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# Inside Cindy Rinfret's Magical Bedroom Retreat

It's all about that headboard! The Connecticut-based designer and author conjures a magical retreat with the help of a showstopping souvenir.

BY BARBARA KING | PUBLISHED: MAR 21, 2014

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Barbara King: *That is one gutsy headboard...*

Cindy Rinfret: It's definitely a 'wow,' but my room has a vaulted ceiling. I needed a big statement piece to balance the scale. And besides, a bedroom is a wonderful place to be dramatic and sexy! My headboard gives me all the glamour and romance of a grand canopy bed without that enclosed feeling. I love canopies, but I'm sort of claustrophobic.

*It's bound to have a story behind it.*

A very serendipitous story. I was in a taxi in Chiang Mai, Thailand, driving through a section of town where they have architectural relics, and I spotted this spectacular decorative screen. I said to the driver, 'Stop the car!' I knew instantly that it would make the most amazing headboard.

*How did you mount it?*

My upholsterer cut a plywood frame and covered it with antique green velvet. I chose that color to harmonize with the greens of my gardens. This is a very indoor-outdoor room, with French doors all around.

*Do you ever have the sensation that you're sleeping under a temple altar?*

No, but it does give me the feeling that I'm away in some fabulous, exotic place. It's my vacation from my daily life.

*Other elements here also summon foreign locales.*

True. The bedside tables are Russian-style, the sofa pillows are French Aubusson, the area rug is Tibetan, the coffee table is chinoiserie, the lamps are Venetian. Even the headboard looks almost Venetian to me with its mellow, gilded patina. There's also a Greek motif on the bed skirt trim and the graphic pillows. I love a collected, well-traveled feeling, and I love the juxtaposition of the simple linen on the sofa with the velvet on the headboard. It's chic and sexy, like wearing jeans with a silk shirt.

*What are you wearing?*

A silk kimono embroidered with flowers and dragons. I bought it when I was in China, and it makes me feel as alluring as Mata Hari.

*Do your pets sleep in the room, too?*

Yes, they have their own beds in a corner, though my cat likes to pamper himself on the cashmere throw. And my golden retriever is like my alarm clock — he always licks my arm to wake me up. I have to say, it's sometimes hard to tear myself away from my room in the morning. That's the one downside of having a beautiful bed!

## **Make the Bed**

Fuchsia pillow shams: [ralphlaurenhome.com](http://ralphlaurenhome.com).

Sheets and white euro shams: [lynnens.com](http://lynnens.com).

Area rug: [jdstaron.com](http://jdstaron.com).

Greek key-pattern shams, sofa, and breakfast tray: [rinfretltd.com](http://rinfretltd.com).