

Dream Bedrooms

Romantic Retreat

Pretty
Rooms
That
Soothe &
Refresh

2006 Fall Winter

Display until October 24

\$9.95 U.S. \$12.95 CAN



MeredithSpecials

simply refined

Creating a calm retreat long on classic beauty and lean on color was furniture manufacturer Amy Howard's primary goal for the master suite in her new home in Tennessee. Clean-lined elegance, timeless profiles, and understated opulence combine with some brilliant surprises to make these spaces formal yet comfortable.

Photographer: Colleen Duffley





This suite signals furniture designer Amy Howard's move toward clean lines and a slightly contemporary spin on using old-world classics.



Pages 68-69: The Italianate canopy bed is dressed freshly in cream stripes and jacquards, and finished with glistening pillows encrusted with mother-of-pearl. The mirrored bedside tables are acid-etched and detailed in sterling silver gilt. **Opposite:** Midcentury-modern chairs near the fireplace are upholstered in sumptuous cut velvet. An old-world-style armoire lends quiet green, cream, and gold color. The crystal chandelier came from a Paris flea market. **Left:** Amy Howard chose a 1940s-style taupe mohair sofa to create sleek surprise and softness.

When furnituremaker Amy Howard designed her new home in Tennessee, she placed emphasis on creating a pared down, classically beautiful master suite. "I deal with color, fabric, and finishes all day long," Amy says. "I decided to make this my escape—quiet, restful, and nearly monochromatic."

Beige walls, reclaimed oak floors, a carved stone mantel, and deep crown moldings lay a serene foundation enhanced by textural Irish linen panels at the many tall windows. Amy went into the room with an airy mix of ancient, antique-inspired, and modern pieces that work

together elegantly to promote calm. A spectacular 18th-century-inspired canopy bed is flanked by mirrored night tables. A 19th-century chest of drawers and old Venetian chairs lend rich patina. And unexpected modern pieces, including low-slung chairs near the hearth and a supersoft mohair sofa near a hand-painted Italianate armoire that houses the television, provide freshness. "I wanted formality, but with a comfortable tone," Amy says. "I wanted the room to be refined, but in a way that was still welcoming. I want my family to come in and feel good here."

"The bathroom is inspired by what I love about fine hotels in Europe. It's a little slice of heaven here on earth."

—DESIGNER AMY HOWARD



Opposite: Amy designed the tall etagère for this space. She wanted the dark color and curvaceous profile as a contrast to the many hard lines and white palette. Its darkness echoes the iron chandelier and large arched mirrors above the sinks. This photo: Antique French panels framing the window side shut to provide privacy. The oval tub floats in the room. "It's so regal. I've always dreamed of having a tub like this," Amy says.