

I love waking up in my boho-luxe bedroom

Taking inspiration from holidays in far-flung locations, **Rachael Wardle** turned her bland bedroom into an exotic haven



A bit about me
I'm Rachael Wardle and I run online homewares marketplace, ohwhatsthis.com. I live in a two-bed garden flat in Streatham, with my partner, Steve.



Before

My room...

My problem bedroom

The previous owner had chosen to paint the flat magnolia throughout and there wasn't much furniture in the bedroom at all. On the plus side, this did make it quite easy to see what space we had to work with for the layout. The shape of the room was rather awkward though, and I didn't like having the bed positioned behind the door. However, I did see lots of potential in the built-in wardrobes, even though they were originally white and very bland with ugly handles.

How I made it work

We bought a brand new bed and decided to place it next to the window. I added some gold handles and decorative moulding to the existing built-in wardrobes which made the doors appear like they are panelled, and then painted them all over in a gorgeous beachy blue colour.

My favourite part

I'm so in love with the wardrobes now. They were my 'lightbulb' moment and every time I look at them it makes me happy.

GOOD IDEA

Don't buy cushions and throws until you've established your room style and colour scheme



Rachael and Steve's bedroom was the first renovation project on their list when they moved into the flat. They created a relaxing sanctuary with luxe touches for a sumptuous place to retreat to at the end of a busy day

'I'm an impulsive person but I learnt to be patient and not settle for anything that wasn't exactly what I wanted'

TOTAL
£1,895

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try in your own home



You needn't be a DIY pro to do up a room.

Rachael glued decorative mouldings onto the existing wardrobe doors. 'I measured where the beading would go, lightly sanded the doors and glued them on with a strong wood adhesive. We gently sanded off the excess glue and painted the whole wardrobe twice.'



Be creative to get a luxe look for less.

'I covered an MDF floating drawer, which I purchased from eBay, with a marble transfer, then Steve sprayed the wall brackets gold. To finish the look I swapped the old handle for a brushed gold bamboo one to match in with the beach theme and the whole project only cost me £35.'

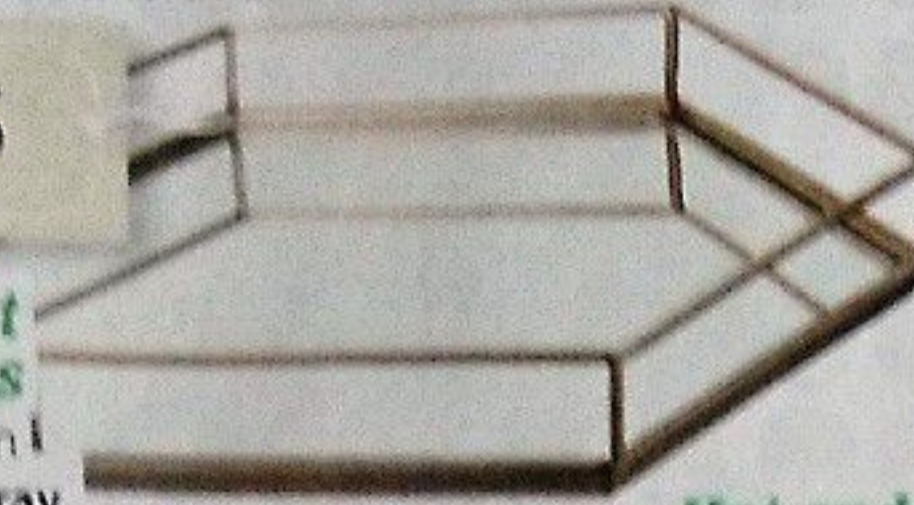


GET THE LOOK

Like Rachael's style? Replicate the look with these fabulous finds

£25

Reflect on this
Hexagon mirrored tray, Next



Hot and gold
Palm tree photo holder, Monsoon



Trend spotting
Velvet leopard print cushion, House of Fraser



£28

£8



Rachael upcycled the £25 eBay stool by spraying the legs gold with Montana Cans spray paint and fitting the seat with a sheepskin cover. White shutters and floaty cotton curtains evoke the feel of beachside living

'I'm a bit of maximalist with my interiors, but decided to keep the bedroom toned down for a more relaxed feel'



GOOD IDEA

Paint a fireplace in a contrasting colour to the walls to make a bold feature in a room

The black Lombok bedside tables have a bamboo edging that fits right in with the beach theme. Rachael spent three months looking for the right style at the right price and found this pair second-hand on eBay



My experience...

After two years of renting a dark basement flat, we were really excited to buy our own place. We fell in love with the light, high ceilings and period features of this property. Our only reservation was the bedroom shape, but it was bigger than we were used to and the built-in wardrobes meant we finally had good storage. I'm happiest when on a beach in the sun. I've travelled the world and Steve and I spent three weeks in Bali, so I wanted to create a chic hotel room feel with a beachy vibe. By the time we moved in, I'd been inspired by a picture of a panelled wardrobe to make ours look more luxe, and the sea blue colour was perfect. I love the Californian beach aesthetic, but had to stick to a budget. I splashed out on a couple of key pieces, like the mirror and light, and focused on teasing out bargains on eBay, Shpock and Etsy for pieces that were affordable, yet look expensive. I'm an interiors obsessive so working on this project was like a dream come true for me! I can't believe how well the wardrobes have worked out and I feel so happy when I wake up here.

My shopping list

Wardrobes painted in Barbados Blue; walls painted in Sea Salt; fireplace painted in Black Smoke, £74.50 for 2.5L, all Pure & Original. Wardrobe handles, £14 for 10; floating drawer, £27; marble transfer, £2.85; wooden stool, £25; bedside tables, £125 for two; white throw, £24.99, all eBay. Bedside table handles, £6 each; ocean print, £5.76; striped cushions, £45 each; bamboo handle, £5, all Etsy. Mirror, £120, House of Isabella. Sareer king size bed, £310, WorldStores. Curtains, £138, Curtains and Blinds 4 Homes. Table lamp, £62.15, CometLighting. Marble vase, £16.99, HomeSense. Blue egg, £5.99, TK Maxx. Gold hand, £14.99, Amazon. Fur throw, £24.99, Sainsbury's. Bowie print, £27, Desenio. Blue cushions, £44 each; leopard cushion, £40; Figuratone print, from £40; Antibes print, from £40; tray, £199; sheepskin stool cover, £40; chandelier, £415, all Oh What's This.

Turn to page 112 for stockist details