

Dream spaces

DESIGNING A BEAUTIFUL ROOM FOR YOUR BABY



Co-ordinated & written by Penny Lewis

A special feature in association with **Resene KidzColour**



A splash of red

BRIGHT COLOURS TRANSFORM RUBY'S ROOM INTO A HAPPY PLACE TO SLEEP AND PLAY



With Louis, three; Ruby, 16 months and a baby due in June, you'd think Karen Burge and Martin Skinner already had their hands full. But they're also in the throes of renovating their Mt Albert, Auckland, home.

Luckily, Louis' room was already taken care of, but Ruby's room was a blank canvas, ready for a burst of colour for an adventurous little girl. (The new baby will go into a miraculously

transformed laundry, but that's another story!)

They don't know the sex of the new baby and as the children will be sharing rooms in the future, Karen didn't want Ruby's new bedroom to be too girly. Designer Janet Metcalf of Kids Corner Interior Design got the ball rolling by suggesting fresh reds and blues, inspired by the colours of Apples & Pears Nautical cot linen from Allium Interiors. ▶

PHOTOGRAPHY STUART MCKELLAR-BASSET



Louis can't believe he's allowed to draw on the door!
Below right: Karen bought the giraffe lamp in Venice in pre-baby days.



A lick of paint transforms this \$26 chest of drawers



Three plain canvases add an original twist and colour to the walls. Dr Seuss canvases \$60 each from REM Design, 09 376 8575; Apples & Pears nautical comforter, \$99.95; pillowcase, \$18; rug, \$49.95; and WEPLight Gina lampshade, \$89.95 from Allium Interiors.



Ruby loves her magnetic feature wall painted in Resene KidzColour Crash Hot. From Allium Interiors: Red animal print storage boxes, \$8.20 –\$24.50; large Apples & Pears floor cushions, \$22 each.

◀ The bright and breezy result culminates in a feature wall painted Resene KidzColour Crash Hot. Underneath this bright red is Resene Magnetic Magic – a magnetic base coating that will turn walls into magnetic boards suitable for magnetic play.

On the facing wall, painted Resene Alabaster, a wardrobe door is now a handy spot for creativity as it's painted with Resene Magnetic Magic base coat, followed by Resene Blackboard Paint, which Ruby and

Louis can draw on with chalk. Three canvases bought on sale at Warehouse Stationery for \$5 each are painted in Resene Anakiwa and two KidzColour shades – Resene Splash and Resene Crash Hot.

Karen admits to being a bit of a hoarder, which does come in very handy from time to time. An old folding chair is now resplendent in metallic-effect Resene KidzColour Super Sonic, while other furniture, a \$26 chest of drawers and a cabinet in

storage for 10 years, have been transformed with coats of Resene Anakiwa. Ruby's cot and existing change table also have a new lease on life, painted Resene Alabaster.

So Ruby knows her bedroom is her own special space, Karen bought wooden letters to spell out her name on the bedroom door. Now painted Resene Crash Hot, they were bought from Spotlight for only \$1.50 each.

● To contact Janet Metcalf, ph 0274 351 208 or visit www.kidscornerdesign.co.nz

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ANNA WELSH

from Anna Welsh Design Ltd
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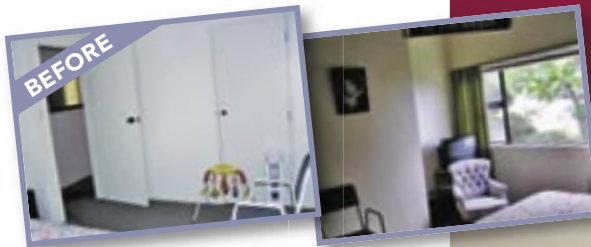
Bands of Resene KidzColour
Pink Panther, bottom, and
Resene KidzColour Princess,
left, undercoated with Resene
Magnetic Magic, lift the room

Let's go girly

IT WAS PINK ALL THE WAY ONCE DESIGNER
ANNA WELSH KNEW A BABY GIRL WAS EXPECTED



Subtle and feminine: Chest of
drawers, \$1160; shaggy rug,
\$995. Allium Interiors. Plain
cubes, \$99; cut out cubes,
\$119, from Lundia. Stacking
blocks, \$35; GIRL letters, \$49,
from Madder & Rouge.



SPECIAL feature

Alice tests out her baby sister's Stokke Sleepi cot, \$1450. Bottom left, Stokke Care change table, moses basket, \$49.95. All from My Room.

