

'This multi-purpose room is now super-stylish too'

Katy Stevens sourced multi-functional furniture to zone and streamline her guest room, which doubles up as an office and living space



BEFORE

STEP INSIDE...

WHO LIVES HERE? I'm Katy Stevens (@newflatproject), 29, and I work in finance. I bought a two-bedroom flat on the top floor of a new-build block in North West London in September 2020. My boyfriend moved into the flat in October 2021.

WHAT WAS UPDATED? My spare room, which I've transformed into a guest bedroom and office space.

WHY THE CHANGE? I rented the second bedroom to a friend for 11 months. When my flatmate moved out, the empty room looked like a blank, new-build box. My boyfriend moved in, and the space became his office, for storing his clothes, and as a place for guests to stay, so it needed a makeover – I couldn't wait to get stuck into another interiors project.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE? It took a couple of months to source furniture and gather ideas, but only a day to decorate, arrange the furniture and style.

TOTAL COST £1,037

First-time buyer, Katy Stevens, snapped up the last available flat in an appealing new-build block, taking a leap of faith when she bought off-plan. One of the key attractions were the dimensions of the second bedroom – a double, and ideal for Katy's flatmate. 'Lockdown restrictions prevented any viewings, so the first time I saw my new home was the day I moved in,' says Katy. 'I came inside and was delighted with the big windows, light and views across London.'

Katy was relieved that the second bedroom didn't disappoint, positioned on the opposite of the flat to her own for space and privacy. 'The room was about 12 square metres, bigger than my main bedroom, which has an en-suite so my flatmate could have her own bathroom, too,' she says.

THE PROJECT

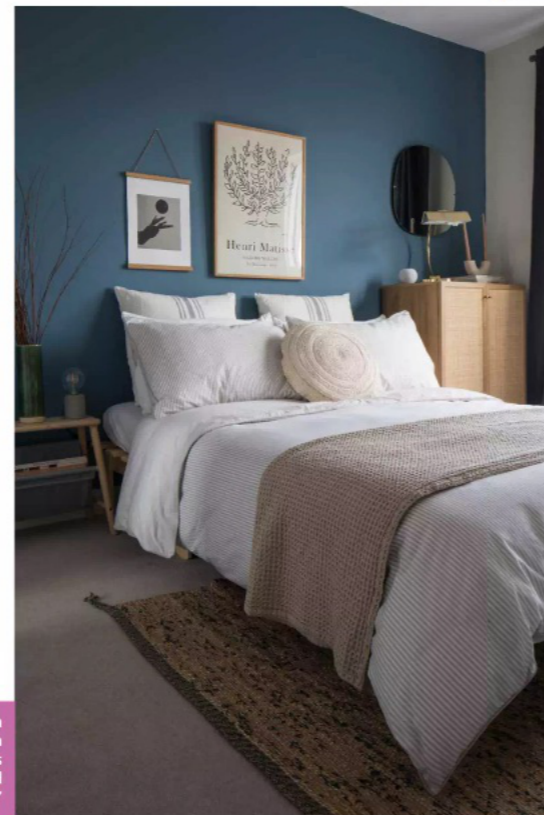
With all of the rooms newly decorated in standard brilliant white, Katy didn't feel the need to repaint the second bedroom. Instead, she put her energy into decorating the rest of the flat, setting up an interiors Instagram account (@newflatproject). When her flatmate moved out almost a year later, and her boyfriend, Steve Berger, made plans to move in, the second bedroom took on a new light, and needed to become so much more than just a place for guests to sleep. 'It was an exciting prospect, but the challenge was how to achieve all the practical requirements without creating a junk room,' she says. 'Steve needed clothes storage and a home-working desk, and we also wanted it to feel like a second living room yet easily become a guest bedroom.'

WHAT WE DID

Katy's focus was on finding furniture that provided the practical things the couple

needed without compromising on her love of Scandi style. The emphasis was on finding the right sofa bed to build the rest of the scheme around. 'I had specific requirements, wanting the right look, a king-size with detachable arms that would be comfortable in bed or sofa mode, and not too expensive,' she says.

IKEA bookshelves were an easy find but Katy deliberated over an oak and rattan cupboard from MADE.com before deciding to go for it. 'It was perfect but more than I wanted to pay,' she says. 'In the end, I couldn't find anything as good to fit the space. I decided to hang onto the wardrobes and



'I'm really pleased with how the sofa bed looks, both as a sofa and as a proper bed when it's pulled out,' says Katy. 'It was such a great find and worth all the hours of searching!'

SO A-PEELING

Coat's peel-and-stick samples helped Katy choose a colour, as she could try them under different lighting.

