

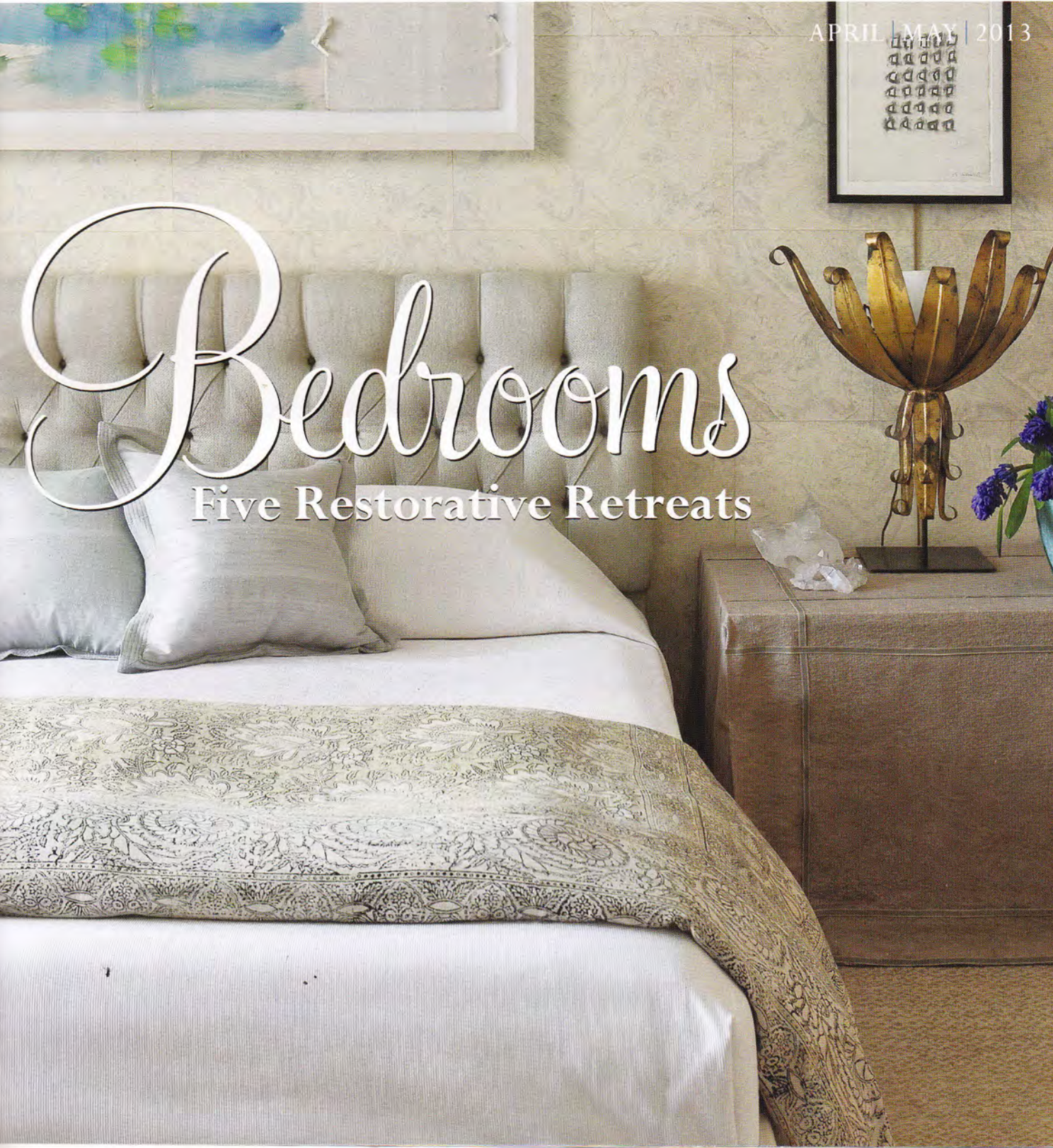
# HOME *by* design™

DECOR | GARDEN | TRAVEL

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## Bedrooms

Five Restorative Retreats



This bedroom design is dressed in calming pastel colors, allowing the harbor view to shine. Below, Warren Sheets chose chenille fabric for the dressing table chair because it was soft and inviting.

# A Room with a View

Designer Warren Sheets Subtly Blends Modern and Classic Applications to Capitalize on a Harbor View

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In an idyllic setting such as California's Newport Harbor, design installations should be a breeze. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case in this bedroom suite remodel by interior designer Warren Sheets. Although the goal was to capitalize on the exceptional view, the existing layout presented some unexpected hurdles. After reconfiguring a fireplace system and installing sliding doors for an uninterrupted panorama, it was smooth sailing.

Other than the view, Sheets found inspiration for the design in a simple swatch of fabric. "I begin by finding a fabric that I love," says Sheets. "I then work carefully with its style and color palette. For a bedroom I tend to gravitate to lighter tones with colorful accents. The fabric in essence becomes the driving force and foundation behind the room's overall design." In this case, the pivotal fabric was Coralia Guinda by Gastón y Daniela for Brunschwig et Fils, which was used for the curtains. "We didn't want too much color," explains Sheets, "because we wanted to focus on the view and complement the waterfront backdrop."

Sheets chose the eclectic mix of furniture pieces to create what he calls a transitional style, combining modern and classic applications in a new way: a hand-carved eighteenth-century bedstead sits next to a vintage mirrored dressing table; classic moldings work with contemporary fabric designs; and the floor is covered in plush wool carpet instead of traditional wood. "It's

a Yin-Yang approach to design that allows energy and personality to prevail," says Sheets. "The family is young, with small children. They requested a traditional design approach, but it was important to me to help reflect their youth as well. So I infused a contemporary edge into the classic design motif."

In the en suite bathroom wide molding accentuates the recessed ceiling, while a custom chandelier with crackle leaf finish over gilded metal and mother-of-pearl accents, hangs from the center. The ceiling itself is finished with a traditional trowled plaster technique used to complement the pearlescent wall covering. Polished French limestone slabs with a striped trim around the edges gives a sleek, up-to-date look to the bathroom floor while the lavender-colored stone vanity top adds warmth to the composition.

As in the bedroom, the view here was paramount. The original three small windows were removed in favor of a quarter round curve incorporating five windows. For privacy, beige curtains with a slender edging band of pale lavender can be drawn across the expanse of windows. To maintain the simplicity, crown molding above the windows doubles as a cornice, hiding the workings of the drapes. "I was adamant that the designs for this project maintain traditional roots to ensure longevity," says Sheets. "When done correctly, by incorporating classic finishes and fine details, interiors endure." ■



## Warren Sheets' Top Tips for Bedroom Colors

In many ways the bedroom is the most important room in your home; it should be comfortable and cozy, as well as aesthetically appealing. Here are Warren Sheets' tips for choosing the best color scheme for your bedroom.

- 1** Find a fabric you love that has at least three colors. That fabric will set the tone for your entire color scheme.
- 2** Colors can affect your mood. Cool or pastel colors, such as the lavender hues in this bedroom, tend to calm and soothe. A pale palette often works better than bright, bold colors in a bedroom.
- 3** If you love bright colors, consider using lighter or neutral tones as your foundation and add bold, colorful accents and accessories.
- 4** For ultimate tranquility, use colors that bring the outdoors in. If you have an incredible view, use muted tones that complement instead of compete with the scenery.
- 5** If you want the room to appear more spacious, use lighter colors and plenty of mirrors; a darker color scheme will make it feel smaller and more intimate.

