

# Designing a Slice of 'Haven'

BY WANDA PERKINS

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY MICHAEL ABRAMS LIMITED INTERIOR DESIGN



The impeccable design artistry of Michael Abrams combines preference, aesthetic beauty and comfort.

**B**ed and bath suites are no longer thought of as just another box on a blueprint. More than any other space within the home, bed and bath suites offer an escape from the frenzied pace of the outside world. They provide a



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*“The master suite provides a private sanctuary and offers a respite from the hectic outside world. It should be a soothing place—a private escape—where one can peacefully lounge and recharge.”*

*—Michael Abrams, owner  
Michael Abrams Limited*

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↑ Abrams collaborated with Stuart Cohen and Julie Hacker Architects on this East Delaware Place penthouse duplex renovation. Sleek lines and neatly tucked-in details complement an attractive padded wall panel. A large roll pillow, matching drapes in a cheery zigzag pattern and lustrous end tables finish off this quaint sitting area.

← Built-ins galore and stately sophistication surround the East Delaware Place project. The bath area is spacious with ample room for artwork, candles and a favorite bottle of wine.





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place to lay down the burdens of the day, a place where the spirit is revived and peaceful surroundings allow rest.

For nearly 30 years, Michael Abrams of Michael Abrams Limited Interior Design in Chicago has dedicated himself to helping clients design spaces that reflect beauty, comfort and tranquility.

Over the years, bed and bath spaces have changed and evolved to become a homeowner's private and safe haven. "Closets are definably bigger, with extensive built-ins, thus eliminating the necessity for bulky dressers. TVs are notably slim-lined with wireless connectivity. This reduces the need for additional TV cabinetry," Abrams explains. "Both of these factors free up space for additional lounge seating within the bedroom."

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↑ This 5,000-square-foot home on North Seeley Avenue in Chicago reflects clean lines, connecting spaces and luxurious design. Abrams worked with Mangan Builders to design this exceptional space.

↑ Timeless and classic, this North Seeley Avenue residence in Chicago combines shades of camel, brown and oatmeal throughout this master suite. A padded bench at the end of the bed and coordinating pillows and throw create an inviting and comfortable space.





↑ Pretty in pumpkin, this bedroom suite features a custom headboard, Roman shades and coordinating curtains. The Kenmore Avenue residence in Chicago further utilized rugs, furniture, pillows and accessories to complete this definitive savvy design.

Whether designing, building or remodeling a bedroom suite, it is crucial to spend time contemplating what aspects are most important to you personally. Consider the functionality and design preferences you desire your space to achieve.

"I first want to know how my client plans to use their space, other than just sleeping and bathing," Abrams says. "Do they enjoy watching TV in bed? Is there a need for a desk or makeup vanity? Do they require designated exercise or lounge space within their bedroom? One of my clients requested designing an adjacent yoga studio just off the bedroom."

Whatever the needs and desires a bed and bath space must accomplish, Abrams suggests considering implementing appropriate design concepts that will bring



↑ A comfortable sitting space at the Kenmore Avenue residence shows similar shades of pumpkin in an upholstered chair seated in front of a built-in book case. Abrams commissioned artwork and procured accessories to capture the home's interior decor.



↑ The Kenmore Avenue residence boasts a romantic setting and interesting architectural archways and coordinating corbels. An overhead chandelier offers beautiful lighting for this exquisite bath space.



← Abrams participated in the Merchandise Mart's 2011 Dream Home as one of nine designers who each created ultimately designed environments. This luxurious bedroom suite is stately and stunning in silver, black and white. Wall sconces beside the fireplace and a silver chandelier above the bed produce dramatic lighting.



↑ The Merchandise Mart's 2011 Dream Home vanity and desk area within the master suite continues the color scheme with framed artwork, angled mirrors and black sconce lighting accents.

to life personal preferences. "Choosing soothing colors helps to create a more relaxing bedroom atmosphere, while

including textures and incorporating a variety of materials add interest," he says. "And if budgetary concerns are an issue, don't skimp in the bedroom! Selecting quality bed coverings and accessories can truly transform a bedroom into a luxurious space."

Abrams says that the goal he strives to achieve with all his bed and bath projects is to create unique and separate spaces that provide the homeowner with a place to escape life's everyday stresses. Utilizing his profound talent and artistic sensibilities, combining traditional and urban styles, and applying modern architectural considerations all contribute to Abrams' success.

Abrams' professionalism, distinct design sense, warm personality, and design philosophies have remained virtually unchanged over the years. "I tend to keep things simple and tailored," Abrams says. "In addition, I avoid loud colors and patterns but include textures and an array of appealing materials."

"My initial design philosophy is that people are the most important part of any room, followed by the artwork and

finally, the furnishings," he concludes. "A room should function as a backdrop for the occupants and their art and personal collections. The master suite provides a private sanctuary and offers a respite from the hectic outside world. It should be a soothing place—a private escape—where one can peacefully lounge and recharge."

Soothing, tranquil, peaceful and private—your personal bedroom sanctuary awaits. Now, close your eyes. Sweet dreams. Good night! ✨



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