

THE LAST WORDS

Seven top interior designers describe their own beds, from the sheets to the pillows to the headboard. Dive right in...

Interviews by
SHAX RIEGLER



"My bed is American Victorian, and belonged to my great-grandparents. It was made about 1870. I grew up in this bed. A decorator in his right mind would never buy or own a bed such as mine. If it were not for sentiment I would tell a client to throw it out. I use plain white sheets by Frette that have improved with multiple washings. The pillowcases are also from my great-grandparents and are edged with handmade fringe. The velvet pillows are by the famous decorating firm Jansen and were made for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. I think the silk velvet currently sold by Claremont is of comparable quality and I admire it very much. My coverlet is a Brunschwig and Fils printed linen. The mohair throw, by Turnbull & Asser, was a very luxurious gift."

THOMAS JARNE

"Mine is a dark mahogany four-poster, very plain, with a cream awning-style canopy bordered in chocolate brown tape trim. My sheets and duvet are my absolute favorite things. They're cream linen embroidered in chocolate and bamboo from Sharyn Blond Linens. I have six down pillows from Seventh Heaven, who made my down comforter, too. I have two cableknit throws: one in chocolate and one in celadon, both by Rani Arabella. My bedside table is an old metal bistro table with a stone top."

CELERIE KEMBLE

"I adore my pine sleigh bed in my country house. The mattress just comes from 1-800-MATTRES, one of my favorite places. The sheets and pillowcases are white Egyptian cotton, with a decorative celadon-green-scalloped edge, from Schweitzer Linen. I love sleeping on plain white or off-white sheets with an accent color that picks up on the room's colors. On top of that is a celadon-green matelassé coverlet from Garnet Hill. I had the duvet cover custom-made from two Brunschwig fabrics—a tiny green-and-white gingham check on one side and a green-and-blue plaid on the other. It's great to be able to switch back and forth between patterns."

SHEILA BRIDGES

"A headboard should be comfortable. I have a rolled-back upholstered piece. I prefer white linens from Frette and Casa del Bianco with a simple, elegant hemstitch border. On top, I have an untucked coverlet, with a cashmere blanket from Loro Piana folded at the base of the bed. In the winter, I like to place a bench at the foot of the bed for the folded duvet, if it gets too warm. The nightstand is slightly higher than the mattress, which creates the best angle when reaching to turn out the lamps. I need a good light source, so I combine a table lamp and a swing-arm for proper reading light. It's a difficult thing to find, so I designed my own [swing-arm lamps]. The David Easton Collection for Robert Abbey Lighting!"

DAVID EASTON

"I have a custom bed frame, upholstered in caramel leather. And everything gets tucked in nice and tight so you can see the whole frame. It's a really crisp, tailored look. I line up six standard pillows, two rows of three, across the headboard—fits a king-size width perfectly. On top of the mattress I added a Laura Ashley feather bed that I got at Bed Bath & Beyond. It softens up the firmness and makes the whole bed so comfortable."

STEVEN GAMBREL

"I love the calm sumptuousness of my bedroom! And my bed! There's a Dux mattress with custom yummy soft sheets that I had Nancy Stanley Waud embroider in all the right pinks, beiges, and grays of my room. There's a partial canopy that envelops me at night, and makes the bed feel more cozy. My room is painted in Farrow & Ball colors—tallow on the walls, half tallow and calamine on the ceiling—which cast a lovely pinkish glow over the room."

AMANDA NISBET

"I have a queen-size mattress—king-size is just too big. And I have an early-19th-century French water-gilded-frame headboard with an inset upholstered panel in woven blue and white striped cotton. Upholstered headboards are just more comfortable than anything else—you want something you can lean against. Pratesi makes my favorite linens. They have the nicest hand, weave, and weight. And they press beautifully—when it comes to linens, I believe in hand washing and pressing. Nothing beats the feeling of sliding into cool, smooth, pressed bedding. I sleep with two pillows, one king- and one standard-size. You can have too many pillows. Of course, if you need one that has a special purpose, like a neck pillow or baby pillow or whatever, that's fine, but decorative pillows should be on your sofa, not your bed."

JEFFREY BILHUBER