

SO JUST HOW GAY WERE THE TALIBAN?

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STEVEN GAMBREL



**CLIENT: SLEEPLESS IN MANHATTAN**

**SPACE:** The master bedroom in a cavernous Union Square loft.

**PROBLEM:** It's hard to catch an icy space with gallery-white walls.

**SOLUTION:** Despite its severe rac-room pedigree, grass-cloth wallpaper was having a moment. Here it was the space for that nest feel, the wall was knocked down. An extra-thick wool carpet—as opposed to the looped wool, which has less cushion—factor—with extra-thick padding underneath adds to the coziness. Here: an elaborate system of window frames and blackout shades that even a club kid in a K-hood can sleep till high noon.

**BONUS TIP:** Invest in a bench at the end of the bed. You can put your shoes on in the morning without stepping on the carpet.

**FURNISHINGS:** Ebonized as shown by Sarah Hinckley for SR Gambrel. Imported saddle-stitched Italian bedside tables; Carpet from Anthropologie; antique-store vases from a flea market.

**HELP DESK:** 212-925-3380

## Home Improvement

Three Manhattan interior designers combine budget-breaking furnishings with your basic Ikea shelving. It's called style. Take

WHEN STEVEN GAMBREL SPOUTS ABOUT COMPLEX NEUTRALS AND TEXTURED LAYERING, IT'S clients to just smile and nod their heads. You may have trouble grasping what he's saying, but you can trust the end result may not have been what a client was originally thinking," says Gambrel, "but it's always representative of personality." Gambrel, 33, honed his signature aesthetic—neat and studied like a Savile Row suit but with modern pieces and found objects to keep the fuss factor low—during five years at blue-chip architecture-d around Manhattan. After a few freelance gigs he went solo, turning his SoHo loft into HQ for SR Gambrel. His is imposing enough to convince your wife to butch up the boudoir with his masculine Fiat chair. (Gambrel d piece to feel like the cockpit of a roadster.) But even he admits his powers of persuasion have their limits wanted to put a flat-screen in the bedroom but his wife bristled at the idea. "She's a psychology student Gambrel. "And they're newlyweds. Apparently, a TV in the bedroom is a bad idea. We wired for cable, though, j

**IN THE BEDROOM:** THIS WHITE BOX LOOKS AS COZY AS A COLLEGE DORM ROOM. DESIGNER STEVEN GAMBREL WARMS UP WITH GRASS-CLOTH WALLPAPER AND A PLUSH WOOL CARPET. THE UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD MAY SEEM SLIGHT BUT ACCORDING TO GAMBREL, "IT BREAKS DOWN THE ECHO NEAR THE WALL," WHICH COMES IN HANDY WHEN YOU'RE E