

August 2007

LIVE WORK SHOP EAT & BREATHE NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD

CITY INTERIORS
From grotty flat to New York loft

WHAT MEN WANT top to toe style guide

WIN Champagne, style consultation and a mind reading party!

GET BEACHY... LITFUL TOPLESS CRUISING HOT HAIR MIND BENDING
PRIZES DINNER ON A DIET MEN'S STYLE GADGETS OUT ON THE TOWN
BACK TO NATURE BENT ON BUYING A BARGAIN GET ADORNED TAKE A
HIKE FLYING HIGH WOW FACTOR FOODIE HEAVEN STRESS BUSTERS
EAT LIKE A KING STYLISH STORAGE WIN WIN WIN HAVE YOU BEEN PAPPED?

FREE Please take one

Design **CLINIC**

A MONTHLY FEATURE GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO ASK THE EXPERTS AT Q INTERIORS TO SOLVE YOUR DESIGN PROBLEM



Chris Senior is a director of Q Interiors, which has been based on Queen Street, Newcastle Quayside for more than 12 years. More information is available on www.q-interiors.co.uk or by calling (0191) 222-0303.

Do you need some advice and inspiration from the experts? email a picture of your room and a brief outline of what you're not happy with to Karen@citylivingnortheast. Unfortunately we can't guarantee to answer every reader's query.



Q I've recently moved into a new flat and am yet to decorate my spare room. I had to get a long line of wardrobes to house all my clothes as the flat lacks storage space.

It's a long narrow room and because I have a long line of wardrobes, it looks even narrower.

I need ideas for how to make it appear wider – should I move the furniture or would different wallcoverings or mirrors help?

Also what flooring would you suggest and should I put up curtains or blinds? The door is on the left just before the chest of drawers. Hope you can help.

Louise

A Making a small space look big is one of the toughest, yet most frequently occurring issues for us designers. The short answer is that it's never easy, but clever use of colour and light and crisp, clear lines will really open up the space.

Those wardrobes take up lots of space and, of course, a girl always needs room for her clothes. I would recommend you look at changing the doors, though.

Dark furniture and dark colours in a small room gives a sense of shadow and shade and make it feel even more enclosed. Search for some lighter doors in a neutral shade, or even in white.

Try and make use of one or more of the doors by placing full-length mirrors on there. It'll save you having to clutter up any more walls by hanging additional items, and of course, mirrors have that great trick of adding a sense of depth to any room.

While that back wall is in a very contemporary-looking aubergine

Placing a full-length mirror on one or more of the wardrobe doors should create a feeling of more width in this room. This one costs **£79** from dwell.co.uk. Tel 08702 418 653.



A sofa bed rather than a single bed will also free up more room. This fantasy sofa is **£396** from **ILVA**, Gateshead Metrocentre. Tel: 08452 458 285.



Louise wants her long and narrow room to feel wider.

colour, it's just too dark for a room of this size. Brightening up with lighter colours gives a more spacious feel any room. Pick just a few light and natural hues and apply them throughout this room, including accessories, fittings and furniture, removing any cluttered or busy feel.

That chest of drawers cuts deep into your room. Do you really need everything in there? Its eBay, car boot or charity store for the items you don't need and I reckon the rest can be stored within those wardrobes. Time to be hard on yourself and go through that chest – it has to go!

The light fitting hangs low into the room and, like the drawers, has the effect of cutting into the room. Consider some spot lights in the ceiling. Doing away with the low-hanging shade will instantly add height to the room.

You mention you're using this as the spare room, so ask yourself the question: Do you need a bed in there permanently?

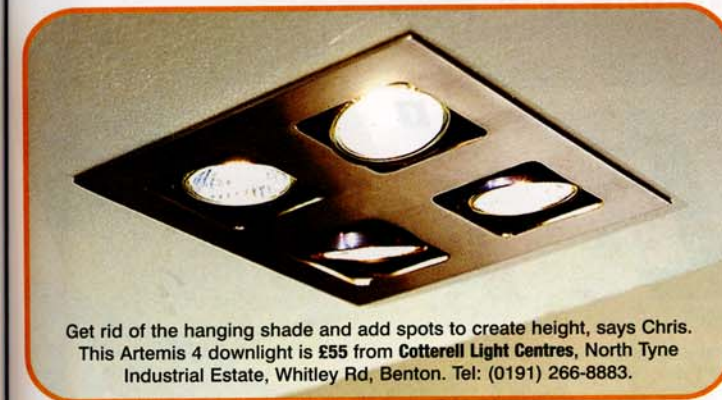
Buying a small sofa bed means that space the bed currently takes up can be doubled and will only need folding out when friends or family come to stay. If the bed really must stay, make sure you match up the duvet and sheets with your theme colours.

While fairly small, the window looks like it offers some great light into the room and a contemporary wooden blind (nothing dark, remember!) will help maintain a fresh and neat feel while not blocking out too much of that all-important natural light. Curtains can have the habit of looking heavy and cumbersome, especially over a small window.

Finally for the floor. There is a vast range of laminates and real wood flooring available that will offer you the chance to bring all these elements together with a light and fresh-looking floor.

If you're worried about the room feeling too cold without carpet, add a woolly white or cream rug as a centrepiece to the room.

Chris



Get rid of the hanging shade and add spots to create height, says Chris. This Artemis 4 downlight is **£55** from **Cotterell Light Centres**, North Tyne Industrial Estate, Whitley Rd, Benton. Tel: (0191) 266-8883.

Add warmth to a wood or laminate floor with a rug. This zebra rug is **£295** from **Marks & Spencer**. Tel: (0191) 232-1368.



Chris suggests a contemporary wooden blind in a light colour. This one is in chalk from **John Lewis**. Prices start from **£30**. Tel: (0191) 232-5000.