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STYLISH ROOMS FOR COOL KIDS

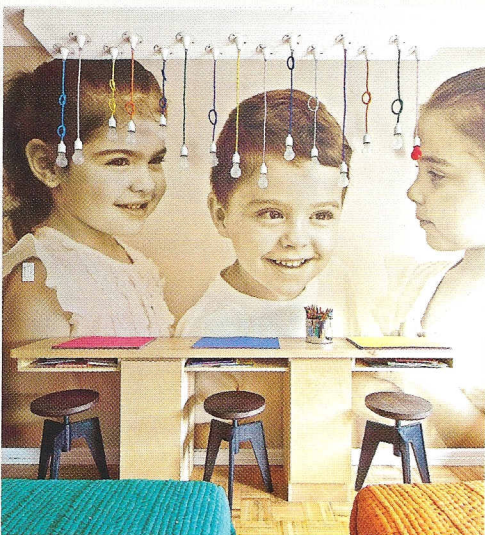
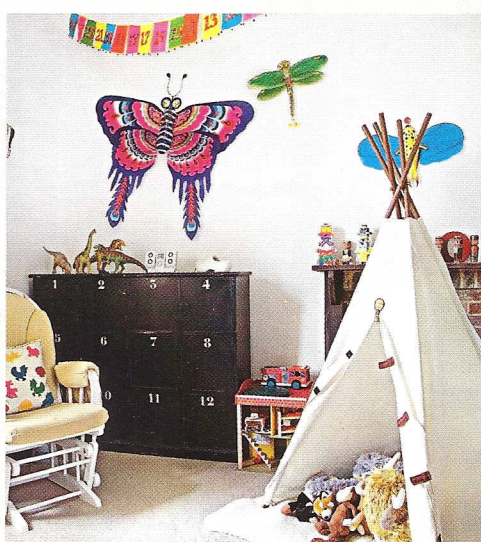
SMART SHOPPING

- Last-minute gifts
- Glam American fridges
- Modern shower trays
- Chic wall mirrors

Interior Inspiration

BEAUTIFUL HOMES PACKED WITH DESIGN IDEAS





PROJECT *planning*

CHILDREN'S ROOMS

Combine function, form and fun with these inspired ideas

WORDS CLAUDIA BAILLIE | PICTURE RESEARCH NICOLA ROWE

Style doesn't have to stop at a child's bedroom door, and whether you're expecting a newborn or updating an older child's room, **designing a space for kids can be as exciting and challenging as decorating the rest of your home.** 'A child's room needs to be a place where they can express themselves, but at the same time it should feel part of the rest of the house,' says designer Ursula Wesselingh, whose company Room To Bloom specialises in children's interiors. 'So there's no need to succumb to cutesy or clichéd.' **Stay true to your style** and

it will be easier to select things to make the room feel coherent. You'll tire of it less quickly, and it will be easier to adapt.'

Decide on a single focus early, as it's easy to over decorate. This could be a piece of furniture, an architectural feature, even a piece of art. And think child-friendly, not childish. Mix in age-appropriate accessories and you will reduce the need to redecorate every few years. **'Most importantly, have fun,'** says Ursula. 'More so than in any other part of the house, this is *the* place where you can let yourself go and be playful.' >



1 POP OF COLOUR A bright rug is a quick and easy way to inject colour and pattern into a baby's room, and does double duty as a playmat on wooden floors.

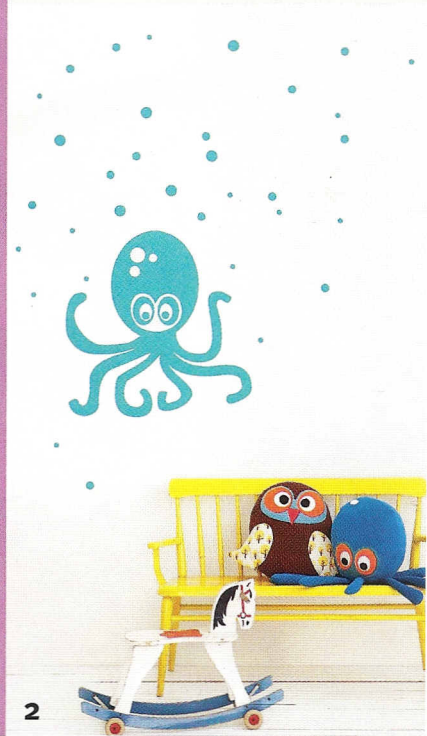
Get the look Lusy Blom rug, £29.99, Ikea.

