

'I am a touch theatrical!'

Actress Eleanor was able to turn her drab bedroom into a romantic haven — with a little help from her two artistic friends

FACT FILE



NAME

Eleanor Rhodes

PROBLEM

The bedroom of her new town house is featureless and lacks storage space

SOLUTION

A dreamy mural and soft fabrics were introduced to create a romantic but practical bedroom

New home owner and actress Eleanor Rhodes couldn't wait to move into her modern town house. Its light and airy sitting room and patio garden made it the perfect urban retreat from her hectic lifestyle. However, there was one problem – the bedroom. 'It was really dreary, not somewhere you could relax,' says Eleanor. 'And as it had no storage space, it soon became a dumping ground for my stuff.'

So Eleanor enlisted the help of her friend, TV art director and set designer Rebecca Morton. 'I'd always admired the fluffy cloud mural Rebecca had painted on her bedroom ceiling,' says Eleanor, 'and I was delighted when Rebecca agreed

to reproduce her lovely mural on the ceiling in my bedroom.'

They then decided to go even further and Rebecca created a romantic fantasy theme for the room, incorporating a built-in storage system and space for a television so that Christine could watch TV in bed.

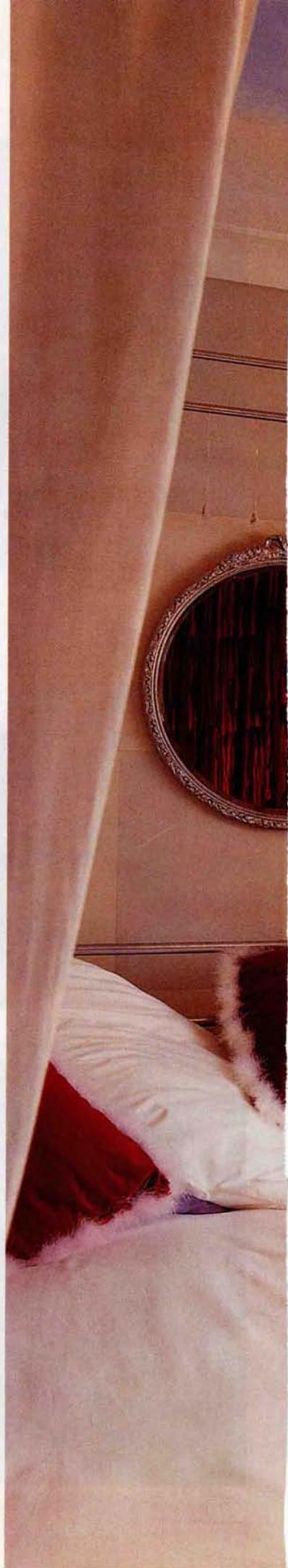
Rebecca brought in a second friend, photographer and stylist Neil Wilson, to help her. After transforming the ceiling, they painted one wall ivory and the other walls grey. The wall behind the bedhead features an ivory and grey chequer-board effect with relief squares in pale blue.

Rebecca also designed a built-in storage system made from MDF that was cut to size at Homebase. Instead of ➔



LEFT Eleanor couldn't relax properly in her bedroom – there was no storage space and the décor was cold and boring

RIGHT 'I was a bit worried when Neil and Rebecca said they were going to paint the walls grey but the soft, pearly effect gives the room a lovely feel,' says Eleanor. The red velvet cushion covers, from a second-hand shop with the feather trim and letter 'E' sewn on later by hand, add a splash of rich colour to the room





THE COST...

- Furniture **£100**
- Paint **£40.80** ● Curtains and fittings **£158.49** ● Blind **£54.05**
- Begonia **£2.99** ● Bed linen **£30**
- Accessories **£66.15**
- Bed **£1,110**

TOTAL £1,552.48



FAR LEFT At night the room is lit by a simple wire bedside lamp
LEFT The wardrobe includes a high shelf and a chrome hanging pole
ABOVE Rebecca spray-painted a pair of electric wall sconces that she found in a junk shop with silver Plasti-kote

'I was going to have a bland magnolia ceiling until Rebecca talked me into a lovely mural'

cupboard doors, Rebecca used plush red velvet curtains and a pelmet of bunched-up, grey lining material that both covers the curtain track and reflects Eleanor's theatrical links.

Other furnishings include a pine bedside chest, which was a gift, and an Edwardian chest with a storage cupboard from Oxfam. Both were given a coat of paint and finished with a cheat's sealant of watered down PVA glue for a wipe-clean finish.

The handles were painted in silver-grey, while the original cupboard door detailing was highlighted in silver paint. The cupboard contains a portable television, perfectly positioned for viewing from the silver wrought-iron bed.

Covered with fresh white bed linen and a contrasting pale blue sheet, the bed has a few

luxurious finishing touches including deep red velvet cushions edged with marabou trim and rows of clear glass droplets suspended along the top edge of its frame. The surrounding floor is softened with fake sheepskin rugs.

Rebecca chose ready-made muslin curtains that, lined with silver-grey muslin and finished

with a white bobble trim, match the silver Venetian blind and pale-grey chiffon tiebacks.

As soon as Eleanor saw her new room, she was thrilled to bits. 'I know people don't normally show off their bedroom, but when visitors come around here we race upstairs to admire Rebecca and Neil's work,' says Eleanor. ■

WHAT ELEANOR USED

Albany matt emulsion: New Blue, £5.35 for 1L; Oatmeal, £11.25 for 2.5L; Portland, £11.25 for 2.5L; Brilliant White, £4.40 for 1L; Hammerite silver-grey spray, £8.55, all **Brewers**. Grey chiffon (curtain swag), £2.25 per m, total cost £22.50; fake satin pelmet, £1.35 per m, total cost £13.50; red velvet, £2.75 per m, total cost £44, all **Banwait Bros & Co**. Blind, £54.05, **Artek Blind Contracts**. Chrome tube (hanging rail), £8.09 for 2.5m; fixing, 89p; curtain pole, £29.99; shelf: wood, MDF, glue, nails, wood primer and PVA, about £80; begonia, £2.99; vase, £3.99, all by **Homebase**. Curtains, £9.50 per pair; Bomull duvet cover and 4 pillowcases, £30; shoe holder, £7, all by **Ikea**. Toggle trim, £2.25 per m, about 4m used, total cost £9; feather trim, £2.25 per m, about 1.5m used, total cost £3.38, all **John Lewis**. Chest, £20, **Oxfam**. Cushion covers, £8, second-hand shop. Bedside cabinet, gift. Bed, £1,100, **Art in Iron**. Swish track, £30, any hardware store. Glass droplets, 99p each for similar at **John Lewis**, 20 used, total cost about £19.80. Wall sconces, £15, junk shop.

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Paint

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