

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Living etc

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COSY FOR WINTER

- * SNUGGLY CHAIRS
- * WARM BLANKETS
- * UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARDS

ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

BEAUTIFUL IDEAS FOR
LITTLE PEOPLE

TRULY MODERN

HOMES WITH CLASS AND CONFIDENCE



RECALL: 36/1/2019

DOUBLE DUTY

Space is a perennial problem for parents of young children and bunk beds are the classic bedroom solution. Most modern interpretations are not just high on the fun factor, working in anything from slides to tree houses, but score points for storage, too. It's worth investing in a long-lasting piece. 'Bunk beds must withstand wear and tear and be suitable for the child's age – they are not recommended for under-sixes, for example,' says Ursula Wesselingh, owner and children's interior designer at Room to Bloom. Amanda Short, founder of Nubie, recommends a bunk bed that can be converted to singles later. 'This helps with expensive transition periods,' she says.



Project details A bespoke bunk bed stretches from floor to ceiling to maximise space in this shared bedroom by interior designer Nicky Dobree. Built-in storage keeps clutter at bay, while steps to the top bunk are tucked away at the foot of the bed, keeping the floor free for playing. In-built curtains are a cosy idea, creating a secret hideaway during the day and a snug refuge at night (Sanderson's Fretwork fabric at Style Library is from £33m). You can customise the bed by painting it in your children's favourite hues and updating it later. Steal Nicky's style with Lady Char's Lilac pure flat emulsion from Paint & Paper Library, £48.50 for 2.5L. Leather handles from Turnstyle Designs add a chic finishing touch.



Project details 'When it comes to decorating, it's worth remembering that the younger children are, the more unpredictable they can be,' points out Mandy Colliss, creative director of Funky Little Darlings. 'To avoid costly mistakes, it's best to keep things relatively simple and easy to update with colourful accessories, cushions, rugs and art prints on the wall. Their taste will change as they grow and these are the most cost-effective elements to adapt.' Paint is another easy way to add interest without going overboard. Old pieces of furniture in need of a new lease of life are ideal candidates for a colourful makeover (try Napoleonic Blue, £19.95 for 1L at Annie Sloan). Hang curtains around the bed to create an instant den. Aina fabric, £8m, Ikea, is a good match.



[Future-proof design]

Creatives give their best tips on acing a room that grows with a child and reduces the need to redecorate

*** I'm a fan of tonal schemes** as these create a calm backdrop for children's colourful possessions. I prefer whites, greys, beiges and nudes for walls, offset by an accent wall in a stronger colour or wallpaper (one wall can be changed quite easily). Ursula Wesselingh, interior designer at Room to Bloom

*** Curtains are expensive to make**, so I wouldn't pick something too thematic. I would go for great quality fabric – cotton, linen or velvet, for instance – in a plain colour or a discreet pattern so that you don't have to change it when you want a different look. Aurore Martial, interior designer at Domus Venus

*** Invest in good furniture** that has simple lines and will fit into other schemes as your child gets older. Emma Green, interior designer at Emma Green Design

*** The transition from baby to young child** happens very quickly, so think about choosing multipurpose key pieces of bedroom furniture to offer flexibility as your child grows. Can the cot be converted into a toddler bed? Does the baby changer double up as a chest of drawers? There are so many clever designs available now: choosing flexible kit will pay dividends later. Mandy Colliss, creative director of Funky Little Darlings