

Living etc

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Season of STYLE

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for cosying up*

*'Make rooms people
look wonderful in...'*

**NICKY HASLAM'S
DESIGN TIPS**

**BE A WRAP
STAR
RIBBONS, TAPES
AND TRIMMING
TRICKS**

Shine

COOL KIDS' ZONES
CHILDREN'S SPACES THAT ARE
SMART, STURDY AND STYLISH

NEW WAYS WITH KIDS' ROOMS

Let your inner child run riot with these inspiring ideas for youngsters' spaces

Words – Charlotte Luxford
Picture research – Nicola Rowe

NURSERIES

Bring up the tiny tots in a style they deserve

EXPERT TIP 'If you're tight on space, don't feel you need to have a changing table, as they become redundant sooner than you might imagine,' says Amanda Short, founder of modern kids' boutique Nubie. 'You should avoid placing the cot too close to the bedroom door, so the child is not disrupted by noise. Also, ensure the cot is near a socket in order to plug in a baby monitor and night light.'

'Colour-wise,' adds Short, 'block

shades such as poppy red, orange and blue are making a big comeback in the world of nursery décor.'

DESIGN KNOW-HOW Babies sleep better in rooms that are really dark, so try a mid-tone palette and invest in blackout blinds. Additionally, use VOC-free paint from companies such as Ecos Organic Paints or Earthborn. **LITTLE BLACK BOOK** For modern nursery furniture, try Lullabuy, Nubie or check out the new M&S baby range.

ALPHABET PROJECT

'The client loved the early Fifties alphabet wallpaper, so the room was built up around that,' says US interior designer Benjamin Cruz. *Alphabet wallpaper in Turquoise on White, approx £70 per linear m, Alexander Girard for Maharam. This is the Sparrow cot bed in Grey, £541, Oeuf at Mood. To re-create this entire project would cost from approx £2,500 to £3,500.*

ANIMAL PROJECT ↓

'This nursery was inspired by the things I love most about spring,' says Sharon Montrose, founder of The Animal Print Shop. 'I found the wallpaper first, fell in love with it and it set the tone for the rest of the room.' She tied the scheme together with bright woodwork and a paler paint colour on the ceiling.

For a similar wallpaper, see *Early Birds*, £61.50 per 10m roll, Brian Yates. These Lamb, Baby Deer and Baby Kangaroo prints are from the *Little Darlings* collection at The Animal Print Shop. They cost from approx £15 each unframed; and from £56 framed.



COLOUR PROJECT ↑

'This scheme was based on the fabric used for the blanket,' says Megan Leith-Menard, founder of Canadian interior design company FreshHouse. 'I didn't want it to look too "matchy-matchy", so I brought lots of different shades into the room, while keeping lilac and coral central to the scheme.'

The cot blanket was made in Amy Butler's Love cotton in Sandlewood/Tangerine, £5.44 per 0.9m, HootFabrics at Etsy. For paper lanterns and decorations like these, visit Talking Tables.

ARTFUL PROJECT

'With three young children in the house, it felt like a natural decision to include some elements that would appeal to them,' says James Pannekoecke, owner of Australian practice Concrete Architecture. 'The chalkboard wall was an eye-catching and inexpensive way of adding a fun element to the room and their friends love writing on it when they come round to play.'

Laura Ashley's Kids water-based chalkboard paint, £10.50 for 750ml, could re-create the look. For a modern cot like this, see the Greenwich crib, £392, Hugs Factory at myitalianliving.com.



KIDS

Give young children a room of their own

EXPERT TIP 'A young child spends around 40 per cent of its time asleep, so choosing an appropriate bed is essential,' says Dan Wade, managing director at Feather & Black. 'For toddlers, a small cot with a side rail works best. As a first bed, a single 3ft unit is generally ideal.'

TRICK OF THE TRADE Longevity is key when designing a kid's room. Initially, they won't need much wardrobe space, so create a tall, deep storage unit with removable shelves for toys and games, which can be turned into hanging space later on. While decorative details such as a painted mural are a nice touch, wall stickers are ideal for a quick and easy update. Try Ferm Living, Bouf and Spin Collective for cool designs.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK For bespoke pieces and furniture ranges, try Barbara Genda, Aspace and Room to Grow. Olive Loves Alfie, Great Little Rooms and Bobo Kids have fab accessories to complete the scheme.

