



MODERN BOUDOIR

EXERCISE 1

GRACE YANG | INDS 211 | SUMMER 2020 | PROFESSOR CHRISTINE VAN DUYN

What is a *boudoir*?

The boudoir was the female space of the home. It was where a woman could go tend to her thoughts and be the most comfortable, all in private. In 1690, the desire for privacy was strong in France, especially for women. Men have always had their own space; now it was time for women to have one.

A boudoir can be a private sitting room or salon, a quiet sanctuary to retreat alone, or a fun mini getaway spot with close friends. It was often found in wealthy French Rococo and Neoclassical homes where upper class women could embrace her feminine qualities as well as the interior design.

Today, a boudoir can be compared to a modern “glam room”, which is a dedicated area to dress up, put on makeup, lounge, and show off your latest designer purchase while being proud to be a woman.



18TH CENTURY FRENCH BOUDOIR

MODERN GLAM ROOM

18TH CENTURY FRANCE



French Rococo Key Characteristics

- Free-form curves including S and C curves
- Ivory white, pastel, and gold colors
- Shell and floral forms
- Asymmetry
- Exotic motifs
- Large mirrors
- Walls with moldings of different color
- Parquet floor patterns
- Exuberant, feminine, playful lifestyle



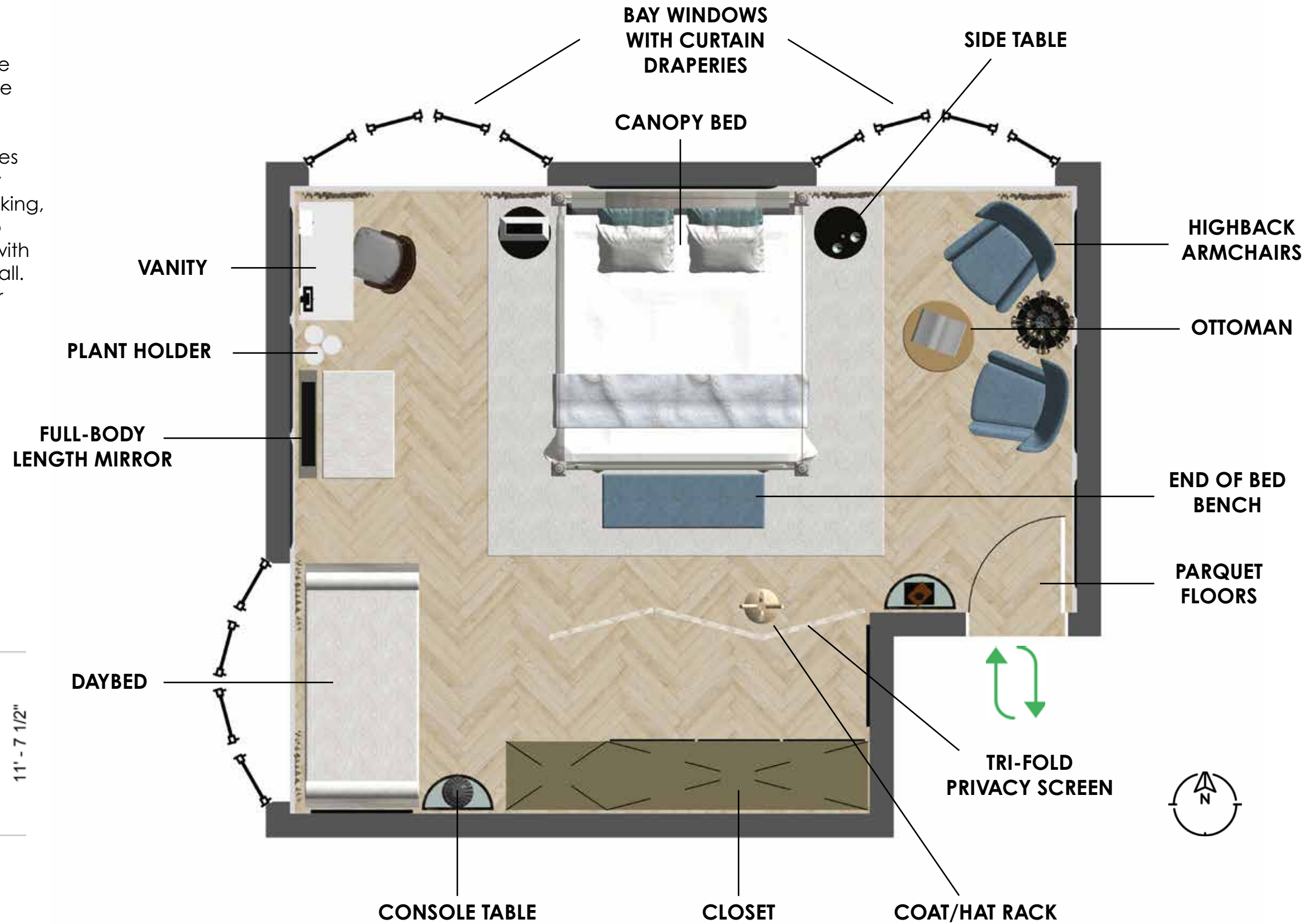
