

# Fabulous FURNITURE

## DESIGNER'S CORNER

Your bedroom is your getaway, your haven, your personal retreat.

It is the one room that is "all about you," the room that is yours to decorate the way you want. This is the room in which you can take a "decorating risk" and express your creativity. Will it be "A Tropical Retreat," or will you take a "Zen" minimalist approach?

No matter what the theme, or which furniture you select, it is the way you accessorize your room that will put your personal stamp on it.

Starting with the bed, which is traditionally the focal point of the room, you can choose a very tailored bed skirt, a fitted coverlet and tailored pillow shams or store your pillows and use a large bolster as your only appointment.

On the other extreme you could select a gathered bed skirt in a sheer metallic fabric, contrast it with a sumptuous, thick velvet comforter trimmed with bouillon fringe, top with a variety of pillows in lots of shapes and sizes and fabrics to give the bed an air of opulence fit for royalty.



Pat Roubie

### Lighting

Lighting plays a very important role in decorating a bedroom. Lighting creates the drama.

A small lamp on top of a tall piece is a surprise, and when teamed up with a stack of books and a fern, can create a grouping with lots of interest. Obvious spots for lamps in a bedroom would be a dresser, (though a pair of buffet lamps is a different take on that) and on a night table next to the bed. Not so

obvious spots would be to place "up" lighting on the floor in a corner, behind a plant or behind the headboard, or even under the bed. Another small lamp, on the vanity, softens the sometimes harsh bathroom lighting and can double for a night light.

### Rugs

Area rugs in the bedroom not only are kind on your toes on cold winter mornings, they define and separate different areas in the bedroom, such as a sitting area. Area rugs also create textural interest in a room, and soften the look, or add a punch of color.

### Art

Artwork can be collected over time or purchased to complete the theme of the room. Artwork can be playful, romantic, or abstract. You may choose your bedroom to display your collection of family pictures. Whatever you choose it should give you pleasure.

And don't forget candles. They too, create drama and add ambiance to your retreat, be it Zen or Victorian, Beach House or Bunk House.

Pat Roubie is a district trainer for Ethan Allen in Novi.

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## Dorm designs make the grade

One of the first lessons many college students learn is smart space-management. Students often quickly realize how to turn a dorm room - which at first glance may seem short on space and possibilities - into a study, bedroom and even social area.

To help students make their dorm rooms feel more comfortable, decorators say it's important to remember that rooms are an expression of personality.

To help students make the most of their space, decorators from Linens-n-Things offer stu-

dents the following tips:

■ Begin with your bed - The bed is usually the largest piece of furniture in the room and therefore becomes its focal point. Choose bedding that not only looks good, but feels good as well (after all, you'll be using it as a couch half the time). Once you've decided on a covering, such as a comforter or polar fleece blanket, accessorize with sheets, decorative pillows or shams and a bed skirt.

■ Keep clutter to a minimum - Storage containers can mean the

difference between organizing your closet and living in one. Today's storage solutions are lightweight, colorful and can easily be made part of the decor.

■ Personalize the place - Decorate with pictures that remind you of home. Family photos and treasured moments can go a long way towards making the most of a small space. Bring some frames in an assortment of colors and styles to showcase your artwork and ancestry. For more information, visit www.linensnthings.com

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