2 STICK WITH IT Painted murals are expensive and date quickly, but stickers are quick and easy to update.

Get the look Octopus wall sticker, £85, Ferm Living at Heal's.

3 TONAL VALUE Gentle shades promote a sense of calm. Decorate a month before you use the room to ensure any odours are gone. Better still, use VOC-free, wipeable paint.

Get the look Cupcake and Eiderdown claypaints, both £25 for 2.5l, Earthborn.



BABIES

A nursery needs to be calming for your baby, as well as a space for you to enjoy. Flexibility is key, too, so think how your child will use the room in later years.

- **Research shows that babies sleep better in darker environments**, so consider colours outside the usual nursery shades,' says Jenny Dalton at online design magazine LittleBig. 'Dark and mid greys, dark blues, hazy purples and greens can be very soothing. Pep things up with patterned cushions and accessories.'

- **To ensure your baby gets into good sleeping habits**, invest in blackout blinds or curtains, but keep cords well out of reach,' suggests Tze Ching Yeung at interiors company Monsters & Munchkins. 'A dimmer switch is also great for wind-down time.'

- **Invest in products that have longevity.** 'Thorsten Van Elten's wall-mounted Pigeon light is a good example of a piece that will last into teenage and even adult years,' says Catherine Hooper at children's online shop Little Baby Company.

- **Wardrobes are often not necessary in a nursery**, but a cupboard can be useful for toy storage until it's needed for clothes. But don't go for child-sized versions as they will soon be outgrown. >

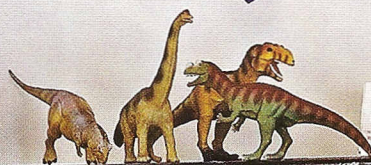
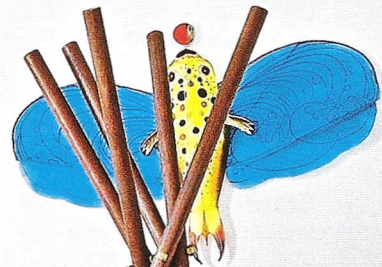
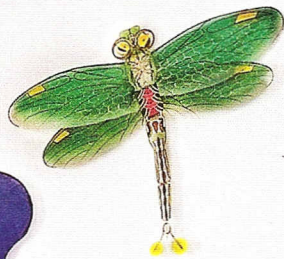


4 TOP OF THE COTS

'Although generally more expensive than a regular cot, a cot bed is a sound investment,' says Courtney Adamo of Babyccino Kids. 'There are some super-stylish models available, and it will last until your child is ready for a full-size bed.'

Get the look This is the Stokke Sleepi cot, from £486, Back In Action. Also try the Kili cot bed, £745, Sebra at Nubie, and the Oeuf Sparrow cot bed, from £587, Naturalmat.





5 PERFECT STORE Incorporate some low-level storage, which makes it easier for children to put their things away: sturdy, school-style lockers are ideal. An indoor teepee works as a den and doubles as extra toy storage.

Get the look For a similar teepee, try Moozle, £165. For vintage storage like this, try Elemental.



6

6 CUPBOARD LOVE

'Beds built into cupboards or walls to create a sleeping nook with storage are a huge trend now,' says Ursula Wesselingh.

Get the look Find a local tradesperson to build a similar bed at ratedpeople.com.

7 FLOOR SHOW

'Carpet can be tricky in a child's room,' says Jenny Dalton, 'so try vinyl, which is easy to clean and surprisingly warm.'

Get the look Vinyl floor tiles, from £14.60 per sq m plus shipping, Modularity Tiles, or get a similar look with vinyl, £24.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria.

8 WALL ART 'Children's art makes great decor,' says Courtney Adamo. Create a grid from webbing and clips.

Get the look Buy webbing at B&M Latex Sales.



7

TODDLERS

Try to involve your children in the decoration as soon as you can, so it feels personal to them. But bear in mind, the less 'themed' it is, the more flexible it will be to change as they grow up.

