

KEEP THE CHILD IN MIND

5 top designers hold forth on children's rooms



DESIGNERS GUILD KIDS

Above and below: Fabrics, wallpaper and accessories for children's rooms by Tricia Guild.



DESIGNERS GUILD KIDS



CHILDREN'S ROOMS should be fun, bright and stimulating and should be flexible as the child grows.

Pick three bright colors and stick to them. Avoid black and brown. Theme rooms are trendy but are easily outgrown.

I love chalkboard walls for kids. Benjamin Moore's chalkboard paint is in black only; Portola has a whole deck of colors. I always use "green" paint. Benjamin Moore has three brands, all with the Greenguard stamp, sold at Bayside Paint.

Hard flooring surfaces like wood or tile are easier to play on and clean. Throw a soft, fuzzy, colorful rug in the center of the room. Include a child-sized table and chairs for games, puzzles and coloring. If space allows, add a comfy chair for reading and snuggle time.

Furniture that can adapt to a growing child is a good investment. I like the Stanley Furniture Young America Collection with Greenguard certification.

— JEANNE STERNE, SEASIDE HOME
858-454-0866, seaside-home.com



NURSERY DESIGN has been on my mind a lot lately, and for good reason: my husband and I are about to have our first child!

When it comes to designing a baby's room, I like to think about investing for the long term. Start with a sophisticated color palette that will wear well over the years. Recently, in a client's home, I balanced a slightly iridescent ivory-and-pewter wallpaper with simple limed wood furniture. Then we layered on fun, age-appropriate accessories, accent pieces and textiles. As your baby grows, simply switch out the accessories for an update.

Consider shopping for sturdy vintage furniture, which is often better quality than the mass-marketed options. After all, if furniture can survive through enough years to be termed vintage, it can withstand the wear and tear a child can give. Since vintage pieces often need a coat of paint and a little refurbishing, you can choose colors that complement your palette.

At the end of the day, peppering quality basics with plenty of unique touches will help the room grow along with your family.

— AMY MEIER, AMY MEIER DESIGN,
858-848-4151, amymeierdesign.com



DESIGNING A ROOM for a child with special needs is no different than designing a space for any child. The key is to capitalize on what motivates the child. Build the concept into every area through color, texture and pictures.

By anchoring the furniture, making toys and books accessible and choosing rounded edges, you can create a safe and secure environment that minimizes the risk of accidents. Fasten bookshelves, dressers or freestanding pieces to walls and/or to the floor.

We typically find that calming colors provide the best backdrop. They don't overwhelm a small space but provide a hint of color. You can introduce different textures that are therapeutic for children with woven curtains, "minky" or pile rugs and soft bedding. We recommend using blackout window treatments or blinds in a child's bedroom as many children are very sensitive to changes in light.

Promote organization with the use of accessible storage bins. Replace outlets with safety outlets. Design the child's room for their use, not just as a pretty picture.

— TRITIA GUSTINE, BEACH BUNGALOW DESIGNS
858-793-7782

OR CECILY'S CLOSET
858-945-4166, cecilyscloset.org



NURSERIES AREN'T just for babies anymore. Mixing modern, vintage and ethnic items are a great way to jazz them up. Mix it up with a dresser that can grow with them, like the reclaimed wood piece from Aidan Grey with changing table from Room & Board.

If you have no room to spare, an oval crib like the one from Stokke is a great space saver.

The best wall décor tells a story. Make a wall collage of your baby photos: beside the new baby's photos, frame your favorite baby cards, add baby handprints on colored canvas and his or her initial. A mirror, a bird house, a pair of their shoes ... anything goes.

— KRISTIN LOMAURO-BOOM, ALLIED MEMBER ASID
KRISTIN LOMAURO INTERIOR DESIGN
858-272-6607, kristinlomauro.com

For more design ideas, join our eClub. Sign up at sandieghomegarden.com