

HOW TO CREATE A ROMANTIC BEDROOM

Honeymoon at home

WHERE TO FIND IT

Interior designer Joyce Clegg offers these recommendations for where to find accessories to include in your romantic retreat:

Z GALLERIE

Offering smart, eclectic, off-the-beaten-path goodies to get your creative juices flowing, this is a great store in general for home accessories. Wander through at your leisure and browse the stacks of framed prints. And because this store offers furnishings as well, be sure to rest your feet for a moment while sampling the variety of plush, deep seating.

Locations at:

Larimer Square
1465 Larimer St., Denver
303.615.9646

Cherry Creek Shopping Center
3000 E. 1st Ave., Space B215,
Denver
303.322.1299

Boulder
1755 Twenty Ninth St., Boulder
303.440.0495
zgallerie.com

H.W. HOME

A terrific place for candles, soaps and other aromatic, romantic accessories.

Locations at:

Cherry Creek North
199 Clayton Lane, Denver
303.394.9222

1941 Pearl St., Boulder
303.545.0320

The Village at FlatIron Crossing,
Broomfield
720.887.1223

Greenwood Village Store
5375 Landmark Place, Suite 101
Greenwood Village
303.779.9500
hwhome.com

PIERRE DEUX

Located at the Denver Design District, this retail store sells custom as well as off-the-floor accessories and home furnishings. Described as "Everything French Country," which translates into a distinctly more feminine feel, this store offers fabulous fabrics for creating lush, romantic windows and headboards, as well as ceramic accessories, bed linens and furniture.

Location at:
Denver Design District
595 S. Broadway, Denver
720.570.5095
pierredeux.com

The idea of frilly florals and loads of lace might first spring to mind when contemplating a romantic bedroom, but fear not, the days of doilies and dowdiness are a thing of the past. Today's modern accents can create a room with the look of love without the old-fashioned flair. The ideal romantic retreat can be pleasing to both sexes and meet all the preferences of both, but first there are many variations to consider when designing a bedroom with an amorous aim.

Joyce Clegg, of Daydream Designs, LLC in Denver has been designing for more than 18 years in Colorado and California and says that a romantic room should be first and foremost a space reflecting one's personality. "This space is your own, so make it reflect your lifestyle and taste. Purchase pieces that are well made. The finish and style should be what you like," she says.

A romantic bedroom should be pleasing to all the senses. The primary sense, touch, should be attended to in all décor but especially in the pillows, blankets and the comforter featured on the room's crowning glory, the bed. Satin or a super soft down comforter can infuse a feeling of luxury and warmth into the space. A duvet or blankets can be purchased in velvet, chenille or other soft and unique textures. Plushy pillows in various shapes and sizes placed on chairs and the bed will also create a cozy and comfortable room.

For visual aspects to evoke intimacy there should be accents like candles, which will cast a soft flattering glow, and a dimmer switch can transform ordinary light to delicate creating a sensual setting. For more advanced decorating, a vintage chandelier or other wall mounted fixtures can also be added to a room. But just simply switching bulbs from bright white to a subtle pink can make for a more soothing sight.

Romantic mementos such as wedding pictures or favorite art can induce feelings of sentimentality. Love is often related to memories—special pictures or other display items, like a favorite glass vase or other special antiques, can enhance the feeling of uniqueness, adding charm and character to the room. But Clegg warns, "Don't go overboard on romantic symbolism—beaded lampshades, scented oils or the overuse of florals and feminine touches are going to alienate the mate."



