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STYLE SECRETS

- Perfect shelves
- Creating a bedroom suite
- Galley kitchens



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THE DETAILS

DESIGNER Dominic Ash, 01242 890184, dominicash.co.uk.

THE BRIEF To create a more welcoming atmosphere in a compact (3x2.9m) room.

SOLUTION By freeing up a lot of wall space near the window and running pale, handle-less painted cabinets to the room's full height, the same amount of storage has been retained but the space seems less tight.

BUDGET Around £18,000.

SOURCES **Worktops**, Gormley World of Stone, 020 8961 5651, gormley.co.uk.

Dishwasher and fridge-freezer, both Siemens, 0870 240 0070, siemensappliances.co.uk.

Oven and hood, both Neff, 08705 133090, neff.co.uk. **Sink**, Franke, 0161 436 6280, franke.co.uk. **Taps**, Aston Matthews, 020 7226 7220, astonmatthews.co.uk.

SEEING THE LIGHT



The small kitchen in Grace Meardon's Cheltenham town house has two doorways and a large sash window, which creates a corridor effect. Furniture-maker Dominic Ash was given the task of turning the old kitchen, with its oak cupboards cladding every inch of wall space, into a practical and beautiful room. He designed a layout that gives plenty of head room over the hob, breaking up the straight lines of the double-galley layout and letting in more daylight. A tall oven unit opposite the sink places the integrated Neff double oven at mid-height for easy access, while a deep cupboard above offers generous storage. By keeping most

of the natural timber – a beautiful solid elm – below eye level, and painting slender wall cabinets white, Dominic has made the small room inviting. Wall units up to the ceiling make the most of the Georgian loftiness, while push-touch openings instead of handles help to keep them recessive. White tiles lit by under-mounted downlighters elongate the space between the granite worktop and cabinetry. Dominic also devised a clever pull-out storage compartment behind the oven unit, which hides a compact step ladder so that Grace can easily reach the higher shelves. "The kitchen looks simple and has a classic feel," says Grace. "Dominic put a lot of thought into every element of the room; it's now a real pleasure to use."