



Sanctuaries of sleep

From four-posters to *lits bateaux* via Victorian brass frames, Carla Passino discovers how best to dress a period bedroom

CREATING a bedroom that matches the period and decorative style of your country house requires a fine balance—you don't need every detail to be historically accurate. Instead, suggests interior designer and antique-furniture restorer Max Rollitt, it's often best to layer pieces that secure a connection to your house's original architecture with later elements so that it looks as if your room evolved over time.

Georgian bedrooms

The 18th century perfected the design of four-poster beds, with delicate, beautifully ornate pieces replacing both the stark Tudor designs and the excesses of the Stuart era. For this

reason, a four-poster is the obvious focal point of a Georgian-inspired bedroom.

'The bed is the key thing,' says interior designer and architectural historian Edward Bulmer. 'Eighteenth-century beds were constructed so you could curtain yourself in for warmth and draught exclusion. The four-poster bed still speaks to people, but you can do it in many ways.' For example, he says, you could keep hangings to a minimum or even have none at all.

Edward also recommends creating a sense of space and elegance in your room using soft florals or plain fabrics and dressing up your walls with historic wallpapers, such as those by Hamilton Weston. 'A lot of them have small-scale patterns that can be very effective.' >

Inspired by 18th-century four-posters and decorated with hand-applied silver leaf, this hand-carved bed is a great centrepiece for a Georgian-style bedroom. From £6,425 through And So To Bed (0808 144 4343; www.andsootobed.co.uk)

Try This neo-Palladian wood frame dates from about 1740, with a 19th-century mercurial mirror plate. £10,500 through Max Rollitt (01962 791124; www.maxrollitt.com)

