

# A kid's room that puts personality into play



CATHERINE  
LUCIE-HORBER  
**ELEMENTS  
OF STYLE**

**O**ver the years, I have been very fortunate to work on a multitude of fabulous children spaces.

Working with children, young or older is something I always say, 'keeps me on the edge of my creative toes,' as I am working with little humans that are even more daring, creative, bold than I, and I thrive on keeping up with them.

As exciting as it is to design wild, fun spaces, there are a few challenges we must keep in mind.

1. Keeping both parents and children happy. Parents have two main goals in mind

— make children happy and try to stay within a reasonable budget.

At our firm, we always make sure when working with our client's that our parent's concerns are our first priority and criterias are met. We are very careful to ensure our rooms are designed within an approved budget and we enjoy coming up with ideas that wow children and parents. Creating bold statements using wall features, contrasting colours and artwork can go a long way in creating interest in a room.

2. Keeping longevity and flexibility of design in

mind. No matter the age, it is human nature to change our minds, tastes and preferences often. With children, that process happens about every six months or so! Therefore our themed rooms are kept more vague. A hockey fanatic boy for example was given a room with grey wallpaper along with blue and red accents reflective of his favourite team that will last a long time. Interchangeable artwork is used so it can change over time.

3. Keeping practicality and creativity hand in hand. Children need storage, seating, homework spaces and entertainment. In every room, whenever it allows, our company incorporate those basic elements while adding little twists. In awkward layouts, try to turn the challenges into strengths. In the example of this girl's bedroom, there was a window on the left wall, a door in the middle of the main

wall, a closet on right wall and an entry to the room on the last wall. To create a focal point, we ignored the door in the middle and added a very whimsical statement wall with zig zag colours. The room is now functional and the creative element of the main wall completely takes our focus away from the door.

4. Spaces should reflect the children's personalities. This is true of any space we design but applies to children spaces even more. These parents have three children each with completely different tastes, personalities and hobbies, and we designed each of their rooms to suit each child: a whimsical fun, bold and vibrant room for their seven-year-old girl, a more mature, travel inspired bedroom for their studious older son and a fun, sports-inspired theme for their middle son.

Each room in this home is equally interesting in



In this girl's bedroom, a zigzag of colours are used to make a whimsical statement.

textures, materials used, focal points with desks and reading areas to sit and ample space to play. All criterias established by parents and children were met and we have one more happy family.

— Catherine Lucie-Horber is principal of Royal Interior Designs Ltd., which provides decorating, staging and renovation services for the residential market in GTA. Visit her at [www.royalinteriordesign.ca](http://www.royalinteriordesign.ca).



A child's bedroom needs the right combination of personality and functionality, and should include a desk, a reading area and ample space to play.



Blue and red accents, reflective of a boy's favourite hockey team, leave quite an impact.

Bring your design dilemma to Catherine Lucie horber at the Fall Home Show at the Better Living Centre from October 1-4. Go to [www.fallhomeshow.com](http://www.fallhomeshow.com) for details.