

MAKEOVER ANNIE SELKE

PART 5

The Master Suite

Most people have to travel to check into a great hotel suite. Annie Selke just has to go home.

Interview by
CHRISTINE PITTEL



1. Vintage pieces, like the chair and the Paul McCobb cabinet, relate to the period of the house. Tufted headboard by Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture. Duvet and matching sham by Pine Cone Hill. Embroidered pillow shams by Anali. **2.** Bed linens are conveniently stored under the bed. **3.** There are no doors between the rooms in the suite, which creates a sense of openness. **4.** A wall of glass separates the Teafor-Two tub by Kohler from the shower. **5.** Closet by KraftMaid. **6.** “The double-drawer storage option is brilliant,” Selke says. “There’s a shallow tray on top, which you push back to reveal the deeper drawer underneath. No more digging!”

WHY DID YOU WANT YOUR BEDROOM TO FEEL LIKE A GREAT HOTEL SUITE?

ANNIE SELKE: It’s my idea of happiness—uncluttered, serene. A hotel suite has everything you need without the excess that adds up, like the stacks of books by the bed. I wanted this room to be spare and tranquil.

HOW COULD THE WOMAN WHO DESIGNED ALL THOSE COLORFUL PINE CONE HILL BED LINENS SLEEP ON WHITE SHEETS?

It’s our best quality stuff, with a 400 thread count! But I guess you could say it’s an exercise in restraint. The pillows are decorative, but I didn’t want to keep adding and adding. I love pattern, but I look at it all day long. When I come home, I want to be in a little cocoon, without too much visual information.

WHY IS THE HEADBOARD SO TALL?

I wanted it to be the same height as the door to continue that line, so your eye isn’t going up and down. It’s upholstered in the same velvet as the curtains and the bedskirt, and then it has this deep, sexy diamond tufting.

I like a squishy headboard—more comfortable.

WHY DID YOU DO EVERYTHING IN THE SAME FABRIC?

It makes the room feel more restful. Believe me, it was hard to leave it at just one. I’m a more-is-more kind of gal, but this is a new chapter.

I SEE YOU PICKED UP THE SAME COLOR IN THE CARPET.

You know why I chose it? It’s the color of my dogs, so all that hair they shed will be less noticeable. The dogs are definitely at odds with the high-end hotel suite concept. One sleeps on the carpet and the other two are on the bed. They’re complete comfort hounds.

WHAT’S THAT BIG DARK CABINET DOING IN THIS LIGHT AND AIRY ROOM?

It’s a great midcentury modern piece by Paul McCobb that also happens to have about 50 drawers inside. I just loved it. The bedside tables are dark wood, too. I think they ground the room. I didn’t want it to be totally girly.

WHAT’S THAT HUGE PAINTING ON THE WALL?

Actually, it’s three panels

of hand-painted, silver-leafed de Gournay wallpaper that used to be in the living room of my old house. I knew the buyers were planning a big redo and I suddenly thought, ‘Oh my God, I can’t leave this behind, especially if they’re not going to use it.’ I asked, they said they weren’t, and I said I’d be right over to take it down. It was a bit of a production, but it was worth it. And it has such a nice glow when the lamps are lit. I couldn’t resist those lamps. They’re like two big scallions.

THAT CLOSET LOOKS HYPER-ORGANIZED. ANYTHING YOU FORGOT?

If I did, I haven’t noticed it yet. Lori Leistico from KraftMaid made me write down everything I had, and we negotiated space. I like to see my cowboy boots. It’s a reminder of the White Stallion Ranch in Arizona, where I go twice a year. I’m really a cowgirl at heart. I can cut cattle from the herd and pen them, on horseback, and I hold the 16-second record for doing it.

I SEE WHERE YOU PUT THE PATTERN. IT’S ALL IN THE BATHROOM.

I love, love, love that tile! I got the idea when I was looking through old issues of *House Beautiful* from the 1960s. There were pictures of these great horizontal tile treatments, so when I found these glass mosaic tiles, I decided to go for it. And then I coupled it with Alba Chiara marble on the floor in a lovely shade of celadon green on white, with touches of pale coral.

ANY INDULGENCES?

I’m in love with my waterfall showerhead. It’s transformative. Some people treat themselves to a good hotel with all the latest luxuries on vacation but skimp on those things at home. I’d rather spend money on something I’m going to use every day, like a good showerhead. It will pay you back every time you turn it on.

WHY NO DOOR TO THE BATHROOM?

There is a door to the suite, but no bathroom door, so it feels all of a piece. Besides, if I closed the door, my dogs would just scratch on it. I haven’t been to the bathroom alone since I’ve had them.

Get It Right

- Tuck in more storage wherever you can. The bed is built on a platform of seven storage drawers.
- A bench in the shower stall would have taken up too much space, but Selke did build in a low corner shelf: “I can rest my foot on it as I shave my legs.”
- Most bedrooms have a switch as you come in to turn on the lights. “But make sure you also have a switch by the bed, so you can turn them off without getting up as you’re falling asleep,” Selke says.

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NEXT MONTH:
THE LIVING ROOM