

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

SUMMER 2009

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

Remodeling  
with Style  
and a High Return  
on Investment

OVER **48** NEW  
LOCAL PRODUCTS  
for Kitchens and Baths

Decorating Kids Rooms  
**The ABC's of Style**

Photo courtesy of Walker Zanger



A child's room is both a haven and a source of inspiration for growing minds. They are fun to design, but can present a challenge in creating age appropriate style that grows with the child.

### Personality and Paint

Decorating a room provides a great opportunity for children to express their personalities, and can be a great opportunity for parents to learn more about their kids. Remember your favorite crayon in the Crayola box of 64? Listen closely to your children to learn more about each child's personality, preferences, and the colors they love. "I ask the kids about their favorite things," says Beth Keim of Lucy and Company. "Girls love a lot of color and impact as a whole. As for boys, well, if there is something to jump on – like a great chair or bunk – they are happy!"

Connie Knowles Morgan of Studio 21 also starts by learning each child's personality. "Children respond to an environment that is filled with the things they love," says Connie. "When a child wakes up loving their space, it sets the mood for their entire day. They need to wake up in a happy room."

### Inspiration and Imagination

The designers say they find inspiration for their rooms from children's books, stationary, fabrics, rugs, art, and even wrapping paper.

Beth designed an entire room from a pattern on a little girl's dress. "We blew it up and duplicated it on the wall," she says. "I painted a custom dresser to coordinate with the room and I framed the dress as a gift and artwork. Using a bold, big graphic and repeating elements and patterns adds a cohesive look and makes a strong impact."

### Furniture, Fabric and Staying Power

Generally, there are three transitions in the life of a kid's room: The move from a crib to a big kid bed at age 2 or 3; the changeover from the toddler room to a kid's room from ages 6 to 12; and then another redecoration at age 17 or so.



Lucy and Company



Lucy and Company



Pottery Barn

**PAINT:** Do fun walls. It's paint; it can be changed as your child grows."

*Beth Keim, Lucy and Company*

**FURNITURE:** Design professionals have resources to ensure a wise investment in children's furniture."

*Kelly Cruz, Kelly Cruz Interiors*

**ART:** "Use the children's own art in their rooms. Let them make a shadow box collage of things they really love; this is great fun!"

*Connie Knowles Morgan, Studio 21*

**LIGHTING:** Lighting makes all the difference. I love using large lamps."

*Beth Keim, Lucy and Company*

**FABRIC:** "There are all sorts of new fabric options for children's rooms, that are durable and earth-friendly."

*Sandy Fulginiti, Front Door Fabrics*



Stark Carpet



Lucy and Company



Stark Carpet



Stark Carpet