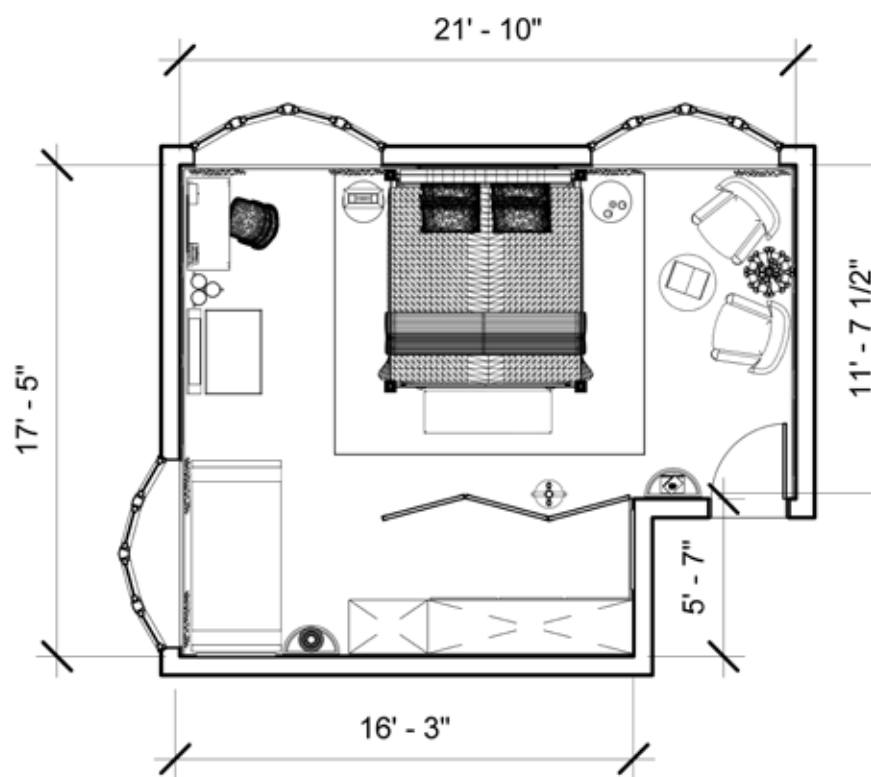
French Neoclassical Key Characteristics

- Simplification of french rococo free form curves
- Milder/darker rococo colors
- Simplified rococo ornamentation
- Formal symmetry
- Rectangular wall panels
- Wall panels painted + moldings of different color
- Relatively simple ceiling
- Grand amount of paintings on the walls and over key furniture pieces
- Trims and moldings follow the straight lines of the furnishings

FLOOR PLAN

For my modern boudoir, I decided to keep the bedroom and boudoir areas blended into one room. The center of the space is for sleeping while each wall has its own designated area for boudoir-like activities. The west wall includes a vanity for makeup and skincare, a full-body length mirror, and a daybed for napping, drinking, or snacking. The south wall is deep enough to include a generous amount of closet space with a tri-fold privacy screen acting as a mobile wall. The east wall is where she can read a book or gossip and catch up with a friend.

AREA: 343.63 SQ. FEET



BEDROOM/BOUDOIR

Recessed ceiling lights are appreciable for any type of contemporary space because it lights up every corner of the room uniformly.

The bay windows are a modern approach towards adding depth and arches to interiors which French Rococo designs favored.

