



Hers & Hers: Lili and Caroline Gregorie's beds feature canopies that can be pulled closed for privacy and play.

child's PLAY

BY EMILY PERLMAN ABEDON



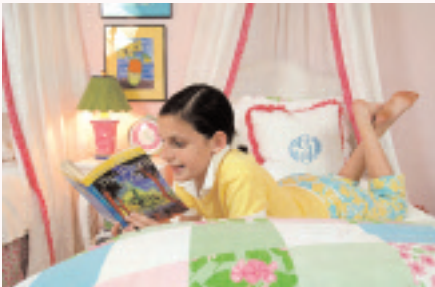
Three families prove that when it comes to decorating children's rooms, achieving high style is just kids' stuff

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS SMITH AND WARREN LIEB

THE YOUNGEST GIRLS enjoy sharing their bright and beautiful space...



In the Pink: Twin beds are paired with gingham balloon shades that cover French doors leading to a piazza.



Legare Street, downtown

When Harry and Cathy Gregorie updated their circa-1861 Charleston single house last summer, they called on the services of Frances Hayes, an interior designer at GDC, the home décor store owned by the Gregories. Among the challenges of decorating the bosses' house: meeting the needs and desires of five children, who range from six- to 16-years old.

Cathy encouraged Frances to focus the décor around the things that are "special and meaningful" to the kids, like their own art displayed in colorfully-matted frames; also, the children were given the freedom to pore over the fabrics at the family store. The result is a rhapsody in pink and green, with levels of sophistication determined by age and inclination.

"A home with this many people can be chaotic," admits Cathy, who loves that fireplaces, French doors, and rooftop views are some of the perks that accompany the kids' chic and cheerful chambers. "Now everyone has a nice spot in the house where they can escape."



Top Spot (Top and above): In 14-year-old Chesney's attic loft, a built-in window seat fits a twin mattress for sleepover ease, also cleverly hiding the duct work of the 19th-century home. (Right and far right): A chalkboard on a flowery surfboard is handy for getting messages across to busy teens. Chesney and older sister Catharine lounge on a slipcovered chair in the corner.

...WHILE EACH TEENAGER is grateful to have a room of her own.



“With our children ranging in age from six to 16, we wanted each one to experience their own individuality.”

HE CLIMBS UP to a cozy cubby under a regal big top...

King Street, downtown

If the spaces inhabited by childhood dreams are made of secret places and sliding walls, the lair shared by two siblings at this South-of-Broad home is perfection. Brother and sister occupy the same area; but each child has the ultimate in privacy and individuality, thanks to a clever centerpiece unit that partially divides their room. Created by a team headed up by their mother and Bob Fleming of Classic Remodeling, this 11-foot-tall, shoebox-shaped entity features sleeping cubbies on each side, a reading nook at one end, and closets on the other.

Mom defied one architect who said it couldn't be done, and inspired Fleming to design a piece that is movable—in order to maintain the historic integrity of the family's gracious, 150-year-old Greek Revival home—and can evolve as the children grow.

"The layout encourages the kids to play together," says Mom, who envisioned her children enjoying a cozy, camp ambiance, like the bunkhouses of grand old ranches. "But they each feel like they have their own bedroom."



It's a Jungle in Here
(Above and left): The décor on his side features a sophisticated circus where monkeying around is a requisite. (Far left): Safari-inspired lighting adds to the animal house.

“It's fun because they can still yell



Book Nook: The siblings share the space that fronts their bed unit, which also features a trundle that opens on each side.



back and forth to each other.”

...WHILE SHE TUCKS IN beneath a pretty parade of polka dots.



Classic Revisited (Above): Mom's vintage Lilly Pulitzer quilt was the initial inspiration for her daughter's cheerful décor. Each child's sleeping space is fitted with shelves for their favorite things, while adjacent closet doors (top) are lined with fabric that complements their canopies. (Left): A simple dollhouse is the perfect storage spot for treasures.

HE GETS A PLACE COOL ENOUGH for the surfer he plans to become...

I'On, Mount Pleasant

"Sometimes it's magic," says Amy Hile, of the suite she designed to be a happy stomping ground for five-year-old Jackson and three-year-old Daisy. "It doesn't always work, but the idea was to put them up here on the second floor together so that they would play nicely."

Amy, who co-owns Viking Contractors with her husband Jason, set out to fashion a his-hers-and-ours arrangement: Jackson's surfer-kid digs, Daisy's princess retreat, and a spacious playroom. The 12-foot ceilings and private bathrooms may be loved by grown-ups, but here, the design is brought down to kids' level with the clever use of paint, wainscoting, and plantation shutters, to create a sense of scale appropriate for little ones.

The décor is connected by bright hues, a sprinkling of patchwork, and elements of whimsy with Caribbean flair. "I loved putting these rooms together," says Amy. "To splash the kids' personalities on the walls with color and fabric was a blast."



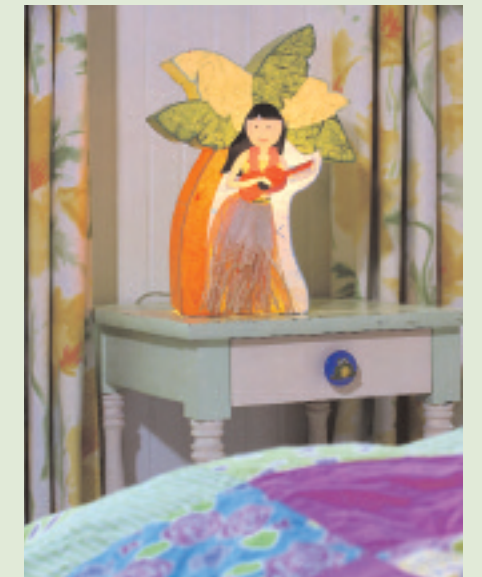
Down to Size (Above): By using eight feet of beadboard wainscoting, Amy Hile made her home's 12-foot ceilings less overwhelming for her children. (Left): The kids' shower is outfitted with a tin roof to mimic the feel of an outdoor shed.

“Our dream for our children is that they



...WHILE SHE IS DELIGHTED to live in a room fit for a princess.

Pretty Patchwork (Above): A quilt matching Daisy's pinks and greens makes her double bed the room's focal point. (Right): A bathroom fit for two is adorned with cheery knobs and details.



Flower Power: Along with adding beach-inspired details like an illuminated hula girl, Amy Hile played off of her daughter's name with daisy prints for the walls.

grow up in an exciting, colorful world.”

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