Libby and Kevin Haskell know they're expecting a baby girl in June, a younger sister for 16-month-old Alice. Knowing the sex of the baby helped in Libby's brief for Auckland designer Anna Welsh of Anna Welsh Design. "We were pretty open-minded about it," says Libby. "But now the only problem is that it's more noticeable how Alice's room could do with freshening up!"

Anna used two pretty colours from the Resene KidzColour range to create horizontal bands of colour right around the room. Resene KidzColour Pink Panther, the lower band, is 300mm wide, while 150mm above it, a 100mm wide band of Resene KidzColour Princess is undercoated with Resene Magnetic Magic to create fun with magnets. "Stripes are a great way of introducing colour to the room. They're not too overwhelming and the look will grow with the child," Anna says. The walls and ceiling are painted a subtle palest pink, Resene Merino.

The window treatment was left simple to allow the stripes to stand out. Lahood Window Furnishings, of Auckland, manufactured a roman blind, with blackout lining, in Dominique Kieffer chiffon 'Blanc Casse' from Atelier Textiles. Lahoods have a special nursery section in their Mt Eden showroom with inspiring fabrics for children's rooms, and a TV and DVDs to entertain the kids.

Anna is the mum of Jesse, aged two, which gives her an insight into the practicalities of designing a nursery. "It's got to look good, but it's also about how the room is used." The designer says good storage is essential, with plenty of room needed for toys, books and nappy changing equipment. In this nursery, Anna opted for versatile Lundia cube boxes for shelving. Two further Lundia cubes have castors on them, creating easy-to-move toy boxes.

To contrast with the straight lines and white in the bedroom, Anna chose the curves and beech wood timber look of the Stokke Sleepi cot and Stokke Care change table, from My Room, in Takapuna.

TO CONTACT SUPPLIERS: ● My Room, 09 488 7044 ● Lundia, 09 528 5304
 ● Allium Interiors, 09 524 4242 ● Madder & Rouge, 09 522 1062
 ● Lahood Window Furnishings, 09 638 8463 ● Resene 0800 RESENE



A comfy feeding corner is created with a Designers Guild Rockford chair, \$1295 plus 5.5m fabric; cushion, \$52.95; Kidsroom striped ottoman, \$128, all from Allium Interiors. A French steel tolix stool, \$220, from Madder & Rouge is perfect for night-feed essentials



Magnetic photo frames from Allium Interiors



PHOTOGRAPHY STUART MCKELLAR-BASSETT

In association with **Resene KidzColour**

Resene KidzColour

Brighten your kid's room with a colour blast



Where should I start?



When you're putting together a children's room it's easiest to start with a fabric, says Jeannette Troon, of Wellington's Doodah Design, who has worked closely with Resene on its KidzColour range and whose children's interiors feature on these pages.

A fabric will give you an idea of what kind of colour appeals to you or your child – whether it's bright and primary or softer and laidback.

And it's easier to match the paint to the fabric than the other way round, says Jeannette. If you choose a wall colour first, finding the right duvet or curtain fabric to go with it can prove to be next to impossible.

Sometimes it helps to have a general theme – something the child loves – like mermaids or the sea. Jeannette steers clear of a theme that may be a passing phase. Your child may be crazy about a particular cartoon character now, but totally over it a year or two later.

Stencil know-how

Add a splash of colour and originality to your child's room with stencils from Resene's website. Visit www.resene.co.nz/kids/kids_stencils.htm and just print out your favourite stencil pattern, trace onto light cardboard and cut out. Tape the stencil to the wall using low-tack masking tape.



Then get painting

Dip your brush into your chosen paint colour. Dab the brush on a paper towel to get rid of any extra paint, then place your brush at the edge of the stencil opening and apply the paint by dabbing the surface lightly or moving the brush in a circular motion. Repeat until you get the colour intensity you desire.

You can also stencil using a roller

Get a small roller, moisten it with water and squeeze it between paper towels to dry the excess water off, leaving a very slightly damp roller. Put a small amount of the paint colour you plan to use on a paper plate or in a flat-bottomed, low-sided container. Roll the roller through the paint and then onto a clean part of the plate or container (or use a separate sheet of paper) to ensure the paint is distributed evenly on the roller. Roll backwards and forwards across the cut-out area of the stencil. Make sure you roll in several different directions to get the best coverage.