WINDOW TREATMENTS:

The French loved adding curtains or draperies to their interiors because it elevated the warmth and luxe appeal. I chose thick, noise-reducing, black-out curtains because it will help with privacy and excess sunlight. The curtains' gold beige color also add a nice complement to the blue wall paint.

COLOR SCHEME:

My modern boudoir design is composed of a blend of French Rococo and Neoclassical color palettes. The pastel blue, gold, and ivory whites are inspired by Rococo interiors while the hints of grey, black, silver, and bronze are from Neoclassical interiors. Together, it makes the perfect modern appeal that gives off an elegant, balanced aura.

LIGHTING:

The wall sconces follow freeform curves as they gently include C-curves that add a nice touch to the middle of each wall panel.

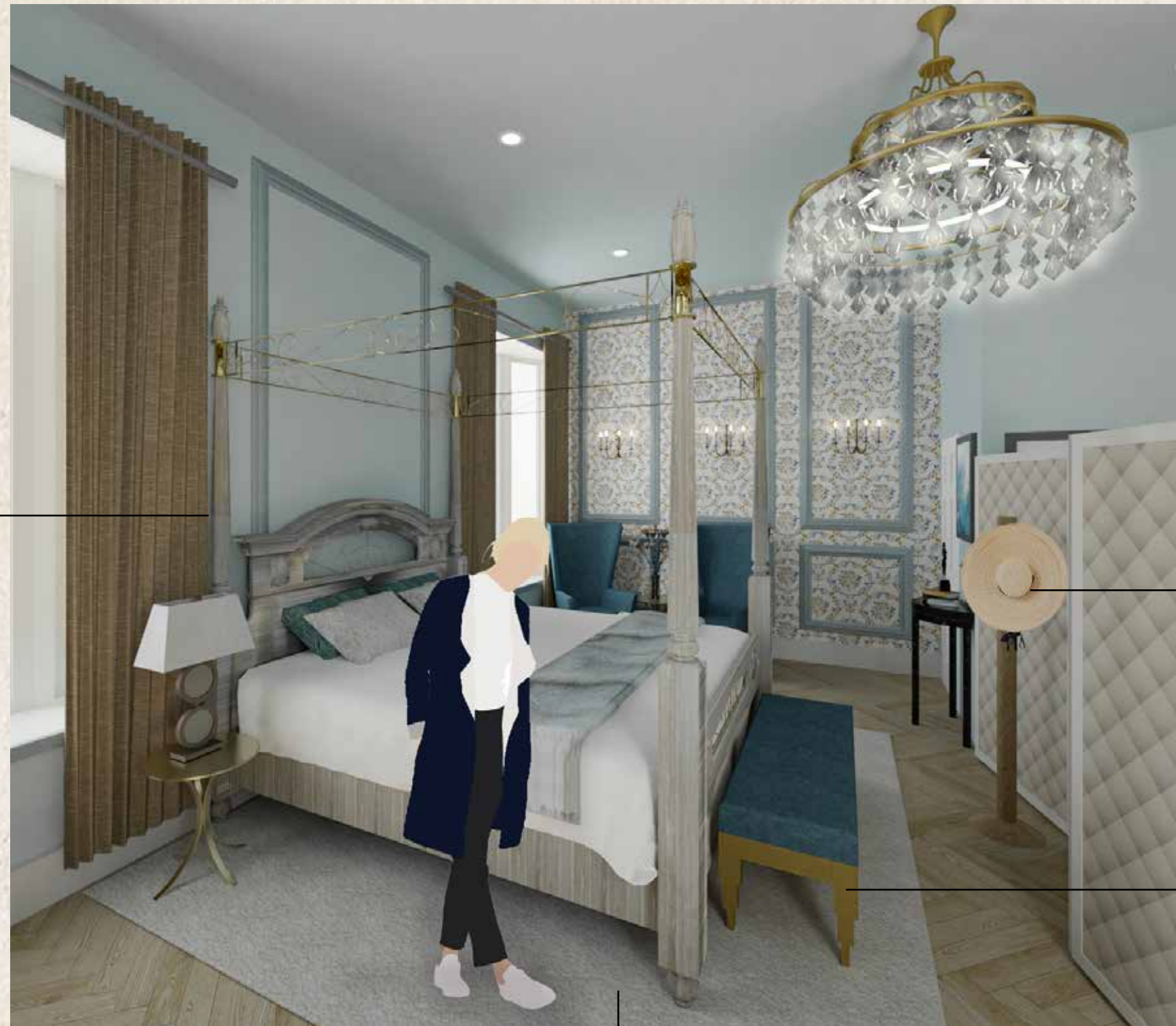
The chandelier in the center of the room is composed of crystals hanging from a simple, two-layered, round base. This is a contemporary version of the more elaborate candle-style chandeliers found in French Rococo designs such as the Hotel de Soubise.

