

# REPURPOSE A SPARE BEDROOM

Give an underused bedroom a definite purpose – whether as a games room or office – to create a truly useful space

## WILL IT SUIT MY HOME?

This type of room is all about lifestyle, so think carefully about what you need and would use regularly. Not all rooms will be suitable and may need to be adapted, but since these changes will be largely confined to the room itself, it won't impact visually on the rest of your home.

### ■ PLAN THE BEST LAYOUT

'The big thing is to get the basics absolutely right,' says architect Ben Parsons. 'Consider the position of the door and its opening direction, plus the relative location of storage, a desk, sofa or piece of equipment, and then co-ordinate power and lighting so that it suits the room's new use perfectly.'

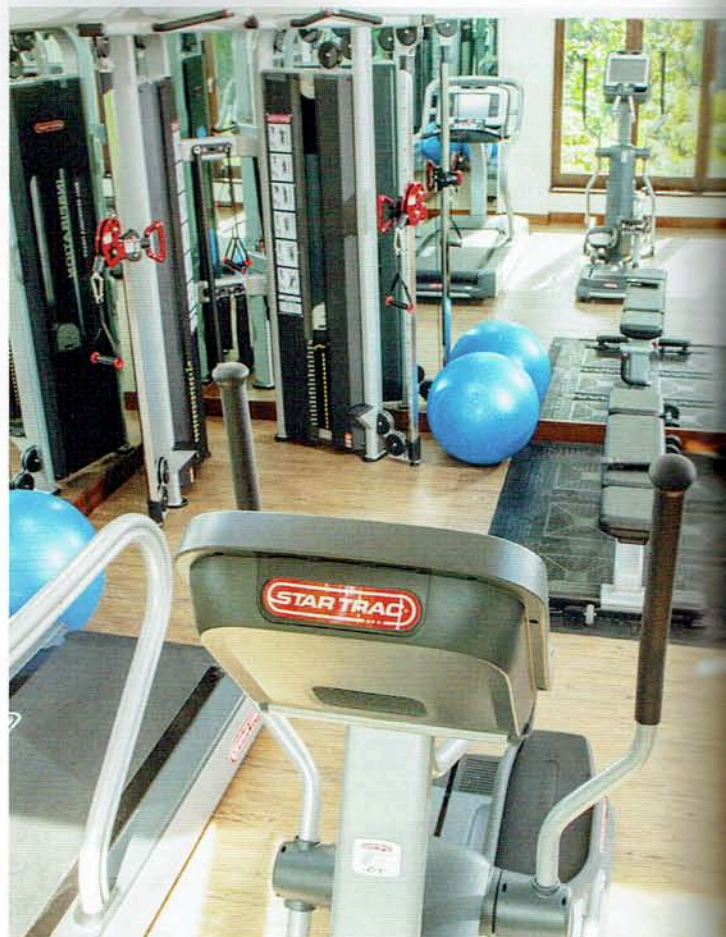
## DESIGN DETAILS

### ■ FUTURE-PROOF THE KIT

A home office will require plenty of sockets, a phone line and an internet connection, although you may be able to tap into your existing connections. A hobby room or home gym needs sockets for equipment and you may enjoy having a TV and sound system, too. A crash pad for teenagers or a cinema/TV/games room will have to accommodate anything from a simple TV and sound system to a Blu-ray player, film server, DVD player, games console, projector and speakers. Future-proof by going wireless, and approach a CEDIA-approved specialist to design and fit it out.

### HOME GYM

Right It is easy to set up a home gym – assuming you've checked any suspended floors are strong enough to take the weight of the equipment. Prices for a basic gym that includes a rowing machine, Swiss ball, TRX, two kettlebells, and a mat, start from £2,700, Motive8



### ■ RETHINK THE LIGHTING

A hobby room, home office or gym all need good but controllable levels of daylight, ambient and task lighting. Consider shutters for the window so you can filter the light levels to suit. Choose halogen spotlights for a gym, and desk lights to get the balance right in a home office or hobby room. A teen hangout, just like a dedicated TV room, will benefit from dimmable lighting and blackout blinds to cope with anything from sleepovers to watching movies during the day.

### ■ KEEP THE NOISE IN

A space for teens and/or a cinema room will benefit from acoustic underlay or thick carpets, heavy curtains and soft furnishings to absorb noise. If sound quality is an issue, it may be worth lining the room with acoustic-grade plasterboard or wall panels, and fitting sound-proofing strips to doors. If you have plenty of space, you could build a room-within-a-room by constructing an inner wall of studwork. This will provide a gap for insulation and a place to conceal speakers.