KidzColour has a range of more delicate shades for new baby nurseries





Colour hints

- To involve your child, look at the Resene KidzColour chart together and ask them to show you shades that appeal. The Resene KidzColour chart has a manageable range of choices, so it's not too overwhelming for your child.
- If your house has more of a neutral feel, the KidzColour range can be used on a feature wall or accessories to bring a blast of life and colour to your child's room, says Jeannette Troon, of Doodah Design, who is a fan of red, yellows or blues used together.
- If you live in a rental property and can't paint the walls, use the KidzColour range on a headboard, chest of drawers, framing or shelves for an original twist.
- Think outside the square to make original KidzColour artworks. One of Jeannette's favourite pieces was a recycled window, which she painted and backed with the same colour material as the room's blinds, personalising it with family photos.
- If you can't afford the latest designer furniture, create your own. Jeannette's children slept in a basic cot that she painted in multicoloured stripes.
- Always try out your colour scheme with Resene testpots to make sure the colours suit the area you are planning to paint.
- Get your copy of the Resene KidzColour chart from any Resene ColorShop or order online at www.resene.co.nz.
- To contact Jeannette, call 027 272 0384 or email milnertroon@xtra.co.nz



Resene EzyPaint
(download free from
www.resene.co.nz/ezypaint/main.htm)

lets you try out a colour
scheme on your computer.

Then when you find the colour you
want to try you can even order
your testpot online.

Colour it

Keep your kids busy with
colouring sheets from www.resene.co.nz/kids/colouring_in.htm featuring
testpot characters – like
Balloon, Dizzy Lizzy and Lollipop.



For more gorgeous room ideas look at Resene's Decorating Inspiration Gallery
www.resene.co.nz/homeown/decorating_inspirations/index.htm
and Resene KidzColour online (click on children's bedrooms)

Resene KidzColour

Just spot on

CIRCLES AND DOTS OF INTENSE COLOUR GIVE THIS ORIGINAL BABY'S ROOM A PLAYFUL FEEL

Sesame Street fabric stashed away for 15 years by partner Geoff was the starting point for Christchurch-based designer Bridget Sullivan of Room Interiors when she designed a nursery for her second child, due in August. The couple's daughter Bella is 20 months.

Now hues from the Resene KidzColour range embolden the former guest room, which Bridget admits she hadn't done much with beforehand, other than design and

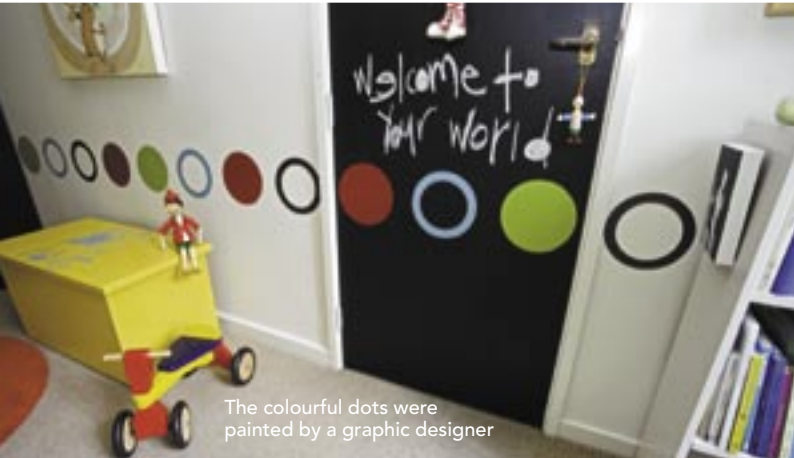
install a wardrobe and dark-stain it.

Bridget doesn't know the sex of the baby they're expecting, so opted for a feature wall in green – Resene KidzColour Dizzy Lizzy. The other walls are Resene Albescent White. Geoff's retro Sesame Street fabric was made into curtains with eyelets for ease of use and a modern feel. The designer also added red taffeta to create a deep band of colour at the bottom of the predominantly brown curtains.

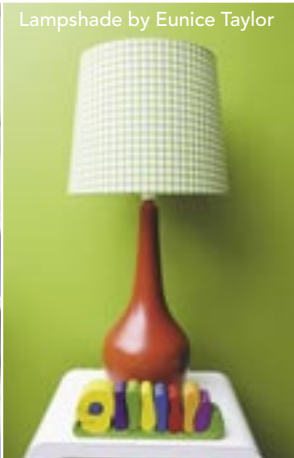


INTERIOR DESIGNER
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PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN MCCOMBE



The colourful dots were painted by a graphic designer



Lampshade by Eunice Taylor



The feature wall, painted Resene KidzColour Dizzy Lizzy, offsets Bella's treasures. Cube from Eon Design Centre.



