



**ABOVE** Bookshelves work well around and above doors. In this library-cum-study designed by Studio Indigo, the joinery makes the space (which was originally very long and thin) feel better proportioned, and incorporates double doors.

**LEFT** This neat little oak home office by Neville Johnson incorporates a base cupboard in which to hide a stool and a cupboard above in which to store files and other work-related items. Fitted furniture from Neville Johnson costs from £3,600



**ABOVE** In this dining room designed by Studio Indigo, the left-hand cupboard cleverly contains a pull-down bed to turn the space into a guest bedroom for a regular visitor who prefers to avoid using the stairs.



**ABOVE** The semi-transparent bronze and gesso screen (seen on page 100, from the drawing room side) designed by Natalia Miyar provides the dining room area with a light, airy and spacious feel.

#### ADAPTABLE SPACES

From attics and guest bedrooms to home offices and boot rooms, bespoke designs are the ideal way to optimise space and storage in a small room. Cupboards, shelves, drawers, hanging space, worktops and even beds can all be designed not only to suit the user but also around the particular restrictions of the room – from floor to ceiling, side to side, reaching into corners and working around uneven walls.

If a small lobby area needs to contain a washing machine, shoe storage, a dog bed and a collection of flower vases, bespoke joinery is likely to be the only way to achieve this in an attractive fashion. Similarly, if a room needs to work for more than one use: perhaps a guest bedroom that doubles as a home office, or a dining space that is also a children's play area, then well-designed pieces, such as an office in a cupboard or roll-away toy boxes, may offer the only way in which to provide flexibility and allow the

room to adapt without appearing awkward. As Sophie Collier, managing director of Kitesgrove, says: "Bespoke solutions can turn guest rooms, sitting rooms or even unused corners and landings into multi-functional spaces, especially with our recent shift to working from home."

For larger rooms, too, there may often be occasions when a custom piece proves a better solution than something ready-made. If the proportions are awkward, they can be corrected with the addition of a cleverly designed cupboard or bookcase in the right place, for example, or the addition of an extra-long or deep sofa. Very high walls may require extra-tall shelving or cupboards – perhaps with a rolling ladder for access.

In a bedroom, a high ceiling may demand a headboard or wardrobe that is in proportion, whilst a design that conceals a rise-and-fall television in an attractive cabinet at the foot of the bed would be much more subtle than hanging it on a far-away wall. ▶