BOY/GIRL PROJECT

'The client wanted a neutral palette that would be fitting for both her little girl and the baby boy that was on the way,' says Chelsea Reale, interior designer at US firm Sissy+Marley. 'We chose warm shades of grey and metallic silver to keep it gender neutral.'

The Lucky Star wallpaper in Silver Metallic, approx £106 per 4.57m roll, is by Sissy+Marley at Jill Malek. Try Patternology Metallic Stars wall stickers for a similar look, £14 for a pack of 31, Mamas & Papas.



ENCLOSED PROJECT

'The client wanted to turn the space into a small world for his two young girls to play,' says Adriana Benguela of Brazilian design firm Rosenbaum. 'So we created a suspended bed with two mattresses, which also allowed for the inclusion of a desk. The wallpaper – grown-up girls' flowers with a psychedelic touch – was created by the Rosenbaum team.' Barbara Genda could design a similar bed and desk solution for approx £2,400.

BESPOKE PROJECT →

'We thought that a hand-painted mural would be more suitable for this room than wallpaper,' says Elena Frampton, creative director of US interior design firm Curated. 'The light fixture was selected to create a more intimate sense of scale in this rather tall space.' The Akari Light Sculpture lantern is by Isamu Noguchi for Vitra (this model is not available in the UK). See the similar Akari 45X pendant at The Conran Shop, £220. The rug is by Madeline Weinrib.

RECLAMATION PROJECT ↗

'The bedroom is relatively small, so I wanted it to be cosy, warm and calm,' says Linda Sätterström, homeowner and founder of Swedish design company Elodie Details. 'The frame is built from an old children's bed we bought second hand for approx £40.' For a similar pink wallpaper, see the Tiny Tots range by Galerie at Wallpaper Direct, £19.96 per 10m roll. Try Vertigo Interiors for an artichoke-style pendant, £199.99.



PLAY ROOMS

A well-planned space will keep clutter at bay

EXPERT TIP 'Zone off certain areas for specific needs,' says Ursula Wesselingh, owner of interior design company Room to Bloom. 'Create a crafting area with a long shelf against a wall or under a window, but keep storage for supplies nearby – an architect's plan chest is perfect. A tepee or playhouse can give smaller children their own little secret space.'

DESIGN KNOW-HOW Make sure the flooring is hard-wearing, with a rug laid down to cushion small knees. Also consider where you place the play area, as toddlers will want to be near you.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK Allmodern.co.uk has some cool playhouses, including the unusual Kyoto Indoor Playhouse, £571.23.



ADAPTABLE PROJECT ↑

'The idea was to create a space that belonged to the kids, but wasn't separate from the rest of the house,' says Eric Olsen of California-based Eric Olsen Design. 'This area is plumbed for a bar, so eventually it will revert to an entertainment hub and the chalkboard wall and vintage storage unit will remain, but function in a more adult way.'

Try *Retrouvius* for reclaimed shop fittings. *Alexander & Pearl* has an industrial-style chest, £475.

← FUTURE-PROOF

'The parents wanted to turn their pool house into a hip place where their teenage son could bring his friends,' says Kristy Kropat of San Diego's Kropat Interior Design. 'A temporary wall hides the original kitchenette and makes a fun architectural detail. But the kitchen remains intact, so the family can still use it if they wish.'

Expect to pay from £12,000 to create a similar space. Find colourful modular seating like this at *Habitat*, from £265 per unit.



SPACE- SAVING PROJECT

'Initially, we had trouble trying to determine an appropriate use for the awkward area under the stairs,' says Dave Spolnik, founder of Canadian architectural design company Sprout Studios. 'The owners, being relatively new parents, came up with the play-space idea, which suited their lifestyle perfectly and fits the floor plan like a dream.'

Re-create the look with Ikea's Kritter chairs in primary colours, £10 each; and Kritter table, £22.

SHARING

Clever design with individual touches will prevent sibling rivalry

EXPERT TIP 'Your children are likely to be into different things, so select a neutral furniture range that you and the kids can put your own personal stamp on,' says Christopher Lusty, managing director of Aspace.

