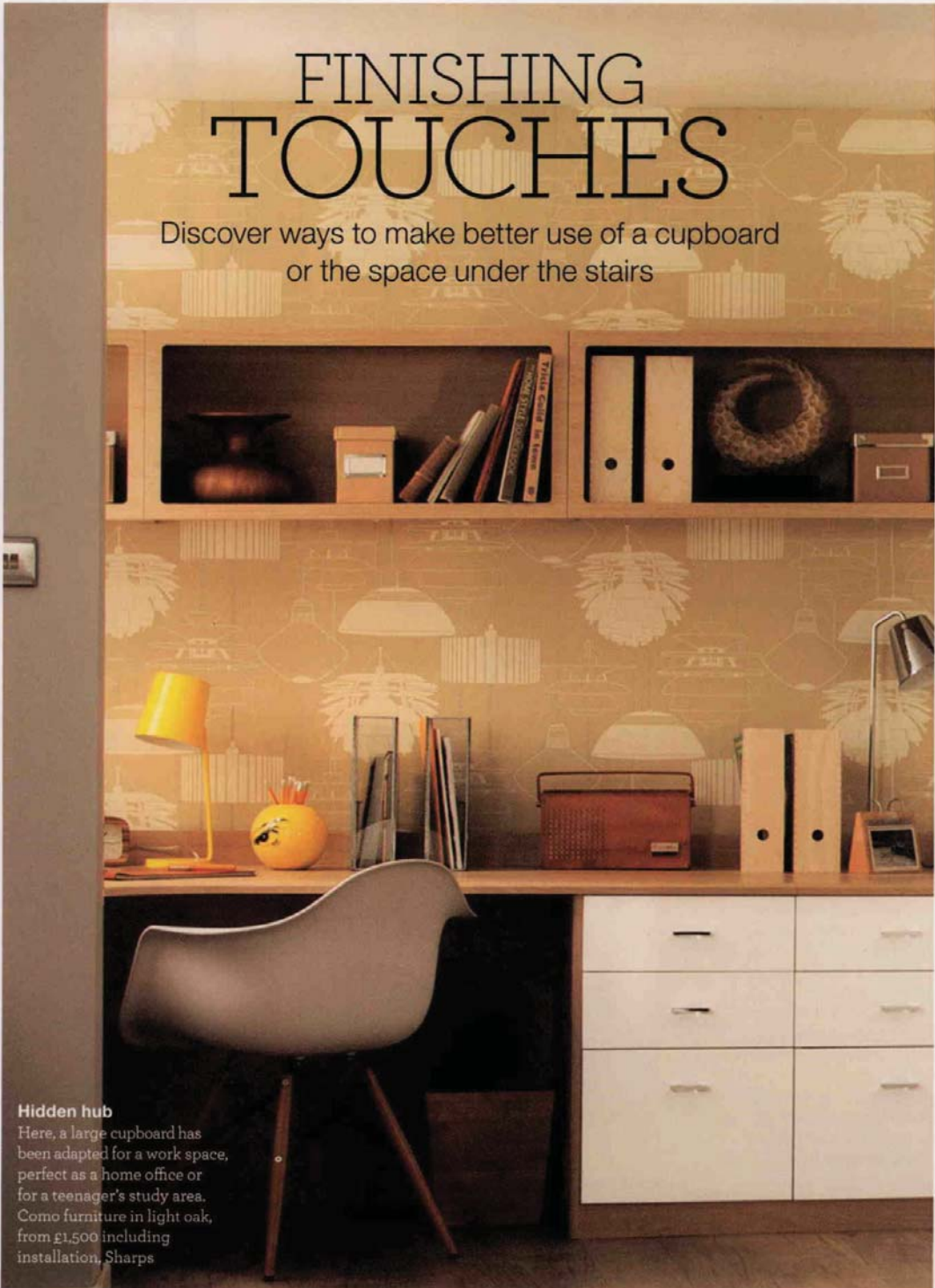


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FINISHING TOUCHES

Discover ways to make better use of a cupboard or the space under the stairs

Hidden hub
Here, a large cupboard has been adapted for a work space, perfect as a home office or for a teenager's study area. Como furniture in light oak, from £1,500 including installation, Sharps





INSIDE INFO

1 Utility chic If you have an under-used pantry or larder, use it to create a mini wine-storage area. The Chedworth wine rack, £350 from Garden Trading, will hold 32 bottles

2 Store and order Freestanding cabinets are ideal for repurposing a cupboard or alcove. Use for everything from books and paperwork to family photo albums and board games. This system from The Dormy House costs £791 as shown and comes with two base units and five single top units, all painted in French Grey with backs in Mid Blue

