



GUEST ROOMS:  
**WELCOME  
MAT**

A SUBLIME GUEST SUITE REplete  
WITH THOUGHTFUL TOUCHES WILL  
BE SURE TO DELIGHT VISITORS

*Words JACKIE BRYGEL*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) ARMELLE HABIB (OPPOSITE) MARÉE HOMER  
INTERIOR DESIGN (THIS PAGE) KWD STYLING (THIS PAGE) GREENHOUSE INTERIORS



Hosting loved ones and friends for extended stays in our homes is a joy we have truly come to appreciate in these unprecedented times. As Anna Wood, principal designer of Picchio Interiors, says: “More than ever, families and friends are wanting to reconnect and make up for lost time apart.” And delighting visitors with a hotel-inspired suite that feels blissfully inviting may be easier than you think. “Creating a welcoming, nurturing space for guests with all the creature comforts makes for a beautiful and relaxing retreat,” says Kate Walker, founder and director of design studio KWD. So, take a look at these special ways to create a five-star space that says ‘snuggle up and stay a while’. But be prepared for one thing – your guests may never want to leave ...

**PALETTE PERFECTION**  
From walls to furnishings, use colour to set your guests’ hearts aflutter. Whether you opt for lively hues to brighten the space (opposite) or soothing shades to promote rest and relaxation, the possibilities are vast. Or, you may wish, suggests Kate, to harmonise the decor with the rest of the home, “so that it’s in keeping with the overall aesthetic”.

**SPA-LIKE STYLE**  
Turn the bathroom into a pamper zone (like the one above) with fluffy towels, scented handwash, a hairdryer and essentials. “Add some special touches to create a spa-like retreat – even a towelling robe and slippers would be lovely to add to the five-star experience,” advises Kate. >





“I LOVE AN OTTOMAN AT THE END OF THE BED SO GUESTS CAN SIT DOWN TO TAKE OFF OR PUT ON THEIR SHOES”  
~ KATE WALKER, DESIGN STUDIO DIRECTOR

FLEXI TIME

Many guest retreats double as a home office, second sitting room or playroom when visitors are not in town. Make a multi-functional space transform with ease by incorporating versatile pieces, such as a storage ottoman. “Pull-down beds are becoming very popular,” says Anna. “You could also think of including a desk area within a wall of wardrobe cabinetry to create versatility.”

GET PERSONAL

The element of surprise can be a delightful decorating tool in a guest retreat. Evocative artworks, bespoke handcrafted pieces (such as the pieces on the wall above) and even unique flea-market finds can all go a long way to injecting a joyful sense of style and personality into the space. “It’s you that your guest has come to visit, so why not decorate the room in line with your style and personality?” says Anna.

SWEET DREAMS

Giving a bed a style makeover will always equate to high-end comfort. And there’s nothing like softly rumpled layers of breathable bedlinen (think 100 per cent cotton and linen) to look and feel extra luxurious. “A comfy bed is also vital, with a great mattress or at least a quality mattress topper,” says Kate. “Pillow options are a really nice touch, as is easy access to additional bedding, such as sheets, quilts and blankets.”

WONDER WALLS

Long gone are the days when decking out a guest room was viewed as an afterthought. Now it’s regarded as the perfect opportunity to make a beautiful style statement all its own. So why not consider a bold colour (opposite) or wallpapered feature wall – or four? “If you love wallpaper, but are not brave enough to use it in other rooms, then the guest bedroom could be a good place to try it out,” says Anna.

LIGHT THE WAY

Ambient lighting goes a long way to create a homely vibe. As do easy-to-switch-on bedside lamps – those with in-built phone chargers will be particularly appreciated – and floor lamps, all of which help to create a safe and comfortable place for guests to retreat to during their stay, visiting grandparents definitely included.

CREATURE COMFORTS

Looking to offer your guests a true home away from home? Consider adding thoughtful, customised touches such as fresh flowers, delicately fragranced candles, handwritten notes, tissues and a carafe of water. And, in the warmer months, beach towels, hats and sunscreen are sure to be gratefully received. >



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ROOM FOR MORE

If you have a large spare room you’re planning on renovating, consider bespoke bunk beds (seen here) – they’re the perfect option for visiting family or when it’s your turn to host kids’ sleepovers. Design features such as nooks for books, a statement railing and a sturdy staircase rather than the usual ladder make for a comfortable and stylish guest retreat. All that’s left to do is add beautiful soft furnishings, from a rug to a selection of pillows and cosy throws or blankets, and storage baskets for guests’ belongings that can double as bedside tables.



“IT’S NICE TO MAKE  
YOUR GUESTS FEEL  
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WHEN THEY  
COME TO STAY”  
~ ANNA WOOD, DESIGNER

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) NIKOLE RAMSAY (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) CHRIS WARNES (OPPOSITE) DEREK SWALWELL INTERIOR DESIGN (OPPOSITE) ADELAIDE BRAGG



PURE AND SIMPLE

As inviting as crisp white sheets, a pristine guest room that has undergone a thorough spring-clean will always sparkle. “Give the room a good vacuum, place fresh linen on the bed and open up the windows,” says Anna. And don’t forget that it’s the extra touches that can make a stay truly memorable. “For grandparents, a homemade card left on their pillow – or hidden under it! – by the grandkids will be sufficient to make them feel welcome,” suggests Anna. With a guest bathroom (such as this fresh pamper zone, left), think practical meets pretty. “It needs to feel like a luxurious space, and be clean, tidy and well laid out with open-shelf storage for cosmetics and toiletries,” says Kate.

HIDDEN TALENTS

The perfect guest sanctuary can be as much about what you leave out as what you include. Draw inspiration from the calming example above, and clear the room of clutter, while prioritising storage. “A considered guest room allows space for all of your guests’ belongings,” says Kate. “A spot for their overnight bag, hanging space with enough hangers for their clothes, and shelves for folded items and shoes.” Also consider furniture roomy enough to store luggage and spare bedding. 🛏

