

Dream Bedrooms™

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classic contrast

In a room with architectural distinction, a quiet palette lets moldings, high ceilings, and light-filled windows take center stage. A splash of accent color, print pillow shams, and butterfly artwork keep things fabulously fresh. Accessories from the sunburst mirror to the acrylic lamp add snap to the scene.

Photographer Caren Alpert
Field editor Heather Lobdell







“We wanted the room to feel tranquil but also sophisticated and elegant ... in an understated way.”

—designer TISH KEY



Pages 74–75: Shams sporting a geometric print in navy and white lend energy and vintage glamour, heightened by a navy velvet bolster and lampshades. Above the bed, a 1950s sunburst mirror introduces a shimmery finish. **Opposite:** An ivory palette creates comfort while letting this bedroom’s elegant architecture and timeless furnishings star. Silk panels, hanging from the base of the crown molding, heighten the impact. A sunny yellow cashmere throw folded neatly at the foot of the bed contributes tailored vitality. **Left:** Crystal lamps, silver accents, and gold frames introduce subtle sparkle, shine, and elegance.

Interior designer Tish Key set a lofty goal for the master bedroom in the 2006 San Francisco Decorator Showcase: Cultivate timeless beauty in keeping with the grand Beaux Arts style of the early 1900s home. “We wanted the room to feel tranquil but also sophisticated and elegant,” she says. “We wanted there to be opulence, but in an understated way.”

Tranquility is set by mother-of-pearl white walls, floors carpeted in cable-knit ivory wool, and the palest yellow silk draperies that glisten at the windows. The quiet palette did something else Key demanded: “It let the original details of the house and the forms of the room’s furniture take the spotlight and shine,” she says.

Well-chosen furnishings, including a 19th-century French gilt mirror above an 1830s Biedermeier commode, a rock crystal chandelier, and a white lacquered Parson’s bed framed by unmatched antique reproductions, all lead to a feeling of quiet luxury that is invigorated by vivid blue and sunny yellow accents. The pristine ivory walls offer an ideal canvas for the room’s accessories. Shadow-boxed butterflies that hang above each of the bedside tables introduce additional color and natural beauty. “The butterflies felt formal, and I liked their symmetry, which was in keeping with this room’s decoration,” Key says. “But they also bring color, luminosity, and natural beauty that was inspirational for the rest of the room.”