A wide chair from Exclusive Furniture, \$1500, will provide enough room for feeding the new baby while reading to Bella. Sesame Street characters feature in the curtains and art work.



Orange rug, \$800, from Sallee; Designers Guild fabric from Icon Textiles is used in the duvet and floor cushions; bike, \$110, Edex; timber toys from Notting Horse

Further splashes of colour are provided with a row of 220mm diameter dots in four Resene KidzColour shades Dizzy Lizzy, Chaos, Chocolate Brownie and Blue Jeans around the walls and entry door. Painted by a graphic artist, these dots are a fresh alternative to borders of a solid mass of wall.

The entry door is painted in Resene Blackboard Paint. Coloured flags and artwork, as well as toys with an old-world handmade feel help personalise the room.

Paintings of Sesame Street characters by local artist Daniel Boyd, and flags (made by Bridget for around \$30) add to the festive atmosphere. Toys gifted by the baby's grandmother, and a yellow chest made by Bridget's father, bring a family feel.

SUPPLIERS: ● Notting Horse 03 963 8933
 ● Eon Design Centre 09 368 4860 ● Sallee 03 377 6771 ● Icon Textiles 09 302 1652
 ● Exclusive Furniture 06 357 6429 ● Edex Toys www.edex.co.nz ● Eunice Taylor 09 828 0775



Gollies by Kate Finn

In association with **Resene KidzColour**

Do it up...

TRY THESE TIPS TO ACHIEVE A CLASSY, ORIGINAL LOOK IN YOUR CHILD'S ROOM



Painting know-how

Thanks to Auckland members of Master Painters New Zealand for the professional job they did helping us with the painting in this feature. Pictured above is Alan Garner at work in Ruby's room.



If you have the time and energy to paint your nursery yourself, here are some tips from the Master Painters:

- Prepare surfaces thoroughly, not just to cover up problems. Any finish is only as good as the preparation underneath
- Ensure the area being painted is clean and dust-free
- Never use inferior or cheap products
- Use good-quality paint, brushes and fillers
- Use the right brush for the job
- Use the correct type of paint for the area being painted
- Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions
- Don't hurry the job as the finish will reflect the amount of time and care that has been put into it.

If you want the best painting result possible or are too tired, busy or pregnant to get up a ladder yourself, it pays to get expert help. Master Painters NZ is made up of regional associations that represent painting contractors throughout the country. Members have years of experience, with some companies in business for more than 50 years. All members must conform to the association's high standards and give a written specification of the work to be carried out before they start. Master Painters NZ independently moderates any disputes.

Visit www.masterpainters.co.nz or phone 0800PAINTNZ (0800 724 6869) for a Master Painter in your area.



Better than a new one

Scanning online auctions or second-hand stores for furniture bargains can be quite addictive, especially when you see the fruits of your labours in your child's room. Stripping, sanding and painting pre-loved furniture is a cost-effective way to provide original storage solutions. Don't worry if it doesn't all match exactly, you can tie it all in with paint and with some common themes. Look for similarities such as rounded edges or the same sort of legs. Steer away from veneer furniture and opt for good old-fashioned solid timber with not too much borer damage. Borer-infested furniture can be dipped, but it can be an expensive process. Failing that, inexpensive new MDF furniture can also be smartened up to suit.

Turn one into two



Lovely fabric is an excellent starting point for a nursery design, but you don't have to buy special cot linen. If you're trawling through the stock at a bed-linen sale, keep an eye out for king and super king-sized duvet covers in colours you like. If you're handy with the sewing machine you can easily convert one into two single covers (ideal when kids share a bedroom) or even a roman blind.

Protect your paint

So you've painted your child's nursery and don't want the walls ruined with drawing pins? Try a hanging board for art and photos. Buy an inexpensive corkboard and paint the frame to match the décor, or cover one with pretty fabric. We painted this in Resene KidzColour Abracadabra.



Storage in a box

When you've got kids you can't have too much storage. Paint your own wooden boxes to match your décor or buy a decorated box like this one from www.thebabybox.co.nz.

