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## TOP TIPS FOR A DESIRABLE DESK

- Add some greenery, a plant or fresh flowers
- Add a lamp, it doesn't need to be an office lamp, go for something more decorative
- Add some photographs or artwork for inspiration and motivation
- Give careful consideration to storage and use free standing furniture nearby, for extra space
- Don't overlook the ergonomics and get set up properly from the start to avoid aches and pains further down the line

Source: Run Projects

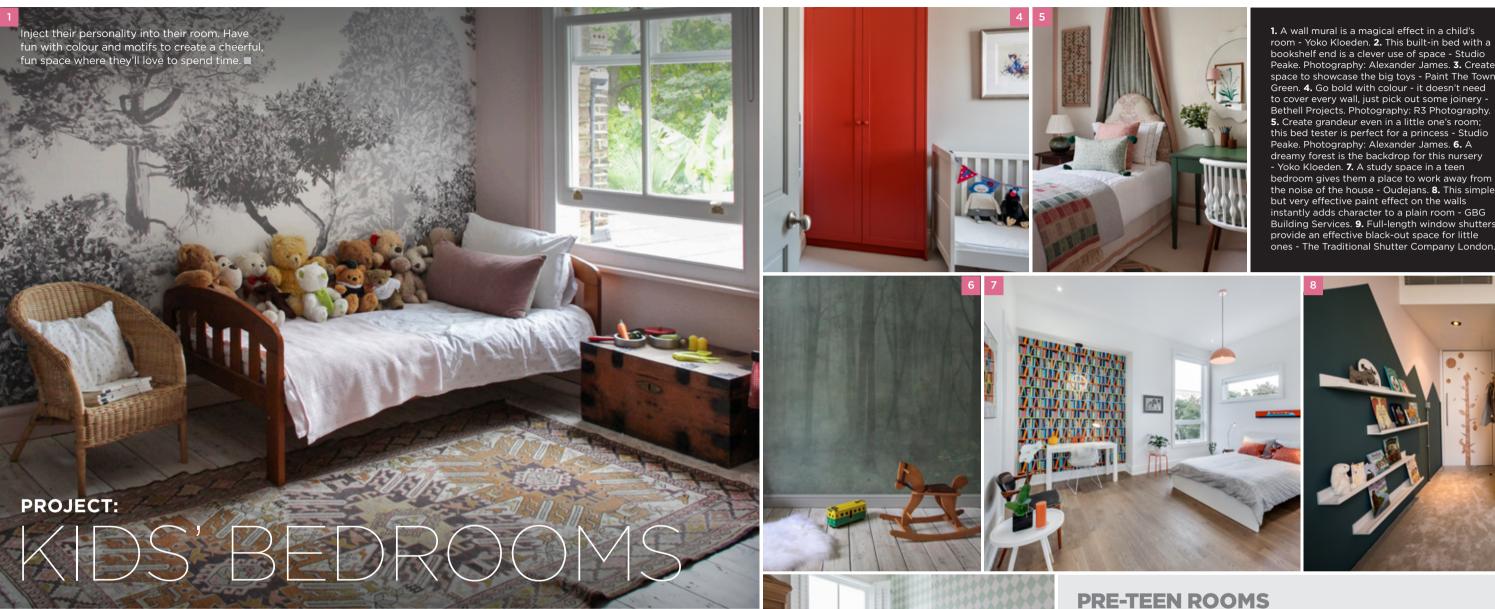
On the ground floor there are a few options too. That ever under-utilised rear living room or dining room is another obvious choice for a home office space, particularly in classic Victorian homes, which make up the bulk of south-west London housing stock. One of Emma Green's clients will soon enjoy the benefits of a home office spread across one entire wall of the living room, complete with storage, seating and desk space. "Working in this area means that you are not totally shut away from your family, and this room often has console tables you can re-purpose."

James Munro, architect at Granit Architecture & Interiors, has transformed the interiors of many typical Victorian homes, often opening up the entire ground floor for open-plan living where the kitchen, dining and family living become the main focus. "Although usually relatively well-built and with the character of original features, fireplaces, and well-proportioned rooms, the legacy of these houses is that 100 years later, our living styles have changed, and they need to be reimagined for life in the 21st century."

He says that many clients find space in the middle room - the former dining room – of a Victorian house and removing the chimney breast makes a considerable difference to the layout options.

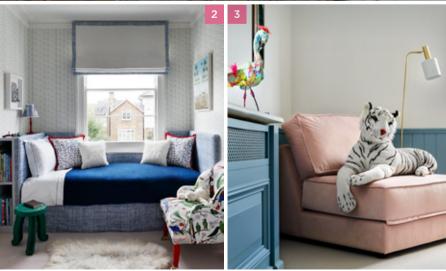
"It can often be essential to maximise any shared light from the back to the front of the house (and vice versa), so keeping this [middle room] open-plan and having rooflights in the rear or side extensions can aid this," he says.





**"MDF IS GOOD FOR WARDROBES IF YOU WANT TO SPRAY OR HAND PAINT THEM, WHILE NATURAL VENEER MDF BOARDS GIVE A LUXURY LOOK"** 

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room - Yoko Kloeden. 2. This built-in bed with a Peake. Photography: Alexander James. **3.** Create space to showcase the big toys - Paint The Town bedroom gives them a place to work away from the noise of the house - Oudejans. 8. This simple Building Services. **9.** Full-length window shutters

As children grow, their personalities and preferences change with them so it can be hard to design a space for any child, particularly a pre-teen or tween. Some tips to get it right and make it fun:

1. Consider longevity. Pre-teens will soon be teenagers, then adults. Choose pieces that aren't childlike and can grow with them. Invest in a good mattress and bedding, as they will grow much heavier!

2. Include a homework zone as they will need it even more throughout secondary school. Use a desk, adult chair and pinboard to create a designated area and encourage schoolwork.

3. Consider a space to hang out with friends. Beanbags, floor cushions and even game chairs all work.

4. Inspire reading with a designated area. Also consider bookshelves and storage generally even if your tween uses a Kindle.

5. Have some fun - think about hanging chairs and even a climbing wall!

Source: Emma Green Design