

Storage solutions

Plan dedicated storage ▶

An architect can design smart storage solutions specific to the items you want to keep out of sight. Here, a mix of open shelves and cupboards of varying sizes creates an interesting feature – an entire wall has been cleverly used to provide bespoke storage without overpowering the room. For a similar storage wall, expect to pay around £2000. Project by Barbara Weiss Architects.

▼ Use every inch of space

When planning a bathroom, an architect will take into account how much storage you need. Here, in addition to the towel rails, shelving and built-in under-sink storage, the architect has managed to incorporate the boiler, tumble dryer and a washing machine in full-height cupboards into a 4m by 2.4m room. For a similar bathroom refit, expect to pay in the region of about £6000 for the work, excluding sanitaryware, fittings and appliances. Project by Architectyourhome.



Marianne Malenus

Rather than trying to disguise storage, here the architect has turned it into a focal point, stretching across an entire wall with open and closed cupboards

An architect can help you turn a practical problem like storage into a striking design feature



A sliding glass shower door is not only an attractive design feature but also frees up precious space

How much will it cost me?

The cost of hiring an architect will vary according to the project, but for a full service – from initial plans to completion – expect to pay between eight per cent and 18 per cent of the total building cost. For example, a typical loft conversion can cost around £22,000, so expect to pay between £1760 and £3960 in architect's fees. However, some companies will allow you to decide how much input you want. For a loft conversion, Architectyourhome offer the option of just an initial half-day visit, from £400, where you'll receive hand-drawn plans.

Where can I find a reputable architect?

RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects) Client Services has a database of all RIBA-registered architect practices in the UK, and can match your needs to suitable architects in your area. Call 020 7307 3700 or visit www.architecture.com for details. Alternatively, contact Architectyourhome on 0800 8498505 or visit the website www.architect-yourhome.com to find RIBA-approved architects near you. It's good to meet with at least three, to get a feel for how you work together.

Is there anything else I need to know?

RIBA publishes standard forms of agreement for those embarking on a building project. If your project won't exceed £100,000, such as a loft conversion or extension, the 'Small Works (SW99)' form will cover all the legalities and is available from RIBA Publications. Call 020 7251 0791 or visit www.ribabookshops.com.

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