

CHAPTER

7 How to Create the Sensuous Bedroom

ALTHOUGH A SENSUOUS BEDROOM AWAKENS ALL YOUR SENSES, it's not a sexy-looking bedroom. And a sexy-looking bedroom, very likely, is not a sensuous bedroom. The most beautiful sensuous bedrooms only imply and beckon—but they are never obvious. The sensuous bedroom hints of romance and *affaire d'amour*, and of delicious evenings and afternoons together.

The Bedroom Is Different from Other Rooms

And, although the rest of your home may be furnished in twenty-first-century Contemporary, or in eighteenth-century European antiques, your bedroom should have a different feeling. Because the adult bedroom is also that room where intimate encounters between two adults take place, where hopes of fulfilling sexual desires happens, this room serves quite another purpose than does any other room in your home.

Although the adult bedroom has the requisite features of other bedrooms, it's a misconception that it is like other bedrooms. It's not. The adult bedroom, while still being a place for sleep, also serves very different purposes than children's bedrooms do. In fact, the adult bedroom is in a large sense the most unique room in your home.

Living rooms and dining rooms are where families congregate to discuss the day's events, finances, and plan vacations. But the adult bedroom is a hideaway, a private retreat. The adult bedroom is where endearments are whispered, where touching is a secret language, and where all your senses are awakened.

Yet, because all bedrooms are intensely private spaces, they must also be secure environments. As children we snuggled into our beds, wrapped in soft blankets, kissed by parents who promised us that we were safe from harm. As adults we view our bedrooms as places that extend those safe, soothing childhood moments. A favorite pillow, the texture of a blanket, the required firmness or softness of the mattress—all these are necessary for our adult security and serenity.

But adults' bedrooms have one important difference. A grown-up bedroom is also a playground for games that only adults can play. A sensuous bedroom subtly signals that games are accepted here. And while no one is pressured to perform, the message is clear. This is a room where usual and everyday proprieties are not expected, where we nurture each other in the most intimate ways.