

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

FALL 2010

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A Toast to
FALL

Bauhaus:
Still Fab After
All These Years

room service

A Room to Play

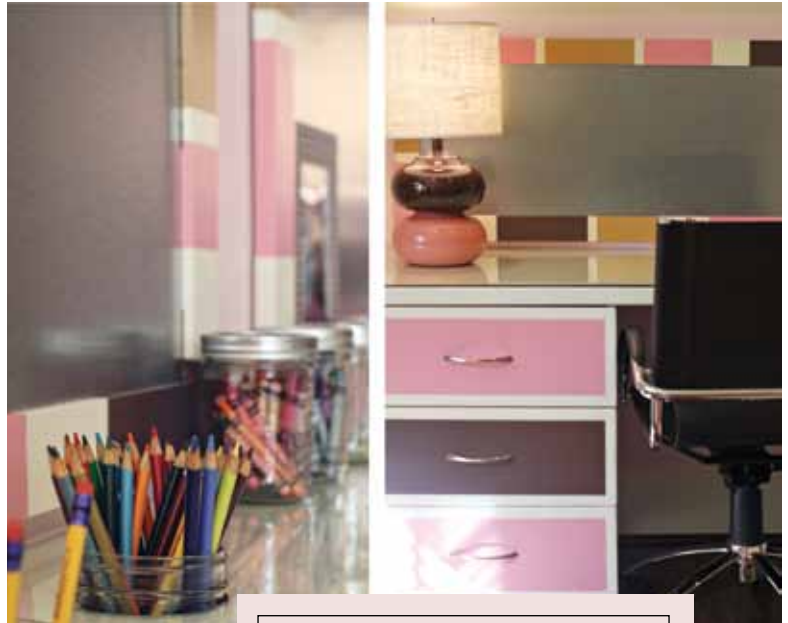


Beth Keim

I love playrooms today. I don't remember having one as a kid; we all played in our bedrooms and in the backyard, so how lucky are our kids to have that bonus room, basement or attic conversion found in homes today. I frequently am asked to help with these spaces and the No. 1 need is storage and zones for all the activities and "stuff" that can clutter up a bedroom

(and the family living room). It's a room that should be devoted to imagination, color, fun and a hiding place for all the plastic toys we love to hate. Basically it's a room for stuff and lots of it.

Depending on a child's age, interests and activities the one constant is the color and usually a lot of it. There are a rare few that will amp up our family rooms to this extent, so go nuts in the playroom. I love storage, the big door kind, so



Fun new products for playrooms:

- Magnetic wall paper - for all the wall art
- Magic Eraser - it is magic, and takes out Sharpies!
- Sectionals with hidden trundles for storage
- Soft cork flooring in tons of colors
- Chalk paint in colors other than black



Ashley Goodwin Photography



be thoughtful when picking something out. Adjustable shelves are a bonus and of course if you are designing a custom piece, think about exactly what's going in it. Measure the bins ahead of time, or add skinny shelves for papers and other craft projects. You can also custom the top to hold containers for markers, pens and brushes. Big tip here... glass top... I don't know a kid who can "stay in the lines," but it's ok with a glass top.

Seating should be big and comfortable as well as cleanable. Either fiber seal everything or try a vinyl. Today's vinyl is not your mom's vinyl; many look like fabrics in a beautiful variety of colors. Big ottomans act as yet another seat, and one that is perfect for those video games. Ottomans can be of all shapes and sizes and some can even split apart into separate seating. Try a storage ottoman as well, anything you can put your feet on or sit on.

Mixing boys and girls in the playroom can be a bit of a challenge, but keep both in mind. You can start with a neutral base and layer in the pinks and blue or better yet, try a pallet that incorporates unconventional colors like teal, olive, gray or yellow. Your artwork can be very personal and give expression to both sexes while making the room fun for everyone using it.

Storage and color is what it's all about! ❖



Beth Keim is the owner of Lucy and Company, a full-service interior design firm located at 1009 East Boulevard in Charlotte. They can be reached at 704-342-6655 or at lucyandcompany.com.