

The Bedroom

The bedroom is the first room on the left hand side of the hallway as you enter the flat. The room measures 3.90 x 1.05m, has parquet flooring, 1 large built-in wardrobe and a small west facing window. The primary use of this space is sleeping and reading, it is also used to store clothes.

To the left of the door way

is a small, wooden, chest on wheels designed to be used with a singer sewing machine. The sewing machine would have been placed on the top, or stored inside the box when not in use. Underneath the main box is a small, flat draw that could have been used to store spare needles, cotton and bobbins. The Chest belonged to Beryl Adams, who did not sew much, she used it to store knitting needles and wool. Her mother, from whom she inherited the chest, was a seamstress by trade. She made a living doing alterations and making clothes for people. They lived in Southampton and had a family house on Cobbert Road, a steep road on the hill leading out of the city.

The chest is now used for storage. Inside the box are items that are rarely used including various lotions, homeopathic remedies, plasters and a tube of germolene. There is a small bag containing half used bottles of nail varnish, a hairbrush and a packet of tissues. On top of the cabinet is a mirror which was bought by Syd and Jess Davies, a belt, two biros and a small, square, clay box with a butterfly print on the lid. The box was made by Tai Tsang in 1997 and shown as part of her degree show. On finishing her degree she moved to Ohio to do a Masters degree. Whilst in Ohio she met Brandon, together they moved to Washington where Tai Tsang opened a shop selling ceramics and homewares. Inside the box are eight earrings bought from Accessorize during a period of work for the company. The employment contract stipulated that employees must buy items from each new season at a reduced rate of 75%.

To the left of the chest is a built-in wardrobe with double doors.

Inside the wardrobe is a chest of draws containing (draw 1) a swimming costume, a bikini, underwear, socks and some vests, (draw 2) seven t-shirts, (different colours), a wool knitted vest, thermal vests, (bought to wear whilst on a residency in Quebec City, average temperature in the winter is -30 °), (draw 3) white t-shirts, 3 jumpers and a cardigan, (draw 4) a dress, 2 denim skirts and a cotton skirt.

On top of the chest of draws are three pairs of folded jeans, one pair of corduroy trousers and a grey cardigan. Above the chest of draws is a clothes rail on which are hung four dresses, eight skirts, a number of jumpers and five short-sleeved shirts.

Beside the chest of draws are three stackable, plastic cases. The bottom case contains ten copies of Via CD ROM, made in 2002, back copies of a publication called Skip magazine, several attempts at documenting projects, photocopied texts, journals, slides and publications.

On the floor, in between the wardrobe and the bed, is a small yellow rug. It is in the style of a Persian rug and mass produced by Ikea.

The frame of the bed is made of wood and shaped to suggest a non-specific antiquity. It was bought from a shop in Clifton Street, in the east of the city, called Discount Beds. One leg of the bed is slightly shorter than the rest and is propped up by a piece of Cardboard from the box that the bed came in. The mattress was bought from the same shop and is a Memory foam mattress which is designed to mould to the shape of the sleeper. In the summer the foam heats up to high temperatures.

There is a feather duvet on the bed which was bought from Habitat using gift vouchers. The vouchers were given in exchange for a research project done about the building. The store is sited in the old city centre fish market. At one time the canal ran past the shop bringing fish and goods into the city from the docks. Folklore has it that one day a baby seal arrived in a box of herring. The seal was adopted by the city and named Billy, he became a local attraction but as he grew bigger, it was decided he should be moved to a specially made swimming pool in Victoria Park. Billy lived out his life happily in the park getting into scrapes whenever he escaped from his pond. When he died it was discovered that in fact he was a she. Billy can now be found in the National Museum and there is a statue of him in Victoria Park. His swimming pool has been converted into a paddling pool. In the summer, when the windows of the flat are open, the sound of children playing in Billy’s pond fills the flat.



Next to the bed is a wooden box from Ikea.

On top of the box there is a bedside light, a telephone, three books and a radio controlled alarm clock. The alarm clock has a radio receiver built into it tuned to a transmitter that transmits time signals. These time signals are decoded and used to regulate the clock. In the UK the time signal transmitter is MSF Rugby, transmitting on a frequency of 60kHz with an estimated equivalent monopole radiated power (EMRP) of 15kW.

Most developed countries have their own time signal transmitters and those that do not are usually within reach of one that does. MSF is the station’s call-sign and, despite many attempts to show otherwise, has no meaning except for the ‘M’, which shows that it is a UK station.

The frequency of 60kHz is in the very low frequency band that produces a wavelength of around five kilometres. This VLF gives the transmitter a very long range, approximately 1000 kilometres. This means that MSF Rugby can be received throughout the British Isles and vin a sizeable chunk of Western Europe. The alarm clock was bought for the STAR Radio project in order to synchronise the time between the recording studio and the office.