



Haute Petites

KIDS' ROOMS GROW UP AND GET CHIC

By Courtney Crane Dauer / Photos by Casey Templeton

Little kids' rooms today have a lot to say about the modishness of the mini set — and their dotting, design-conscious parents.

Gone from trendsetting tots' rooms are predictable primary and pastel hues, banal bunks, and bland bureaus.

These pint-sized design divas and boys-about-town wave bye-bye to princess and sports-team themes. They've embraced sophisticated whimsy, so it seems.

More and more, parents are choosing grown-up looks for their children's private spaces. In part, it's about bringing high design beyond "public" rooms. It's also about fun — and even about saving money over the long run. Kids grow quickly. Tastes change overnight, but chic design lasts.

Here's how four Richmond families brought "haute petite chic" to the places where their children sleep. ➔





ADAPTABILITY

Count on the Classics

Four-year-old Sam O'Brien's cozy room in the Fan beguiles with antiques and classic storybook mystique. His brass bed, one of a pair, was purchased by his mother Lili O'Brien's business partner, Leigh Anne Muse (the two launched their interior design team in 2004), on a buying trip in New York. Its old-fashioned look and warm patina charm has never-go-out-of-style cool.

An antique oak chest from England provides storage while framed animal prints purchased from a market in his mother's hometown of Aix en Provence add playful provenance. Sam's colorful quilt and vintage schoolhouse chair supply boyish levity. When ready for a change, these storied pieces could easily be used in other rooms in the house — if Sam's willing to part with them. It's a room that's touching and beyond trends.



RESOURCES: Interiors by Lili O'Brien of O'Brien and Muse, 338-6019, obrienandmuse.com; antique **chest**, English oak from Kim Faison Antiques, 5605 Grove Ave., 282-3736; pair of vintage school **chairs** from V for the Home, 5615 Patterson Ave., 282-4275, and 315 W. Broad St., 344-0024; **fabric** for bed skirt is by Chelsea Editions, (212) 758-0005; sheepskin **rug** from And George, 3465 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, (434) 244-2800; vintage toy **bowling pins** from Sheppard Street Antiques, 103 S. Sheppard St., 355-7454; **lamp** is a recycled-newspaper vase O'Brien had wired; **quilt** is Indian cutwork purchased at Erica Wilson Needle Works, 25 Main St., Nantucket, Mass., (508) 228-9881, erica.wilson.com; **wallpaper** is "plain stripe" from Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; **floor paint** is Behr porch paint in "soft green" from Home Depot.