



Design and Décor

Make ROOM for friends this Carnival!

Carnival is the season for entertaining in Trinidad and Tobago! There is an endless supply of fetes and parties to attend, and often we have many friends that come from overseas to spend the time with us. Making room for them in our homes can be difficult. Take this opportunity to start thinking of dual-purpose rooms that will suit both short and the long-term function, such as a study that performs double-duty as a guest bedroom.

If the chosen room is large, you can zone it with half-height or full height partitions to create two spaces. To minimise the loss of light, incorporate glass panels in the partition or a sheer screen for privacy. Other ideas include using a freestanding shelving unit or enclosing the bed with a half-height wall that doubles as the headboard. A simple but most effective idea is to use contrasting flooring to create different spaces – tiles for the "office" space and hardwood with a rug for the living space.

However, if space is a premium, you should harmonise the room rather than zone it. Use the same finish for all cupboards as well as the same flooring material throughout. Keep a neutral colour palette throughout the study area and the living space, but add throws and cushions to soften the living area.

In a multi-functional room, some concealment is essential. This is where custom joinery comes in very handy. The study area can perhaps be closed off behind custom cabinetry with floor-to-ceiling sliding or folding doors. Create additional storage by building a bed with drawers below for keeping files or office-materials; and the drawers function as the guests' "closet" while they visit!

Don't forget the areas of the room above eye-level. If your room has very high ceilings you can create a "loft" by placing the bed on a raised platform, with cupboard storage below or even add a sofa beneath for seating. Look for fold-away and stacking tables, or "nesting" tables that can be used by the guest, and then later for daily long-term applications in the study without sacrificing valuable floor space.

Creating a dual-purpose room now will create an additional living space in your home which is always a valuable addition to a property. More importantly it allows a comfortable living environment for your visiting friends and a long-term solution to inadequate living space in your home.



facebook.com/homeworkdesignstudio



randall@homeworktt.com



http://www.homeworktt.com