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Beyond boudoirs

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with activity as well as serenity — in a small space.

Designer Tish Hooker thinks bedrooms should have ruffles, lace and piles of pillows. But she also believes many women shy away from such "feminine" bedrooms because they think their husbands would be uncomfortable.

As a result, according to Hooker, a lot of women don't consult their husbands. "They play it safe and do the room in a tailored fashion. It ends up looking like a boring motel room. When I see a room like that, I think the couple must have an uneventful, unimaginative relationship."

HOOKER ADDS, "I THINK a lot of men would say they like pastels and ruffles too, if they were ever asked."

For her own bedroom, Hooker chose a romantic, feminine look with lavender, leaf-green and white sheets in the "Portico" pattern by Utica, the fashion brand of J.P. Stevens.

She used the sheets not only to dress the bed, but also for draperies

and for a canopy over the bed. "Ever since I was a girl, I dreamed of having a beautiful canopy on my bed, it adds such an air of elegance to the bed and makes the room special."

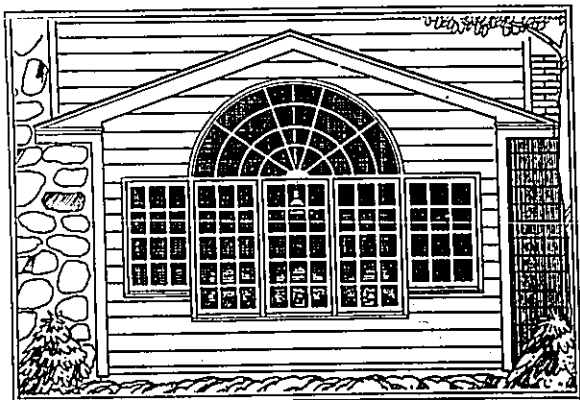
Hooker also believes every woman should have her own dressing table. "It's the most elegant way I know for a woman to relax and pamper herself."

If the idea appeals to you, make it soft and feminine — but don't forget the personal touches. Display photos and mementos on the table to remind you of favorite people and past events.

Give the dressing table itself special meaning. Says Hooker, "I draped my dressing table with my grandmother's antique lace tablecloth and covered my bedside table with a wonderful old patchwork quilt."

If you're remodeling, consider bumping out a wall to make room for a fireplace or tub-for-two. The trend in bedroom bathing is openness. If you have an enclosed garden outside the room, make one wall glass and bring the outdoors in. If not, wrap a wall in opaque glass block. It lets in almost as much light as a clear window but gives you complete privacy.

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