RON RUSCIO PHOTOGRAPHY

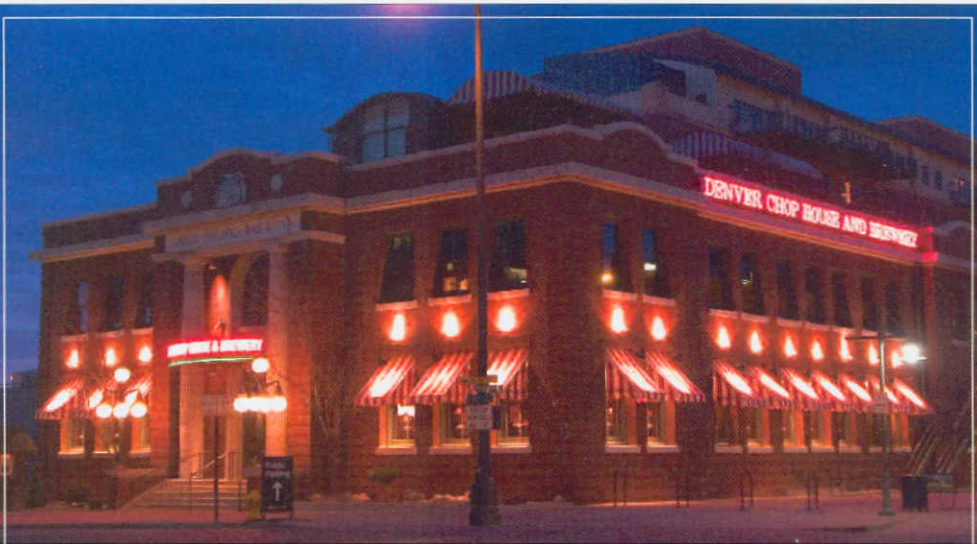
Warm tones and soft lighting of this cozy bedroom sitting area, designed by Clegg, evoke comfortable romance.

A romantic bedroom sanctuary should be an escape.

The hum of the room is also important. Sounds in the room can include soft music from any disc player and classical collections with various artists can easily be found in bookstores. Or for a more organic vibe, a nature's sound CD can transport an ordinary bedroom into a beachside bungalow or a remote rainforest. Waterfalls, thunderstorms and sounds of the surf can alter the audio dynamics as well as the mood of the room. As Clegg explains, "Music is a great way to set the mood, so if you don't have the entire house wired for sound, purchase a pair of wireless speakers (they cost about \$100), place them on the floor inconspicuously on either side of the bed and keep the volume down low."

Another important physical aspect of a room relates to taste. While it can be difficult to imagine incorporating messy food into a sumptuous and sexy bedroom, there are many ways to add flavor to a romantic retreat. Try an indoor picnic of Champagne, chocolate dipped strawberries and truffles. But if food feels like it may nix the sensual scene, consider walls coated with (almost) edible shades. "Color schemes that are hot right now include dark, warm colors such as chocolate or plum, but using these dark colors should

Plush bed linens in silk, yarn-dyed cotton and sateen, as pictured here in the Tempting Taj bedding collection by Anichini, create a feeling of luxury and warmth



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be done in moderation and based on the size and height of the room," notes Clegg.

Smell is an especially crucial feature of any seductive setting. Satchels filled with lavender or rose can induce relaxation, while pillows filled with herbs, dried flower buds or petals can be placed around the room for a subtle effect. Fragrance sprays made with amber, fig and citrus can also add a delicious aroma. Additionally, fresh flowers or potpourri are classic choices for creating a room with a romantic bouquet. Or simply add a reed diffuser to continually fill the room with minimal effort.

A romantic bedroom sanctuary should be an escape. Clutter, lots of knick-knacks, excess furniture or mismatched accessories can spoil a feeling of tranquility. Romance is a matter of more than sight, sound, taste, touch and smell, it's a matter of mind. The space should be personal and feel like a passport to passion and relaxation. Like any great relationship, the room should focus on flirtation, fun and future. Sensuality is all about individuality.

DL

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANN GISH

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE'S ANIMALS ON THE LOOSE

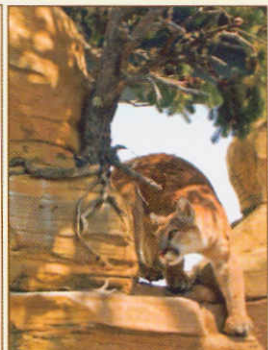



STARRING: SHEP THE SHEEP AND GIGI THE GIRAFFE




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WE DO FIRST WHEN
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