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A charmingly European lakeside-cottage look can be achieved no matter where you live.

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A bedroom vanity area with a blue wall. A large oval gold mirror is mounted on the wall. Below the mirror is a white vanity table with a drawer. On the table are a small wooden chest of drawers, a vase of pink flowers, perfume bottles, and a white bird sculpture. A red suitcase is stacked under the table. A starfish is on a wooden cabinet to the left.

32 Fresh Bedroom Ideas

From color changes to accessory updates, draw up a dreamy bedroom with these simple fixes.

BY JICKIE TORRES



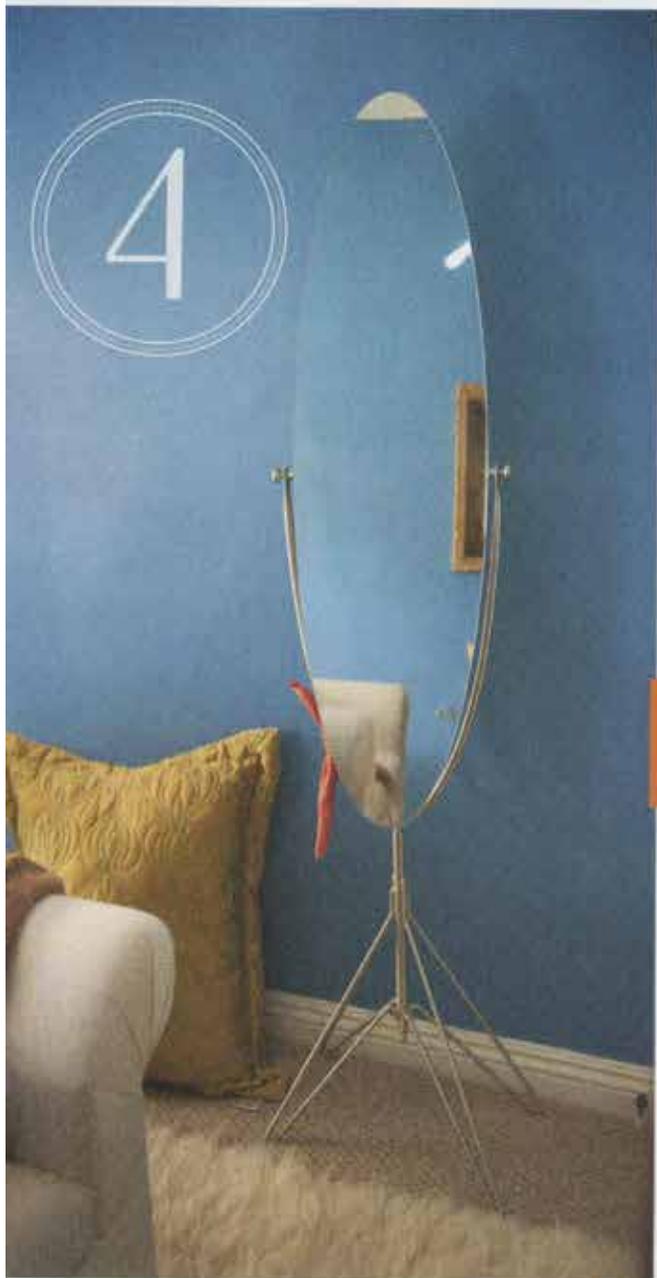
Vintage Vibe

When designer Caitlin Murray put together her own small bedroom in her historic Los Angeles cottage, color was her biggest inspiration. "I first fell in love with the wall color when I saw it used in a New York apartment in a movie. I later scoured the Internet and found that it was a custom mix, but very similar to Benjamin Moore's Electric Blue," Caitlin says. "I thought it would be gorgeous to put a rich, punchy paint in a small space to really jazz it up and give it a personality."

I brought in mustard yellow and bright orange to complement and contrast with the blue since they're opposites on the color wheel."

To infuse her vintage elements with a touch of modern style, Caitlin contrasted her flea-market finds with simple contemporary pieces and her own artwork. Repurposing a few vintage items in new, unexpected ways added freshness too. "I have a stack of suitcases from the '60s that work nicely in a vignette when placed beneath a wooden desk and a contemporary mirror—they also double as extra storage, which is so necessary.

