

DESIGNER INSIGHT

Three leading experts advise on the best way to plan storage for your bedroom

HOW DO I MAKE THE BEST PRACTICAL USE OF SPACE?

GK Gone are the days when seasonal clothes were stored away – we live in such a fast-paced world that we need everything within reach at any time. I would create a run of wardrobes where possible. Poliform designs can fit all spaces: reduced depth across chimney breasts, runs above the door using bridge units and sliding doors (below) installed where opening space is at a premium.



RL Strip your bedroom down to the essentials and store non-bedroom items elsewhere. A bed on high legs will leave storage room underneath. Gorgeous hooks can be hung on the side of your wardrobe to display handbags. Organise your clothes and accessories with care – store like with like and you will achieve a calm and organised space.

AK The shape of a room will determine how you should best use the space. A run of wardrobe doors can be created in front of a chimney breast, for example, with the alcoves used for hanging clothes and the shallower space for shelving. If space is tight for bedside tables, consider incorporating slim, open shelves – wide enough for a bedside light and an alarm clock – as part of an oversized headboard.



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HOW SHOULD I CONFIGURE THE INSIDE OF FITTED WARDROBES?

GK My advice would be to subdivide the inner storage to accommodate a specific type of clothing, depending on whether it's long or short, sweaters, shoes and so on (below). We offer a flexible system whereby you can easily move hanging rails, shelves or drawers without the need for a screwdriver, enabling you to utilise space that might have been wasted before.

RL First and foremost you need to de-clutter before you make decisions on interior layout, as only when you have assessed what is left can you know which internal fixtures you will need. You might want a low rail for skirts and trousers and a high rail for evening wear. Shallow drawers are great for lingerie. Above all, your layout should be unique to you, so get involved at the planning stage.

AK One of the most important points is to ensure the storage works for you. This can be as simple as deciding whether you prefer to hang or fold clothes. If shelving is required, the width needs to be just right – there is little point in having shelves that are too wide for one garment but not wide enough for two piles of clothes side by side.



CAN YOU SUGGEST ANY GOOD FIXTURES OR ACCESSORIES?



GK It is essential that you use your drawer space fully. Compartmentalise them using boxes, dividers or separators and, in doing this, you will find items much more easily. I wouldn't recommend deep drawers unless you have really thick sweaters – it does not cost much more to have two drawers instead of one and you will keep them a great deal tidier.

RL If you have existing wardrobes there are lots of accessories to help you adapt the space. Consider drawer dividers for lingerie, lidded boxes for seldom-used items, shoe racks at the bottom of the wardrobe and cotton-lined baskets for bags. You can also add internal hooks for scarves or belts.

AK In a room with high ceilings (above) consider taking the wardrobes to full height and having the top rail as a pull-down rail, allowing access to a space that is otherwise difficult to reach. Mirroring the doors disguises the storage and can also act as a feature within the room. ■

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