

ATMOSPHERE

Vignettes

PLUSH

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Forget spa tones. Julia Liegeois envelops a Naples bedroom in oxblood and sheen, crafting a retreat that's equal parts serene and sensual.

Oxblood on a dining room wall or in a powder room is bold. But in a bedroom? It’s wholly unexpected, even provocative. In this Naples home, the tone creates a cocooning retreat. The deep saturation invites you to step away from neutrality and into color’s warm embrace.

Though not a typical bedroom choice, a cabernet hue infuses life and intimacy into the space, creating an atmosphere where materials with texture, sheen and softness command attention against a moody backdrop.

For interior designer Julia Liegeois, who recently opened a showroom in

the Naples Design District, the choice reflects a shift she’s seeing among clients who’ve grown tired of the safe, predictable palettes that dominate local interiors. With this project, she found a client willing to push boundaries and share her audacious vision. “This was born out of a playful ‘what

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The designer wrapped this Naples bedroom in Sherwin-Williams’ Marooned, taking the hue across walls, trim and ceiling. The tone anchors the palette, echoed in silk bedding, red-veined marble lamps and dark spindle posts. Drexel mirrors above the nightstands bounce light, preventing the room from feeling heavy.

if” conversation,” Liegeois says. “I put together a presentation, and the room took on a life of its own.”

The designer selected Sherwin-Williams Marooned (SW 6020), draping the walls, trim and ceiling in the rich, dark hue. The purple shade with brownish-red undertones became the anchor that drove every other design decision, from the painted nightstands to the layered bedding to the dark-wood spindle bed and red-veined marble lamps.

Dark paint can kill a room if handled poorly. Liegeois learned this in college when she painted a bathroom black. “I didn’t realize how much light it would absorb,” she says. “It was a cave.” The lesson stuck. Now she knows the trick isn’t to avoid darkness—it’s building around it and keeping the palette tight. Variations within one color family create harmony, not heaviness. “Monochromatic doesn’t mean monotone,” she says. Layering in materials like silk adds dimension through texture and sheen.

Here, glossy Venetian plaster walls catch and hold natural light, making the oxblood appear luminous instead of oppressive. Drexel mirrors above the nightstands amplify this effect, doubling the daylight that pours through windows overlooking Florida greenery. The contrast sharpens everything—the view looks more vivid, the room more grounded. At night, recessed lights and contemporary bedside lamps cast overlapping glows that turn the walls almost bronze.

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Pulling in varied textures and hues within the color family keeps dark tones from reading cavernous. Here, Venetian plaster plays against the warmth of carved wood and the Grand Canyon painting’s earthy hues. “Monochromatic doesn’t mean monotone,” Liegeois says.



While the burgundy stays in the bedroom, Liegeois carries its energy into adjacent spaces. In the foyer, mauve carpeting and rust-inflected accents echo the deeper tones without repeating them. The space is anchored by a large rooster painting in earthy blacks and ochres.



Deep cabernet tones make the window seat feel cocooned, while the lush greenery outside sharpens the color and pulls the eye into the landscape.

The furnishings reinforce the sensory experience. A vintage rug and sheepskin offer softness underfoot. Silk sheets drape across the bed. Pillows stack along the window seat, creating a perch for watching the world outside. Meanwhile, the hard surfaces give the room its shape. Dark spindle bedposts rise with turned wood that adds vertical rhythm. Marble lamps and sleek nightstands frame the layers of velvet and silk. The effect is enveloping without feeling closed in. “It’s the mix of curves and edges, sheen and softness, that gives the room life,” Liegeois says. “The bold color grounds the space, but it doesn’t overwhelm it.”

As you move through the home, the palette evolves, creating cohesion between private and public spaces. In the foyer, dove gray walls replace the oxblood, giving the eye somewhere to rest. Mauve carpeting and rust-toned accents nod to the bedroom without repeating the intensity. An oversized painting of a rooster, rendered in earthy golds and blacks, dominates one wall, carrying the richness forward.

To successfully create a moody retreat, it takes more than design skill—it requires a client willing to lean into the unknown. “That’s the magic, when a client trusts the process and wants to try something bold,” Liegeois says. “My job is to listen, to find the essence of what they’re after and say, ‘Let’s do it.’” ✂

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Light skims the Venetian plaster, amplifying its mottled movement. The unfussy wood grain below grounds the vignette, adding an organic counterbalance to the room’s sultrier finishes.