

## 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 guest bedroom are bolded. Watch these Sessions to get a fuller understanding of the tools and how they apply to your own design process when designing a guest bedroom.*

<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	Tool 18	How to Use Fabrics to Pull Things Together
<b>Tool 3</b>	<b>How to Lay Out Your Furniture</b>	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>
<b>Tool 5</b>	<b>Lighting a Home Perfectly</b>	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>
Tool 7	Bedroom and Closet Decluttering	Tool 23	The Art of Stone Countertops
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>	Tool 26	Discovering Your Design Style
<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
Tool 16	How to Decorate with Throw Pillows	<b>SketchUp</b>	<b>There are 11 Sessions detailing how to use SketchUp in "The Vault" section</b>

# The Guest 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. A guest bedroom is a tad different from designing other bedrooms. You don't need nearly as much storage and need to be super comfortable. Take a hard look at your guest room and think of the following questions:

- Who are the typical guests that will be staying here?
- What would I want in a guest room?
- What would make my guest's stay easier and more comfortable?
- Where is the focal wall?

*In guest bedroom North of the Cliff House, you immediately walked into a closet. A window and door led to an outdoor patio on one wall, and an unsymmetrical window was on another wall. I luckily had the budget to fix these figure flaws. I made the window that I wanted my focal wall to be on made symmetrical and added large built-ins (**Tool 20**) for clothing storage on either side of the bed with cutouts on the inside to act as nightstands. I then designed the rest of the room, thinking of what I would love to have in a bedroom if I were a guest in this home!*

## 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. You can also determine how much and what sizes of furniture you need to purchase. 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!

*I was able to determine the guest bedroom's focal wall once I got rid of the closet and made the main window symmetrical. Now I could move on to placing my furniture, keeping the below general design tips in mind.*

### **GENERAL BEDROOM DESIGN TIPS**

- Place the bed and nightstands on the focal wall
- Use matching nightstands and table lamps for ultimate symmetry on the focal wall
- Always have somewhere else besides the bed to sit. This can be a bench at the end of the bed or a chair in the corner
- Use texture over contrasting colors and solids over prints
- Use little color variation in a guest room to create a softened, serene feeling in the space
- Tight on space? Use mirrors to create the illusion of twice the space!
- Install a built-in wardrobe unit to maximize the space and storage options
- Use a large rug to ground the bed and nightstands
- Less is best when it comes to accessories and art in a bedroom

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

The first step in determining a bedroom's furniture placement is to decide on the focal wall. This will determine where to place the bed and nightstands. Once you know where the bed will go, it should make placing the remaining furniture pieces simple. A guest 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.

*I always place the main pieces of furniture in a guest bedroom - a bed, two nightstands, and a place for someone to sit - in my design first. This helps me visualize the sizes of each furniture piece I need and where I can place them.*

### 4. Select the Flooring (Tool 22)

If at possible, continue the flooring from the rest of the home into the bedrooms. This will make each space feel connected and cohesive.

*I switched to a tile that looked like wood on the Cliff House's lower level since it led right out to the outdoor space. I carried this wood-looking tile throughout the entire bottom floor of the home so there weren't any visual breaks, and each room led right into one another.*

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

An area rug can determine the entire look and feel of a room. I typically find an area rug that sparks inspiration and helps determine the rest of the room's color palette and style. Make sure to select an appropriately sized area rug. The biggest mistake I see in most homes are rooms with area rugs that are way too small! An area rug should extend most of the way underneath the furniture that rests on top of it.

*I often find an area rug early on in my design process that sets the tone for the rest of the room, and this guest bedroom was no exception. The area rug I decided on for this room was full of texture, movement, and color. It gave me the jumping-off point to select my bedding, artwork, and remaining pieces for this room.*

### 6. Select Artwork (Tool 10 & 11)

The artwork is what ties a room together. It gives color and texture to a room and can also be a jumping-off point for a guest room's style and color. For this step, it is useful to have a SketchUp model for your bedroom. You can play around with different sizes of art and determine if horizontal or vertical is best.

*For the guest bedroom, I had all of the art pieces custom framed to match the rest of the room's colors and textures. The wood frame is tied back to the other wood colors in the bed frame, floor, and wardrobe. There were three pieces of art in this room. The largest piece was a painted canvas of sailboats that brought in the ocean feel. The other two art pieces were above the chair and brought in beautiful colors and textures.*

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

Here's where you can add both light and drama! A hanging pendant over the bed is a fabulous addition to any bedroom. I also suggest buying two matching nightstands to add to the symmetry on the focal wall. Your furniture layout in SketchUp will help you determine where you need canned lighting. The electricians are often the first sub-contractors in on a project because they make a mess of your ceiling, so call them in early on in the project.

*I selected a pendant light in this guest bedroom with a neutral shade and brass finish to go over the bed. The only other light in the room was an industrial lamp next to the chair in the corner. I placed canned lights over and around the bed, and more canned lights pointed on the chair, artwork, and built-ins. Plus, the built-ins were lit from the inside as well.*

## 8. 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!

*I selected a linen wallpaper for this guest bedroom that brought in the warmth and masculine vibes I was going for in this space.*

## 9. 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!

*I chose a neutral fabric for the window treatment above the bed because I wanted it to almost blend in with the wallpaper. I decided to do no window treatments on the window next to the door leading outside and opted for roller shades recessed into the ceiling so guests could have privacy or block out the sun if necessary.*

## 10. Select Bedding (Tool 14)

An exciting step in the design process for a bedroom - selecting the bedding! I typically use neutrals to form the foundation of the bed. This gives you the ability to change the room's style and color palette later down the line, and all you have to do is get a few new throw pillows, a coverlet, or a blanket!

*I wanted the beds in both of the Cliff House's guest bedrooms to look and feel luxurious for guests staying at this home! I used a fitted sheet, top sheet, coverlet, and a throw blanket to layer on top of one another and add interest to the bed. At the bottom of the bed, I placed the duvet. In addition to layering the bedding, I also layered the pillows. I put two sleeping pillows at the back and a few different sized throw pillows cascading from largest to smallest at the forefront of the bed. The throw pillows were variations of the neutral tones I used in other areas of the room, so everything looked cohesive.*

## 11. Accessorize (Tool 1 & Tool 15)

My absolute favorite step in the entire process! This is where you have the chance to pull everything together. Remember to repeat colors and finishes throughout. In a guest room specifically, really think of those thoughtful additions that will make your guests stay super enjoyable!

*There wasn't a large amount of surface area to accessorize on in this guest bedroom. The artwork I chose made a statement and I complimented these pieces with a few books, a plant, and a cool lamp on the side table next to the chair. I then added convenient touches like fresh towels and bedding, an extra pillow and phone charger inside the built-in wardrobe so guests could have everything they needed right at their fingertips.*

## 12. 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, roller shades and electronics hooked up to one system so our clients could easily turn everything on or off right from their iPad!*

