

## DECEMBER: Boost the master bedroom



PARIS L. GRAY Courier-Post

Home stylist Sandra Cook recently redesigned the master bedroom of Janet Keane's Voorhees home.

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The master bedroom is one room in the house that's often shortchanged. "People are very conscious of how their home looks when people come to visit," said interior designer Sandra Cook. "The master bedroom gets overlooked."

Start with the basics, she said. While a custom job always looks unique, a coat of paint, a pair of nightstand lamps and fresh bedding goes a long way without spending a lot of money.

The room should be welcoming and the colors restful. "Red might be great in the dining room because it stimulates appetite," she said. "It might not be good in a bedroom." Popular bedroom colors are greens and golds as well as warmer rose and mauve. Rich purples can also be good colors.

For the bed, think about a set of pillow cases, sheets and a comforter that comes together. The popular bed-in-a-bag sets can be found at most department stores. "A coordinated look always works best," she said. It's also a good idea to talk over colors and decorating choices with your significant other, said Cook. He may not want wicker but might settle for more masculine rattan. "Even though most men say they don't care about the master bedroom, they do," she said. "Talking about it helps."

But the master bedroom does not have to be changed all at once, she said, noting that even something as simple as changing out the pillow shams can make a big difference. A place of refuge, like the master bedroom, is good as the holidays approach. "That's important," she said. "We're getting into the holiday season and people are getting stressed."