

# ULTIMATE KIDS' BEDROOMS

10 rocking rooms  
for tots to teens

Words/Kate Worthington \* Picture research/Nicola Rowe

## 1 URBAN LEGEND

It takes a lot to impress a picky pre-teen, but a street art-emblazoned wall is sure to get the nod of approval. Not up on your graffiti skills? Don't sweat – there are lots of ready-made wallpaper murals on the market. Murals Wallpaper has dozens of designs to choose from and can even make bespoke versions. Team the print with industrial-style furniture and accessories to complete the scheme. Want to add another layer? Denim bedding is a sure-fire way to up the funk. This wallpaper is Pierre Frey's No Toys Allowed FP371001, £564 per roll, shown with Loaf's Beatnik bed, from £795; and Bowles & Bowles' Hanging mesh lockers, £469 each. The carpet is by Brintons.



## 2 SPACE SAVIOUR

They may be small, but somehow kids need just as much (if not more) storage than the rest of us. Built-in designs are the obvious way to make the most of every nook and cranny, but they needn't cost a fortune. By adding bespoke details to off-the-rack buys, you can create something unique and practical. Dutch designer Holly Marder of Avenue Lifestyle created this desk, wardrobe and reading nook combination for her daughter by adapting two Ikea storage systems, Bestå and Stuva. She added leather cabinet handles from Nu Interieur Ontwerp from approx £8.61 each, and an upholstered seat cushion for a cosy feel. The light is the E27 pendant in Rose by Muuto, £55, and the rug is from Pink Rug Co at Etsy.



## 3 THE WRITE START

Washable surfaces are a must for kid-friendly spaces, so what could be more suitable for children's rooms than a blackboard wall? A giant, changeable canvas for doodles, sketches and ideas, it'll nurture their creative side and let them express themselves without making a mess (well, that's the idea anyway). It also allows their room to reflect who they are as they grow and gives spaces an on-trend, graphic edge – a look that Scion designer Hannah Bowen has noticed becoming increasingly popular. 'Trends in kids' rooms are veering away from the cutesy and heading straight to cool,' she says. Try B&Q's Colours Jet Black matt chalkboard paint, £2 for 500ml. For a similar bed, check out Blomkal's Dreamer Cabin bed in Natural, £359 at Smallable.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE PAGE) JULIEN FERNANDEZ/GAP INTERIORS



## 4 BUNK UP

The current must-have for cool kids' rooms isn't the latest gadget or games console, but something reassuringly solid – the bunk bed. 'We're seeing a real resurgence in traditional bunk beds, where the bottom bunk is used during the day as a sofa/chilling/living area – with or without mates – and the top bunk is the cosy bed space,' notes Christopher Lusty, creative director of Little Folks Furniture. 'Obviously, it does the job as a sleepover solution, but it's the multifunctionality that's very of-the-moment.' For a standalone design try Little Folks Furniture, or commission a carpenter to build a similar bespoke bed to this. The best way to find a skilled tradesman in your local area is via [ratedpeople.com](http://ratedpeople.com).



'Kids are always thinking ahead. This is often reflected in their choice of colour – they're drawn to spaces displaying more adult tones'

Jérôme Loizeau, Gautier

## 5 YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED

They want a shrine to *Frozen* – you want a space they won't grow out of before term's over. 'Kids' tastes change all the time, but parents want some longevity,' says interior designer Ursula Wesseligh of Room to Bloom. Finding the balance between the two is about a good foundation: 'Keep the base non-kiddy, calm and sophisticated,' says Ursula, 'and provide lots of storage. Then no matter how messy their room gets, it will always look stylish – a calm background gives pretty things room to shine.' To create a space fit for a little king or queen without being too 'themed', try a statement headboard. It'll add that regal, fairy-tale feel, but will still look elegant and grown-up when the princess phase is over. For a custom-made design like this, try The Headboard Workshop.

'I love the idea of investing in art for children's rooms to educate their eye with beauty and originality'

Julie Hamon, Bobo Kids



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## 6 PASSION FOR PATTERN

Children's rooms are a great opportunity to experiment with colour and pattern. 'The joy of decorating a kid's room is that pretty much anything goes,' says Scion's Hannah Bowden. 'Mix and match the scale and colour of designs - use the motifs from fabrics to make funky-shaped cushions, or try adding one of our rugs for a quick and colourful update.' Even small spaces can benefit from a splash of colour or pattern. 'An accent wall in a different shade or feature wallpaper adds interest and focus and can help improve the room's proportions,' says Room to Bloom's Ursula Wesselingh. Scion, Sandberg and Osborne & Little are worth a look for gorgeous children's wallpapers. For a similar bed, try Blomkal at Smallable. This is the Triangle rug by Armadillo & Co, from £305.



## 7 BUILDING BLOCKS

Double-up your little one's sleep space as a cosy hideaway and even the most notorious bedtime refuseniks couldn't resist snuggling down every night. The natural timber sloping roof and built-in tongue-and-groove bed give this room a comfy, Alpine feel, while a muted colour palette ensures the space feels fresh and contemporary. 'New neutrals are a big trend for children's rooms this year, with the emergence of greys and mustards paired with dusky blues for a palette that's suitable for children as they go from baby to pre-school and beyond,' says Scion's Hannah Bowen. For a similar industrial-style desk, try La Redoute's Buton vintage school desk and chair, £105.

'Kids love to play on the floor, whether they're three or 12. Easily accessible storage space is always a hit, so they can access their favourite toys and activities'

Jean-Luc Lallemand, Gautier

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) VELLUM STUDIOS DESIGN  
 PEINTERIOR.CO.COM AT MURAI LEAH BARTHOLOMEW  
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## ← 8 DOUBLE THE FUN

For a shared bedroom that keeps everyone happy, give its occupants ways to personalise their spaces. Allowing children to make decisions about even the smallest of details in their room can help them feel a sense of ownership and pride - whether it's choosing between bedding designs, adding a flash of a favourite colour or having free rein with the sticker book. Try Ikea's Malm single beds in White, £139 each, including two storage boxes, and customise with paint for a similar look to the ones seen here. On the floor is David Hicks' Hexagon House 2 design in Gray, £146 per sq m, Stark Carpet.

PHOTOGRAPHY GATELY WILLIAMS

## ↑ 9 EARN YOUR STRIPES

This space designed by Jen Langston Interiors uses a bold striped effect to iron out an awkward pitched ceiling, creating the illusion of height. To echo the home's coastal location and create a calming mood, Jen Langston chose a rich teal colour scheme using Benjamin Moore's North Sea Green, from £19.50 for 0.94l, and harmonising turquoise accessories. Olli Ella sells baskets like this. For a similar rug, see the Vintage 8015 design by Louis de Poortere in Azure Blue, from £144. M&S's Esme solid beech cot in Grey, £129, is a good alternative to the design shown here.

'The best way to create a balance between fun and calm is with zones, using colour on dedicated walls to help break up the areas'

Daniela Boleto, Camomile London







## 10 IN THE CHILL

As they grow older, children's bedrooms serve many functions, from somewhere to sleep to a space in which to play, do homework and socialise with friends. 'Right now, kids' rooms are all about comfort - a place where it's easy to hang out,' says Christopher Lusty of Little Folks Furniture. Incorporate chill-out areas for friends, using built-in storage to maximise space, and don't be afraid to make a statement while you're at it. Bold lighting, colour and interesting paint effects add wow-factor and give kids' spaces personality - which will make spending time there all the more appealing for them and their friends. The lights are by Dutch company Vegas Lights. For similar, try Jam Jar Lights' Letter lights, from £195 each.