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ROBIN HENRY

Setting the scene: My clients were making the move into the suburbs from Manhattan. The wife had honed a vibrant, worldly look, so I happily channeled her vibe. This bedroom was a cavernous space—aside from one full-size window, the only others were a row of clerestory windows in an alcove. It was an unusual setup.

Design goal: To make this bedroom cozier and warmer while also speaking to its generous proportions.

Launching point: I knew I wanted to use the same fabric for the walls and curtains. Since we needed a large number of yardage, I had in mind an inexpensive Indian block print from Les Indiennes. To match the scale of the room, we chose a large-scale paisley. It highlights the room's proportions to dramatic effect yet draws you in.

The details: A natural indigo pigment is irresistible and almost functions as a neutral in my book. I knew a lot of different accent colors would complement it, from aubergine to ochre to midnight blue. A big, bold space needs some big, bold color, so we chose firecracker red.

Integration of existing elements: Everything is new except for the lighting. There's a wonderful blue glass Moroccan lantern my clients bought in Marrakech, and family heirloom lamps grace the bedside tables.

What made the biggest impact: My clients intended to reuse their old bed, but halfway through the install, they decided to get something new. We got a handmade Charles H. Beckley bed, complete with box springs upholstered on-site, and a horsehair mattress. In this and in all bedrooms, the bed is everything!

Favorite element: The red chinoiserie secretary was a lucky score. It's vintage, with a lovely patina and perfectly aged mirror in the doors, and that color! I chanced upon it at the opening of the Lexington Avenue Armory Antique Show. It was a leap of faith by my clients to make the sale so quickly, but I'm so glad; it doesn't get any better.

Resources:
Interior designer: Robin Henry Studio, Westport; 646-409-3099; robinhenrystudio.com

