As part of a project to renovate the entire five-bedroom house, my clients wanted to update the master bedroom and turn it into a larger private suite, complete with ensuite bathroom made by converting an adjacent bedroom,” explains Vicki. “This left a long run of wall as the natural place for a bespoke fitted wardrobe, designed specifically to house the couple’s clothes and shoes, and to hide unsightly pipework created by installing the new bathroom.”

“Jo and Nick wanted to create a sense of calm and luxury, reminiscent of a boutique hotel. The wardrobes are finished with classic cross beading and painted in a soft grey, specially mixed for the project. The mirrored panels add elegance and a touch of glamour, as do the nickel Globe knobs with Swarovski crystals and American black walnut interiors. Rather than an elaborate cornice, we designed a simple scribed upstand that reaches to the ceiling, accentuating the unfussy but smart finish of the furniture. The wardrobe makes use of every inch of space, but its streamlined design, light-coloured paintwork and mirror ensure it doesn’t look heavy or dominant. In fact, it highlights the spacious feel and tranquil mood of the room. Coordinating bedside cabinets offer more storage and complete the beautiful effect.”



**Above:** Making the most of the unusual shape of this bedroom, Chiselwood created a triangular dressing table that ‘guides’ the owner towards the bathing area, while matching bedside cabinets and headboard complete the coordinated look. Bespoke bedroom furniture is priced from £15,000 for a run of wardrobes.

**Left:** A corner wardrobe solution is useful in a compact bedroom where you might not have much wall space. From John Lewis of Hungerford, this made-to-measure L-shaped Pure fitted wardrobe in Stove Grey with oak handle trim and customised interior costs from £5000.

### The design process

A step-by-step guide to purchasing the bespoke bedroom furniture of your dreams.

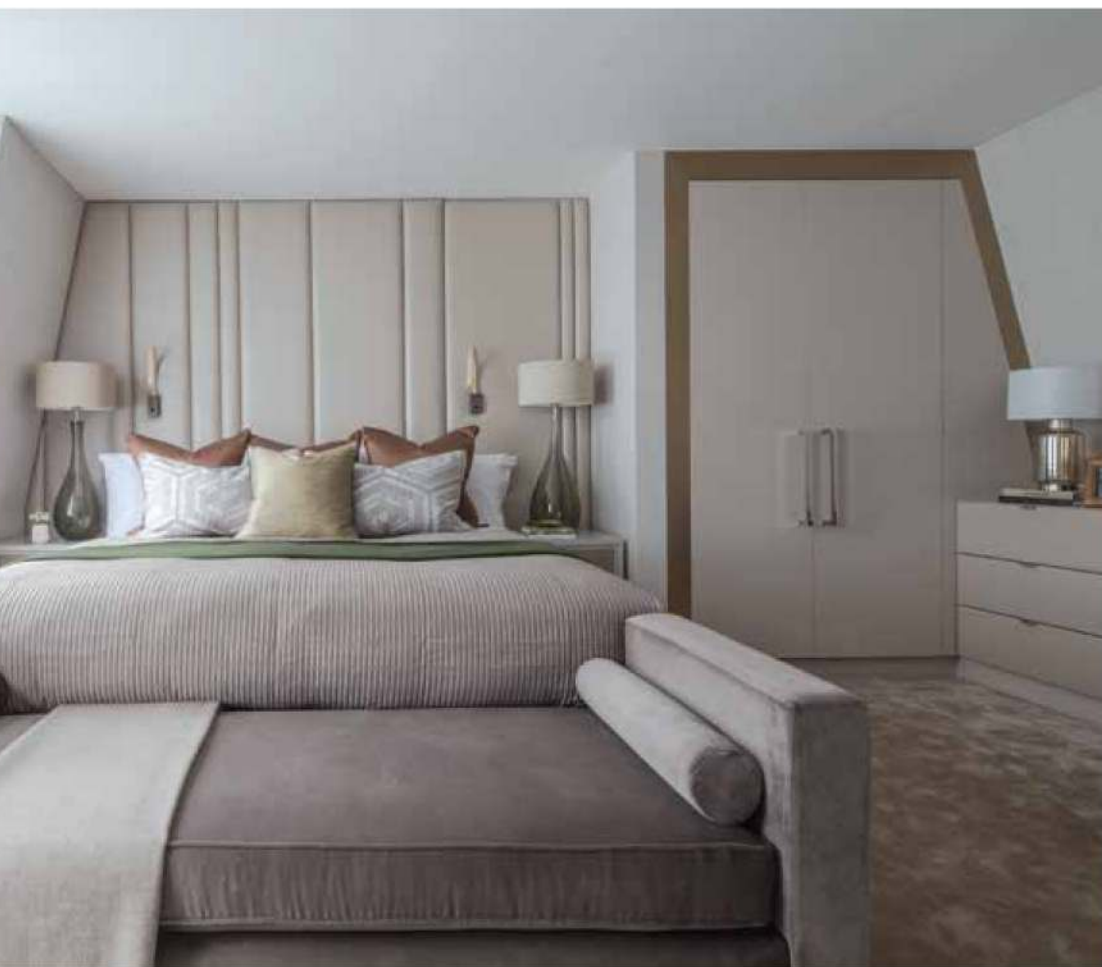
- ✓ Compile a selection of bedroom furniture images you like. Visit stores and websites from credited suppliers, and ask friends and family for recommendations to help you narrow down potential suppliers. Ask to see samples of their work and follow up references, and establish if the initial design and quotation is free or will be offset against the final cost should you place an order.
- ✓ Be realistic and frank about your budget to help the designer create the best solution for your spend.
- ✓ Take along your wishlist, a quick sketch of your bedroom with approximate dimensions, and the images of styles you like, as this will serve as a good basis for the first discussions with your designer.
- ✓ Ask to see and approve samples of materials, finishes, colours and handles, and agree all the details. Do you want jewellery trays in drawers, for example, or integrated lighting and mirrors?
- ✓ Take your time. There are lots of details to be considered and a good designer will work with you to help you explore your ideas and achieve your aims, as well as contributing expertise and interesting suggestions.
- ✓ When you are happy with the overall design and costing, many companies will ask you to pay a deposit to secure a slot for production and a delivery date, and sign a contract to ensure that all the details have been agreed.
- ✓ There should be a coordinator to manage the installation, liaising with fitters and painters on site, and to ensure that you are satisfied with the completed work before the final payment is made.





**Right:** Tailor-made storage is the ideal way to help you create a clutter-free space designed to your taste. You can choose the items you want on display and those you like to tuck away, making maximum use of the height and shape of your individual room. Prices for the bespoke Kensington dressing room from Neville Johnson start from £3000.

**Below:** Here, stud walling has been used to define the bed area, an effect accentuated by the bespoke headboard, and to create a flush finish for a recessed wardrobe built under the sloping ceiling. A similar bespoke master bedroom would cost from £20,000 at Roselind Wilson Design.



## SourceBook

**BARBARA GENDA** 020 7978 2349 or [www.barbara-genda.com](http://www.barbara-genda.com)  
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