



A few smart furnishings and some comfy layers of color and texture can treat you to high style during downtime.

BEFORE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

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Why does the bedroom always get short shrift when redecorating? Create the oasis now that you and your sweetie deserve.



BEDDING FOR \$400

DECORATING >> from 84

AFFORDABLE LUXURY

Your bedroom is your sanctuary and a place where personal style should shine. Get started now on the bedroom of your dreams.

First, focus on the heart of the room—your bed. Consider buying a cushioned headboard, which lends a finished touch.

Follow by investing in layers of stylish bedding. Avoid a ruffled bed skirt; clean lines make for smarter looks. Slip in a mattress topper for a cushiony extra layer of comfort. Toppers are available in down or polyester fill in department and discount stores at prices starting at about \$60. For \$400, we put together the bedding, *above*, after shopping jaunts to a mall and a few discount stores.

Think about color. You need it. That all-neutral look is clean, yes, but it's stoic. Go for rich colors and sumptuous textures that add a touch of glamour. A solid comforter makes a versatile base for a few jazzy accessories, such as a graphic quilt that ties in with the comforter color and a solid throw pillow in a complementary hue.

Next, bring in the art. An understated lamp pairs well with a similar-style side table. We used two vibrant strips of wallpaper panels. Framed simply in black, they look like a million bucks. >> on 88



BEDDING FOR \$800

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Ooh-la-la! For true luxury, think of your bedroom as you would a fine hotel suite, with living-room-quality furnishings and beautiful accessories. Break the habit of matching furniture; instead go for a personalized look that allows for pieces to be moved elsewhere as your decor changes.

ULTIMATE LUXURY

There are many ways to take your bedroom to the next level. An upgrade to a headboard with nailhead trim looks smartly tailored; its curved, flirtatious design softens what often can be a chunky piece. Then get more cush-factor with a down comforter and a soft, washable coverlet with a bold trim to accent the shams. A bed throw that's knit like a fine sweater offers a chic touch of warmth, pattern, and texture.

For increased back support for reading in bed, treat yourself to two large European square pillows. Add two decks of down pillows—one with solid-color shams, the other with cases wearing a soft pattern.

Bedside tables and lamps don't have to match, but they should connect via similar colors, wood stains, or furniture periods. Use light color silk shades so your lamps can serve as true task lighting. Also, think silk when buying throw pillows.

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Dress up a mantel, shelf, or dresser with sentimental objects. This gilt-frame mirror gives the bedroom a larger look and highlights touches of gold elsewhere.

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STYLE ON THE SIDE

Your bedroom is the perfect place to surround yourself with treasures that remind you of the people and places you adore. Display most of your family photos and travel souvenirs *here*—rather than in your living room, where such a trove may come across as clutter. Besides, you can enjoy these meaningful pieces during quiet moments.

Start by accenting your getaway with keepsakes from your travels. Use a shadowbox to frame a gift bag that you hold dear—maybe it once held a delicate bottle of perfume that was given to you as a gift, or perhaps it sports a graphic design that you find striking.

Pepper your space with precious souvenirs or small statues as well as new works of folk art that hold special significance. Keep handy small stacks of your favorite books so you can refer to inspiring passages. And do treat yourself to a weekly bouquet of fresh flowers.

Just remember to edit your mix as it grows. It's easy to get carried away and let your bedroom become a storage room. >> on 92

BED BASICS

To make your bed feel sumptuous and look beautiful:

- Use down pillows to comfortably cradle your head.
- A pillow-top mattress is a must. With a down featherbed atop, you'll really be in the lap of luxury.
- Silk throw pillows add shimmering color and texture.
- Classic sheets always look elegant, especially ones that feature hotel-style detailing and trim.
- Coverlets and quilts give your bed a smart look. Think of the coverlet as a light jacket and the quilt as a graphic scarf.
- A bed base upholstered in twill or heavy linen goes beyond a basic bed skirt and offers a polished versatile look. ♪

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BEYOND THE BEDROOM

Look familiar? Many of these pieces were once in the bedroom, as you can see on the previous pages. Don't buy into the notion that bedroom furniture has to be sold in sets. Instead, invest in furnishings that work in any room. You'll realize the true beauty of cost-effectiveness and flexibility.

When the mood strikes to redecorate your bedroom, consider that curtains for that room may also fit windows in other rooms of your house. If you've avoided purchasing side tables with that "bedside" look, you'll appreciate that they can move anywhere—especially when company is coming and you need an extra table here or there. As for pillows and throws? They're also handy on a sitting room settee.

Rest and relaxation has never looked more appealing—in any room.

