



A new bay window adds a few more feet of floorspace, floods the room with natural light, and provides a cozy alcove for bookshelves and seating.

Cozy and Comfortable

Martha and Jock Ashby love to read. And when they decided to redesign their master bedroom, they included a comfortable spot to relax with a good book.

Fort Worth designer Joseph Minton developed a scheme for the 1920s Dallas home that met this specific requirement and transformed the second-story bedroom into a much more engaging space. A three-sectioned bay window now extends along an existing balcony, custom bookcases anchor one end of the bay, and a built-in window seat provides a sunny perch for leisurely afternoon reading.



Delicate fabrics in neutral tones give the bedroom an elegant but unpretentious feel.

The bedroom is filled with fabrics and finishings in neutral tones that add soft, elegant touches. English hand-printed linen is used for the curtains, a comfortable upholstered chair, and the bedding. The walls feature a wavy-striped cotton wallcovering. This same delicate pattern is used for the dust ruffle and accent pillows scattered about.

The big canopy bed had been in the family for years, but the fresh fabrics and the remodeled setting give it new stature. "It's still the best place for our nine grandchildren to pile in for a bedtime story," Martha says with a smile. *Lynn Nesmith*

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Plate Hanging Tips for a Great Look

If you keep your plates and platters hidden away, you're missing an interesting decorating opportunity. With these easy arranging tips provided by Little Rock designer Carolyn Carroll, you'll want to take them out of hiding.

In Jim and Robin Braun's home in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Carolyn filled a wall by grouping three pairs of plates and a pair of matching oval platters with a birdcage and framed oil painting.

"Because the space was fairly large, we laid the plates we planned to use on the floor," Carolyn explains. "Then Robin and I played with them until we found the look we wanted. When you have a fairly large wall to work with, I think other elements and textures make it more interesting."

For a smaller arrangement in her own home, Carolyn added two framed tiles to three odd platters and a pair of plates. "One platter is bigger than the other, but it still works," she says, "because the scale and shapes are compatible. Sometimes it's just a matter of what's pleasing to your eye."

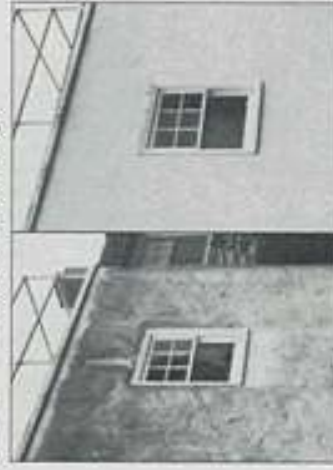
Here are several other plate hanging tips from Carolyn.

- Start with a symmetrical look. And if you want to introduce one odd piece, hang it in the center.
- Choose a platter or other element that is fairly substantial to hang at either the top or bottom of the grouping.
- Think of your grouping as a triangle that points either up or down.
- Be creative. Groupings are great ways to use less-than-perfect pieces, such as chipped or repaired porcelain. And it's okay to mix in thrift store finds or reproductions to expand your decorating possibilities.

Linda Hallam

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(Above) Hung above a carved Austrian bench, these French porcelain and pottery pieces create a focal point between two cased openings. The birdcage and oil painting add depth and texture.



(Right) A symmetrical arrangement organizes different-size platters or plates. Use one pair to ensure visual balance.

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN ALLROY

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