

# d.i.y. deluxe



A Kansas City interior decorator shares her clever tricks for luxe children's bedrooms

by contributing writer Grace Suh

Photos by Judy Revenaugh

The Nature of Charlotte



This page, clockwise from top: It's springtime all year around in Charlotte's bedroom. The space is filled with a mix of happy color, pattern and natural light that shines through the bathroom and bedroom windows. Charlotte tinkers with a flower. Hawes played with color and pattern in the curtains and shades for the dormer windows.

Opposite page: The charming twin bed feels grand with its pretty, Indian-inspired upholstered headboard.

The house is lovely and grand on one of the lovely, grand, winding blocks between Ward Parkway and State Line. Inside there's a bedroom for each of the four children. Each is a beautifully realized vision of creative, tasteful interior decoration suited to each child's personality.

But take a closer look. That stunning wall in 7-year-old Ginger's party loft, vibrating with the iconic Marimekko red poppy wallpaper that costs as much as several orthodontia procedures? Surprise—it's a cunningly hand-painted copy. The framed Japanese geisha girl over the

## Margot's World



slipper chair in 5-year-old Margot's princessy bower? Cut out of a gift bag. And the woodland murals in 9-year-old Charlotte's sylvan retreat? Removable vinyl decals from Etsy.

The children's mother, Tess Hawes, of Tess Hawes Interiors, is a deft pro at mixing high and low, discount and designer, box-store basics and custom creations. "Especially for kids' rooms," she says, "I like to keep it practical and not too precious. You can have fun, because in kids' rooms it's easier to break rules."

For Charlotte's "nature room" the one splurge was the custom fantasy headboard. The bedding, chair slipcover and window treatments were all created on the cheap and cheerful by Hawes' go-to seamstress, Deb Blair. "I just bought quilting broadcloth off the web," Hawes says, "and she made it look amazing. She does such a flawless, beautiful job and her prices are reasonable."



This page, from top: The cut-out paper geisha girl is mounted on toile fabric and framed. The twin bedding has a pretty Chinoiserie motif. Gerbera daisies from Cosentino's Brookside Market sit on top of an armoire repurposed from Hawes' office. Margot peeks out her window.

Opposite page, from left: Margot's cheery personality shines through. The brightly colored dreamcatcher hangs on a headboard repurposed from an old door. The bird pictures are all inexpensive finds from Etsy.



Ginger's Party Loft



The exploding white flower chandelier is Ikea. The Lucite lamps are Target. The green slipcovers were made by Blair, from fabric Hawes sourced from an on-line remnant warehouse. The heart pennants at the windows are an idea she found on Pinterest, stamped out of paint chips. The pug photo was printed right off the web, the hot air balloon pictures are sections of wrapping paper, and the buttons for the peace sign were ordered from Oriental Trading.

As for the fabulous fake Marimekko? It was painted by the fearless, can-do Hawes herself, who knows how to pull together big looks with every little trick in the book. \*



The rest is a hodgepodge of reused and recycled items, deals from online discounters, and D.I.Y. crafts inspired by Hawes' favorite websites. Margot's sage rug used to sit in the nursery. Charlotte's blue dresser is an Ikea staple brightened with spray paint. Most of the art was found on Etsy. Same with the paintings on the gallery wall in Margot's dreamy pink aerie, where the armoire, dresser and flowered fabric are all repurposed from Hawes' old office.

In Ginger's "party" room, the bunk bed (a friend's cast-off), picture frames and the mahogany dresser and mirror set (originally Hawes' grandmother's) all also received the Crayola spray paint treatment.



This page, clockwise from top: Everything hanging on the wall above the bright dresser has symbolism specific to Ginger's personality. Ginger looks suited to a room bursting with vibrant color and pattern. Her flowered walls, chair slipcovers and zig-zag rug are a bold mix and work surprisingly well together.

Opposite page: Hawes thought nothing of adding a bold turquoise for the bunk beds into the room's mix. She added the red and turquoise as accents in the shelf bins. Sweet mini white daisies are from Cosentino's Brookside Market.