3 Domestic bliss An airing cupboard can make a practical laundry station complete with stacked washing machine and dryer. Go for a double-door design and include an

ironing board and baskets for freshly washed clothes. Chichester 690 full-height larder, £1,875, Neptune

4 Flexible option Look out for adaptable pieces, such as the stacking storage trunks from Great Little Trading Company. The Double (bottom) is £100, and the triple (top) is £115. Measuring just 45cm deep, they will fit in most cupboards and alcoves to hold toys, cushions, throws and lots more

5 Hang it high Keep a neat and tidy craft area that takes up a minimum amount of room with the Elfa Craft system, £167 from Store. The handy shelf means there's even a spot to put the sewing machine



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BELOW STAIRS



1 All in one place When there's no porch to hang coats, bags and school kit, a series of stepped shelving, drawers and rails will provide storage beneath the stairs. B&Q's Form Perkin white hallway storage unit kit costs £240

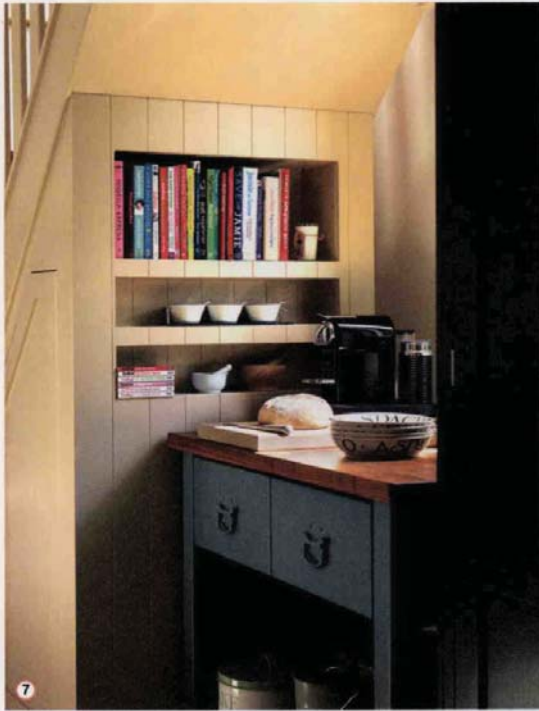
2 Compact cloakroom With a little imagination and some extra plumbing, the space under the stairs could be turned into a handy cloakroom. This design features the Roseberry painted timber collection in Peacock Blue from Utopia Bathrooms, where prices start at £225 for the framed mirror

3 Box clever There's so much you can do with a wall-mounted storage box, from displaying framed photos and favourite ornaments to using it for books and a potted plant. Umbra Cubist floating display shelf in beech and powder-coated metal (38.1cm x 38.7cm), £40, Black by Design

4 Lock and key Dedicated storage for items you often mislay will help you keep track of them. This natural wooden key cupboard has a rustic worn-wood effect and measures H30cm x W23cm x D7cm. It's £18 from The Contemporary Home

5 Table manners Designed to sit against a wall, the Georg console table is made from oak and has a simple Scandinavian look that's perfect for creating an understair study. It's £449 from Houseology

6 Old school Make sure everyone's organised in the morning by investing in a Cooper hall stand, £389 from Atkin & Thyme. Made from mango wood and iron, it has plenty of room for hanging bags, coats, scarves and hats, with space below for PE kits, plimsolls and shoes. There's even a bench for sitting on while you wait



7 Shelf life Steal some extra room for kitchen clutter by creating a storage niche for cookery books and kitchenware. A good carpenter should be able to build you a set of bespoke shelves. The double-drawer worktable is from John Lewis of Hungerford and costs £1,410

8 Below stairs An open-plan living area will often have the staircase on show, with a handy spot beneath that's ideal for a cosy seating area. Choose a compact sofa to fit the space and finish with plenty of cushions for added comfort. Bexter sofa, £299; Elements clock, £20; Elements Blocks cushion, £8; Cotton Slub cushion, £8; Ochre knitted pompom cushion, £13; Elements City framed print, £30; Uma marble table lamp, £29; and concrete apples and pears, £3 each; all Dunelm

9 The entertainer If there's a decent amount of space under the stairs in an open-plan living room, use it for a home entertainment system or sleek media unit. Mabillon TV stand with three drawers, £670, Pib

10 Party guest Kick back and relax after a hard day with the help of this Kensington white drinks cabinet. It has sleek gold detailing and a contemporary look, and costs £1,426 from Sweetpea & Willow

11 Office style Create a handy spot for catching up on paperwork or checking emails with the Shepperton bureau in oak and stone grey from Made - it's designed by Ben Fowler and costs £599. There's plenty of cupboard storage, as well as a removable box in the top shelf and a pull-out tray, plus a useful cable hole in the back



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FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** ON PAGE 122