



BUILT-IN FURNITURE

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A Gallery of Design Ideas for the Home

curves of decidedly non-traditional materials (black aluminum, sheet brass, and Avonite) make a dramatic contribution to the room. Yet it does not, at least to my eye, create a jarring non sequitur. More massive than most stand-alone furniture pieces, this built-in makes a powerful design statement that transforms the interior architecture of this room—something I'd wager a smaller furniture piece of noncongruous design might not be powerful enough to pull off.

In some instances, especially where the built-in furnishings dominate an entire room, built-ins can offer the opportunity to express a style unique to that room, effectively becoming the interior architecture of the space. When cabinetmaker Ross Day, of Seattle, Washington, sat down with his clients to discuss the remodel of their master bedroom, he was asked to create a room with a "contemporary Asian" feeling. The furnishings to be built, which are shown in the floor-plan drawing at right, included three wardrobe units, two bookcases, a corner cabinet, an entertainment/display center, three sliding screens, a platform bed with storage drawers, and two nightstands—more than enough palette on which to express this design imperative.

To anchor the pieces in an Asian-like motif, Day repeated a simple latticework pattern on the door faces of each unit (see the photo above right), including *shoji*-style doors on the nightstands. The choice of wood—clear, vertical-grain oak—and exposed "Chinese puzzle" proud joinery on the counter edges further support the Oriental imagery.



The distinctive styling of this oak bedroom suite by Ross Day firmly establishes and defines the interior landscape of the room. Photo by Mike Seidl.

