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Brian Gluckstein, Gluckstein Home



5 Star Bedroom

transform your master into a luxury retreat

story Laurie Wallace-Lynch



Brian Gluckstein's own bedroom ticks all the boxes for a luxury retreat. It has a fireplace, a sitting area, the warmth of a rug and the showpiece, a dramatic four poster bed with drapery that's outfitted with linens, all of which are from his company GlucksteinHome. photography by Kelly Horkoff, K West Images.



above To set the tone for tranquility, Brian Gluckstein suggests wall colours should be soft and soothing. “Ivories, blush or soft greens are relaxing, or you can use dark colours as I did in my bedroom with moss green.” photography by Ted Yarwood

5-Star design ideas for your master-suite

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The master bedroom has become one of the most important rooms in the home, according to Brian Gluckstein, owner of Gluckstein Design. “It’s the room where I spend most of my time,” admits the renowned designer. Brian’s bedroom, which is featured in his new book “Brian Gluckstein The Art of Home,” checks all of the boxes when it comes to creating a five-star retreat-like space. It has a fireplace, a sitting area with a comfy sofa and chairs, the warmth of a rug and the showpiece, a dramatic four poster bed with drapery that’s outfitted with linens, all of which are from his company GlucksteinHome.

“The four poster canopy bed is very popular and one of the biggest emerging trends,” says Brian. “It is a focal point in the bedroom and one with drapery is really cosy. It has a southern or European feel but can be used in a

modern way. In the Princess Margaret Show Home I used a blush headboard which looks like an upholstered wall and adds so much ‘umph’ to the space while absorbing sound when watching TV. Adding soft seating to bedrooms is another big trend.”

Bed linens including duvets and pillows have gone au natural. “Cotton and bamboo are the best natural fibres because they breathe and keep you comfortable,” explains Brian. “I love a down duvet because it keeps you warm in winter and cool in the summer.”

To set the tone for tranquility, wall colours should also be soft and soothing, suggests Brian: “Ivories, blush or soft greens are relaxing, or you can use dark colours as I did in my bedroom with moss green. It adds a rich, coziness. I love this room. It is a real oasis for me.”

Design styles are an important consideration when it comes to doing a bedroom makeover. Natalia Wilner, founder of *Beautifully Done Interiors Inc.* in Mississauga says most people are asking for the transitional look in their master bedroom. “Transitional is by far what most people want. Modern but not minimalist would be second and new traditional would come in third,” says Natalia. “For transitional, the all-white/gray bedroom is still the most sought after look with upholstered headboards with pull pleats, white linens with cream or gray accents, gray tones for the night tables with a couch at the foot of the bed instead of a more traditional bench. Add to this an oversized light fixture over the centre of the bed and plush rugs in neutral tones.”

For a modern retreat, Natalia suggests an all-in-one bed with night table units with wood accents with a lower bed height, fitted linens and crisp pillows and shams with the sitting area in front. “What I call the new traditional is traditional without the heavy feel, by using an upholstered bed with wood side tables and accent pieces,” says Natalia. “I would still use wallpaper to give it that luxurious feel, but with a larger scale pattern and light fixtures with crystals and shades, but without too many details. Adding colour to the duvet and pillows in light tones of blues and taupes completes the look. Texture is key. You can keep the palettes light but if you add different textures, it will look interesting and polished. My favourite master bedroom is a transitional/modern one with soft colours and wood combination. It is calm and soothing and stands the test of time.”

If you are looking for a unique, custom look in bedroom furniture, look no further than *Country Charm* furniture in Streetsville. “Mid-century modern is the most popular trend we are seeing right now in bedroom furniture,” says Wayne Datema, owner of *Country Charm*. “The transitional panel bed is the most important trend right now, available in solid wood, and since we do the finishing, it is available in any colour you prefer,” says Wayne. “The live edge headboard is really in demand. It’s one solid slab of wood with a live edge set into a platform style bed. Another huge trend is that retro look of the ‘50s and ‘60s.”

The solid wood furniture at *Country Charm* is built to last and stand up to kids jumping on the bed in the morning. Made of solid wood with features like dovetail drawer joints, the pride and workmanship is evident in every piece from beds to dressers and night stands.

Blayne Lastman, Chairman and CEO of *Lastman’s Bad*

Boy Furniture says dark, rich brown woods like cherry or mahogany are the top sellers in bedroom furniture. He offers a few suggestions based on style preferences, such as the modern Rodney bedroom grouping in mahogany with unique geometric satin finish hardware and a contemporary faux leather headboard. A transitional look can be created with the Nathan bedroom collection offering clean lines and a panel-style headboard accented by wood grain and distressing in a gray oak finish.

One of the most important aspects of getting a good night’s sleep is the mattress. Pillow top and hotel-style mattresses are all the rage with as people want that resort-like feel at home. “I have a horse hair mattress at home and won’t sleep on anything else!” exclaims Blayne. “The must-have pillow is our \$68 Lastman’s Bad Boy Number One Pillow that is guaranteed to give you a good night’s sleep! It’s Canadian made and provides an entire new level of comfort due to its two-in-one design. It’s like a pillow in a pillow filled with down alternative micro-gel fibre fill.”

Whatever your sleep habit, there is a pillow to match your sleep style. *Hudson’s Bay* advertises pillows specially designed for side-sleepers, back-sleepers and those who sleep on their stomach. Fillings range from feather soft down to synthetic fillings like microfibers, gels and memory foam. Like down coats, some duvets can be purchased by the filling weight, ranging from warm to warmest!

Lighting plays a key role in creating mood, ambiance and providing necessary light in the bedroom. Says Julia Fraser, owner of *Watts Current Inc.* in Mississauga: “Most bedrooms have an overhead ceiling light and typically a flush-mount fixture, but now anything goes, from chandeliers to LED styles to cool fixtures with exposed light bulbs. While flush-mounted and semi-flush mounted styles are still very popular, we are seeing them used with white or gray shades or a chandelier style for a transitional look. Pendant style ceiling lights are also popular.”

Layering your lighting is one of the biggest trends in the lighting industry, according to Julia. “We are no longer counting on one light fixture to do it all,” says Julia. “Instead, we are layering our lighting by task. A real trend is to have light fixtures mounted on each side of the bed, and then adding pot lights to highlight artwork or a fireplace.”

Getting ‘in the mood’ may require mood lighting (easily achieved with a dimmer switch). “Smart dimmer kits are the hottest trend right now,” explains Julia. “You buy the kit and then download an app which allows you to control the lights using your phone or Alexa,” says Julia. 📱