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SUSTAINABLE NEW-BUILD EXTENDED FLAT REMODELLED 1960S HOUSE AND MORE

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#### **G**D PROFILE



# **MY GRAND IDEA**

Architects John Proctor and Mike Shaw devised an ingenious raised bedroom for a tiny flat

# How did the project come about?

A former client asked us to redesign their daughter's 30sqm flat on the first floor of a Victorian building in Belsize Park, north London.

# — What was it like?

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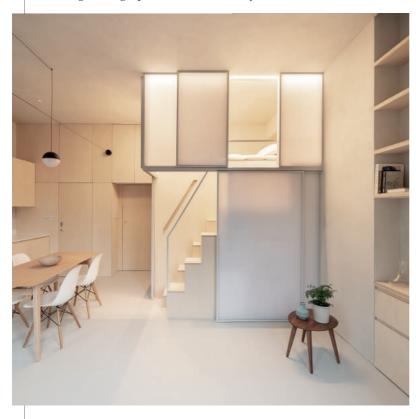
The flat had a living room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, but they were all very small. The living area was effectively a 2.3m-wide corridor.

### - What inspired the layout? It was our approach to micro-living, avoiding things such as a fold-down bed or built-in seats, but with space for everything that might be needed in a one-bedroom home. Once we removed two internal walls, the 3.4m-high ceilings sparked an idea

to stack the bedroom in one corner above a walk-in wardrobe, creating enough space for a king-size bed. This plan allowed the kitchen worksurface to be 3.8m-long. The bathroom, which remained in its original position beside the front door, has a walk-in shower.

#### — Tell us about the bedroom

This was the key to the project's success. It's reached via an alternate tread staircase, which is steeper and more compact than a conventional one. The walls are sliding translucent panels inspired by Japanese shoji screens, which can be shut for seclusion or opened to enjoy the views through the bay window. — What are they made of? Shoji screens are often made from







paper, but we decided to use polycarbonate instead as it's durable, semi-transparent, inexpensive and lightweight. — Which other materials

## did you use?

The joinery is all birch-faced ply, which has a similar tone to the natural clay plaster walls, and the floor is rubber. They add softness and a lovely matt patina that contrasts with the industrial quality of the screens. **G**D *Proctor & Shaw, proctorandshaw.com*  ABOVE The refit was completed in 14 weeks and cost around £3,000 per sqm LEFT At night, when the bedroom lights are on, the sleeping pod seems to glow

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FAR LEFT Thermal and acoustic insulation was added to the walls before the clay plaster, which is by Clayworks (clay-works.com). The rubber Forbo floor (forbo.co.uk) is seamless

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