

design ideas

Sweet Retreat

HOW TO CREATE A GUEST ROOM THEY'LL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE



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When it comes to hosting overnight visitors, a guest bedroom should be more than just a place to sleep. It should be a haven of comfort and warmth that makes your guests feel pampered and welcome. Here's how you can create a guest bedroom so cosy and inviting your guests will find it hard to leave.

Creature Comforts

The bed is the focal point of any bedroom, especially in a guest room where comfort is paramount. Start by investing in a quality mattress that provides the perfect balance of support and softness. Even if your mattress is on the firmer side, a plush mattress topper can add a layer of comfort that feels like sleeping on a cloud.

When it comes to bedding, think layers. Start with high-thread-count cotton sheets, as they are breathable and soft against the skin. Add a lightweight blanket or quilt, and top it off with a cosy duvet or comforter. Be sure to offer a variety of pillows – some firmer, some softer – so your guests can choose what works best for them.

A few decorative pillows and a throw blanket at the foot of the bed add a touch of style while offering extra warmth on chilly nights.

TIP: As much as we designers love pillows, don't put too many on the guest bed, as most guests can get overwhelmed when trying to put them all back in your preferred position! We love a lumbar pillow or two or three accent pillows in a guest suite.

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Create the Right Ambience

The secret to making anyone feel at home is to make everyone feel at home. Neutral colours and finishes go a long way in creating serenity for many.

Lighting also plays a crucial role in setting the right mood. I start with a soft, warm overhead light for general illumination. Supplement this ambient lighting with table lamps on the nightstands or install wall-mounted sconces on either side of the bed. These provide focused light for reading without being too harsh. Choose lamps with dimmers, which allow your guests to adjust the light to their liking. A small nightlight can also be a thoughtful addition, helping your guests navigate the room in the dark.



Thoughtful Staples

Take a cue from a memorable hotel stay, and strive to pamper your guests. Outfit the room with some basics: fresh towels and washcloths, placed either in the room or in the adjacent bathroom. Extra pillows and blankets should be easily accessible, perhaps stored in a decorative basket or ottoman. Consider adding a pair of cosy slippers or a plush robe for your guests to use during their stay. These small touches can make a big difference, especially on cold mornings. A water carafe and glasses on the nightstand, along with a few snacks can make visitors feel at home when they're staying at yours.



Engage the Senses

Scents play a significant role in creating a welcoming atmosphere. A lightly scented candle or an essential oil diffuser can fill the room with calming aromas like lavender, vanilla or sandalwood, which are known to promote relaxation and sleep. Be sure to choose scents that are subtle and not overwhelming.

Seasonal fresh flowers always elevate the room, adding both a visual and olfactory appeal. A small bouquet on the nightstand or dresser brightens the space. If fresh flowers aren't practical, consider a small potted plant.

Finishing Touches

Finally, consider some "extras" that will make your guest bedroom truly special. A selection of books or magazines on the nightstand offers guests something to read as they wind down for the night. A charging station for phones and other devices is a modern convenience that will be appreciated. Personal touches like a framed photo or a small piece of artwork can make the room feel more like home. If space allows, a comfortable chair or bench adds a place to sit and relax, further enhancing the room's cosy vibe.



Creating a cosy guest bedroom is all about attention to detail. If done right, your visitors may never want to leave. But when they do, you'll have a stunning space to indulge in, without ever leaving the comfort of home. **OH**

