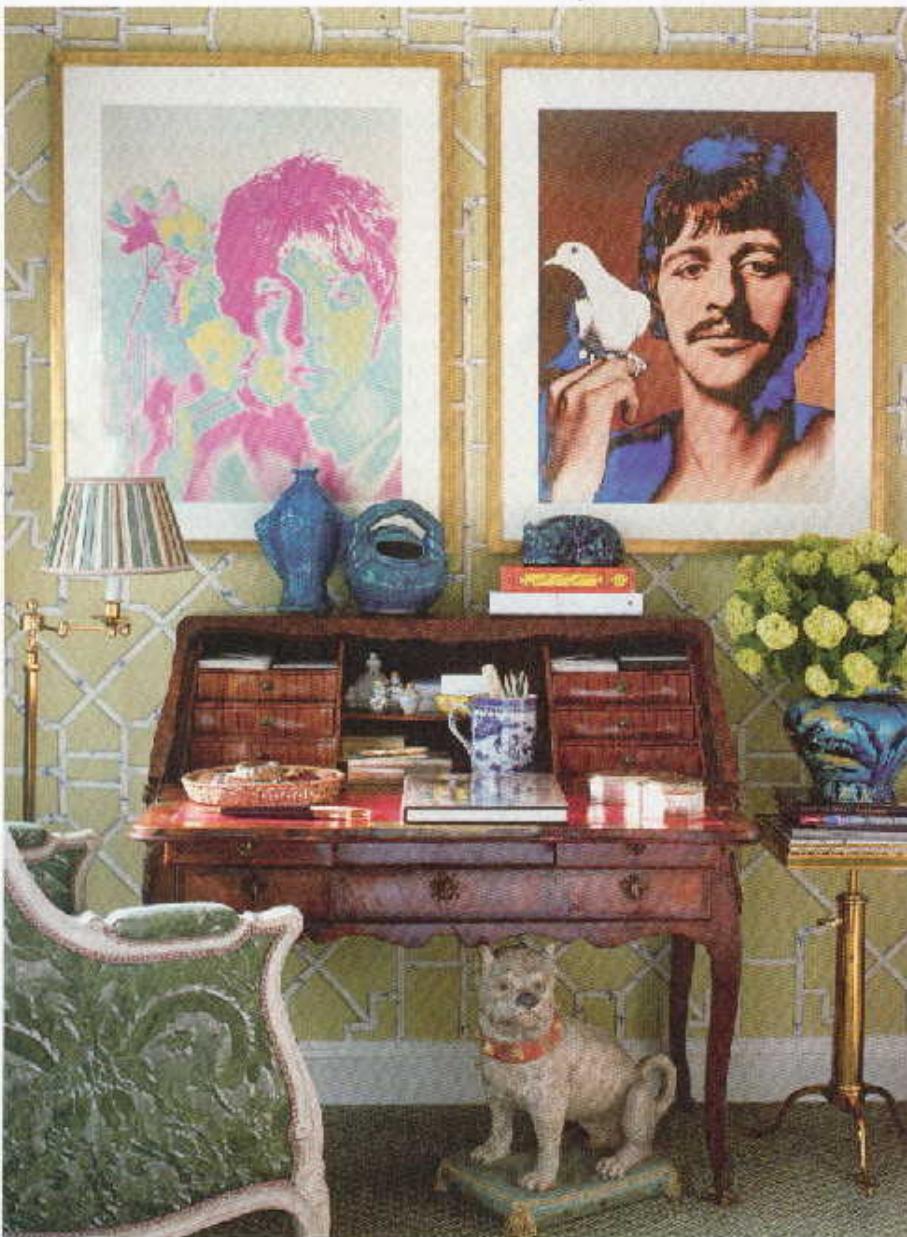


read a room



we are so caught up in picking the right color palette and furniture pieces, that we forget to consider the details that will make us enjoy sleeping in it every night.

Drape your bed with luxurious linens and a fine bedspread, and top off with a cozy quilt or fluffy throw. Invest in a custom headboard upholstered in a supple fabric. Add a fringe skirt along the bottom for a feminine touch.

Four-poster beds help to create instant atmosphere. You can enclose it with fabric or keep the curtains off for an open feeling.

By layering fabric and pattern you'll create the ultimate dreamy atmosphere rich in warmth and texture. Tie in several strong character pieces and accessories to help your bedroom exude elegance and style.

This 18th-century French writing desk is redefined against mod "Pop Beatles" prints by Richard Avedon. The brass stand and fortuny-covered bergère display some of Alex's favorite materials.

The Best LUXURY FABRICS

One of Alex's top secrets to creating a lavish retreat is to decadently drape plush fabrics and textures for a luxurious feeling. Find out why some of these fabrics ooze glamour.

VELVET: Simply put, velvet is beautiful and feels amazing. Alex often uses velvet for trim on drapes and curtains but also upholstered armchairs and headboards in Gaufrage velvet for a stunningly soft look.

FORTUNY: A pattern and a fabric, fortuny adds vibrant texture to a room. The intricate fabric can be added to seats or the backs of chairs for two-toned touches of color. Be bold and use fortuny to upholster an entire sofa.

NATURAL FABRICS: Use natural fibers like linen, cotton, bamboo or burlap that work great for upholstering entire walls; the look is textured without being overwhelming. Grasscloth can also be used to make rooms light and relaxed. Quilted cotton adds soft texture and is incredibly inviting.

SILK: In many of Alex's rooms, everything was woven with silk for a decadent touch. For instance, silk curtains were trimmed in velvet, seat cushions were woven in silk and even silk lamp shades were added for lavish detail.

LEATHER: Best used for the tops of coffee tables or the edges of bookcases, masculine leather imparts a studious feel. Alex often uses variations like white leather to make a room look modern or metallic leather for glamour.

SATIN: Like silk and velvet, satin offers a dose of opulence to curtains, caissons and chairs. The smooth surface offers a simple yet glamorous sheen.

WOOL: Often considered a winter fabric, wool is actually more versatile. Alex used wool felt to cover walls and even chose a swank wool zebra-print rug for a "family home" because of its durability.