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HOUSE & GARDEN

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BRIGHT IDEAS

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How to transform
a spare bedroom

THE BARN CONVERSION

When *House & Garden* editor SUSAN CREWE found that her family was expanding, she decided to convert a disused barn attached to her house in the Lake District into a comfortable guest annexe

THE ARCHITECTURE

'From the outside, the building still looks just like a barn; we used local Burlington slate to keep a harmony with the original building. While on the exterior there are no discernable windows, there is a clerestory that runs under the eaves - affording panoramic views and making the inside incredibly light.'

THE LAYOUT

'I wanted it to be connected to the main house, yet self-contained; downstairs is one large room that incorporates a kitchen and living room. The mezzanine allows for a second floor with a bedroom and a bathing area, without compromising the height and the volume of the living space. Since these pictures were taken, I've hung curtains around the upper rooms, to provide more privacy when guests are asleep or in the bath.'

THE DECORATION

'The interior is a mishmash of things brought back from my travels and wish fulfillments from years working at *House & Garden*. In some places, I have been thrifty - the kitchen is from MFI - and in others indulgent - the curtains are made from a Bernard Thorp hessian, and hanging from the ceiling is a Mark Lennox-Boyd armillary sphere. One of the most important aspects of the scheme was the integrated lighting system. At the flick of a switch, it can transform the mood.'



CITY LIVING

1 'Make the city guest room a place where people can have an escape of sorts,' suggests designer Veere Grenney, the creator of this jewel of a room. 'The fabric-covered walls and tented ceiling feel luxurious and exotic; it is hard to remember you are in the middle of London. A shelf full of good books is an imperative; here it is built in to the wall at the foot of the bed as there was no room for a standing shelf. It is the easiest way to give a room life and character.'

2 This is an ingenious space-saving idea for a small room. Designer Eve Mercier has used wall-mounted benches that transform into beds, with a third pull-out drawer bed below.

3 Making the most of the sloping attic ceiling, curtains screen the bed and add a cosy feel to this spare room in the home of Anne-Marie Midy and Jorge Almada, who own design company Casamidy.

4 Some say a guest room should always have a radio, but it would be hard to come across another radio as stylish and witty as this one in the Milanese apartment of designers Britt Moran and Emiliano Salci of Dimore Studio. A one-off piece by Giò Ponti, the bed has a radio built in to the headboard. ▷

