

DREAM BIG

It can be challenging to squeeze everything you want into a small bedroom – but we have the solutions you need to help maximise storage and transform your space

Words: **Yvette Murrell**



Q “The room use may change in the future so I’m reluctant to invest in built-in furniture – any ideas?”



Yvette Murrell
Features writer,
KBB

A “Freestanding furniture is a great option for a small bedroom. It can be moved around depending on how the room is being used or removed entirely. It can also easily be taken with you should you move home. However, to prevent a small bedroom from looking cluttered, you should limit the amount of furniture you have – so select items that serve more than one purpose. Taking advantage of the room's height with wall-mounted pieces will also help keep the floor space free.”



► This storage unit by Skagerak comprises a full-length mirror in an oak frame, along with a small clothes rail behind and a handy shelf for smaller items. Priced £599. nest.co.uk

◄ Keep things simple by using a shelf as a bedside table. This floating corner shelf from Kreis Design is just big enough for all your night-time essentials. It comes with wooden pegs, which can help hold up books or be used to hang jewellery from, and is available in three lengths – 30 cm (priced £65), 50cm (£95), or 70cm (£135). kreisdesign.com

► Loaf’s clever Quill desk doubles up as a chest of drawers, with three drawers and a desktop which can be folded away when not in use. Made from solid fir wood with bronze handles, it is priced £775. loaf.com



Q “How can I use colour without overwhelming my small space?”



Judy Smith
Colour consultant,
Crown

A “When it comes to the walls, I always recommend using pale tones. The lighter the colour, the more it will reflect available light – whereas the darker the colour, the more light it will absorb and the darker a room will appear. Therefore, you need tones which visually push walls away from you, and these are the pale and light ones. Most light-reflective colours will open up a space.”



▲ Farrow & Ball's Modern emulsion in Calamine No.230 is a great alternative to white, as its pink undertones give the walls a softer appearance. Priced £43.50 for 2.5 litres.
farrow-ball.com

▼ Interior designer Clare Pascoe kept things simple in this small bedroom, using white walls and plain bedding to give the illusion of more space. Boldly coloured cushions, furniture, and statement wall art add splashes of personality.
spacious.pascoeinteriors.com



▲ David Hunt's Orb 3 semi-flush light, shown here in matt black, priced £358, offers a statement light in a compact size.
davidhuntlighting.co.uk

► A wall-hung reading light leaves room for other items on your bedside table. Pictured is the No.045 Charter wall light, £60, with the No.049 walnut bedside table, £225, and matching bed, £699, all from the Design Project collection by John Lewis.
johnlewis.com

▼ This headboard from Daval's Rio collection has subtle lighting built in to create a cosy atmosphere. The collection is available in 15 different wood-effect laminate finishes – each made to order – with prices starting from £3600.
daval-furniture.co.uk



EDITOR'S CHOICE

▲ Crown's Metallic Polka look features Pashmina matt emulsion, priced from £14 for 2.5 litres, and Copper metallic emulsion, priced from £18.99 for 1.25 litres. The skirting board is painted in Crown's Jet Black non-drip gloss, priced from £15.49 for 750ml.
crownpaint.co.uk



Q “How should I use lighting to make the most of my small bedroom?”



Hollie Moreland
Creative director,
David Hunt Lighting

A “It is important not to rely on a single light source. Rather, it is best to install multiple light sources around the room in order to give the effect of more space and to open the room up. Selecting the décor for a small bedroom can be challenging, and choosing the right lighting is a vital part of maximising your available space. There is no reason why a statement light can't be used to decorate a room, but it needs to be suited to the room size. We would recommend a semi-flush pendant for the ceiling (see Orb 3 light, top), as the reduced height will create the illusion of a larger room.”

Q “How can I ensure my storage is making the best-possible use of space?”



Barbara Genda
Bespoke furniture designer

A “If the bedroom is small, try to fit all of your storage needs within one wardrobe rather than having lots of loose pieces of furniture. Alternatively, if space allows, build a walk-in closet to keep the bedroom free of unnecessary furniture. Retain any available wardrobe space for hanging as a priority and use a small chest of drawers or bedside drawers for folded clothes.”



▼ Kindred’s contemporary Parity furniture collection, shown here in a dove grey finish, is available in a variety of different widths to fit your room perfectly. Expect to pay around £2500 for a similar wardrobe and chest of drawers.
kindred.co.uk

► Even a compact space can look luxurious, as interior designer Roselind Wilson demonstrates in this small-scale project. By using neutral tones with hints of champagne and pink, the room has a warm yet elegant feel to it.
roselindwilsondesign.com

▲ Barbara Genda’s team designed the storage solutions for this loft conversion, building cupboards and drawers under the eaves – so no space was wasted – and fitting a wardrobe with sloped doors. Barbara Genda’s bespoke projects start from around £1200 per linear m.
barbara-genda.com

▼ Built into the eaves, this wardrobe from Spaceslide’s Signature range is made of white glass panels with a titanium frame for a sleek, simple look, and is priced £801. Both chests of drawers are also from Spaceslide, priced £649 each.
spaceslide.co.uk



◀ The Diamond Briquette carpet from Alternative Flooring’s Wool Crafty collection, priced £59.95 per sq m, incorporates pattern without looking busy.
alternativeflooring.co.uk

▼ Cormar Carpets’s Forest Hills collection is available in 15 colourways. Shown here in Mineral, it is priced around £21 per sq m. Made from 50% wool, 40% lanelle polypropylene and 10% tuftbond fibre, it makes for a long-lasting option that is still soft underfoot.
cormarcarpets.co.uk

Q “I don’t have much floor space to work with – what type of carpet should I choose?”



David Cormack
Cormar Carpets

A “Light, neutral colours accentuate a feeling of space and brightness so avoid dark, deep shades that can make a room seem smaller. Creams and beiges are timeless when it comes to carpet, and there are many different neutrals to choose from. Team with mirrors and furnishings with reflective surfaces to make the most of the natural light.”



Q “My bedroom is little more than a box room – what type of bed should I go for?”



Lindsay Blair
Features editor
KBB

A “A bed will undoubtedly be the largest item – and the biggest investment – in a small bedroom, so choose wisely. You’ll want one that is comfortable, but for something taking up so much room it should benefit the space, too. Avoid beds with large, bulky frames and instead opt for one with storage space either underneath or within the frame itself.”



3 of the best...

Small bed solutions



Making a statement is the Yoko sofa bed in Saffron, £199 from Made.com, which simply folds down into a double bed.

made.com



Inspired by minimalist Japanese design, the Mirage single bed frame will take up little room. Prices start at £249 from the Futon Company.

futoncompany.co.uk



Stylish yet practical, the Nikki daybed comes with a trundle drawer for extra storage. Shown here in Army Green, priced £295 from Cuckooland.com.

cuckooland.com

► The Ripley deep ottoman bed from Warren Evans is available in eight different colourways, priced from £618. It features a smooth hydraulic lifting mechanism for effortless access to the storage space underneath.

warrenevans.com

◀ Team 7 from Wharfside has created a bed resting on concealed runners for a floating appearance. Choose between alder, cherry, walnut, oak or beech woods, with prices starting from £3587 for a small double bed frame (excluding slats and headboard). Matching items are also available.

wharfside.co.uk