

THE RADAR HOME

BY KATE ROSENBLATT



Clockwise: Yves Delorme's Malo bed; Zia-Priven Design's Infinity Mini chandelier; Argos bed by Therien Studio Workshops in a boudoir designed by Nestor Santa-Cruz; "The Saladino Lamp;" Oly's Hudson bed.

HAPPY ENDINGS *DC designers weigh in on how to set the stage for your own award-winning performance*

That hot romp *Match Point* spent its length volleying between sex-laden boudoirs throughout London. Though no matter the quarters, neither Jonathan Rhys-Meyers' nor Scarlett Johansson's characters got it right. His bedrooms were stark and safe; hers cluttered and suffocating.

But who can blame them? Not since the glamour of '30s Hollywood, when Billy Baldwin was decorating sets for Fred and Ginger, have the rules for a sexy bedroom been clear. Waterbeds and ceiling mirrors are the stuff of '70s porn and *Vanilla Sky*-like automation is too cold for even the most amorous modernist.

For a little direction, we uncovered a few experts who make it their business to create sleep spots that encourage, well, more than sleep.

Spend all the money you want on coating your king with linens that have thread counts numbering higher than George Clooney's love list, but if you flick that switch and the room blazes brighter than klieg lights on a red carpet, you can kiss that loving feeling goodbye. "It doesn't need to be lit like your kitchen," says interior designer Naomi DeVore (202.237.6283). She suggests lamps as a softer option. For SK Barch designer Nestor Santa-Cruz (www.skbarch.com), all illuminators—from the glass-based Saladino lamps to the romantically rustic Le Michel by Niermann Weeks—need to be on dimmers. So skip the single bulb interrogation-style and use multiple light sources to set the scene.

A clean space offers sanctuary without having to be too sparse. "To make it sexy, open and serene, get rid of all the stuff," advises designer Liz Levin (www.lizlevininteriors.com). Books are fine—intelligence is a definite

turn-on—but the paper bag remains from your latest hunt for haute couture, files from the office and half-empty Starbucks? Not so seductive.

Once the clutter is cleared, Levin likes to add a little drama. "I really get into window treatments," she says. "It makes such an impact to have really sumptuous and tall drapery panels."

For DeVore, the feature that separates a lustful lodging from the basic bedchamber is a sitting room. "The bed should be for sleeping," says DeVore. "Or whatever else you want to do in it," she adds. A sitting area, complete with an armchair and even a desk, will help to keep the office business from getting entangled in any risqué business.

And of course a carnal crash pad requires lush linens. Levin likes crisp white sheets and DeVore recommends 400-plus thread count and cotton sheets with satin finish for that slick feel without the bad bachelor factor.

Who says the only place for titillating textures is the bed? "I like the idea of lots of soft rugs on top of a wall-to-wall carpet or wood floor, but sexy leather floor tiles are just it!" says Santa-Cruz.

While there is more to a decadent dormitorio than just the bed, it does feature prominently in matters hot and heavy. DeVore favors upholstered headboards over wood, while Levin sees a revival of the canopy bed. Santa-Cruz is crazy about the Klismos bed design, first used by the Greeks in the 7th to 4th centuries BC. "I love Therien Studio Workshops'," he says. "Never mind it's over \$10,000."

So take a few notes from these savvy set designers. But when it comes to the action, feel free to ad-lib your way to a Hollywood ending. ■