

DESIGN FEATURE OF THE MOMENT

# built-in beds

LOOKING SLEEK AND SAVING SPACE ARE JUST TWO BENEFITS OF THIS SLEEP OPTION - A COMPLETE DREAM

FEATURE Keith Flanagan





What's even tidier than a perfectly made up bed? One embedded right into your architecture. In highly custom projects, architects and designers can forgo floating furniture in the bedroom and craft built-in beds with perfectly clean lines – working the bed directly into the layout itself.

'Built-in beds offer a streamlined and cohesive look to a bedroom space,' says Noam Dvir, co-founder of NYC's BoND. 'By integrating the bed into the architecture or layout, it creates a seamless and tailored appearance, and in my opinion a much more sophisticated look.'

Bespoke beds can also maximise space in tricky layouts thanks to exact dimensions, while designing from scratch opens up opportunities for customisation. From fixed headboards tailored to your wall, to one-of-a-kind frames that incorporate extra furniture – think side tables and storage compartments – the built-in concept also enables seamless integration: electrical features that mirror the streamlined luxuries of a hotel suite.

'We notice that more attention is being given to smart solutions such as wireless chargers for phones, multiple bedside lamps for different functions, and night lighting that turns on with a hidden sensor, etc,' says Sebastiaan van Maanen, founder of Amsterdam's Interior Studio van Maanen. 'You can compare it to a five-star hotel room where every detail has been considered.'

And ultimately, skipping the furniture store altogether means the details are yours to design. 'Not only do they save space and look sleek, but they're also like a blank canvas waiting for your personal touch,' says Smita Thomas of Multitude of Sins. Anything from materials to upholstery are all under your control.

At the end of the day (which is precisely when you'll use it) built-in beds allow you to create, well, the bed of your dreams. Here are just a few ways to make it special. >

## 1 SIDE STORY

**Don't stop with the bed itself: architects often incorporate built-in nightstands, doubling down on the bed's seamless and dimensional look. Here, designers not only gave the bed levels by raising it on a concrete platform; they also added side tables that ground the entire design. 'We had an idea that it will "touch" and connect all of the elements,' say Zuzana and Piotr Paradowski, founders of Kraków's Paradowski Studio, noting how the table legs not only attach to the platform but also the floor.**

**PROJECT BY** Paradowski Studio

## 2 THE GREAT DIVIDE

**Building from scratch gives you greater flexibility, which was exactly what designers needed in this Ibiza home – the bed frame helped solve a tricky layout. 'We took this as an opportunity to make it as a sort of room divider, which allowed us to drop the floor – stairs are**

**left and right of the headboard – and face the beautiful Balearic landscape outside,' says Francesca Finotti, senior designer at Framework Studio. 'The fact that it's a custom-designed room divider and it functions as a headboard keeps the space open and gives it a more luxurious hotel feel.'**

**PROJECT BY** Framework Studio

## 3 IN SYNCH

**One obvious perk of built-in beds? It's that you can easily customise every inch of your design to create a seamless look that matches the rest of your space. So was the case in this Amsterdam flat, where a clean-lined bed frame matches the loft's minimalist scheme. 'The low bed complements the Japanese aesthetic of the project and provides much tranquillity and comfort,' says Sebastiaan van Maanen, who anchored the bed frame to the wall and floor.**

**PROJECT BY** Interior Studio van Maanen and Ramses Caesar











## UP THE WALL

**Why push a bed against the wall when you can make it part of the millwork to begin with? This bespoke bed, located in Manhattan's Flatiron neighbourhood, turns the wall itself into a dynamic niche to create a functional, bona fide focal point. 'In this project, we created a striking millwork wall that helped arrange ample closet space, sleeping area, nightstands and lighting,' says Noam Dvir, co-founder of NYC's BoND. 'It also minimises the use of additional elements and keeps the bedroom looking simple and neat.'**

**PROJECT BY** BoND ►

PHOTOGRAPH CHRIS MOTTALINI





### PLUGGED IN

An anchored headboard is one of the simpler versions of a built-in bed. But many designers use this concept to take the bed up a notch, like this intricately carved headboard which integrates useful features like plugs and reading lamps. 'When designing a similar built-in bed with integrated electricity, consider creating cut-outs or hidden spaces within the structure to seamlessly incorporate electrical elements, keeping the overall look clean and cohesive,' says Smita Thomas, principal interior designer at India's Multitude Of Sins.

PROJECT BY Multitude Of Sins

PHOTOGRAPH ISHITA SITWALA