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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?

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



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

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

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. **GD**

Proctor & Shaw, proctorandshaw.com



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