

plush pleasures

Feature by Rowena Carr-Allison

Like the icing on a cake, it's those delicious finishing touches that make all the difference, especially in a bedroom full of luxury.

The ultimate bedroom is a combination of chic furniture, tactile accessories and an inviting atmosphere. Once you have chosen the perfect bedstead, a scattering of eclectic throws, rugs and cushions will add a personal touch. So take inspiration from this beautiful selection of extras for an intimate space that'll help in keeping the pressures of life at bay.

a soft touch

Whether your taste is vintage or minimalist, a bedroom must be an elegant hideout in which to relax. For comfort and luxury, embrace soft rugs, silky fabrics and an injection of frivolity.

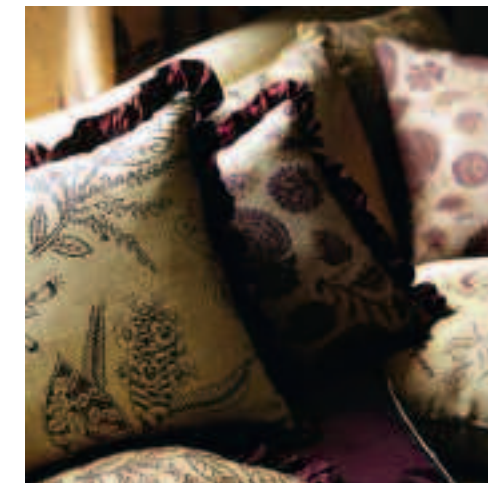
You can either choose to play it safe with muted tones, or go for adventurous statement shades including deep plum-purples, passionate ruby-reds and shimmering, glamorous metallics.

Cushions are a must-have and, with so many textures, materials and patterns to choose from, combining a variety is often an alluring option. As expected, feminine florals are very popular, as are ruffles, lace and silky-soft finishes. For a more masculine appeal, plain block colours with square or stripe detailing are ideal, or why not be brave and mix graphic patterns with contrasting plain designs? These are great for a more unisex look.

opposite page An array of cushions add cosiness to this gilt Antoinette bed, £1239, while the gold and red decor gives a lavish feel. The cabinet costs £299, at Barker & Stonehouse. **Tel: 07971 478958.** www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk



above In hand-pleated silk, these Origami cushions work well within feminine and masculine schemes alike. Following the recent metallics trend, they cost around £35 each, at Nitin Goyal. **Tel: 020 8980 4400. www.nitingoyal.com**



above For traditional quarters, the Archive Prints Collection features attentively drawn florals in muted shades with ruffled edges for added detail. This fabric is priced from £55 per m., at Zoffany. **Tel: 0870 830 0350. www.zoffany.com**

“The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love colour the most.”

John Ruskin, author, poet and artist (1819-1900)

below left Available in 60 exquisite hues and made with hand-loomed silk, the JEM range of fabrics can be easily matched to any chosen décor. These cushions cost £20 each, at Linwood. **Tel: 01425 461176. www.linwoodfabric.com**

below Masculine stripes plus bold colour is a winning formula, as proven on these Surf cushions. Vibrant and also waterproof, the fabric costs £38 per m., at Jim Thompson. **Tel: 020 7368 7700. www.jimthompson.co.uk**





far left Combining a paisley print with a stylised floral in hues of aubergine, duck egg-blue, mustard, teal and biscuit, this Ophelia linen costs £12 for a standard pillowcase and around £54 for a double duvet cover, at Monsoon.
Tel: 020 7313 3000. www.monsoon.co.uk

left Mix textures in similar tones to inject interest to a neutral palette. The Milano Collection costs £55 for a double duvet cover, £95 for the faux fur throw, and £100 for the pleated one, at Virgin Vie.
Tel: 0845 300 8022. www.virginvieathome.com

below For a boutique appeal, match this satin Duck Egg Blue pillowcase, £10, and duvet cover, £45, with a chunky-knit Slubbie throw, around £45, at House of Fraser. Similar flock wallpaper, Elizabeth, £35 per 10m. roll, at Graham & Brown.
Tel: 0870 160 7258. www.houseoffraser.co.uk
Tel: 0800 328 8452. www.grahambrown.com

all in the details

Ros Simmons, Managing Director at Virgin Vie, believes the more tactility, the better, "To create the most effective and comfortable look, texture is key. Complete your bed with hand-embroidered linen, ribbed or pleated blankets or even smooth satin devore throws for a hint of glamour in the boudoir."

