

# bedroom furniture:



**then and now  
suites were once all the rage now  
mixing and matching pieces is trendy**

By Karen Appold



Top: Luxurious fabrics highlight the clean lines of modern American furniture and smaller accents make the space feel warm. Photo courtesy of Newport Furnishings.

Above: Modern American furniture highlights this master bedroom featuring tropical accents. Sold at Newport Furnishings.

For years, bedroom furniture was sold in matching sets. Today's consumers are looking for pieces that complement each other, says Sue Beddia, public relations manager, Domain Home Fashions, but want more options and styles.

The classic look of matched sets has given way to an everlasting design with the use of specific unmatched pieces, adds Ron Sulpizio, president and interior designer, Le Montage Interior

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Above: This six piece set has lots of detailed features and is hand-crafted by our experienced woodworkers. Available in different woods and finishes at Custom Woodworking in Honey Brook, PA. and Willingboro, NJ.



Right: NYLOFT Philadelphia as well as other nationwide locations sells this queen size Boiserie head board and bed frame with modular storage drawer elements in dark oak wood and a lacquer combination.



Design. This achieves a cultured and eclectic designed room that is tailored to the client, not to the general user.

Upholstered beds have become popular, add a layer of luxury and soften the expanse of case pieces. "Built-in wall systems or collections with a built-in look like our Genevieve Collection let consumers design their own custom bedroom with bookcases and built-in

wardrobes, without the expense of building them into the wall," Beddia says. "You can take this investment with you if you move."

#### FILLING TODAY's NEEDS

The bedroom today is more than just a haven for a good night's sleep. It is a refuge, says

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Above: Custom orders for Domain's most popular bedroom suite, the Genevieve bedroom collection, are ready in 6 weeks.

Left: Each piece of Domain's Genevieve bedroom collection is custom made in configuration, style and finish.

Jennifer Doan, owner, Newport Furnishings of Philadelphia. It's a place to unwind, relax and recharge. In these hectic times, the bedroom has evolved from a functional room to a sanctuary that is beautiful and comfortable. Every bedroom should have a bed and mattress, of course. Storage for clothing and personal items is important, which could be an armoire or dresser. Other pieces may include nightstands, a bench or chairs, mirror, artwork, rugs and lighting.

Arrange your bedroom with different accent areas for multiple focal

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*-Jennifer Doan, owner,  
Newport Furnishings of Philadelphia*

points, each with their own personality, advises Beddia. A comfortable chair set in a corner with a multi-level table to hold books and a lamp creates a separate focal point from the bed, your largest focal point. A chaise offers the same inviting comfort and will keep you from lying on your bed and crumpling the covers.

Additionally, a writing desk accessorized with pictures and stationery or perhaps a shirred skirt and accent chair can add drama and also make good bedside tables. A decorative screen adds multi-textural interest, Beddia says, and depending on the height can be used for large wall art behind a bed or give added height and layers to a sitting area and balance to a room.

#### MULTI-PURPOSE PIECES

Les Groff, owner, Groff's Unpainted Furnishings, says although homeowners tend to stick with traditional pieces in the bedroom such as a dresser for the lady and a chest of drawers or armoire for the man, variation abounds. For example, people are choosing jelly cabinets or lingerie chests for sweaters.

A demilune can be used in place of a stand. "This piece will act as a nightstand but will allow for more storage and practical use as well as add a unique design element," Sulpizio says.

A custom unit will take the place of the dresser and armoire. Built to fit storage and space requirements, it helps achieve a more open floor plan, prefer-

ably limiting the number of pieces in the room while avoiding an over-furnished cramped space, Sulpizio says.

#### IN DEMAND

While unique pieces that blend together are the newest trend, certain collections remain popular. The Accoulaide bedroom suite from Broughton Hall is New Look Interior's best seller. "It appeals to a varied client base in search of clean lines and has a fresh urban-oriented look," says Lucy Chicarelli, director, creative design team, New Look Interiors. This collec-

tion is largely transitional, yet distinctively different. It originated with island inspiration and presents high-end appeal.

The hand-rubbed finish that accentuates the beauty of solid mahogany pronounces the quality craftsmanship, Chicarelli continues. Drawers are front and back English dovetail to ensure durability, joints are mortise and tenon and a number of items include hidden storage, which also have jewelry trays.

Groff says his best selling bedroom pieces are birch or maple. These hardwoods can be beautifully painted or stained. Many customers have a painted or distressed finish applied to coordinate with another element in the room, such as draperies or carpet.

The best-selling suites are functional, beautiful and built to last. Many customers continue to shop for traditional styles, such as mission, Shaker and Queen Anne. "However, more people are looking for American modern styles made from quality woods that boast clean lines," Doan says. "These pieces blend beautifully with many other furniture styles."

The Genevieve Bedroom collection is Domain's bestseller, as well as its most unique and versatile collection. "We call it our 'Custom Choices' program because each piece is custom made in configuration, style and finish," Beddia explains. It's made from maple solids and veneers. The design is inspired by country French designs and

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**BEDROOM FURNITURE**

Casual country elegance is the hallmark of this hand rubbed ebony bedroom suite. Many other coordinating pieces are available at The Furniture Workshop in Manayunk.



This custom bedroom from Le Montage coordinates interior elements, yet avoids a matched look found in a traditional bedroom suite. Fabrics for drapery blend with the upholstery on an antique classic footboard while the headboard is crafted to coordinate with the Louis XV loveseat.



