

Dream

Inspiration of the month

Draping a khaki-and-white striped textile over the walls, windows, and part of the ceiling transforms this plain box of a bedroom into a luxurious, cocoonlike retreat that designer Ashley Gilbreath describes as “a cozy embrace.” Underfoot, the blue-striped rug provides a grounding note of contrasting color, which is echoed on the blue painted doors and trim.

Great ESCAPE

We're longing to retreat into the cool comfort of a *tented bedroom* swathed in yards of striped fabric. This cabana-like space conjures an instant staycation.

The Dream List

1 FINE LINES You can tent a room in any type of pattern, but Gilbreath especially loves using a textile with stripes for a “timeless, crisp look.” Vertical lines also draw the eye upward, giving a room the appearance of added height; a neutral palette ensures the effect remains calming.

2 CROWNING TOUCH Fully tenting the ceiling delivers maximum drama but is by no means a must. In this case, it “would only highlight the fact that the bed is not centered,” Gilbreath says. Swathing just the border (about 12”) also creates the illusion of a slope, an effect Gilbreath heightened by mitering the corners of the fabric and adding narrow strips of painted wood trim to accentuate the diagonal lines.

3 TACTILE WALLS On some walls, Gilbreath used fabric backed with paper; it’s applied flat like wallpaper. A combination of fabric and actual wallpaper in the same pattern would be less expensive. Or you could “upholster” your walls by stapling polyester batting to them and stretching fabric on top, then stapling it tautly at the edges.

4 CURTAIN CALL Because the wall behind the bed has only one window and the bed is placed off-center, Gilbreath fashioned the fabric into Euro pleat curtains on traverse rods (behind the valance); they span the entire wall to better camouflage the asymmetry. She suggests using a double width of fabric to create a similar billowy fullness.



Sweet Dreams

If tenting the entire bedroom feels too daunting, focus on the bed alone—it’s cozy where it counts.



WRAPPED FRAME

A canopy bed—or even a simple ring suspended from the ceiling—provides the structure for a tent that offers a sense of privacy.

For a child’s room, designer Sophie Ashby used a red-and-white striped textile that evokes an old-fashioned big top.



DRAPED AWNING

Using curtain rods hung from the ceiling and a swath of fabric the same width as the bed, you can make an awning-style topper.

For a streamlined effect, choose a fabric that matches the bed’s headboard, as designer Michael DePerno of Plain Goods did.



CURTAINED CORNER

Create a sleeping nook by placing a bed in a corner of the room then hanging curtain panels on either side with a pelmet in front. Finish it as designer Veere Grenney did, with an overhead pendant centered within a crisscross of decorative cording. ■