Comfort underfoot can be achieved with the humble rug. Handmade creations will have been lovingly crafted with the greatest care. Choose materials such as cotton, jute or wool for a natural, subtle look while there are some fantastic designer synthetic or blended versions available, too, if you're looking to inject vibrancy into a scheme.



above Turn simplicity into sophistication by layering cashmere with crisp white cotton and satin. The Bibi cushions cost £30 each, the bedspread, £120, and the blanket, around £595, at The White Company.
Tel: 0870 900 9555. www.thewhitecompany.com



above Gorgeously girly, this pretty Needlepoint 709 rug works alongside pink and mirrored accessories perfectly to give a vintage effect. Hand-woven with flatweave wool, it measures L274cm by W183cm and costs from around £980, at The Rug Company.
Tel: 020 7229 5148. www.therugcompany.info

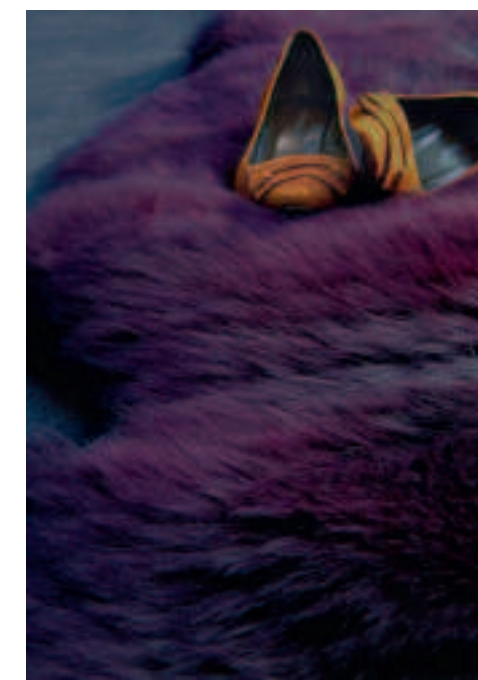
right Nothing beats the feeling of something soft and luxurious underfoot and this aubergine-toned sheepskin rug is no exception. A cosy addition to any retreat, it's offered in a number of colours and costs from around £40, at Axminster Carpets.
Tel: 01297 630650. www.axminstercarpets.co.uk



above Use a variety of fabrics to create your own cushions and throws. The turquoise Perrault trimmed with Ledoux Peridot is 100% silk and priced around £75 per m²., at Designers Guild.
Tel: 020 7893 7400. www.designersguild.com

"Even my dressing room at the studio has candles and cushions and cashmere rugs and things."

Joan Collins, actress and author (1951-present)





above This indulgent hotel-chic scheme teams the leather Chesterfield bed, £3895, and bench, £1475, with a faux fur throw, £399, Crystal floor lamps, £1495 each, and a framed decorative Chinese headpiece, £545, at Cocoon Furniture. Tel: 020 7243 2200. www.cocoon-furniture.co.uk

ahead of the crowd

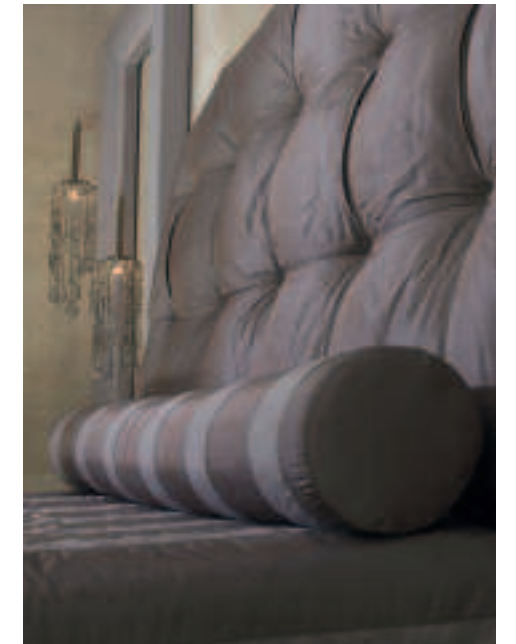
To jazz up a room and create a focal point, take inspiration from the world's top hotels and add an upholstered headboard. Comfortable and dramatic, these are becoming very popular as they evoke feelings of romantic breaks away.

Bedsteads with padded head and footboards are commonplace but, if you simply want to add a little extra something to your existing scheme, why not consider something bespoke? Not only will you have the option to create a design that's as understated or as grand as you desire, but there's the added advantage of selecting from a variety of lavish fabrics for true individuality. Whether simple cotton, attention-grabbing leather or smooth silk each can enhance the room in an instant by drawing eyes to the sleeping area. So, however you decide to revamp your haven, remember that it's those plush pleasures and finishing touches that make all the difference. ■

right With fairytale appeal, this reproduction Blue bedstead makes for a fresh centrepiece to any feminine room. With a hand-carved headboard and footboard that can be upholstered in any fabric, it costs from £2295, at Belle Maison. Tel: 0870 850 6207. www.bellemaison.com

far right Over-sized upholstered headboards make a dramatic statement evoke the decadence of five-star suites. Each is custom-made in your choice of luxury French or Italian silks and prices are available on request, at House Couturier. Tel: 020 7371 9255. www.housecouturier.com

below Go Rococo with this upholstered classic Silver Versailles bed that's frivolous and ornate with a padded headboard, bow feet and swan neck endposts. It's priced around £3950, and the Aida silk throw, around £395, at And So To Bed. Tel: 0808 144 4343. www.andsoebed.co.uk



below A white leather pin-tucked headboard provides tactility for this Cineline bedstead that's complemented by crisp white linen and a black Husky throw, £71, for a unisex, monochrome look. It's priced from around £2500, at Ligne Roset. Tel: 0870 777 7202. www.ligne-roset.co.uk

