



Use hooks inside double duty rooms for easy care items like robes, towels and even welcome notes for guests. Photo Couture Chateau llc

3. Use designated baskets for specific vignettes and include every item for easy set up. For those with smaller homes or no guest bedroom, this is one of my top tips. We create a designated basket and essentially create our own version of “room in a basket” with: sheets, bed coverlet, mattress cover, nice towels, embroidered robe, slippers, beautiful pillows both for sleeping and decoration, soaps, shampoos, sewing kit and other sundries.

This way, when ‘Guest A’ is on her way, we know to pull the Blue Toile Basket and set up the spare studio space and guest bath accordingly. I will sometimes include a photo of how the space was set up last time just for easy reference.

I store the completed baskets in the laundry room or storage area under the house and confess I do shop year-round to take advantage of luxury sales so these sets are the best quality I can afford.

Finally, I cannot stress the importance of immediately washing, folding and re-storing in the proper basket, the vignette you created. The next time you need it, there is no running around and your fresh towels don’t end up on the pool deck or washing a car.

As more of us are working from home or finding our spaces have to do double duty, these stylish solutions keep us on trend and feeling like we’ve made an honorable effort when hosting out-of-town guests. It’s not about having a royal-sized guest room, though those can be fun and fabulous, it’s about creating a home where your guests are honored and feel welcomed, no matter the size.

Details like a dog treat for a cherished pet, a beautiful pillow that is just theirs or a makeup towel and extra set of reading glasses goes a long way.

May your holiday home be filled with laughter and good cheer. Happy Thanksgiving!

Do you need help with your remodel or design project? Give us a call at (925) 386-0720 or email us at ann@couturechateau.com.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including photos of different guest hosting ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



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