



Masterful Mix

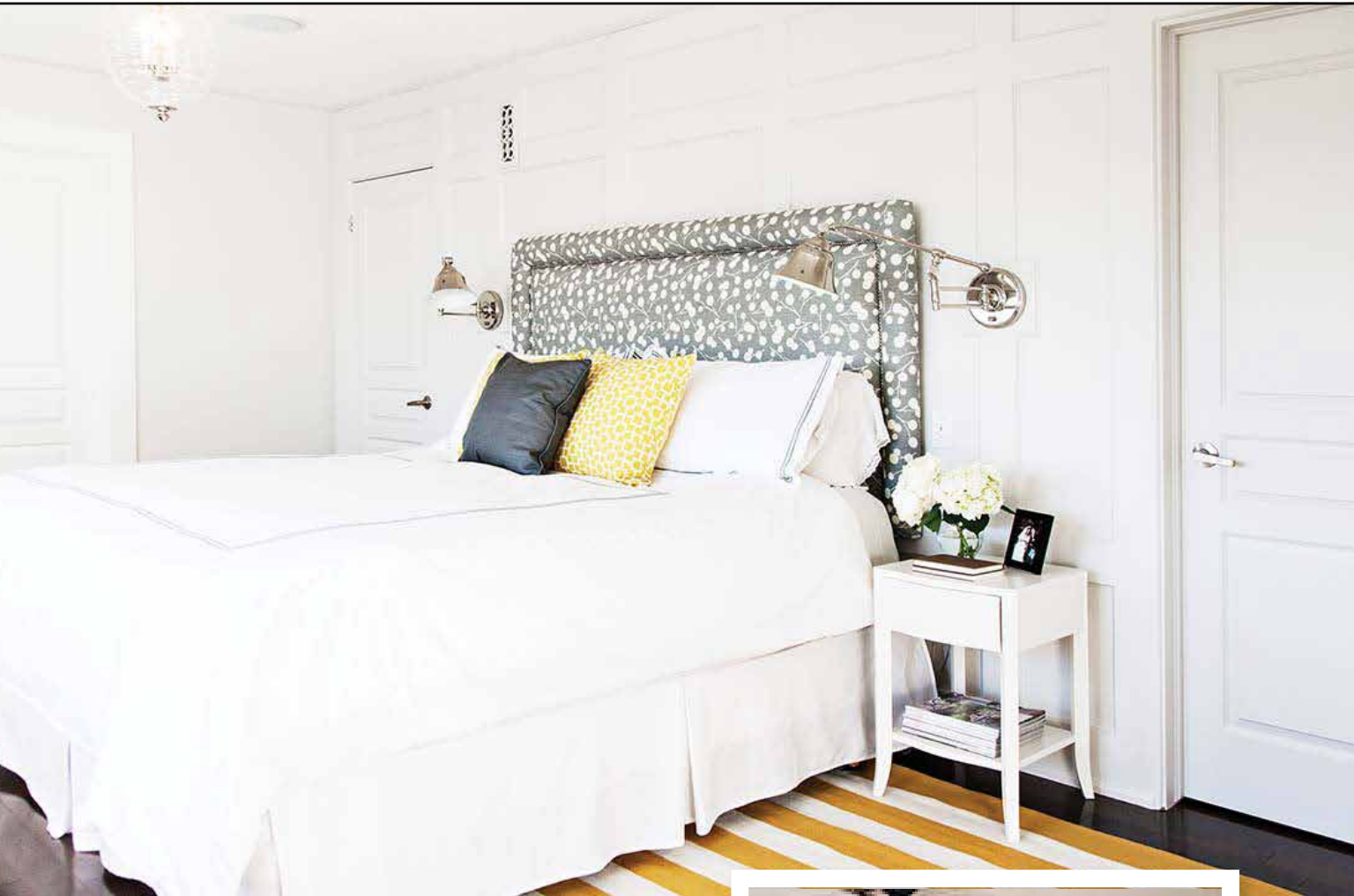
Pretty patterns, a custom headboard and DIY moulding combine to create a preppy cottage-style bedroom



BY VANESSA FRANCIS

my clients' bedroom had a lot of strong points going for it, including lovely, dark hardwood floors and a wall of windows offering plenty of natural light. However, they had a king-sized bed (every couple should!) without a headboard, the side tables were too large for the wall, and the fan and lamp were dated looking.

