

NEW YORK

SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

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bedtime stories

Three design firms envision their ultimate comfort zones, crafted in Europe by the artisans at Savoir Beds

IN 1905, THE IMPRESARIO BEHIND LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL COMMISSIONED A famous upholsterer to create the signature Savoy bed. The original model was such a success that it remains in production today as "Savoir No. 2." The evolution from the Savoy bed to Savoir Beds came in 1977, with the explicit agreement that the trademark quality and precise manner of making the mattress and bed base must adhere to the exacting standards established in 1905. Today, there are four core models, all of which can be individually customized.

Handcraftsmanship remains essential to the brand: The company's "No. 1" model can take up to 160 hours to build. An apprentice bed maker must work for at least a year to learn the necessary techniques to create the Savoir bed base. Roger Ericson, Savoir's creative director, is proud of the tradition that goes into the design and building of each bed. His commitment, he says, is to assure the continued quality, detail, craftsmanship, and comfort of each piece of furniture that leaves the Savoir workshop is unparalleled anywhere in the world, making distribution the equivalent of limited-edition works of art.

CONTINUED

old and new

"I saw an all-wood daybed about 20 years ago that I always thought I would someday reinterpret, simplify and make more luxurious, handsome, and sexy. It was fun to have the chance," says Matthew Patrick Smyth of his classically arched bed. Featuring contrasting fabrics from Rogers & Goffigan's Bechamel line, Smyth's take (shown here), features a "No. 4" mattress covered in Savoir's traditional cotton-jacquard Trellis ticking.