'Backless shelving units are a great way of zoning off areas for different activities (homework, play and sleep),

while also providing an independent space for each child.'

TRICK OF THE TRADE Bunk beds are an obvious solution to sharing, but make them more personal to each child so they have their own territory. Recessed shelving units for their favourite books or toys and their own mini reading light will help. In addition,

let them get creative when decorating these areas and give them a choice of bedding so they can select their own for each bunk.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK As well as two beds, Space Saving Beds's Funky Bunk solution includes an integrated wardrobe, desk and storage space.



HIGH/LOW PROJECT

'In this room, a funky bunk-bed system has been cleverly designed to not only look fun, but also to house plenty of storage,' says Almas Shamsee, founder of Maisha Design, of this project by Cape Town-based Antoni Associates. 'Although sharing, each child has their individual section of the room.' Almas estimates the bespoke bunk bed would cost approx £2,500 to re-create. This Alex Toys' Artist Studio desk and bench set, £263.99, is available on Amazon.

TWIN PROJECT

'I wanted to make the best use of the existing alcove that was long and skinny,' says designer Lisa Sherry, of US company Lisa Sherry Interiors. 'The space was ideal for recessed bunks and the roofline made it feel cosier and interesting. The stairs running up the middle made the space far more special, as ladders can look a bit clumsy.' Find a skilled craftsman to replicate this look via ratedpeople.com. Buy a smaller reproduction of this Southdown poster, approx £5, at A Slice in Time on eBay.



FLEXIBLE PROJECT

This monochrome scheme is suitable for both a toddler and an older child. It's sophisticated, but softened with the use of playful graphic patterns and the odd pop of colour.

Both the cot and the bed are dressed with cushions including knitted designs by Scottish designer Donna Wilson, from £37.50 each. The cot features Gran bedding from Fine Little Day, approx. £57 for a crib-size duvet cover and pillow set.





DISPLAY PROJECT ↑

'My son Jivan is obsessed with skateboarding, so we logged on to a website and chose 20 boards in eye-catching colours to decorate the walls of his room,' says homeowner, interior designer and blogger Athena Calderone. The skateboards are from Warehouse Skateboards – decks costs from approx £15. For a similar table lamp, see the Jieldé Signal ZigZag in brushed stainless steel, £355, Holloways of Ludlow.

ALCOVE PROJECT →

'This is a fun way of dealing with limited space, which often fills up with mess and clutter,' says interior stylist Sophie Robinson. 'By building a bed base within an alcove, you create a handy nook that can be used both as a sleeping area and a snug for hanging out with friends or watching TV.' The walls are painted in Charlotte's Locks and Pitch Black estate emulsions, £36 for 2.5l each, Farrow & Ball. This is C-60 wallpaper in Snow, £45 per 10m roll, Mini Moderns.

TEENS

Be bold and bring their personality to the fore

EXPERT TIP 'The best way to design a teenager's bedroom is to use humour, colour and style to provide an edgy, urban and individual space,' says Clare Pascoe, owner of Pascoe Interiors in Sussex. 'Visit scrap yards, look into recycled products and consider getting in a graffiti artist to create a bespoke mural. Ensure you give them a budget to stick to, which will focus their creativity.'

DESIGN KNOW-HOW Homework will seem like the bane of their lives (and yours), so help them to create a work space that's inspiring as well as functional. Encourage their artistic side with moodboards, pinboards and maps, plus display any awards, photos or favourite books to make it more inviting. Ensure there's good task lighting and plenty of storage. Create a separate chill-out zone in the room, so it doesn't feel like they're only in the space for working and sleeping.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK Go Modern has a great range of modular furniture. Try House Doctor and Urban Outfitters for smaller statement pieces.



OFFBEAT PROJECT

'The child's mother had a trapeze in her room as a kid and requested one for her daughter,' say Taryn Christoff of New York-based Christoff: Finio Architecture. 'It came from a circus equipment supplier – it wasn't that difficult to install, but did require serious blocking in the ceiling to support the weight.'

Try Firetoys for circus equipment such as a trapeze – a static model starts at £174. This is the FL/Y pendant in Fuchsia Pink, £165, by Ferruccio Laviani for Kartell. The bed is by Blu Dot – create a similar look by using the Dodu Full bed frame, approx £930, and two separate mattresses.