

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements



Photo courtesy of Stickley Furniture

BEST OF CHARLOTTE  
Resource Guide 2009



## Room to grow



Lucy and Company

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.

With that in mind, it makes sense to spend money on high-quality furniture. But in a child's room, chaos can rule. That's why many designers like simple, sturdy products that keep things in place.

"If you keep the furniture and accessories clean and simple, but bold and modern, the room is less chaotic as a whole," says Beth. "Invest in well-made furniture that can take the abuse. As years go by, it can be updated with hardware and other fabrics and even repainted."

Sandy Fulginiti of Front Door Fabrics likes durable, fun fabrics made from organic materials. Kelly Cruz of Kelly Cruz Interiors agrees adding that organic can extend to the floor and walls with low VOC paints and hypo-allergenic, bamboo flooring.

### Consider Built-Ins

Often when a child goes off to college, their room becomes a home office or a guest room. Built-in shelves and even desk space are great for a future study or den. Invest in bookcases or display cabinets. Shelving offers a place to display their stuff, and having plenty of space for books encourages kids to read.

Connie chooses furnishings and accessories that do double duty. "I like rotating cabinets that have a mirror on one side and a bookcase on another, as well as a place to hang hats and scarves."





Stark Carpet



Thomas Paul / Front Door Fabrics



Lucy and Co.



Lucy and Co.

### Creating Transitional Style

**Color.** Use a neutral palette, punched with bold, fresh colors.  
**Furniture.** Opt for straighter, cleaner lines and upholstered furniture with tapered legs rather than skirts.  
**Art.** Replace traditional artwork frames with something streamlined and contemporary.  
**Accessories.** Add a modern lampshade or lamp to a traditional room. Rugs. Choose contemporary patterns in wool and silk or offset your traditional oriental with transitional furniture. Plants. Replace silk or dried flowers with living plants. Try a single flower or a palm leaf in a chunky, modern glass vase.

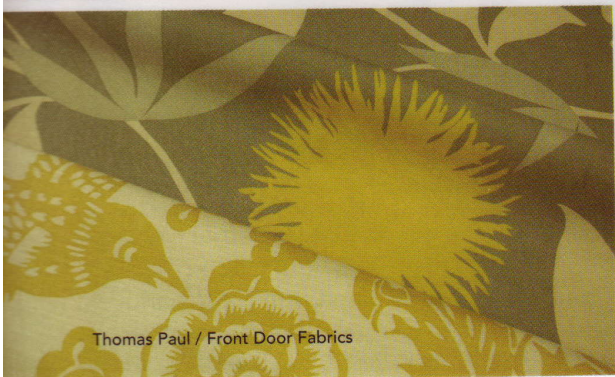
*continued on page 38*



York Wall Coverings



Seabrook Wallpaper



Thomas Paul / Front Door Fabrics



Seabrook Wallpaper



