

Private sanctuary

A Hampshire couple want a grown-up boudoir with some privacy in their ground-floor bedroom. Ruth Canning and John Coetzee devise very different designs that handle this unusually shaped space with aplomb

Report: Linda Grabham

THE CLIENTS

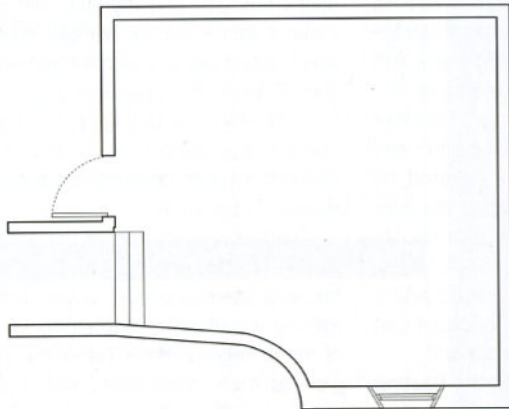
Mark and Karen Loblely recently bought a two-bedroom semi-detached cottage in Hampshire. The property has been extensively extended on the ground floor, so the couple are intending to convert a downstairs room into a master bedroom with ensuite, giving their two young children a room each upstairs.

THE BRIEF

As the new ground-floor bedroom has windows and a door looking onto a shared garden, privacy is a key concern. Storage is also essential, but it mustn't feel too cramped within the room's unusual dimensions. "Our bedroom is going to be a child-free zone and so we'd like it to be calm and relaxing and have quite a grown-up feel," says Karen. A dressing table where Karen can sit to dry her hair is a must, but she would like surfaces to be as clutter free as possible. Mark's main requirement is bedside lighting, as he likes to read at night.

THE SPACE

The room in question was previously a second kitchen and opens directly onto a shared garden. The door that leads outside could potentially be turned into a window if required. There is a large curved wall to the right of the entrance, which arcs around the fireplace of the adjacent property, and the wall is also curved below the main window. The ceiling slopes down to just 1.8m high on the external wall, and there are also steps down into the room from the entrance. All in all, this is a very unusual space with privacy issues but a lot of character.



THE BUDGET

£20,000

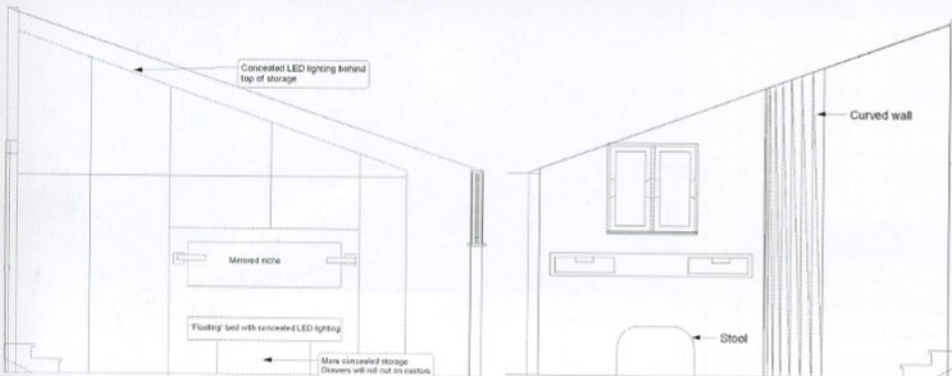
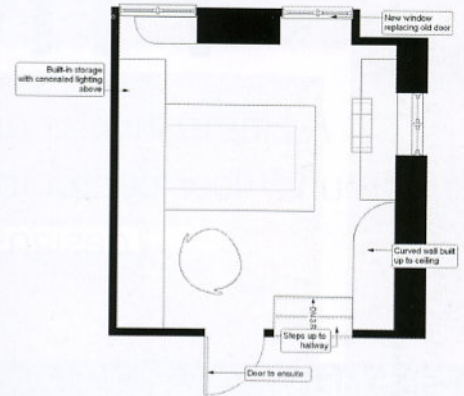
SOLUTION ONE



SOLUTION TWO



SOLUTION ONE



Section showing bed and built-in handleless storage

Section showing 'floating' wall-hung dressing table

RUTH CANNING



Ruth Canning of Chelsea-based Canning Sheridan Interiors would make a feature of the room's unusual elements by using modern touches to boost a classic colour scheme

The starting point for Ruth's design was to simplify the lines and bring some order and modernity to this very old and characterful property. "The need for plenty of storage and as little clutter as possible, all in a very tight space with only one useable wall, meant looking for a simple and practical but good-looking solution to storage. This was central to my design," she explains. A wall of built-in and completely handleless bespoke storage created by Wish would cover the whole wall at the head of the bed, deep enough for hanging clothes. It could also double as bedside storage, negating the need for bedside tables. The back of the bed niche would be mirrored to add a sense of depth, while reading lamps from Conciluce that can be pivoted 360° would also be built into the unit.

In this design, the base of the apparently floating bed would contain more hidden drawers. To further increase the sense of space, the dressing table would be wall hung, providing more visible flooring. The table would include two drawers with cut-out handles to contain all the items that do not need to be on display.

"The awkward curved semi-height wall is part of next door's fireplace and therefore not moveable, so I would make it into a feature using a stunning marble mosaic which looks like a sculpture and matches the limestone floor. Both are from Limestone Gallery. Underfloor heating from Nu-Heat would keep the floor warm and avoid space-eating radiators. A sumptuous Moroccan rug would make the room cosier underfoot during the summer months," says Ruth.

Shaftesburys shutters at the windows would provide a flexible solution to privacy and add an extra dimension by throwing interesting shadows into the space. The electrical lighting would be mostly indirect, concealed at the top of the storage unit and below the bed to create a warm glow at night. Wall lights would provide practical but moody lighting, with reading lights giving task lighting at the bedside.

**Canning Sheridan Interiors 020 7349 8145 or
www.canning-sheridan.co.uk**



THE SPECIFICATIONS

Bespoke cabinetry, including installation	£6815
Window shutters	£483
Wall, reading and LED lighting	£1950
Floor tiles and marble mosaic	£2400
Egg chair, Aram	£3445
Underfloor heating	£1284
Installation	£3000

Total **£19,377**

CONTACTS

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 LIMESTONE GALLERY 020 7735 8555 or
www.limestonegallery.co.uk
 NU-HEAT 0800 731 1976 or www.nu-heat.co.uk
 SHAFTESBURYS 0845 166 4103 or www.shaftesburys.co.uk
 WISH 01582 769691 or www.wishfurniture.co.uk

THE VERDICT

"This design really amazed us, especially the clever storage solutions such as utilising the space under the bed, which hadn't occurred to us," enthuses Karen. The mosaic-tiled wall was another big hit and the couple appreciated the use of high-quality materials that would stand the test of time throughout the design. "Ruth explained that we could just update the bed linen and artwork at any time to bring it up to date, without it costing the earth," adds Karen. The shutter solution for privacy was also appreciated as the Lobeys were originally worried about losing precious sunlight. "We'd get the best of both worlds," says Mark.

