

DECORATION

## Smart design ideas for storage spaces you didn't know you had

A little creativity with small and unloved spaces can go a long way in helping find more storage space for your prized possessions

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Paul Massey

Whether you live in a spatially economical flat in a city, or have a family's worth of possessions to accommodate (or, god forbid, both), storage space can often come at a huge premium, making every cupboard, shelf or wardrobe practically worth its own volume in gold. There's often huge demand, then, for creative ways to incorporate more storage space into your home. We've rounded up a handful of ideas courtesy of some of interior design's leading minds to offer you inspiration as to how to do just that.

Be it under-banquette drawers, shelves atop otherwise unsightly radiators, or even secret doors laden with books, these are some of the most creative storage solutions that will help you make use of every inch of your house.



Yuki Sugiura



At [Matilda Goad](#)'s north London house, a radiator cover created by Matilda's husband Tom's design company Blockhouse Build has been extended with deep drawers on either side to become a storage unit of the same depth. Painted in 'Beetle Nut' by Paint & Paper, the cupboards also feature brass bow-shaped handles from [Beata Heuman](#) and picked out by Matilda.



On the second floor of a Parisian home, Kate Aslangul of Oakley Moore and architect Pascal Collange masterminded a bright library whose bookshelves extend not only along the room's main wall, but continue downstairs to offer many feet more of storage. The room is painted in Farrow & Ball's 'New White', which ties all the shelves together and confirms the impression of a coherent, deliberate design scheme. The pendant lights are from Mullan, and the striped runner is from Hartley Tissier, an Anglo-French carpet company.



Paul Massey

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Under-seat storage is used to great effect in a book-lined nook in [Lonika Chande's house](#); it's both an effective use of space and also a cosy place to while away the hours with a book.



Simon Brown

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In the master bedroom of [Robin Muir's London house](#), interior designer Caroline Holdaway built a long wooden window seat into the square bay, before adding a shelf for storage underneath it – essentially doubling the space available in which to keep pairs of shoes.



Paul Massey

A cabin-bed with nautical themes is the brainchild of designer Paolo Moschino, who created it for a client's Cornwall house as both a tucked-away space to retreat to and a handy storage space; the client's shoe collection is kept in the drawer.





Bookshelves aren't just for books – the top of shelves can work as a brilliant display place for art and *objets*, as in the living room of [James Mackie's Cotswold cottage](#).



Paul Massey



In this eighteenth-century barn conversion, its owner Emma Burns, senior decorator at [Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler](#), has incorporated a wonderful secret door through to a hidden bathroom. Not only does the continuation of the bookcase on the door introduce a striking, surprising element to the room, it also gives Emma that much more space to hold the books themselves.



Elsa Young



A shed in the garden of this [London house](#) was rearranged by architect [Maria Speake](#) of Retrouvius into a little studio, whose daybed is fitted with useful storage underneath.



Simon Brown



A smart radiator cover in garden designer [Butter Wakefield's London home](#) serves the double purpose of hiding the radiator itself, and providing a narrow but useful sideboard beside the front door – a perfect place to display a potted plant and a small sculpture.



Helen Cathcart



A chest of drawers in the main bedroom of designer Paul de Zwart's Kensal Rise home cleverly incorporates decorative details with storage via a chest of drawers built into the alcove beside the bed, made from the same material as the wall cladding.



Simon Bergström



In his [Stockholm apartment](#), Sebastian Bergström has pulled his Ikea Karlstad sofa slightly forward into the room and – though it's difficult to see in this shot – created a long, narrow cupboard to maximise the storage space in the room. He then used it as a sideboard, putting a potted plant, lamps and books on top of it.