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What You Can Learn From > **The Manly Hotel Room***

The design wiz behind N.Y.C.'s new Ace Hotel reveals how to make your home more masculine without resorting to testosterone-fueled clichés

(* Macho black leather sofa not included)



Let's
Get Lost



Keep It Kempt

"When you went to your grandpa's tool room, everything was put away. It was meticulous. It's an important tradition to maintain."

Paper Your Walls

Pages torn from a book were adhered to the wall with wheat paste. "It's an easy way to add warmth to a painted drywall room."



◀ Designer Stephen Alesch

→ When given the chance to make a space their own, most guys overdo it. They go for chrome, leather, the framed black-and-white photo of Keith Richards. Thankfully, interior designer Stephen Alesch, of Roman and Williams, knows how to create a masculine space more deftly, as he did at the recently opened Ace Hotel in Manhattan. These rooms achieve an easygoing, manly look by being simply furnished, open, and neat—which is something anyone can pull off. And should. "It's in all of us to make a beautiful little room," says Alesch. The essentials? "A little reading chair, a small desk to write at, no matter how small. The bedroom is a retreat. Make it feel like the fort you had as a kid."—MICHAEL HSU



Art Should Be Big

Let it serve as the anchor in the room. "I like one strong piece rather than small multiple things. I love extremes—going from modesty to intensity and not anywhere in between."

Explore the Dark

"All those colors that we grew up painting model airplanes with—olive drab, brown, deep blue, black—are beautiful. Don't be shy about using them." Even for refrigerators.



Draw from the Past

A linen-covered desk—a riff on the sewing table—has a blotter made from tooling leather. "There's no need to reinvent everything all the time. Traditional things have much more power."