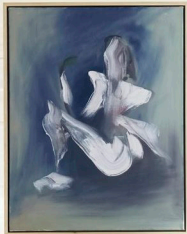


In focus BEDROOMS

Whether you prefer a pared-back haven or a personality-filled space, you can make your dream retreat a reality, writes **Sarah Pickette**.

When life gets busy, it's comforting to know you have a safe space to retreat to, a sanctuary where you can stop, exhale and relax. For many of us, that place is the bedroom.

Precisely what constitutes a dream bedroom is a matter of personal taste, but it would certainly be quiet and comfortable, with plenty of natural light. "When we design bedrooms from scratch, we ideally like them to receive morning sun," says Sydney architect Eva-Marie Prineas. "And when we're renovating, it's good to complement a bedroom's original features." A mix of textures will make your boudoir feel inviting, while great storage is always a godsend. Add a little luxury, in the form of bedlinen or art, and sweet dreams will follow.



CALM AND COMPOSED

Quality materials come into their own when space is limited. In the case of this compact room on a Victorian houseboat, Tasmanian oak lines the wall behind the bed. "Pale-toned timber takes advantage of the abundant natural light," says interior designer Jane Kilpatrick of Pipkorn & Kilpatrick. Floor-to-ceiling joinery maximises available storage and ensures that this space doesn't become cluttered. "A bedroom, more than any other part of the home, needs to feel relaxed and calm," says Kilpatrick. The artwork above the bed is by Jane's business partner, Anna Pipkorn. **Pipkorn & Kilpatrick**; www.pipkorkilpatrick.com.au.