

## Design Session Tools

*Below are all of the tools that we have gone through so far in the Design Sessions. The tools I used to design the Cliff House master bedroom and closet in bold. Watch these Sessions to get a fuller understanding of the tools and how they apply to your own design process when designing a master bedroom and closet.*

<b>Tool 1</b>	<b>The Key Principles of Accessorizing</b>	Tool 17	Moulding and Wall Treatments
Tool 2	Budget Friendly Ways to Buy Accessories	<b>Tool 18</b>	<b>How to Use Fabrics to Pull Things Together</b>
Tool 3	How to Lay Out Your Furniture	Tool 19	Tile for Your Home
Tool 4	Tablescapes and Entertaining for the Fall Season	<b>Tool 20</b>	<b>The Business of Built-Ins</b>
Tool 5	Lighting a Home Perfectly	Tool 21	How to Refresh Your Home
<b>Tool 6</b>	<b>Beautiful Window Treatments</b>	<b>Tool 22</b>	<b>All About the Flooring</b>
<b>Tool 7</b>	<b>Bedroom and Closet Decluttering</b>	<b>Tool 23</b>	<b>The Art of Stone Countertops</b>
Tool 8	Accessorizing for the Spring Season	Tool 24	BONUS: Lighting Trick
<b>Tool 9</b>	<b>Selecting Paint Colors for Your Home</b>	<b>Tool 25</b>	<b>Project Management</b>
<b>Tool 10</b>	<b>Selecting, Placing and Arranging Art</b>	<b>Tool 26</b>	<b>Discovering Your Design Style</b>
<b>Tool 11</b>	<b>Hanging and Placing Wall Decor (3D)</b>	Tool 27	The Transitional Design Style
<b>Tool 12</b>	<b>Furniture Arranging - How to Get it Right</b>	Tool 28	Small Space Design
<b>Tool 13</b>	<b>Tips for Area Rugs</b>	Outdoor 1	How to Boost Your Curb Appeal
<b>Tool 14</b>	<b>Tips for Beautiful Bedding</b>	Outdoor 2	Outdoor Planting with a Pro
<b>Tool 15</b>	<b>Accessorizing to Personalize Your Home</b>	Outdoor 3	Outdoor Decorating Tips
<b>Tool 16</b>	<b>How to Decorate with Throw Pillows</b>		

# The Master Bedroom Design Process

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Before we hop into designing, please make sure to [click here to sign up for the exclusive Design Sessions member email list!](#)

## 1. Assess Your Situation and Your Budget (Tool 25)

The first step in any design process is to assess what you are working with. Take a hard look at your master bedroom and try to answer the following questions:

- What are the issues?
- What are the challenges?
- What are the things you love about the room?
- What are the things you can't stand about the room?

*The master bedroom in the Cliff House has that same million-dollar ocean view as the living room! Also similar to the living room, the master bedroom wasn't capitalizing on the view. There was a single door that led out to a balcony and a couple of windows. Even worse? There was only one window on the wall with the bed and a vaulted ceiling that made for a not so symmetrical moment on the focal wall.*

## 2. Create a Floorplan (SketchUp Sessions)

If you are remodeling or building a home from the ground up, it is in these beginning stages that you will need to address figure flaws in your design. I am an avid user of the 3D modeling program, SketchUp Pro. I highly suggest watching the Sessions available to you as a Design Session member where I teach you the basics of this program. There are eleven Sessions all about SketchUp located in the "The Vault" section. If you don't want to deal with SketchUp, use graph paper, and start measuring!

*In the Cliff House master, I knew that I was not too fond of the closet wall popping out that greeted you as you walked into the room. Also, I was not too fond of the vaulted ceilings and the cramped door and windows. In my SketchUp model, I opened up the space by knocking out the closet that popped out. I transformed the vaulted ceiling into a cathedral ceiling and did the same thing we did in the living room on the wall that faced the ocean and turned it into an entire wall of sliding glass doors out to the ocean!*

## 3. Furniture Layout (Tool 3 & Tool 12)

The first step in determining your master bedroom's furniture placement is to decide on your focal point wall. This will determine where your bed will be placed. Once that is decided then, you can decide on the furniture pieces. If you have a SketchUp model made of your bedroom, you will get a great idea of the sizes each of your furniture pieces need to be. A bedroom is one of the more straightforward rooms to select furniture for. Most likely, you need a bed, a couple of nightstands, a bench or chair, and maybe a dresser.

