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with Style

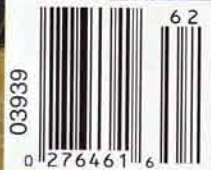
**Big Ideas
for Small
Spaces**
13 DESIGNER TIPS

**Decorating Do's & Don'ts
From the Pros**

**How to Brighten
Your Rooms with Color**

**Sweet Dreams:
7 Bedrooms You'll Love**

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EARTH-TONE ELEGANCE

When interior designer Irwin Weiner was hired to turn a drab library into a warm and inviting space, he immediately focused on color. Taking his cues from the original brick fireplace, Weiner formed a terra-cotta and beige palette for the 10-foot-square space, keeping the walls light to open up the small room. For contrast, he worked in a graphic carpet accented with black and painted the trim a similar hue to update the scheme. "The big windows allowed me to use dark trim," Weiner says, "and it's these rich colors that give the library the wonderful cozy feel." Weiner chose textured fabrics, such as silk checkerboard wallpaper and felt upholstery, to add to the warmth. An eclectic ensemble of vintage furniture from France, including two terra-cotta-colored mid-19th-century English club chairs and a Regency reproduction desk, lends just the right amount of character to the room.



palette primer

Color is key in setting the tone in a library. The black shade here helps ground this palette, giving the terra-cotta and gold hues a sophisticated edge. Color swatches by True Value Paint.

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVEN MAYS



The dark carpet in this library helps ground the space and provides nice contrast with the light walls and ceiling.



DARK CHOCOLATE

Color was the first thing on designer Irwin Weiner's mind when he redecorated this formal dining room. "The French doors are opposite the front door of the house," he explains, "so the room couldn't be too extreme or colorful or it would be jarring to see when one opens the front door." Still, he wanted to give the room dramatic appeal. Taking inspiration from the room's modest 10x18-foot dimensions, Weiner decided to emulate a jewel-box look that feels both luxurious and airy. To achieve this, he chose a contrasting palette of rich browns and bright whites, adding texture by upholstering the walls in a cotton-velvet fabric. Wainscoting one third of the wall creates a stark contrast between light and dark and emphasizes the natural light that floods the room. Weiner accessorized this "fresh traditional" decor, as he describes it, with dramatic silver accents: a mirror, sconces and candelabras that are striking in scale. ■

palette primer

Contrast works wonders where dark colors are concerned. Bright white and silver keep the chocolate brown in this palette looking fresh. Color swatches by Pratt & Lambert.

designer white

nickel

black coffee

Dark colors are not necessarily off-limits in small rooms. By adding white and silver elements throughout this dining room, designer Irwin Weiner keeps the chocolate-brown walls from becoming overwhelming.

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVEN MAYS

how it works

■ Irwin Weiner created a warm palette to enhance the sanctuary-like ambience of the room. Touches of gold give it polish.

■ A combination of lighting fixtures, including sconces for reading and a delicate French Art Deco chandelier, make the scene, as Weiner says, "less predictable."

■ By opting for a dramatic hand-painted four-poster bed with a Scalamandré silk-covered headboard, Weiner imbued the room with instant stature. The generous silk bolster and Indian-inspired throw introduces additional luster.

■ The rich wood tones of the English Regency table, French country bench and reproduction Dutch armoire lend cohesiveness to the varied assortment.



Sleeping Beauties

Three top designers reveal how to create the bedroom of your dreams

WRITTEN BY MARIN PRESKE AND MEGAN FULWEILER

POLISHED AND PRETTY

Often, it's the negative aspects of a room that jump out at a designer. When redecorating a Westchester master suite, however, designer Irwin Weiner instantly noticed the good points. "The room was nicely proportioned with plenty of natural light," he explains. As with any space, though, there was room for improvement. "We needed to create a luxurious air for the owners," Weiner says. "They wanted their private space to feel sumptuous and retreat-like."

Weiner's chic "cream and clay" palette provides an ideal backdrop for a clever mix of furniture styles. Yellow-peach walls provide nice contrast with the ceiling, setting off its dramatic, sloping-tray shape and painted detailing. Silk draperies, plush carpeting and a lavishly appointed bed provide glam notes.

left: Adding an adventurous touch are a French Art Deco glass chandelier and a Regency-style bench and dresser.

right: Nestled into a cozy corner, the cushiony chaise longue's traditional brocade fabric plays off the room's warm color scheme.

