

# Find & Design

*TV Host & Designer Jennifer Convy Takes Us Inside Jefferson Street Mansion for Tips on How to Bring Romance & Glamour Into Your Home*

Photos by Joe Lam

What makes a room romantic? There is no one specific "romantic style," rather a myriad of ways to add romantic elements in any room. Romantic rooms are a pleasurable feast for all your senses, filled with an intimate mood and ambiance and sometimes a bit of visual drama and impact. More than anything, however, they must be inviting.

The bedroom is the most romantic room in the house. It is your private sanctuary, a cocoon from the rest of the world to enjoy alone or together. One of my favorite bedrooms is this magical and enchanting

room at the historic **Jefferson Street Mansion** in Benicia, California. Reed Robbins is the visionary designer/owner who resides on the property overseeing the tea parlors and elegant wedding events!

This four poster canopy bed is hand carved from solid mahogany with an applied crackle finished. All linens are all custom-made from textured silks and the finest cotton. The drapes were created in New Orleans by the same designer that did the Calhoun Mansion drapes used in the film "Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil." Endless yards of fabric, many of them Scalamandri, are fringed with classic hand made French designs. The wall of the room is painted in Sesame yellow and enhanced with a French wash of dusty rose, the same color as the wood trim. Most of the room's furniture is antique from the late 1800s.



When creating your own romantic room, whatever your style, preference or personality, here are some universal tips to guide you:



Jennifer Convy

**First:** Eliminate potential mood busters; elements that are not romantic.

- Clutter and disorder. Desks piled high with paperwork.
- Electronics. Hide them in furniture so they don't detract focus.
- Remove items, exercise equipment and photos that are not romantic. Many relationship experts say that even pictures of kids and Mom and Dad next to the bed are no no's in the romance department.

**Next:** Add romantic elements.

- The bed should be the main focal point. We spend a third of our lives in bed. Go for drama, beauty, comfort and mood.
- Invest in a beautiful bed frame. If it's a four poster canopy, drape it in luxurious fabrics.
- Lighting is critical for ambience. Keep it soft and warm. Think candles, chandeliers, sconces or other fixtures versus overhead recessed lighting.
- Keep wall colors, be it light or dark, in warm tones instead of cool tones. Try washes or Venetian plasters for texture and interest. Don't be afraid of contrast. It adds drama.
- Keep a mixture of lines and curves in the room. Not too tailored and not too frilly. Keep in mind a style that will appeal to both sexes if both sexes will be sharing this room
- Layers are sensual. Use them for bedding and draping.
- Windows, dressed with sensuous coverings for soft day light and total evening privacy.
- Fireplaces. Romantic in any room! Real, fake, old, new doesn't matter. Use it!

What ever your style, make a statement. Make it comfortable and enjoy!!!

*Jennifer Convy is a Style Expert, Producer and currently Host of her own TV series on A&E called "Find & Design." She has also hosted shows and specials for HGTV, The Discovery Channel and Fine Living.*

[www.jenniferconvy.com](http://www.jenniferconvy.com)  
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