*For the Cliff House, I placed a king bed in the center of the wall you see when you walk in. The bed sat dead center on my beautiful, new cathedral ceiling. Then, two ample sized side tables on either side with matching lamps atop. Across from the bed, I decided to do a built-in (Tool 20) to house the television, a vanity for Mrs. Client, and some accessories. The final touch was a bench placed at the foot of the bed. This allows my clients somewhere else to sit in the room other than the bed.*

#### 4. **Go Shopping**

Now that you have played around in your SketchUp model and know the sizes of furniture pieces you can get, it is time to go shopping!

*I do a lot of my shopping for projects in Los Angeles. While I was on one of my trips, I found the stone I wanted to place behind the bed on the focal wall. This stone was one of my first finds for this project, and it set the style (Tool 26) and color palette for the entire project! Also, on this trip, I saw a feature wall that I fell in love with. It was a modern, leather paneled built-in (Tool 20) that I knew would blend seamlessly with my design decisions throughout the Cliff House project. I then found a four-post bed that I custom-made to my liking. I played off the bronze fittings in the bed and got an upholstered bench with bronze legs to sit at the bed's base. The bench's legs were hammered metal, which is a finish I brought into other areas of the home.*

#### 5. **Select Finishes and Materials (Tool 18, Tool 22 & Tool 23)**

Once you have the base of your room settled on, you can select the finishes and materials for the room. I personally like to carry the same flooring throughout a home and repeat textures, colors, and finishes so the entire home speaks to each other.

*At this point, I had already selected the majority of the finishes and materials for the kitchen and living room of the Cliff House. Conveniently you have to walk through these two rooms before entering the master bedroom, so I brought some of the finishes and materials from those rooms into the master for a cohesive look.*

#### 6. **Pick a Paint Color(s) or Wall Treatment (Tool 9 & Tool 17)**

Most people choose their paint color and/or wallpaper first. BIG MISTAKE! You should go through the majority of the design process and then select your paint color and/or wallpaper. Why? Well, at this point you'll have chosen nearly every important item in the room. Now it is easy to layout all of your selections and choose a color that blends beautifully!

*By the time I was finished stoning one wall, windowing another and leathering another, there was only one wall left! This wall had a door that led to the master bathroom and I decided to keep it simple and wallpaper it. The soft texture of the wallpaper helped balance out the heaviness of the stone and leather.*

#### 7. **Window Treatments (Tool 6)**

For window treatments, you can either buy readymade window treatments or design custom window treatments. If you want custom window treatments, you will have to go fabric shopping. You also need to select rods, rings, brackets, etc. for your window treatments. Remember always to bring your window treatments as high as you can and all the way to the floor!

*On the sliding glass doors that looked out to the ocean, I found a window treatment fabric that paired beautifully with the other colors happening in the room. I also had two different roller shades installed in the ceiling - a more sheer shade to block out some light and a blackout shade for complete privacy. I hooked up both roller shades to the smart home system, so at the click of a button, they would drop down or up!*

## 8. **Expanded Color Palette**

If you have been a member of the Design Sessions or followed along on YouTube for some time then you probably can tell that my design philosophy is to stay pretty neutral. I select the majority of the elements of the room as a neutral base and then have the ability to layer in some color through bedding (**Tool 14**), throw pillows (**Tool 16**), accessories (**Tool 1 & Tool 15**), artwork (**Tool 10 & Tool 11**), and/or area rugs (**Tool 13**).

