

DESIGN IDEAS



GROWN-UP LOOK
With a Damien Hirst artwork and a vintage chandelier, this little girl's bedroom in Bayswater is certainly at the fancier end of the spectrum. The bed is upholstered in an Abbott & Boyd linen and has two drawers for storing toys. abbottandboyd.co.uk

Children's bedrooms

From whimsical wallpapers and playful paint schemes to bespoke beds and storage, bedrooms for little ones offer the ideal opportunity for creativity – particularly as they often occupy the smaller rooms in the house. **ROSE DAHLSEN** explores the possibilities ▷

ALEXANDER JAMES



A carpenter was commissioned to make this wooden bed frame for a child's room in Dorset, as seen in *Creative Children's Spaces** by Ashlyn Gibson (see also opposite page). With fabric draped over the roof of the structure, the bed can be transformed into a magical playhouse.



Primary colours set the tone for the children's rooms in this London house designed by Suzy Hoodless. A faux fire adds humour and ignites a cosy feel, while felt and wool animal heads (Graham and Green offers a similar range) add further charm and whimsy. suzyhoodless.com | grahamandgreen.co.uk



Also featured in *Creative Children's Spaces*, 'Paradisett' wallpaper from Svenskt Tenn offers a stimulating backdrop for 18-month-old Leo. Zig-zag bedding from Luckyboysunday and a cot from Oeuf create a modern mix. svensktenn.se | luckyboysunday.dk | oefnyc.com



Designed by Hugh Leslie, the wrap-around headboard and extended length of this bed allow one or more to nestle in for bedtime reading. The blue 'Collobrières' fabric by Pierre Frey offsets graphic cushions by Jonathan Adler. hughleslie.com | pierrefrey.com | jonathanadler.com



Whitewashed pine bunk beds have been cleverly designed by Spencer & Wedekind to create a sheltered study nook beside the bottom bunk. The asymmetric arrangement offers independent zones for young twins, while still allowing them to chat from their beds at night. spencerandwedekind.com



In this room designed by William Yeoward, a beautiful, eighteenth-century screen from Hollyhock depicts a military camp. A blue-and-red striped tented cupboard from Clock House Furniture echoes the military theme. williamyeoward.com | hollyhockinc.com | clockhouse-furniture.co.uk

Child's play

Three experts reveal their design tips for decorating children's rooms

ASHLYN GIBSON

STYLIST AND AUTHOR OF *CREATIVE FAMILY HOME* AND *CREATIVE CHILDREN'S SPACES**, AND OWNER OF CHILDREN'S SHOP OLIVE LOVES ALFIE

Collaborate If your child is old enough to have their own opinion, they are old enough to get involved in decorating their own room. Find colours and motifs that will reflect their personalities and interests. This playhouse desk by Kutikai (pictured above) is innovative and fun. Measuring 82 x 100 x 64cm, it costs £345 and is in stock at Olive Loves Alfie.

Repurpose To create a unique space, think about repurposing things: a vintage sewing box as a library, or an old suitcase for a dressing-up box. A mirror ball makes a stunning alternative to a mobile and it will stand the test of time.

Keep it natural Use organic paint and textiles in a nursery; Little Greene has hundreds of paints to choose from. They are kinder on the environment and create a safe haven without hidden toxins. ashlyn-gibson.co.uk | olive-loves-alfie.co.uk | littlegreene.com



LUCINDA CROFT

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DRAGONS OF WALTON STREET, A CHILDREN'S INTERIOR-DESIGN COMPANY ORIGINALLY FOUNDED BY HER MOTHER IN 1979

Get the lighting right Consider lighting practicalities as well as the way a child's bedroom looks – such as having blackout window treatments or different lighting for playtime and quiet time.

Share the space Think about creating space for adults and children to spend time together, be it a supportive nursing chair or cuddling up on a sofa for story time.

