



# INVEST IN YOUR NEST

## THE FREE PRESS GUIDE TO HOME ENHANCEMENT

### FIVE BEDROOM DESIGN DON'Ts

1. Don't Overlook the Ceiling - A trick is to paint the ceiling a slightly lighter version of the wall color. Ask the paint store to knock down the colour 20 percent for the ceiling. Besides dressing it up, color visually lowers the ceiling and gives the space a feeling of comfort and intimacy.
2. Don't Skimp on Storage - Opt for a trunk or a storage bench at the foot of the bed to conceal extra bedding and throw pillows when they're not in use.
3. Don't Forget a Cozy Sitting Spot - A quiet place to sit and read - or to sip your morning coffee while you gaze out the window - is a wonderful gift to yourself. Not enough room? Window seats save floor space and make the most of natural light and views, so consider a built-in bench under the bedroom window.
4. Don't Leave Yourself in the Dark - Layer lighting throughout the room. Ambient to

illuminate the entire room, task to provide focused light for reading and other activities and accent to add drama. This creates a mood that is pleasing and romantic.

5. Don't Bring the Everyday into the Bedroom - A beeping cell phone, exercise equipment that seems to stare at you in silent judgment and the drone of the nightly news turn the bedroom into yet another space where you have things to accomplish and responsibilities to fulfill. The only things that should be going on in the bedroom are reading, sleeping and romance

By Debbie Thomson,  
Debonaire Designs

### FURNISHING YOUR HOME WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

The decorating challenge. Where to begin... start by focusing on your personal preferences. Then match your lifestyle to one of the three basic interior design categories: traditional, contemporary, or country.

Traditional décor is often inspired by the elegant home of 18th century Europe. More formal in feeling, traditional rooms feature highly polished woods, rich fabrics, and ornate detail. Elegant, yet warm and inviting, traditional rooms link us back to the serenity and grace of an earlier era.

Contemporary interiors balance form and function to create an honest simplicity unburdened by excessive details. The result is clean and focused, making a personal, yet dramatic statement.

Country décor is casual, comfortable and often reflects simple, nostalgic pleasures. It embodies soft, cozy textures, fresh colour, and an eclectic assortment of personal treasures. Country is a great choice for an easy-going lifestyle.

By Ville Papas, Stouffville Fine Furniture

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