

NATURE'S
FINEST



[Clockwise from above] Felt giraffe head, £63, Mini Eden; Nell wallpaper in mustard, £12, B&Q; Black Clouds bedding set, £36.95, Farg & Form; Avery bed, £295, Mini Eden



Rise and
shine



Rebel yell

Kids' rooms are **great spaces to experiment with design and colour**. Try yellow – it rarely pops up in the rest of the house. **It can be subtle**, using linen as Majvillan (top) and Milk + Sugar (middle) have done, or **go all out with a modern modular bedroom** like this offering from Battistella (right), which contrasts brilliantly with the dark grey walls.



LOOK BOOK **KIDS SPACES**



Paint the town

If painting the room, or even just one wall, in bright yellow seems a little too much, **try picking a feature of the room and use that to introduce the colour.** Dulux's Spring Breeze has been chosen for these classic poplar wood shutters by California Shutters (above). **For pattern and extras,** the traditional images often found in a child's bedroom, such as animals and stars, can be **recreated in a contemporary way.** Think black stars emerging from the window, or soft animal heads emerging from the wall. ▶

Looking cool



GOOD WOOD EXTRAS



[From left] Wooden storage boxes, £22, Bloomingville; Whale timber table lamp, around £53.50, indie art & design; Glyn pendant, £95.40, Dar Lighting; pencils, around £6, Nature Home; felt fox hook, £12.99, The Oak Room



Wood picker

Create a **modern space for children** by stripping the design right back. **Pale wood keeps things light**, reducing the need for bright colours. It also provides an ideal backdrop against which to bring in **touches of colour** by just using small items such as cushions. As well as the bed, **there are other essentials**: kids need space for both play and work. Try to **make the necessities match the look of the rest of the room**, as the K desk by Rafa Kids does in its surroundings (left). Or follow the example of Bensons for Beds' Charly Bedstead Storage Bunk (above) and **incorporate shelves into the body of the bed**, for easy access to school books – and favourite bedtime stories, of course. ▶

Where is the best place to start when decorating a child's bedroom?

Storage is the key to keeping kids' rooms relatively clutter-free – I say 'relatively'! Kids accumulate lots of stuff, and this will only accelerate as they grow older, so when you're planning storage, base it not just on what they have now but what they're likely to have in the future. **The room's orientation and the quality of light it receives** should be a deciding factor in your choice of colours and finishes. **There will always be colour in kids' rooms** – their toys and belongings just aren't monochrome. That's why I tend to use a **reduced colour palette** for the basics – walls, floor, main furniture. This keeps the room looking as calm as possible – one of its main functions is sleep, after all. You can then **add one or two accent colours** and the rest will come from the child's belongings. **Use pattern sparingly.** There is usually so much going on in a kid's room that any patterns you add will end up competing with what's already there – which doesn't help to create a restful environment. Restrict it to one area – the wall or the bedding, say, but not both. **Be particularly careful with pictorial pattern.** Stripes, stars, dots, flowers and geometrics have much more longevity. **The best way to create a space that will grow with the child** is to avoid themes and strong colours on the walls. That doesn't have to be boring. **Decorative accents and little personal touches** are what creates the atmosphere in a room, and these can be easily changed as the child grows and gets interested in different things.

Ursula Wesselingh, Room to Bloom

Uphold tradition



STAR PIECES

[Clockwise from top left] Model boat, £170, Nautical Living. Black Bear Wall Vase, £29, MAIDEN. Cushion, around £194 KSL Living. Explorer Kids Map, £39, MuraWall

American dream

These rooms are all about the stars and stripes, but not as we know them. Stripes are zigzagged across a rug or added in bold blocks across linen, and stars come in ornament form alongside Feather & Black's Noah bunk bed (top right). With Prestigious Textiles' Playtime collection (right), stars and stripes exist in their hundreds, sitting pretty alongside some boats. The key to the look is to keep all the colours the same, and the walls and floors pared-back and neutral.





Tickled pink

Sometimes there is just no escaping a child's favourite colour, and that often means pink or blue (for either gender) at a certain age. **The best way to let the room grow with the child** is to avoid going all out in that colour – so think **prints on the wall instead of wallpaper**, and bright accessories and linens in different shades of the hue, such as Sheridan's Anula quilt cover set (above). ■

SWEET THINGS

[Clockwise from right]
Charles Eames-style kids' pink DAW chair, £35, Cult Furniture;
Kotipiha round rug, £54.90, Vallila Interior;
haberdashery house, £25, Quince Living;
Harlequin What a Hoot Candy rug, £149, Kelaty