The first design element I recommended was an upholstered headboard. Not only is this a way to add a dose of colour, pattern or texture to a space, but they are comfortable to lean against when reading in bed. Homeowners Tracey and George loved the idea of an upholstered headboard, yet the room still needed something else to distract from the multiple doors on the headboard wall. I suggested panel moulding, to which they wholeheartedly agreed.



George is very handy; he sketched out how they wanted the moulding to look on the wall, using an inspiration image as a guide. He then used inexpensive MDF to create it. Often, the addition of architectural details, like the application of simple moulding and trim, can add instant character and interest to a basic builder home.

The couple were after a soothing colour palette, so the walls, trim and doors were all painted the same off-white colour. We chose a grey linen and cream patterned fabric for the headboard. Crisp, white, hotel-style bedding was paired with custom cushions in a mustard tone – this added just the right dose of colour.

The petite, cream side tables fit the intended space perfectly, and the nickel sconces are a practical choice since they don't take up space on the side tables. Striped rugs, one for each side of the bed, lend a preppy, relaxed air to the space. Tracey and George couldn't be happier with the end result.

FOR VANESSA'S TOP HEADBOARD PICKS AND DESIGN TIPS, TURN TO PAGE 58.



SOURCES:

HEADBOARD DESIGN: Vanessa Francis Design; **HEADBOARD FABRIC:** Kravet, kravetcanada.com; **MOULDING & TRIM:** The Home Depot, homedepot.ca; **BEDDING:** Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com; **SIDE TABLES:** West Elm, westelm.ca; **WALL SCONCES:** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca; **RUGS:** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca

a few. favourites

When decorating a bedroom, whether for adults or children, I almost always recommend an upholstered headboard. There's a style to suit every taste – from simple, clean-lined designs in a solid fabric, to curvy, tall headboards in a bold pattern.

You can also add some glamour to the headboard with button tufting or nailhead trim. It really depends on your personal style, and whether or not you want your headboard to make a statement or just provide an attractive backdrop to the other colours and patterns in the room. My preferred choices for headboard fabric are velvet, linen and cotton.

designing a
headboard

YES TO YARDAGE

Both Vanessa Francis and the professionals at Decor-Rest agree that when you're buying fabric for a headboard, you should consider purchasing additional yardage of the same fabric. Vanessa says that by using the same headboard fabric for a bedskirt or a bench at the foot of the bed creates a custom look. Adding additional co-ordinating fabrics for drapes, cushions and upholstered pieces makes for an interesting mix.

SIZE IT UP

As for headboard dimensions, Decor-Rest designers say that while they are generally 54 to 65 inches in height, there are many variations to the minimum standard, depending on the overall look or design of the room. At a minimum, the width of a headboard should be the same as the mattress, i.e., twin, queen, king. decor-rest.com

3 CLASSIC HEADBOARD STYLES:

1 The Pondicherry Headboard with Nailheads from Serena and Lily has been a long-time favourite. The subtle curves and height of the headboard is dramatic yet understated. (serenaandlily.com)

2 The G2600 Upholstered Bed from Geovin has upholstered bedrails for a custom look. It just oozes elegance thanks to its curves and diamond tufting. In most cases, you can customize the look with any number of fabrics and even the finish of the nailheads. (geovin.com)

3 If you are looking for a more tailored look, the Fabric Headboard from Decor-Rest features subtle curves but reads clean-lined and simple. For a custom look, their headboards can also be upholstered in any of the fabrics offered, or even leather. (decor-rest.com)