Blonde wood and rattan have a light, Scandi vibe that balances out the intensity of the statement blue wall. 'My sister used a small face-painting brush to do the cutting-in and it worked perfectly,' says Katy



Feature Jane Crittenden Styling Marisha Taylor Photos James French

drawers I already had and treat this as an investment piece I'd keep for years.'

HIGHS & LOWS

Katy asked Steve for decorating ideas, as he would be using the room every day as his office. He suggested going bold with colour on one of the walls and, eventually, Katy settled on blue. 'I was nervous about getting the shade right, searching Instagram and Pinterest for ideas to work with my Scandi style,' she says. 'Coat's Below Deck mid-blue looks great and now I'm really pleased Steve pushed me out of my comfort zone.'

Another concern was the layout. 'I didn't want lots of furniture stacked around the outside of the room,' she says. 'I drew a scaled drawing to try out different layouts, but I couldn't quite fit an armchair in.'

THE FINAL DETAILS

Katy's parents helped her decorate and arrange furniture. Having saved pictures of styling details from Instagram, Katy couldn't

My style tips

BE BOLD WITH PAINT

I wasn't sure about the idea of a statement wall at first, but it brings this room to life. If you're unsure, get samples of a few shades before taking the plunge.

GET MULTI-USE FURNITURE

This room works so well for us because a lot of the furniture has two uses, with the sofa doubling up as a bed, and the coffee table providing extra storage.

PLAN YOUR LOOK I had already decided exactly where I wanted everything to go before I started adding the final touches. Doing this will ensure your scheme looks coordinated and well put-together.



Wood picture frames tie-in with the furniture. 'Hanging the bigger picture above the sofa alongside the smaller one was a look inspired by Instagram,' says Katy. 'I've learnt that artwork is best when it's hung low enough to relate to the furniture below'

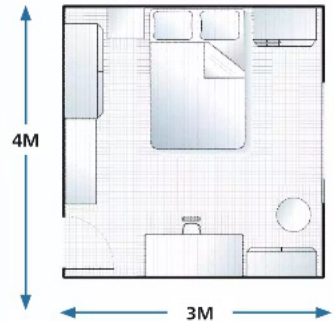


SOMETHING BORROWED

Try 'shopping' from other rooms before buying new pieces - Katy moved artwork in here from the hallway.

Rather than buy one bookcase, Katy chose two so she could set the shelves at different heights to look more customised. 'I learnt to play with height and scale to add interest to the room,' she says

ROOM PLAN



THE DETAILS

PAINT	£105
SOFA BED	£450
OTTOMAN	£110
BOOKSHELVES	£50
HIGHBOARD	£250
RUG	£59
LAMPSHADE	£13
TOTAL	£1,037

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in **flat matt in Below Deck and Mindful**, £42 per 2.5L, Coat. **Traditional futon sofa in Prime Slate Grey**, £450, Sit and Sleep. **Kvell Trae ottoman** in Light Grey, £110, John Lewis & Partners. **Pavia highboard**, £249, MADE.com. **Asymmetric mirror**, £34.99; **round jute cushion**, £34.99; for a similar cushion try **fringed cushion cover**, £17.99; **tasselled cushion cover**, £19.99; **curved ceramic candlestick**, £12.99; **twill seat cushion**, £3.99, all H&M Home. **Billy bookcase**, 202 x 40cm, £25 each; **Vilto storage stool**, £25; **Torared lampshade**, £13; **Hemnes chest of drawers**, £110; for a similar wardrobe try **Brimnes wardrobe**, £150; **Melholt rug**, £59; **Vangsta table**, £79, all IKEA. For a similar chair try **Naya Cane Cantilever dining chair**, £109, Dunelm. **Grey Stripe duvet set**, £100, Dip & Doze. **Henri Matisse artwork**, £36, PSTR Studio. **Play III print**, £30, Connax. **Non Arte London poster**, £40, Nynne Rosenvinge. **Galerie Temporaire print**, £70, Studio Paradissi. **Portofino waffle blanket** in Latte, from £40, The Fine Cotton Company. **Large Hampnett cushion**, £40 each, Garden Trading.

wait to roll out her ideas. 'Arranging books and plants aren't stand-out ideas but really help a room come together,' she says. 'I knew exactly where every last thing would go - my mum had to move a vase because it was in

the wrong place!' Katy says it has turned out far better than she expected. 'I worried I was trying to do too much with one space, but whether Steve's working, friends are staying or we're relaxing, everything works so well.' 🏠

3 OF THE BEST... Scandi simplicity

1 From £8.95 from Desenio
Enhance a bold wall colour with pared-back artwork that'll stand out against a bright hue.

2 £14.99 from JYSK
Finishing touches like this patterned cotton throw will create a cosy space for guests.

3 £20 from Cox & Cox
The Scandi look is all about form and function - and this sculptural vase ticks both boxes.