George's Woodcrafts Inc., in western Lancaster County near Maytown made this handcrafted solid walnut Mission-style bedroom furniture. Other styles of bedroom furniture in walnut, oak, cherry or maple woods are available.

is intricate in its details such as fluted pilasters, dentil moldings and chunky base moldings.

Customers can select from traditional style dressers, nightstands and raised panel beds to wall units comprised of armoires, wardrobes, bookcases, credenzas, hutches and corner units, Beddia says. Choose from open shelves, glass or raised panel doors and interior configurations, including

wardrobes, shelves, bars or computer centers. The collection is available in eight finishes.

#### **HELPING CUSTOMERS MAKE DECISIONS**

New Look Interiors strives to provide clients with the room of their dreams by questioning their wants and needs, Chicarelli says. Will this room serve primarily as a place of rest, privacy and personal sanctuary or function as a

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## BEDROOM FURNITURE



This furniture from the LePetite Collection has a scalloped look. It is available in 30 color finishes at Karl's.

multi-purpose room complete with computer desk and entertainment armoire?

"The best way for us to learn what appeals to clients is to visit their home," Chicarelli says. "Here we get a true sense of their decorating preferences and style. Once the functional bedroom pieces have been selected, the overall aesthetics are considered. Wherein some settings will allow a plush chaise to give a sense of relaxation, other settings would better ben-

efit with a hand-painted chest to add a sense of softness."

After clients share their ideas and inspirations with Sulpizio, he visits their home to become familiar with its layout and to obtain measurements. The next step is to create a visual presentation for the homeowner. "We remove all doubts," Sulpizio says. "We bring together all the design elements: swatches of fabrics for drapery and upholstery, samples of wood with finish and paint selections for the client to

## resources

### Custom Woodworking

Honey Brook, PA

610-273-2907

Willingboro, NJ

609-880-1771

[www.customwoodworkingfurniture.com](http://www.customwoodworkingfurniture.com)

### Le Montage Interior Design

Voorhees, NJ

856-428-4655

[www.le-montage.com](http://www.le-montage.com)

### Karl's Baby, Kid's and Teenage Furniture

Philadelphia, PA

800-633-9451

[www.karlsbaby.com](http://www.karlsbaby.com)

### Designers Furniture & Interiors/ Chain-Mar Furniture Showcase

Norristown, PA

610-279-8980

[www.designersfurniture.com](http://www.designersfurniture.com)

### New Look Interiors

Hatfield, PA

215-997-8106

[www.newlookinteriors.com](http://www.newlookinteriors.com)

### Domain Home Fashions

King of Prussia, PA

610-992-9144

North Wales, PA

215-542-7088

Princeton, NJ

609-720-9220

South Marlton, NJ

856-797-0068

800-4-domain

[www.domain-home.com](http://www.domain-home.com)

### NYLOFT

Philadelphia, PA

215-557-0950

[www.nyloft.net](http://www.nyloft.net)

### European Home Collection

Holicong, PA

215-794-4443

[www.europeanhomecollection.com](http://www.europeanhomecollection.com)

### The Furniture Workshop

Manayunk, PA

215-483-6160

[www.thearmoireplace.com](http://www.thearmoireplace.com)

### George's Woodcrafts Inc

717-426-1004

[www.georgeswood.com](http://www.georgeswood.com)

### Tropicraft Inc.

Manayunk, PA

215-482-5558

Morgantown, PA

610-286-6671

[www.tropicraftinc.com](http://www.tropicraftinc.com)

### Groff's Unpainted Furnishings

Doylestown, PA

215-348-2399

Visit our online resource directory at [www.housemagazine.com](http://www.housemagazine.com) to find additional companies that offer these products and services.

see and touch. Then we incorporate these elements with existing pieces and new furnishings into a detailed rendering, which illustrates what the new interior will look like upon completion."

Sulpizio oversees the installation and ensures that everything is placed correctly. "We leave nothing to chance," Sulpizio says. "Everything is completed according to the plan."

Designers from European Home Collection also prefer to visit customers' homes and find out how they want to live in their bedroom and how they want it to feel. "Homeowners should feel that their master bedroom is special and romantic when they use it. It is our job to bring their dreams to life," Bradwell says.

#### **ADDING TO A SUITE**

Adding to existing pieces is a strong point for Groff's Unpainted Furnishings, as it can match existing finishes and colors as well as provide an eclectic look with a two tone or distress painted finish.

Beddia recommends choosing a painted piece as an accent piece to an existing bedroom because there is no need to worry about finishes or stains not working together.

When customers want a new bed but prefer to work with existing pieces in a room, Bradwell recommends using an old-world iron bed that will add drama but not compete with other elements. "Iron is ideal because it can coordinate with other materials," he says.

The rules for decorating any space in the home have changed in the last several years, concludes Doan. Bedrooms no longer have to be decorated in a complete suite. The pieces in a room should coordinate, but do not have to perfectly match one another. Incorporating a few contemporary elements in an otherwise traditional room creates an unexpected spark.

Mixing light, dark and painted wood pieces creates layers and texture. Linens and pillows can be changed seasonally as an inexpensive way to change a room's mood. Ultimately, the customer's personal sense of style will determine how the space should evolve.