All light fixtures are finished with a gilt bronze to replicate many traditional French Rococo lights.



BEDROOM

The bed is a canopy style bed which is a modern take on the lit à la duchesse, derived from the French Neoclassical style. This version is constructed out of contemporary grey wood and topped with a S-curve gold frame which relates to the Rococo style.



Change in attitudes during the French Rococo called for an overall more casual lifestyle. This modern coat rack presents those everyday accessories that don't need a formal storage space.

The end of the bed bench is upholstered with blue velvet which was a material that the Neoclassical period adored due to its luxurious texture.

Rugs help define spaces and French designers often utilized them to complement the furniture sitting on top. Here I used a simple white plush rug to maintain the modern neutral colors of the bed.

BOUDOIR

Both these walls highlight gilded moldings that are finished with a satin slate blue grey while the wall is painted with a pastel blue or covered in an acanthus leaf patterned wallpaper, which is a motif derived from Rococo interiors. The molding panel itself is rectangular to replicate Neoclassical panels.

Wall sconces are placed in the middle of the panels to maintain formal symmetry from Neoclassical orders.



Neoclassical simplified C-curvatures are found in the side tables.

THE CATCHING UP ZONE: The two highback armchairs are inspired by French Rococo *bergere* chairs. The blue velvet upholstery, enclosed arms, and high back make it qualified for a great seat to catch up on some reading or privately converse and gossip with a friend.



The vanity chair is tufted to bounce off of the traditional tufted *settee*. The straight legs and enclosed back are also Neoclassical characteristics.

This nightstand lamp is a modern simplification of French Rococo free form curves.

THE GLAM ZONE: This section of the room is meant for all the makeup, skincare, and outfit check routines. This is a must for any woman! The vanity is placed close to sunlight for better, accurate lighting and the full-body length mirror is great for framing the final look before heading out.

BOUDOIR

The dressing area can be expanded when the tri-fold privacy screen is moved, as shown in the photo below.



THE DRESSING ZONE: The south end of the room is dedicated to dressing up. The closet doors are panelled with large mirrors to make it convenient for her to view and rate outfits on the spot. The placement of this mirror-faced closet works well because it sits across from the two large bay windows. This is inspired by the works of the Versailles Hall of Mirrors where the mirrors help brighten the room and make it appear larger.



This candle shaped light fixture sits on top of a marble console table to replicate the layout at the Hotel de Varengeville.

The floors are of parquet patterns which were extremely common in 18th century French designs. It is still widely used today but with more contemporary tones of wood.

BOUDOIR

Having feminine art enhances feminine attitudes and lifestyle. I chose a linear line drawing of a woman's body because many modern projects have been including these types of minimal illustrations.



I gave her the flexibility of a mobile wall by incorporating the tri-fold privacy screen. Here are side by side views of the dressing area with and without the screen.



Notice how the mirrors on the closet panels help make the room appear larger and brighter while the tufted patterns on the screen provide a chic backdrop. Both works for her depending on her type of day.

BOUDOIR

French Neoclassical interiors loved to include paintings on their walls and over key furniture items to enhance the artistry of the room. I chose bold, sensual, abstract paintings to be hung over the daybed and console table.



The tri-fold privacy screen is paneled with a soft cream tuft pattern. Tufted fabric was favored by females during the 18th century because it looked lush in texture and form.



THE ZEN ZONE: A boudoir isn't a boudoir if it doesn't feel relaxing! This corner of the room is reserved for those lazy but pleasing lounging moments where she can drink a nice red, snack on a cheese board, or rest her eyes for a few. The daybed dates back to the French Baroque period but Rococo and Neoclassical interiors still very much utilized it because it reflected a desire for a more comfortable life.

A dimly lit, dark-toned interior of a modern living room. In the background, a woman in a white top and dark pants stands near a window with curtains. The room features a large sofa, a coffee table, and a chandelier. The overall atmosphere is sophisticated and elegant.

THANK YOU!