

# Forget teenage angst, this black bedroom oozes elegance and style



**Interiors** Black and white is a bold choice when it comes to decor. Here, Gill Richardson, one half of award-winning husband and wife team Goodchild Interiors, shows how to use this colour combination to create elegance and intimacy

It's not often a designer is asked to create a black bedroom for a client, especially one with no signs of teenage angst. But our clients, newlyweds back then, wanted all the drama and intimacy of a sophisticated grown-up room and to abolish the bland and characterless beige box that existed when they bought the place.

An amazing mansion apartment, the project involved the complete transformation of the entire space, so we were able to relocate the kitchen, open up the living room, create an extra bedroom and increase the footprint for their bedroom suite. We uncovered many previously hidden period features alongside some 1990s interior misdemeanours as well.

One of the major obstacles to overcome in the building was the internal nature of the apartment's layout. Many of the windows were stained glass in the Arts & Crafts tradition and could not be changed due to historic listings. Others, like the bedroom window above, were unremarkable, with unsightly views over air conditioning units and commercial rooflines.

The vistas, in this case, needed to be created within the apartment so the interior design was centred on proportion, perspective and tricks with colour. The intensity of the soft-black bedroom draws the eye away from the window

and focuses on the room itself.

Ornamental plaster panelling by Bristol's Hayles & Howe creates proportioned framed areas upon the walls to accommodate artwork, wall lamps and the padded bed-head.

Painting them all soft black also makes them part of the architecture of the room, producing two major benefits: firstly, it appears the mouldings have always been there, instilling history and character; secondly, they infer a feeling of quality and offer a specific detail that means anything placed within those framed spaces becomes an individual feature. Constructing and understating the architecture is one of our specialities, as this demonstrates.

The curved white marble fireplace in the ornate French style becomes one of the main features of the room because of the black and white contrast and the intricacy of the carving. It picks up on the mouldings and its angled position offsets the opening through the double doors to the dressing room.

Relocated from another room within the apartment, the fireplace ties in the soft white of the ceiling, the bed linen, the deep pile carpet and the George Nelson bubble light.

The dressing room, in contrast to the bedroom, is in soft white and uses contemporary grid panelling on walls and ceiling to form a

modern box shape. This expands the surface area and gives a contemporary proportion for the store-wall of cupboards and hanging space that form the interior.

Double doors fold back into deep reveals to give the wide opening a vista of light and contrast from the bedroom for a dramatic effect. The formal square grid fascia essentially hides the cupboards as walls so that the room feels very spacious for a dressing area.

With the doors open, the rooms join together and extend the footprint so the suite feels elegantly grand, the black bedroom seems to stretch beyond where the eye can see and the view out of the window is forgotten. Design really can change your perspective.

## GOODCHILD INTERIORS

Bristol-based Goodchild Interiors offers extensive architectural design services. Taster sessions start with a two-hour home consultation for a one-off fee. For details, and to contact Gill, visit [www.goodchildinteriors.net](http://www.goodchildinteriors.net).

