



Cool kids' ROOMS

Shereen Lurie shares tips on creating trendy yet timeless kids' bedrooms

Clever Little Monkey



Bone Interior Design Studio



DoveTail Studio

Are you looking to create a bedroom that both you and your little one will enjoy? A child's bedroom is a space to exercise your creative flair and let your imagination run wild as you create a room as unique as your child. By investing in quality furniture, reducing the clutter, and taking a modern approach to design, you'll have a room with longevity and décor items that bring joy and last well into the teen years.

MODERN AND TIMELESS

One of the first things that should be decided on is your colour palette and theme. Marissa Müller, product administrator/stylist at Cielo, believes this will give you

a good indication on which furniture to introduce into the bedroom. "Natural wooden furniture, black and white with a dash of colour is always a winner!" Nicola Orpen, director of Bone Interior Design Studio, says you should keep the walls and floors neutral with pops of colour that can be interchanged easily. "Don't design fixed elements (i.e. colourful bunkbeds or brightly patterned curtains) appropriate to age as this will be costly to change later."

Look for items that you (and your kids) absolutely love and won't tire of. Stephanie Niemandt, marketing manager at Clever Little Monkey, says styling a room is a very personal thing and seeing that your kid is going to be spending a lot of time in there, it's best to ensure

they approve of the colours and theme. "We like to remind parents that a colour scheme is a theme too; it doesn't always have to be movie characters. When it comes to a stylish and timeless style, go for classics and quality that will last, paired with accessories and décor that can be changed when needed."

Angela Fourie, interior designer and owner of DoveTail Studio, advises using statement pieces of furniture that are strong and durable. She feels that you can add colour and movement with trendy mats and prints that can always be changed. "Wallpaper is also a very creative way to add interest to a space. Make sure that everything is balanced – don't overpower the space or make it too cluttered."

Kids grow up fast and get bored with a lot of things >



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very quickly. Leanne Van Niekerk, interior designer and owner of Leanne Van Niekerk Interiors, adds that constantly updating their bedroom can be hard and expensive. "To remedy this, keep things simple, be

"Natural wooden furniture, black and white with a dash of colour is always a winner." – Marissa Müller

intentional about the design so that you can create a space that does not go out of style, but still reflects the child's personality. A child's bedroom is not only used for sleeping, it is a space where they play, imagine, do homework, and hang out with friends."

EFFECTIVE STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Orpen is a big fan of using large woven baskets as toy storage as they are multifunctional and can act as planter baskets down the line. "Simple open box shelving provides beautiful toy display opportunities and can double up as home office storage when the kids outgrow them."

According to Niemandt, one can never have enough

storage and the good news is that stylish storage that forms part of your décor has become quite a handy trend. "By incorporating storage into your décor, it sets the tone of organising and cleaning up after playtime, without it being a chore. Use a beautiful basket for toys or blocks, while wall shelves make gorgeous bookcases for display and those special out-of-reach items. We love using a big, sturdy dresser (that has been converted from being used as a compactum in the baby's room) as it completes the room and serves as storage for just about anything."

Fourie says you need sufficient width, height and depth in the storage pieces you choose, so ensure that the pieces you choose have the capacity to store what is needed. "Divide up the things you need stored for effective use of space in an orderly approach – blankets, toys and books each in their own compartments." For Van Niekerk, sleek storage in a stylish bedroom is key. "I love a mix of both open and closed storage. Big baskets make cleaning up toys a breeze. Simple and customisable shelving units can be personalised with colourful storage cubes, making it easy for kids to pull out and pack away their toys. They can be used to display awards and memorabilia when they get older."

KID-FRIENDLY COLOUR PALETTES

The colour palette in your bedroom will set the tone for a stylish room. According to Orpen, you should always opt for a warm neutral base colour for your walls that complements the existing floor finish. "Don't opt for the obvious dated pink and blue schemes. For girls' rooms ochres and peachy hues work while for boys' rooms rusts and charcoal/navy make bold statements and age better than the brighter palettes." Most of us remember our childhood bedrooms as very colourful and fun, adds Muller. "Nowadays we lean more towards neutral furniture and splashes of colour and textures here and there for a more contemporary look and feel."

Niemandt believes that with colour, it's >



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important to combine the correct tones and saturation, so that they complement each other. “Start with a neutral base and add your colours with accessories, like blankets and scatters. Your neutral base doesn’t always have to be white – we like to keep to a focal colour and expand on that with different hues.”

Fourie says you should always think about the child you are designing the space for. “Do they require something bright and vibrant or would they prefer something calming and soft?” Van Niekerk feels that a great way to keep a space sophisticated is to keep the main parts of the room neutral and not age-specific. “Layering in pattern and colour adds visual interest and personality to the space.”

Luciana Lewis, MD of Mokki, is a firm believer that colour in a bedroom can influence a child’s mood. “Blue is calming and ideal for an over-active child, green is calming but also cool and invigorating – ideal to cool down a room that gets a lot of sunshine, red stimulates energy – ideal for a lethargic child, yellow brings happiness and optimism and purple is the favourite colour for all girls irrespective of age as it’s glamorous and pretty. Purple also helps to stimulate brain activity.” That said, it is always best to get your child to help choose the dominant colour in their room.

EASY-TO-ADAPT ROOMS

One of the best ways to ensure your child’s room is able to “grow” with them is by purchasing neutral investment pieces. Orpen feels you can do this by buying a single vs toddler bed, neutral window treatments and a timber floor with loose rug vs fitted carpet, for example. “Loose items such as scatters, rugs, and hanging canopies ... are easy enough to remove and replace with their new preferred colour schemes. Decorative vinyl patterns or fun animal graphics can also create a bold design detail and are easily peeled off when the child tires of them.” Fourie shares the sentiment and adds that a neutral colour scheme can be across the board with wall and curtain colours. Van Niekerk advises you opt for built-in storage that is white or wood tone. “Pick window coverings that are classic, layer with scatters and throws – these are easy to change as tastes evolve – and remember that subtle greys and white furniture are timeless and effortlessly stylish.” 🏠



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OUR EXPERTS SHARE THEIR MUST-HAVES FOR EVERY STYLISH KID’S BEDROOM

Nicola Orpen: Beautiful reading nook with either a tent or hanging canopy with floor cushions.

Marissa Müller: A funky bed!

Stephanie Niemandt: A dresser is a classic piece that will never go out of style and will always be of use.

Angela Fourie: Good lighting – statement lamps with soft lighting for bedtime and night wake-ups.

Leanne Van Niekerk: Create a cosy feel with comfy throws and cushions for lounging.

Luciana Lewis: A study corner where they won’t be disturbed, as well as a funky chair to encourage reading.

With thanks to Bone Interior Design Studio, Cielo, Clever Little Monkey, DoveTail Studio, Leanne Van Niekerk Interiors and Mokki



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