

# DESIGNER SECRETS

An illuminated world map creates an informative feature wall in this well-organised study



## DESIGNER PROFILE

**KAREN HOWES** is the driving force behind international interior design company Taylor Howes Designs, founded in 1991 to provide a service for private clients, property developers and hoteliers alike. Highly respected, the practice is renowned for the understated elegance of its projects. Karen is a lecturer and a mentor at KLC School of Design. **THE BRIEF** To create a calm, streamlined study space to be used by the owners' children for homework and creative projects during holidays.

Having remodelled countless family homes, and as the mother of two teenagers herself, Karen Howes relishes creating stylish yet practical spaces for children. "This room is where the owners' two boys do their homework, so the remit was to keep it organised and calm," she says. The property is a new-build manor house in Connecticut and the personality of this room was relatively uninspiring, with a flat ceiling and rectangular-shaped window. Karen's solution was to open the space up to the rafters, adding an arched window at one end that floods the room with light.

Bespoke joinery is the key to keeping this space free of clutter: a desk runs along one wall with shelves above for books and files; opposite, a pair of bookcases offers further useful storage. In the centre, two large tables allow the children to work on their hobbies. Bringing colour to this clean white scheme is a world map, a feature that is both practical and fun. "The map is mounted on a removable panel and has fibre-optic lights installed behind it, which pinpoint cities that have personal significance for the family," Karen says.

## HALO LIGHTING

The map was printed to a bespoke size so that it could be neatly fitted into the joinery. LED strip lighting has been incorporated into a recessed slot around the perimeter, illuminating the canvas with a soft glow.

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM





## 2 WINDOW TREATMENT

Plantation shutters are an ideal choice for an unusually shaped window such as this arched design. They also chime perfectly with the New England style of the house.



## 3 BESPOKE TABLES

The huge tables were made to Karen's specifications to suit the scale of the room - they feature a striking cross design that blends well with the room's New England elements. The finish on the timber is a matt lacquer that is easily wiped clean.

### FACT FILE

#### FURNITURE

**Tables and bookshelves**, bespoke designs by Taylor Howes Designs.

#### WINDOW TREATMENT

**Similar shutters**, New England, 64mm blades, white painted tulip wood, from £375sq m, The New England Shutter Company, 020 8675 1099, [thenewenglandshuttercompany.com](http://thenewenglandshuttercompany.com).

#### ACCESSORIES

**Bespoke sized political wall map**, from £35sq m, Printed Space, 01524 888808, [printedspace.com](http://printedspace.com).

#### Similar aeroplane.

Jenny JN/7H Classic in Red, €149.95, Aviation Megastore, 0031 20 446 0611, [aviationmegastore.com](http://aviationmegastore.com).

#### FLOORING

**Similar oak flooring**, Nordic Oak in a wide board plank, from £61sq m, Junckers, 01376 534700, [junckers.co.uk](http://junckers.co.uk).

#### CONTACT

**Taylor Howes Designs**, 020 7349 9017, [taylorhowes.co.uk](http://taylorhowes.co.uk) ■



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