*I played around with color in the bedding, artwork, and area rug of the Cliff House master bedroom. My color palette direction started with a piece of artwork the clients really wanted to use somewhere in their home. There were some greens, blues, yellows, and purples in the painting. The painting gave me permission to use lavender in the area rug and some throw pillows on the bed. I brought out the yellows and blues in the painting opposite the bed that covered the television in the built-in. For accessories, I kept it simple. You want a master bedroom to feel restful, so less is best!*

## 9. **Identify Lighting Locations and Select Fixtures (Tool 5)**

With a concrete furniture layout and most of the hardscapes selected, you can now identify where you will have lighting. The electricians are often the first sub-contractors in on a project. They will make a mess of the ceiling, so it is best to get them in first. Be sure to think of your lighting as layering.

*In the Cliff House master bedroom, I did an extra step in the lighting department. I didn't want to lose the stone's texture and depth on the focal point wall, so I ran four wall-washing lights along the focal wall to highlight the shadows between the stones. I also added a ceiling mount light to point right at the art piece above the bed to make it pop. Then, the only other canned lights in this room were right along the base of the bed all the way to the sliding glass door. I, of course, added lights throughout the built-in to light up the different boxes and accessories. Finally, I placed two matching lamps atop each of the nightstands.*

## 10. **Make Your Home a Smart Home**

Of course if you want to get fancy make your home a smart home! This step adds to the ease of use, and you can control most everything in your home all in one place!

*In the Cliff House we had all of the lights and electronics hooked up to one system so our clients could easily turn everything on or off right from their iPad!*

# The Closet Design Process

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## 1. Assess Your Situation and Your Budget (Tool 25)

The first step in any design process is to assess what you are working with. Take a hard look at your closet and try to answer the following questions:

- What are the issues?
- What are the challenges?
- Where is my hanging space going to be?
- Where can I place drawers and shelves?

*I tried not to waste any space when it came to the master closet and bathroom since it was already on the smaller side. I ended up expanding the bathroom into the outdoor balcony off the bathroom since it was wasted space that my clients didn't use. This allowed me to move around the toilet room and carve out a perfect space for the master closet.*

## 2. Create a Floorplan (SketchUp Sessions)

In a closet, you have to think about the flow of traffic and available storage space. SketchUp will allow you to play around and maximize your storage space. Do an inventory of all of your clothes before you start designing to create enough long hang, medium hang, and drawer space.

*For this project, I measured my clients' clothes to know the exact amount of space I would need to fit everything perfectly. I also tried to design the closet so that it would be fun for my client to pick out clothes in a store-like setting with her accessories and shoes all on display!*

## 3. Clever Storage (Tool 7)

In a closet, especially a small one, you sometimes have to get clever with your storage. This is where SketchUp can really help you visualize everywhere you can squeeze storage out of!

*In the Cliff House master closet, I designed cabinets that created the illusion that the niche there went all the way to the ceiling. This gave me a ton of space to add in some drawers and hat storage*

## 4. Using Mirrors

Mirrors are a designer's best trick to make a room seem bigger and brighter! Plus, in a closet, they are pretty necessary. The key to my mirror trick is to take the mirror to the floor and run it wall to wall. I highly recommend watching the Beach House's Design Session series to see the impact mirrors can have in a tiny space!

*I added a mirror on the back of the door in the Cliff House closet so my clients could see the outfits they've chosen for the day, but I also added a mirror along the wall of my client's shoes. This served as a place to look at your outfit and made the closet look and feel so much bigger than it was!*

## 5. Select an Area Rug (Tool 13)

Having an area rug in a closet provides you with a cozy experience when getting dressed in the morning! Even in a closet, an area rug can also add to the room's style and color scheme.

*For the closet in this project, I found a textured area and had it cut to fit perfectly!*

## 6. **Identify Lighting Locations (Tool 5)**

Lighting in a closet is super important! If you've seen any of my projects before, then you know that I am a big fan of placing lights inside drawers and underneath cabinets, so you never have to worry about seeing things. A closet is a perfect place to implement all of this! Place lights underneath shelves to light up your hanging space and inside drawers to make it easy getting ready! *In addition to the lighting that lit up the hanging clothes and the clothes in the drawers, I also added three canned lights to lit up the built-in in the master closet of the Cliff House.*