Add a personal touch The most important aspect of designing a child's bedroom is to create something

personal that will make it a special place to be for both of you. Hand-painted furniture and bespoke murals can bring a room to life. For a reading corner or play area, try the 'Beatrix Potter Rush Seated Chair' (left), 63 x 33cm square, £295, from Dragons of Walton Street. dragonsofwaltonstreet.com ▷





Cupboard doors are a prime canvas for artwork, as Suzy Hoodless has demonstrated in this London home, with a playful custom-designed mural of hanging monkeys and marching elephants for the five-year-old occupant. suzyhoodless.com



Vincent and Bianca Frey's home features 'touches of French classicism'. The painting provides a contrast to the colourful globe, while the cot (bought on Ebay) is bookended with Pierre Frey lamps. The 'Swing Low' cradle by Søren Ulrich helps their baby to sleep. pierrefrey.com | bysorenulrich.com



The canopy in this girl's bedroom, designed by Studio Alidad, was intended to make it feel more 'feminine and special'. The bespoke floral design on the headboard and silk fringe is repeated on the fabric wallcovering, while the ceiling and corona are hand-painted. studioalidad.com



Small rooms require savvy storage solutions, so here Ursula Wesseling of Room to Bloom has avoided free-standing furniture and made use of the alcoves. The bed, drawers and shelves are painted in Farrow & Ball's 'Breakfast Room Green' to unify the scheme. room-to-bloom.com | farrow-ball.com



Decorator Jorge Estevez painted charming medallions onto the walls of this child's bedroom in Paris, creating a fairy-tale feel. Each contains a mythical creature, religious icon or motif, which watch over the child as they sleep. estevezart@yahoo.fr

'Child's play' continued

URSULA WESSELINGH

HER INTERIOR-DESIGN PRACTICE, ROOM TO BLOOM, SPECIALISES IN CHILDREN'S ROOMS



Plan Map out the functions of the room and zone it accordingly. Drawing up a floor plan will help you with space planning by showing you how furniture will fit and where sockets and light points should be. This will help when future-proofing the room.

Liven up neutrals If you want to ensure the longevity of a scheme, avoid themes and aim for a neutral, calm base – a restrained colour palette will not compete with the riot of colour that children's possessions bring. You can then add personality with decorative touches, which are easier to change as children's tastes and interests evolve. Limit patterns to one wall or just bedding and cushions.

Include storage To support the room's main function as a place to sleep, you can never have too much storage for clothes and toys. Invest in built-in or buy the largest wardrobe and chest of drawers you can to keep the room uncluttered. Nobodinoz's '3 Drawer Dresser' (pictured above), 93 x 85 x 48cm, £650, from Nubie, is a good example. room-to-bloom.com | nubie.co.uk



Upcycled materials and flea-market finds fill this home in Warsaw, seen in *Creative Children's Spaces**. The homemade bed is fashioned from casters attached to upcycled wooden pallets. At the foot of the mobile bed, wooden apple crates are used to store books and games.

Wall art

Grown-up wallpapers for young occupants



- 1 'All Star'** (candy), 52cm wide, £81 a 10-metre roll, from Barneby Gates. barnebygates.com
- 2 'Marmorino'** (cobalt), 68.5cm wide, £68 a 10-metre roll, from Designers Guild. designersguild.com
- 3 'Marwari Horse'** (deep blue), 52cm wide, £140 a 10-metre roll, from Molly Mahon. mollymahon.com
- 4 'Monkey and Birds'** (pink/grey), by Sheila Robinson, 52cm wide, £60 a 10-metre roll, from St Jude's Fabrics. stjudesfabrics.co.uk
- 5 'Whimsical, Peaseblossom'** (103/10032), 52cm wide, £72 a 10-metre roll, from Cole & Son. cole-and-son.com □

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHARYN CAIRNS, BRETT CHARLES, JAMES McDONALD; BEN ROBERTSON © RYLAND PETERS & SMALL; CHRIS TUBBS; RACHEL WHITING. *CREATIVE CHILDREN'S SPACES (RYLAND PETERS & SMALL, £19.99)