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For Couples
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Keep Him Hooked

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A Bedroom He'll Never Want to Leave

Top Design finalist Ondine Karady knows about sexing up spaces—she was a set decorator for *Sex and the City*. Here, she explains how to create an inviting boudoir.

Choose chic colors.

You may love wall colors like pink, but most dudes won't feel at ease in such an estrogen-influenced room. Instead, try a palette that will please both of you. Natural hues like taupe, ecru, and sage green are soothing. Then add accent pieces—like a vase or floor rug—in bolder colors, such as orange.

Be feminine, not girlie.

Your guy doesn't want to feel as if he's staying in his little sister's room. So go with touches that are both pretty and functional. Banish tchotchkes and dried flowers and instead opt for a sophisticated oversize mirror or cashmere throw.

Make your bed cozy and simple.

Few men bother to splurge on high-thread-count linens for themselves, so dressing your mattress with supersoft sheets means he'll always want to stay at your place. Resist the urge to trick out your bed with tons of pillows—just stick with a nice duvet or simple blanket at the foot and a few big pillows.

Harness the power of scent.

Men rely on their sense of smell to determine if something is attractive, but you don't want to overwhelm him. Place a couple candles with a fresh or slightly spicy scent (think red currant or verbena) on your dresser. By grouping them together, you'll avoid the cheesy romance-movie vibe.

Stash clutter.

Tons of knickknacks, beauty products, and clothing everywhere can make a guy feel like he's intruding on your personal space. Put him at ease by keeping your stuff organized in baskets, galvanized tins, and a hamper with a lid. Bonus: The fewer distractions there are, the easier it will be to focus on each other.

You may love pink, but guys don't feel comfortable in estrogen-heavy rooms.



Ondine Karady



Minimalist design doesn't have to feel sterile.

A constellation of candles creates an intimate vibe.

