

ROCK-SOLID CURE

A British music legend on the treatment that trounced his hep C

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BIG DEAL

The Little Prince is ready for his larger-than-expected close-up

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Globe Life & Arts

HOME & DESIGN

WE SAW THE LIGHTS



... and rugs and chairs and consoles that are destined to knock your socks off this year. **Paige Magarrey** shares the top decor trends from the Interior Design Show, in its 18th year, which opens its doors in Toronto tonight

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Luxe beds for everyday royals



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'Horsehair," says the sales-lady, smiling serenely as she points to contents in a small glass case.

I mimic the calm nod of an experienced luxury shopper as an unfortunate, down-market thought occurs: It looks like bathroom clippings from a wiry-haired man.



"How simply divine," I offer.

"Yes, it wicks away moisture, allows air to circulate," explains the lady, who beams the smooth-faced look of the well rested.

January is for staying in bed, I always think. You don't want to get out of it on a snowy morning, and, by evening, you can't wait to return to its cocoon. You almost want to get a cold so you can stay under your blankets with a book and some tea. Now that we're in a new period of what the industry calls the "bespoke" bed, I thought I would check out a mattress that's the price of a new car.

Once upon a time, royal families set the standard for fancy beds – a sort of alternative throne – especially in England, starting in the Tudor period and lasting until the late 1700s. It's where the royal metaphor for mattresses – as in king-size and queen-size – likely had its genesis. "The bed was the most important object in a royal house, and it symbolized the king or queen," explains Sebastien Edwards, deputy chief curator at Historic Royal Palaces in London. "The bed was a little stage. Courtiers would attend the king or queen there. Births and the consummation of marriages were witnessed. And, just like clothes say a lot about who you are, so did the bed," he says in an interview.

One of the most elaborate royal beds that survives belonged to Queen Anne, construction of which began in 1714. It is 15 feet high with elaborate embroidered fabric on the canopy. There were five mattresses stacked one on top of the other, starting with coarser material at the bottom with layers of finer materials such as silk toward the top. (Sadly, Queen Anne died before she could use it.)

The importance of the royal bed sagged when power shifted from the palace to the House of Parliament, Edwards explains. Queen Victoria had a modest bed, for example. Queen Elizabeth likely sleeps in a nice but regular bed. "Of course, we cannot know for sure, as we don't get to see it," offers Edwards with the hushed discretion of a palace employee.

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4. The return of warm metals

Gold and brass are still holding the spotlight. Strong examples from the show include Lilo, a twisted-metal and glass table designed by Lani Adeoye of Studio-Lani; the fluid piece is a part of the Prototype exhibit, composed of designs in search of manufacturers. AM Studio, meanwhile, will display its Moonlights chandelier by glass artist Karli Sears, which features hand-made blown-glass orbs with frosted finishes in amber and bronze.

Warm metal finishes – like those that cover the glass orbs in AM Studio's Moonlights chandelier – remain a key trend for the year ahead.

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