



LESSONS
IN

*Planning a
New Master Suite?*

LUXURY

Start your wish list with these 10 pointers.

Aim high

Why reserve impressive architecture for your home's public spaces? A soaring ceiling can add drama to your master bedroom and make it feel twice as large. Create interest overhead by using the same wall covering as used on the lower walls. Or choose a complementary treatment that's in a lighter shade to avoid a top-heavy look.



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL JENSEN
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Go to great panes

Interesting windows invite light and break up boring expanses of wall. Consider a well-placed bull's-eye window or a pair of quarter-rounds to protect privacy and stand in for artwork.

Rejuvenate the old

Though purists may disagree, some antiques should be updated if it means they'll be put to good use. In this bedroom, for example, a bedside table sports new hand-painted details, and an antique metal child's bed—fitted with upholstered cushions—makes a handy bench.



LESSONS IN LUXURY

Make storage stylish

Combine different types of storage for the most interesting and efficient results. In this bedroom, a wall of built-ins offers hidden storage as well as open shelves for display, and a mirrored armoire holds electronic equipment. Freeing up wall space in the bedroom, a bank of closets lines the hallway that leads to the bath.



Have a seat

A sitting area takes a bedroom from a place to sleep to a bona fide retreat. If you aren't starting from scratch or can't add on, see if you can steal space from a closet, an adjacent unused bedroom, or a hallway to create a sitting room. Separating it from the bed creates an area conducive to homework—whether catching up on correspondence at an antique desk or operating a private business.

Get comfortable

For put-up-your-feet comfort, there's nothing like a luxurious chaise—especially if you want to keep your bed neatly made during the day. For more flexibility, consider a chair-and-ottoman combination; the ottoman can hold a breakfast tray. Tight on space? A window seat can be as narrow as 18 inches and still offer a place to relax.



Take it easy

Forgo a slew of patterns for a classic look that's easy on the eyes and a breeze to create. Choose a primary print—the bouquet-and-ribbon fabric in this suite, for example—then accent it with smaller amounts of a compatible print (such as the floral border print used for the chaise and bed skirts) and a solid. Shirring and quilting the fabrics also will vary their look.





Center your attention

If you can spare the space, separate your tub and shower. Then, make each its own sybaritic sanctuary. If you like the thought of bathing under natural light, make sure your windows are high enough that they don't require coverings, or position the tub so you can walk around it and lower window treatments before you turn on the water. Be sure to choose nonskid surfaces throughout the bath.

Double your pleasure

A double vanity—more a given than a luxury in today's new homes—eases the morning rush hour. Its look, however, need not be strictly utilitarian. Today's metals of honor for the bath include chrome, brass, nickel, copper, and pewter (shown). Choose an undercounter-mount or integral sink for a sleek look that's easy to clean.

Turn up the heat

Dress up those hard, smooth surfaces in your bath with decorative furnishings befitting the rest of your house. An upholstered chair helps turn this bath into a dressing room, and a just-for-show antique chandelier adds drama above the tub. □

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