

gorgeous ANGLE from any

Full of beautifully blended patterns,
textures, and personal touches, this master suite offers richness,
warmth, and charm wherever you glance.

Designer Patricia Bonis shares her secrets for creating a room with
360 degrees of sumptuous style.

Cream-color drapery panels hang from equidistant hooks circling the octagonal sitting area in an innovative design that marries form and function.

By Lisa Martin Photographer Tria Giovan Field editor Cynthia Bogart







Surprising color combinations, gutsy fabric pairings, and textural capriciousness

can tease the eye and electrify the mind. In a bedroom, however, opposing elements and intriguing details often prove problematic. Who, after all, wants to retreat for a night's rest only to encounter decor that seems jarring or overstimulating?

Those competing factors make Patricia Bonis' feat especially impressive. The New York City designer incorporated a host of contrasting, even counterintuitive, elements into the sumptuous master suite of her New Jersey home, which she shares with her husband, Neil Turen, and daughter, Amanda. Far from appearing strident or forced, the colors, fabrics, furnishings, and accessories harmonize to create a refined and serene space.

Patricia began with a neutral palette of cream and chocolate brown, a departure from her otherwise color-saturated home. Linen fabric featuring a sprawling floral pattern at the windows cemented the concept and color scheme. "It is hard to find fabric with neutral-color flowers that are not too masculine and not too feminine," she says. "I used lots of this fabric in a romantic and free way; I like the casualness of that."

In the sitting room, where she hung paisley-edged drapery panels on wooden rings, Patricia painted the walls a deep brown. Even though she loves rich color, she would have shied away from such a dark shade for a bedroom if the room's windows weren't so expansive. "Otherwise, it could have felt like a cave," she says.

A cadre of cream-color transferware plates enlivens the dark walls and imparts a touch of playfulness. Plates are among the designer's favorite accessories—for her clients as well as in her own home. She uses them on bookshelves, tables, and walls. "They are an inexpensive way to make a lot of impact," she says. "You can take a small painting on a wall that is just OK, then put six plates around the painting and you have a big, bold statement with a lot of charm."

In the sleeping area, pen-and-ink drawings above the Italian bed make another dramatic design statement. The angles created by the bed's four posters inspired Patricia to consider a gridlike pattern for the artwork, which includes old master's pieces and contemporary drawings. Resisting the urge to frame the art identically, she imbued each piece with its own personality and style.

Patricia also resisted the common inclination to position the sofa in the sleep area so it faces windows, instead backing it up to a west-facing

Designer Patricia Bonis' collection of pen-and-ink drawings, each distinctively framed, makes an elegant backdrop for her painted, Italian-style four-poster.





window that offers a lovely view of her garden. “People often don’t realize that if you have the sofa with its back to the window you can sit there or lie there and get a panoramic view,” she says. She kept the upper, arched window unadorned so she could enjoy the full impact of sunsets and, on occasion, the moon peeking through.

On the master-bath window, a striking triple swag provides focus and grandeur for the garden-style bath. Print-room-style wallpaper lends visual intrigue. “The patterns were about as daring as I could get, and I don’t think I’ve ever made such a big dip on the windows,” Patricia says of the swag, “but I wanted to go for drama.” Moreover, the patterns play well against white cabinetry and the Crema Marfil marble floors. A jubilant Italian panel adds to the room’s European ambience.

The master suite succeeds on myriad levels thanks to Patricia’s critical balance test: Every view in every direction must add something to the suite. “I want a beautiful, complete, balanced picture, one that’s equally full and without empty pockets,” she says. “It makes a huge difference for a finished feel.” □

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Above: Various patterns, including those in the linen at the windows, the Italian panel, and the 18th-century print-room-style wallcovering, create an air of formality in the master bath.

Print Room Pedigree

Wonderfully detailed but always distinctly two-dimensional, the traditional English print room signified world travel and refinement. As early as 1760, British homeowners began adhering relatively inexpensive paper prints they’d gathered while traveling abroad directly to the walls of their sitting rooms and studies. Often thematically grouped to highlight architectural or nature themes, these collections were then embellished with paper frames, ribbons, and bows. Although a few artisans still create print rooms using classic tools and techniques, several new wall-covering designs mimic the carefully collected print-room look.