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Serenity Plan

This was the plan: an escape within the home, a retreat for unwinding and good nights of sleep. With distinct areas for sitting and sleeping, this room in a Hinsdale, Illinois, showhouse is much more than just a bedroom—it is a serene round-the-clock sanctum.

When interior designer Scott Arthur Yerkey first saw the room, it was a large and clumsy rectangle. “To transform the space from cold to warm, I created plenty of areas for relaxation, including the sitting area, window seat, and four-poster,” Yerkey says. In searching for a paint color to underscore the room’s placidity, Yerkey chose gold—a vibrant yet reverent shade that suggests jewelry prestige and sunlight simplicity. The walls were painted in a crosshatch design and glazed to suggest linen.

Yerkey decorated the sitting area with prosperous furnishings arranged in a conversational manner around a cocktail table. The plush mohair-covered sofa is an ideal spot for enjoying a quick catnap, while the dapper slipper chair upholstered in kid leather is a handsome spot for reading the morning newspaper. Contemplative artwork, tropical greens, and window treatments sewn from silk and cotton enhance the tranquil atmosphere.

To unite the sitting and sleeping areas, Yerkey chose furnishings, rugs, and window treatments that are

A patchwork leather cushion rejuvenates this old window seat *opposite*, making it a scenic place for writing or for enjoying a cup of coffee in the sun. The nearby bedside writing table and chair provide another spot for eating or working in the suite. The ebony-stained chinoiserie chest *above right* serves as a hefty nightstand and fulfills one of interior design’s most basic commandments: that every room benefits from having at least one black object. Because the room is large, the 19th-century Chinese wedding chests *right* don’t overwhelm the space while serving as storage.



Sewn from squares of contrasting silk and cotton, the graphic checkerboard pattern of the curtain panels reflects the cushion fabrics.





complementary without matching. Ten-foot ceilings called for a dramatic bed. This handsome four-poster bamboo piece looks simply restful. Beyond the bed, another hideaway awaits—a window seat covered in quilted leather. Comfy cushions and glorious sunlight make this yet another peaceful nest in a bedroom that is replete with soothing havens. □

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Photographer: Craig Dugan, Hedrich-Blessing. Location: Grace Episcopal Church Showcase House of Hinsdale (Illinois). Field editor: Elaine Markoutsas.

Ways to Create a Relaxing Bedroom

- **Chaise longues are for lounging.** Any bedroom benefits from a chaise, even the smallest space. They are ideal for reading, listening to music, or talking on the telephone.
- **Fabric softens a room.** A generous use of fabric fosters luxuriousness and relaxation. Even if your budget doesn't allow for handsome custom curtains or romantic bed canopies, piles of varying sized cushions fashioned from your favorite textiles add comfort and joy.
- **Color is extremely personal.** Still, neutral beige is always gracious, agreeable green is forever healing, and restful blue is definitely meditative.
- **Writing tables are elegant yet practical.** They provide a perfect platform for writing checks, reading, journaling, and penning letters. For a personal touch, stock the desk drawer with monogrammed stationery.
- **Technology is best kept hidden.** Tuck the television set, CD player, and fax machine away. But do play music: Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 1* simply declares relaxation.