

10 STEPS TO A CLUTTER-FREE CLOSET

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Luxurious Comfort

WITH HIGH CEILINGS AND A COLD AMBIENCE, this large but lackluster master suite—a c. 1970s add-on to an otherwise charming Mediterranean-style home—left much to be desired. Los Angeles interior designer Felicia Bushman was tasked with transforming the uninspiring space into a warm and welcoming getaway with just a touch of luxury.

GOAL:

- Cultivate a warm, intimate atmosphere in a spacious high-ceilinged master bedroom.
- Create a seamless flow between the separate spaces of the master suite.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

- Modifying the feel of a long, narrow hallway connecting the rooms of the master suite—without altering the home's footprint.
- Designing a traditional, sophisticated suite for the adults, while keeping the space approachable and family-friendly for the kids.

Master bedroom before



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FELICIA BUSHMAN

"We designed this suite to be more elegant than the rest of the family spaces in the home," says Felicia. "But we didn't want there to be a complete disconnect from keeping the home comfortable and approachable. This is the parent's sanctuary, but every Sunday morning they spend some PJ time with the kids in their master suite."



"I like to create a space for parents to recharge from their hectic family schedule," Felicia says. "It needs a bit of luxury so they can 'get away' even if it's just for a short time in their own personal sanctuary. The space should include a lounge area for quiet reading or adult conversation."

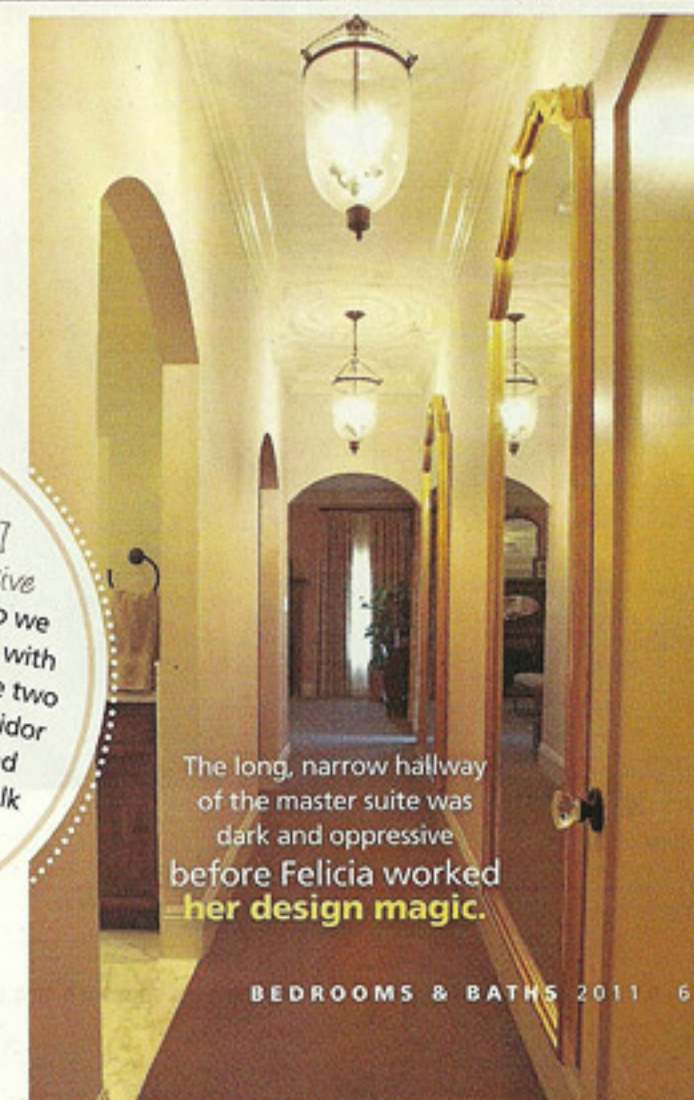


A tufted velvet armchair in sage green blends perfectly with a chaise lounge upholstered in a neutral shade. A solid-colored throw blanket and graphic-print throw pillows add balance and harmony.

"We added moldings to bring in the detail and moldings on the ceiling," Felicia says. "We also used varying shades of paint color to bring the ceiling down visually in order to create a more intimate feeling."

