

## Good idea!

Gather second-hand furniture and paint it in the same colour to achieve a unified look.

◁ I'm so glad I put the effort in. The room felt brighter and having a paler colour on the ceilings made the most of the room's architectural details and made it feel more airy too,' she explains. With the room finally taking shape, Louise looked for a stylish bookcase that would fit under the beams, but found everything was either too tall or too modern. Her frustration ended when she discovered she could have one made to her measurements that she could paint to tone in with her scheme. 'When it arrived, I painted it a shade lighter than the walls and added wallpaper to the back panel. I love this gentle detail and that it's unique,' Louise smiles. To make the most of the pretty window area, Louise hung a Roman blind and fitted a cabinet to disguise the ugly radiator. 'I really liked the idea of having a sheer curtain, but couldn't see how I could attach a rail. I managed it using a shower curtain pole that simply expands to fit the space and with a soft cascading curtain drawn to one side it looks perfect,' she smiles.

**STEP THREE** To give the bed a sumptuous look, Louise got her needle and thread out. 'I'd seen a beautiful throw that I loved but it was incredibly expensive, so I decided to make my own. I tacked two pieces of fabric together and stitched a wide satin band around the edge and made matching cushions from the fabric I had

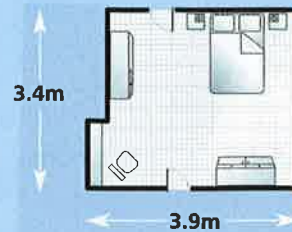
▲ A dark wood drawer unit and large mirror have been revamped with cream paint. Coupled with a tall lamp they give the room character and grandeur

left. It covers the bed completely so I don't have to worry about buying new bed linen as you can't see it,' she says. And to complete the smart soft furnishings, Louise used a strip of stunning embroidered fabric to make a runner for the bed. 'The fabric lifts the colour scheme and the embroidery is so luxurious,' she smiles. For artwork to go above the bed, Louise was inspired on a trip to a local charity shop. She found some sheet music for just 50p each that she framed and hung on the wall. 'The manuscripts are quite old which is lovely. I even found one with a pale blue cover – I couldn't believe my luck, it was the perfect finishing touch,' she explains. 'I'm glad I changed my plans and decided to repaint as it made such a difference. I love the mix of old and new, they work together to make a really tranquil space.'

YH



## ROOMPLAN



## THE DETAILS

Paint & wallpaper	£172.90
Furniture	£1,643.50
Window treatment	£240.12
Lighting & mirror	£269.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,326.50</b>

## Shopping list

**Walls:** Elephant's Breath emulsion; ceiling: Pointing emulsion, both £34.50 per 2.5l, both Farrow & Ball at Designer Paint. **Coco kingsize bed,** £795; **Mimi bedside tables,** £195 each, both Loaf. **Chest of drawers,** £45; **chair,** £20; both second-hand store. **Mirror,** £140, antique store. **Furniture painted in:** Provence & Original Chalk Paint, £16.95 per litre, Annie Sloan. **Radiator cabinet,** £213.83; **bookcase,** £179.67, both Jali. **Antibes Pebble Beach blind** with blackout lining made-to-measure, £111.14, Tuiss. **Bookcase painted in:** Rolling Fog Mid Intelligent eggshell, £23 per litre, The Little Greene Paint Company. **Wallpaper on bookcase:** Richmond wallpaper, £47 per roll; **linen cushion:** Country Linens Beaufort, £53 per m; **embroidered runner:** Melisande weave, £86 per m, all Sanderson. **Bedspread made in:** Baltimore Freshwater, £12.50 per m; **Baltimore Glacier,** £12.50 per m; **Valleta Cashew,** £16.50 per m, all Villa Nova. **Curtains:** Corina Oatmeal, £43 per m; **lampshade:** Ashley Duckegg, £40 per m, all Clarke & Clarke. **Luxury telescopic rod curtain pole,** £34.98, Croydex. **Chair:** Makeda Plains Sky, £35 per m, Harlequin. **Nicola floor lamp,** £70 (in the sale), John Lewis. **White jug,** £16.99, The Beehive Lifestyle. **Candlestick,** £16; **mercury bottle,** £10; **linen cushions,** £16 each; **French script boxes,** £14 for three, all Next. **Estelle bedside lamps,** £29.99 each; **mercury tealights,** £3.99 (in the sale), all Dunelm Mill. **Old sheet music,** 50p each, charity shop. **Black frame,** £10.94, Tesco Direct.

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## 3 of the best... bedside tables

### £135 from The Chandelier & Mirror Company Ltd

The Fitzgerald two-drawer table is the picture of elegance and would be ideal for a vintage scheme.

### £250 from Sainsbury's

The simple yet modern design of the Copenhagen oak lamp table is sure to make a welcome addition to your bedroom.

### £299 from M&S

Conran's Starley bedside table embraces the classic Mid-Century style that's so popular at the moment.

