

DESIGN & DECORATING

THE MEDIATOR

In Search of a Restful Night

The Conflict A couple buys a Gothic Revival bed frame, but she won't part with her plastic Kartell night stand—a gift from her dad that's stylistically at war with the walnut bed. Three designers propose peacekeeping solutions

French 19th-Century Gothic Revival
Louis Walnut Bed From Tryst
d'Amour, \$2,389, 1stdibs.com;
Componibili, \$180, Kartell NY, 212-
966-6665



Solution 1



Bridge the pieces' different time periods with a folding screen.

To resolve the disconnect between the 19th-century, Gothic Revival upholstered bed and the 1960s-style, molded-plastic storage unit, Manhattan designer Neal Beckstedt looked for a third element that would reference both eras. He chose a folding screen—common, he said, to 19th-century bedrooms—zeroing in on a teak model with caned inserts that speaks to the night stand's modernist aesthetic. Mr. Beckstedt would place the screen around the headboard or adjacent to a window. Danish Modern Caned Folding Screen From Matter & Bone, \$5,200, 1stdibs.com

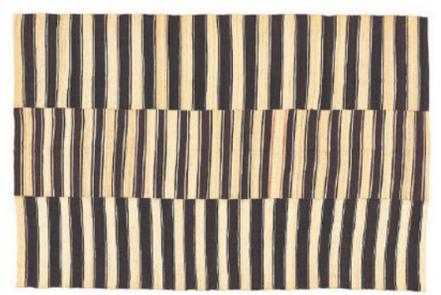
Solution 2



Hang lights that merge straight and curved lines.

Bicoastal designer Alexandra Loew wanted to "unite the pieces graphically" and cool the tension between the boxy bed and the rounded night stand. Her answer: A pair of vintage Verner Panton pendant lights. Their strands of mother-of-pearl discs hang straight down while the discs themselves are curvy. And she would introduce another, matching Kartell night stand. "I imagined flanking the bed with two tables with a light over each," she said. Verner Panton Fun 2 DM Ceiling Lamps From Les Illumines Design, \$1,800 each, 1stdibs.com

Solution 3



Lay an antique rug with a modern pattern.

Though this Iranian flat-weave rug, chosen by Richard Ouellette, a partner at Canadian design firm Les Ensembliers, is vintage, its modern striped pattern connects it to the contemporary night stand. If the rug were as exuberantly colored as the bed, he explained, they would conspire to overpower the scene. "This bed has such a strong personality, the rug needs to be second," he said. The staggered stripes are bold enough to anchor the bed but read as neutral. Wool Flat Weave, 7'6" x 11'3", \$4,800, abchome.com —*Kelly Michèle Guerotto*

FLOWER SCHOOL

THE ZESTIEST NOEL

A voluptuous portrait brings out floral designer **Lindsey Taylor's** festive side

THE HOLIDAYS CALL for a little pomp, glamour and sparkle. In search of a painting that was over-the-top enough to inspire a festive arrangement, I made my annual visit to the Frick Collection on New York's Upper East Side and found a suitably lush candidate by English portraitist Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830). The subject of "Julia, Lady Peel (1827)" wears a dark cloak trimmed in luscious white fur. Red feathers spill extravagantly from her wide-brimmed hat, immodest bracelets encircle her wrist and,



THE INSPIRATION

in case she was still a little short on flamboyance, a red rose nestles in her bosom.

I used an earthenware crock, glossy and curvaceous, to evoke Lady Peel's figure and deep brown cloak. I mapped out the bouquet's size and shape with weepy redwood branches covered in tiny jewel-like cones. Bundles of small, delicate white wax flowers stood in for the cloak's fur, while sprays of red orchids alluded to the feathers. To suggest the satin of Lady Peel's dress, I chose densely petaled white ranunculus. Deep red amaryllis flowers, cut short, mimicked the rose at her chest, and finally, the large white Protea lent the arrangement a boldness, a hit of the exotic, and suggested the porcelain quality of her skin. As I stood back to critique my work, I was uncharacteristically gleeful. It has been a while since I conjured such a large, energetic, outrageous display. It's a Christmas party in a vase, setting the stage for the season.

Crimson amaryllis and lushly petaled white ranunculus echo the finery of 'Julia, Lady Peel' (1827) by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

Antique Earthenware Vessel, *Similar pieces available at Paula Rubenstein, 212-966-8954*



THE ARRANGEMENT

FAST FIVE

GET OUT THE VOTIVE

We're campaigning in support of these new candle holders—nice candidates for a holiday table but secular enough for any occasion

Porcelain Bisque Votive
Candle Holder, \$375,
francespalmerpottery.com

Cabana Glass Candle
Holder, \$165,
modaoperandi.com

Kevin Willis Votive by
Commune, \$46, communedesign.com



Ruffle Edge Votive
Holder, \$10,
shopterrain.com

Large Selenite Votive
Holder, \$65, *Homenature*,
212-675-4663

Market Editor:
Kelly Michèle Guerotto