- **Introduce colours that are more adventurous than classic primary shades,** as more sophisticated hues will stand the test of time. If your child is set on a particular primary shade, paint a piece of furniture or just a single wall, or opt for a toned-down version.
- **'Cartoon characters will date very quickly,'** says Catherine Hooper. 'Instead, try peelable wall stickers and bed linen or a rug that can be updated without too much fuss or expense.'
- **'Teaching children to tidy up is easier with low-level hooks and containers,'** says Ursula Wesselingh. 'Kids love organising their stuff so, with adequate storage, it's easy to encourage a habit to last a lifetime. Just don't call it "tidying up".'
- **'Make sure it's easy for children to access their books.'** If space allows, stand them on shallow picture ledges with the covers facing outwards so they can easily choose their favourite books. Alternatively, store books upright in containers or boxes on wheels so they can flip through. >



8

TWEENS

With play dates and sleepovers to accommodate, it's essential to make the space really work.

- **Combine modern and vintage furniture for a more bespoke look.** 'Either leave old furniture as it is or customise with a coat of paint,' says interior designer Kate Monckton. 'Unlike new pieces, it doesn't matter how much it gets knocked about, as you can always repaint it.'
- **If space is limited, invest in multifunctional furniture,** such as beds with drawers underneath, or a table, benches or stools with storage inside.
- **'Think about sleepover arrangements,'** says Tze Ching Yeung. 'Pull-out beds are a great space-saving solution, or consider bunk beds. Some incorporate a built-in desk, which is perfect for smaller rooms.'
- **'Open shelving encourages children to create displays with their favourite toys,** and may even motivate them to put things away,' says Tze Ching Yeung. 'Cubbyhole-type units are great, as you can fit boxes in them, too. Whatever type of storage you choose, make sure it's secure to avoid accidents.'
- **Ensure good bedside lighting for reading.** These days there are lots of playful lamps to choose from.



9



10

TWEENS

9 BOX OF TRICKS

Wallpaper looks effective in small doses, such as in an alcove. Alternatively, these simple crate shelves are given a lift with colourful cutouts.

Get the look Vintage crates, £20 each, Hen & Hammock.

10 PLACES PLEASE

A table and chairs is one set of furniture that does benefit from being scaled down – and don't forget good task lighting.

Get the look Try the E27 light by Muuto, £59 each, Made In Design. For a bespoke mural go to Surface View.

11 HEAVY METAL

Industrial-style furniture is functional, durable and takes kids through to teenage years.

Get the look Hunt for reclaimed storage at Lassco.

11



For more ideas on updating children's rooms, see housetohome.co.uk/childrens-room or scan the QR code



12 FROM THE GROUND UP

Kids will appreciate a space for low-level lounging. Colourful beanbags, or a selection of floor cushions that can be arranged into different configurations, create a laid-back vibe.

Get the look Cushions upholstered in Zenzo fabric, from £900, Roche Bobois.

TEENAGERS

TEENAGERS

Relaxing, studying and socialising with friends – a teenager's room must perform many functions, as well as being a space that reflects their interests and tastes.

- **'Teens have strong views so, to avoid a battle over decoration,** encourage them to research and experiment with ideas,' says Catherine Hooper. 'But guide their choices by giving limited options that you're happy with and that are within budget.'
- **'Consider ditching the bed,'** says Jenny Dalton. 'A double futon or mattress at floor level allows them to lounge with their friends.'
- **Line walls with heavy-duty storage** that's easy to keep organised. Built-in wardrobes are also ideal. Alternatively, try a vintage wardrobe or armoire.
- **Teenagers love to personalise their room** with artwork and posters. A large noticeboard works well if you don't want pin marks on the walls.
- **'Teens will be studying in their room,** so make sure they have space to work and good lighting,' says Jenny.

Source book

B&M Latex Sales 01932 847793, bandmlatexupholstery.co.uk
Babyccino Kids babyccinokids.com • **Back In Action** 020 7930 8309, backinaction.co.uk • **Earthborn** 01928 734171, earthbornpaints.co.uk • **Elemental** 020 7247 7588, elemental.uk.com
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LittleBig littlebigmagazine.com • **Made In Design** 020 7043 0835, madeindesign.co.uk • **Modularity Tiles** 001 8664 711022, modularitytiles.com • **Monsters & Munchkins** 020 7119 9733, monstersandmunchkins.com • **Moozle** 0031 20 770 8111, moozlehome.com • **Naturalmat** 020 7985 0474, naturalmat.com
Nubie 0800 999 2101, nubie.co.uk • **Roche Bobois** rochebobois.com • **Room To Bloom** 0759 040 3997, room-to-bloom.com
Surface View 0118 922 1327, surfaceview.co.uk • **Thorsten van Elten** 020 7739 7237, thorstenvanelten.com

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