



# ARTFUL SPACES FOR CHILDREN

ADAPTIBILITY IS THE KEY WHEN DESIGNING ROOMS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES. BY KATHERINE JOHNSON

The kids' soccer room (top left) carries forth the sporty theme with just a minimal expenditure. A Wii playroom (top) was created from a small bonus area using bright colors and fabrics and a bold wall graphic make the space even more inviting. Both designed by Masterpiece Design Group. A room for a 9-year-old girl (above) was inspired by the colors of neopolitan ice cream. Designed by Soco Interiors.

**'G**o to your room" isn't quite the punishment it used to be. For today's children, designers are creating fun, artful spaces that can easily transition from infants to toddlers to teens.

According to Amy Becker, vice president of Masterpiece Design Group in Winter Park, children's rooms these days are less themed and more adaptable. "Trends tend to have a shorter lived time span as the kids grow and interests change," she says.

Designer Michael Martinez, owner of Michael Joseph Designs, says neutral colors are best and need not be changed as furnishing and decor changes. "The key to a well-designed children's room is incorporating new accents," says Martinez. "That includes rugs and lamps, removable artwork and

graphic elements that can be easily changed over time."

Nurseries should be warm and relaxing not just for the baby, but also for parents who need a space designed for easy diaper changing and late-night feedings. "We use furnishings that are transitional," says Martinez. "We have cribs that can be transitioned into toddler beds and then twin-size beds."

For older children, factors such as personality and interests should be taken into account. Packrats and collectors need storage. Readers need bookshelves. And every kid needs a desk for homework.

The following pages show how some of Central Florida's top interior designers are mixing traditional concepts with out-of-the-box ideas to create rooms that suit a parent's sensibility and a child's sense of fun.



This funky game room was designed for use by parents and kids. A brightly patterned rug provides coziness and a pop of color — and yes, the Scrabble letters can be rearranged. Designed by Masterpiece Design Group.



## A BEACHY RETREAT.

Kids rooms should be age-appropriate and with suitable interiors that can change over time as interests change and evolve. Themes can be established using accents, artwork and graphic elements instead of refinishing. That's the case with this surfer-themed room, which features store-bought shutters, handpainted and mounted on the wall to frame the oversize wall mural, which was also purchased, not painted. In lieu of a headboard, towel bars with thoughtfully placed beach towels provide color and whimsy. For bedside chests and storage, vintage trunks and wooden barrels were used. Buoys were hung from ceiling while netted beach shells are used for drapery holdbacks. Bed pillows are a mix of patterns and bold colors, and can be created from beach towels or vintage swimtrunks and Hawaiian shirts. Designed by Masterpiece Design Group.





## A HOME-RUN EVERY TIME.

This baseball-themed room was designed for a toddler who's also the son of a Major League Baseball player. The focal point is the bed itself, featuring a glove-inspired, leather stitched headboard and nestled beneath an aluminum awning reminiscent of a dug-out. Gloss-white trim against turf-green walls is reminiscent of a baseball diamond while a full locker system provides storage. There's even a dugout bench beneath the lockers. Designed by Masterpiece Design Group.