"We couldn't change the [hallway] footprint without expensive construction," says Felicia. "So we opened the entry to each room with large archways and custom-made two huge arching mirrors for the corridor walls opposite the bathroom and walk-in closet. Visually, as you walk through the hallway from space to space, it feels open and enlarged."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BEZJIAN



The long, narrow hallway of the master suite was dark and oppressive before Felicia worked her design magic.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BEZJIAN

Master bedroom before

His and her sinks in this built-in vanity provide plenty of elbow room, while the combination of dark wood cabinetry, natural textures, a subdued color palette and marble and gold accents adds to the luxurious feel of the master bathroom.

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The combination of recessed lighting in the shower, general overhead lighting and sconce lighting on the vanity mirror ensures that the master bathroom stays bright without giving off a harsh glare.

I always make sure countertops are a solid stone or marble rather than tile," notes Felicia. "There's nothing worse than always having to keep grout lines clean. When using tile on walls, I use smaller grout lines so that the stone or tile can be the star of the show—not the grout lines."

I prefer to keep permanent fixtures classic and elegant because they are costly to purchase and to install," Felicia says. "You can change paint color, linen and window treatments without incurring much cost, but you want the major design elements to stand the test of time."

This spacious state-of-the-art glass shower features a hand-held shower faucet, a fixed showerhead and other comforts.

Suite Tips

Felicia Bushman offers her top tips for maintaining a stylish yet livable master bedroom:

- Invest in the best quality linens. Egyptian cotton in 1020 thread count, though expensive, is worth every penny.
- Lose excess decorative throw pillows on the bed. Who wants another chore at bedtime?
- Have a drawer or two in the nightstands reserved to collect clutter, rather than allowing items to gather on surfaces.
- Develop lighting to set moods and scenes. For example, create separate lighting on both sides of the bed so that one person can read while the other person sleeps.
- Set all lighting to turn on and off with one switch. Lamps are great for softer area lighting, but make sure that you have a switch to one side of each outlet that controls all of the lights with a single flip of the button. And put all lighting on dimmers.
- Place blackout options on windows. You may not think you need them, but eventually you will.
- Use thick, plush carpet or area rugs for that extra luxurious feeling underfoot.

Special Delivery

"What princess doesn't have drapery over her bed?" says designer Felicia Bushman of the elegant ceiling cornice bed crown. The drapes were made extra long to accommodate the bed that will eventually replace the crib.

Welcome to an exquisite and
enchanted nursery fit for a princess.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BEZJIAN



WHEN LOS ANGELES INTERIOR DESIGNER FELICIA BUSHMAN was brought on to create a nursery suite for her clients' third child—the couple's first baby girl—she knew she wanted to make it extra special. "They were so excited to have a girl coming after two boys," says

Felicia. "They really wanted to capture the feminine spirit."

Felicia added beadboard wainscoting, crown molding, heavy drapery and floral wallpaper to give the room a traditional ambience. She then combined a variety of patterns, including florals, polka dots and

stripes, with playful accessories, such as ribbons, bows, stuffed animals and colorful books to keep the space approachable.

Felicia also took care to plan the design around the baby's phases of development. "My clients wanted an extra special

princess room for their little princess that would work as a nursery and still be able to transition into a girl's room as she grows," Felicia says. "We designed the room to fit a bed in place of the crib, an armoire in place of the changing table and a desk and chair under the window.

Left: Fit for a little princess, the traditional design of this soothing nursery can be easily adapted to accommodate baby's various stages of growth.



Top and above: Special details, such as tassel tiebacks and pretty sconces, add to the nursery's timelessness and charm.

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FELICIA BUSHMAN INTERIOR DESIGN
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PROBLEM: The dated design of this powder room eclipsed its unique features, including a built-in vanity and cabinets, arched mirror and casement window.

PLAN: Interior designer Felicia Bushman decided to play up this powder room's natural attributes by adding depth and drama with wallpaper and paint. "The bold patterned wallpaper is a contemporary take on the traditional floral print," says Felicia. "The wainscoting and trim are painted with a glossy black paint."

OTHER KEY IMPROVEMENTS: Updated wall sconces, added new plumbing fixtures, installed stylish cabinet hardware, incorporated cohesive decorative accessories, including a perfume tray and complementary picture frames.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FELICIA BUSHMAN

Designer
Tip

"If you have the room, adding a piece of furniture is always nice. Even if there is no vanity space, like in this bathroom, a chair can work well in the corner for guests to place their belongings."