delicate tailoring

Deft use of elegant fabrics, from tufted and pleated upholstery to softly billowing taffeta draperies, brings fuss-free femininity to this bedroom. Designer Mark Phelps' glowing palette of neutrals—cream, ochre, gold, and walnut—creates a calming environment for symmetrical furniture arrangements.

Photographer Gordon Beall
Field editor Sandra L. Mohlmann







Well-placed darker wood pieces, including tables and drapery rods, add depth to the light mood.



Sumptuous simplicity reigns in this master bedroom. Charlotte designer Mark Phelps opted for tailored furnishings and accessories that play to the room's elegant architecture—French doors topped by a transom open onto a colonnade and floor-to-ceiling windows frame garden views.

The homeowners sought a warm and welcoming design, adding a caveat that no blue be used. Phelps obliged with a rich palette of burnished golds. He heightened the grandeur of the sleeping space with deep crown molding and a sparkling crystal chandelier.

For visual interest, Phelps layered on a variety of patterned fabrics all in the same soft palette. Yards and yards of wide-striped taffeta cascade from ceiling to floor, pooling on the neutral carpet. Comfy armchairs are dressed in a pretty floral stripe. A pair of formal French chairs in natural linen get a kick of color from floral pillows. At the foot of the bed, Phelps upholstered a bench in tufted polka dots for a surprising juxtaposition of casual and formal.

The result is a place of cozy comfort for a couple kept busy with four children.

Page 68–69: Designer Mark Phelps reupholstered the existing headboard in a delicate floral pattern featuring greens, yellows, and pinks to tie it into the master suite's new color scheme. **Opposite:** Floor-to-ceiling drapery panels emphasize the room's generous dimensions. The subtly textured carpet and a floral rug soften the feel underfoot in a sitting spot perfect for reading the morning newspaper. **Above:** In the sunny window bay, a pair of antique French chairs upholstered with herringbone linen and punctuated with nailhead trim gather around an English Pembroke table, which formerly resided in the homeowner's dining room.