PHOTOS BY EVAN KOESTER



Fresh Ideas:

1. Use light airy furniture for small rooms. They won't block sunlight, and since your eye can "see through" them, the space feels bigger.
2. Add sconces for extra light when lamps would take up precious floor space.
3. Use storage that doesn't look like storage. The scrolled armed bench in this room has a secret compartment to store extra linens and necessities.
4. Mirrors aren't just for walls! Mirrored side tables as night stands open up the space.
5. Choose portable furniture in small spaces. The vanity bench moves easily around the room, making it flexible and stylish.
6. A no-fail way to choose a color palette? Find shades opposite each other on the color wheel for duos that pop.
7. Make your own artwork.
8. Use a high-texture rug in front of the bed to help take up visual space in a long room.

Très Texture

Designer Cristi Holcombe from Charm Home Design created this inviting guest room by layering textures for a rich, dimensional effect. "The main challenge with the space was the lack of architectural interest in the room," Cristi says. "Layering is something that I always try to do in every design. I also feel like every room, whether casual or elegant, should have some sort of woven element. In this instance the headboard was perfect."

Cristi also amped up the cozy factor by using bright colors in softer patterns. "For this room I chose a saturated grass green and yellow. By using only these two colors along with white and black (which I consider neutrals), I kept the palette from being too overwhelming. The modern damask/floral pattern added to the calming, cozy feeling in the space."

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Fresh Ideas:

9. To combat bland builder bedrooms, add architectural pieces as wall art.

10. Warm up a room without moldings or baseboards with heavier weight curtains that add depth to the walls.

11. Mix up your finishes. Wrought iron, white glass and natural materials all mix well in this room and form a more dynamic design.

12. The more texture the better. From the subtle grid on the bed cover to the appliqué flowers on the pillows to the woven headboard and scrolled wall art, each element adds warmth and interest.

13. Balance organic patterns with some geometry. The wall-art grid adds some order to the room.

14. Consider black and tan as neutral colors. This will help you explore your color palette.

15. Ditch the overstuffed comforters in lieu of a bedcover for a neat and tidy guest room.

16. Home hack your wall art. Cristi customized the four square panels she found with fabric to match the pillows.

17. Use visual breaks in your décor. The white lamp offers a crisp buffer between the patterned window treatment and the bed patterns.

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Modern Chic

When interior designer Jessica LaGrange remodeled this tween bedroom in Chicago's North Lake Shore Drive neighborhood, she set out to find fun pieces that could transition for any age and stand the test of time. The key was mixing traditional patterns with clean modern lines and paring down the elements for a soothing escape.

PHOTOS BY BILL HOGAN



Fresh Ideas:

- 18 Perfect matches are in again. Symmetry emphasizes balance and relaxation.
- 19 Make playful references. The x-patterned throw pillow is a fun nod to the cross legs of the two stools at the foot of the bed.
- 20 Keep the patterns on the linens. The solid-colored headboard and lampshades make it easy to change up linens to alter the look of the décor.
- 21 A full wall of sheers swathes the room in an ethereal glow and adds height. The draperies can be easily pulled aside for a clear view and more sunlight.
- 22 Cut out the clutter. Without the bedside chaos, the room feels more open and serene.
- 23 Linens with classic motifs ensure they remain stylish; opting for them in bright colors make them fun.
- 24 To keep a room from feeling too modern, be sure to use at least one traditional element; the paisley pillows balance the geometric shapes in the room.



Beachy Keen

This sunny cottage bedroom gets its look from splashes of bright color. Inspired by the oil painting above the bed, the homeowners chose not to shy away from hues that compete with each other for attention. Why it works? The all-white beadboard walls and coordinating white painted plank bed act as a neutral backdrop for the interplay of colors. Also, since each linen shares a quilted texture, they function as a set.

Fresh Ideas:

- 25 Add a textured painting for a fun focal point.
- 26 Match your bed frame to your woodwork for the ultimate in cottage coziness.
- 27 Choose a bedcover that can carry you through the seasons. For spring and summer months, this vibrant green feels fresh and new. For fall, pair with a warm orange, and in the winter it's perfect paired with red.
- 28 Forgo the floor rug for a more open and light feel.
- 29 Use throws to update your look for the season—light ones for the summer, cozy wool for the winter. It's also a great way to spread color around the room.
- 30 Mix patterns as long as the texture is similar enough to tie the two together.
- 31 Skip the window treatments to keep a bold color palette from feeling overwhelming.
- 32 Plan your color scheme around a single piece of artwork to take the guesswork out of matching.



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