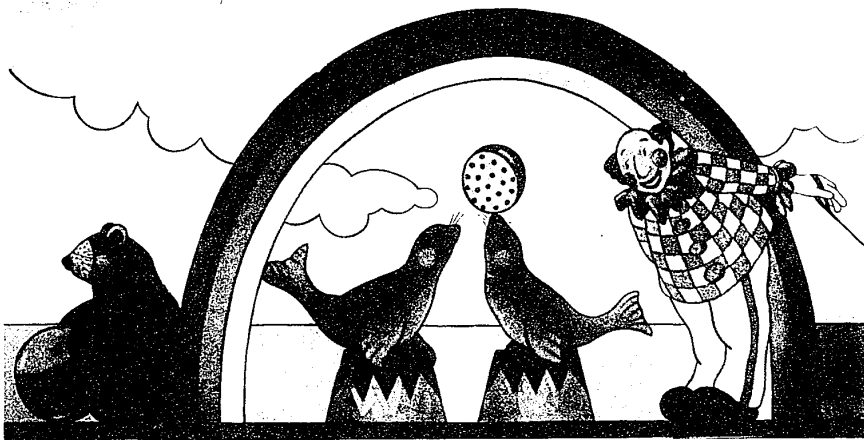




Detail from the mural done by Mary Town Jaqua of California was shipped to Birmingham by the artist. Mrs. Jaqua lived in this area until she was married several years ago. She is a former Bloomfield Hills School District Traub scholarship winner.

Whimsical characters add charm to child's room

Story: KATHY PARRISH
Photos: DAVID FRANK

Clowns, seals, elephants and bears march along the walls of an Avon Township baby's room.

Although part of a wall mural, the whimsical characters can also amuse the young owner's grandchildren years from now.

For the mural, created in California by former Birmingham artist Mary Town Jaqua, is strappable. Just like wall paper, the washable acrylic paintings can be pulled away from their

present location and repasted on other walls.

"It can be put away as an heirloom or broken up and given to different children," said interior designer Mary Joyce Enderby of Pierson's Interiors, Birmingham.

The circus mural, which lines all four walls of the light yellow nursery, features monkeys, elephants, seals, bears, clowns and a very benign lion. In the center of one wall, a rainbow rises up above the molding used to border the top and bottom of the painting. Now housing a 4-month-old, the fur-

niture includes a white crib with yellow canopy and a white changing table. When the young resident grows up, there probably will be a brass bed.

Other furnishings can be part of the room until the young lady leaves home.

TWO COUNTRY FRENCH chests, a small round table and bentwood rocker are long-term investments that could go along with her.

Because the mural is so elaborate, the interior designer chose plain yellow carpet and simple hourglass curtains of

white and yellow. Aside from lots of stuffed animals and a small table and chairs, the only additions will be wood cubes for toy storage.

"Anything else would take away from the mural," said Mrs. Enderby. "Also, we wanted easy upkeep. The room should be easy to maintain, making it comfortable for the mother as well as the child."

One goal in choosing decor was keeping the baby's room in style with the rest of the home.

"You also want to tie the child's room in with the rest of the house. But

you decorate it in a lighter manner," the designer added.

A gift from grandma — a yellow quilt with a seal applique on it — led to the mural.

"We wanted to do something different," said the new mother, who recalls enjoying the circus animals painted by Mary Town Jaqua on the side of an ice cream stand.

When Mrs. Jaqua was in Birmingham for the Christmas holidays, the interior designer matched up artist and expectant parents.

FROM HER San Clemente home, Mrs. Jaqua submitted scale drawings with overlays. The Avon Township couple made some revisions, leaving out

circus tents and adding the family dog to the sketches.

The final paintings were done the week of the baby's birth and arrived in four pieces at Pierson's. The firm of Jack C. Hermes in Harper Woods was enlisted to hang the mural.

"Everybody really entered into the project," said Mrs. Enderby. "The workmen fiddled and fiddled until they got it just right."

With the completion of the Avon Township mural, the artist is working on a similar one for her California home.

"She's expecting a baby and is going to make one for herself," said a pleased Mrs. Enderby, who has known and worked with Mrs. Jaqua for years.



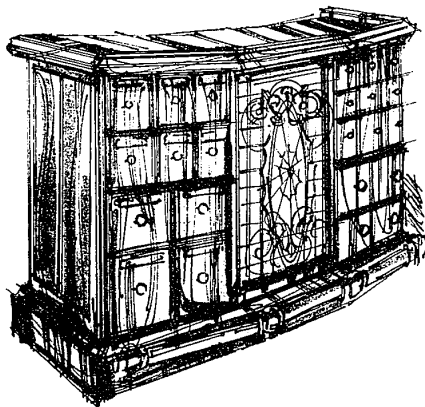
Child's room has a strong identity that should delight any youngster. It's positive, with splashes of strong color in the mural, but never overwhelming. The furnishings

were kept simple and the spaces open so there was plenty of light. It offers a pleasant spacious feeling and the activity on the mural doesn't have to fight for attention.

The Apothecary Bar...

is made of warm, burnished brown maple accented with antique brass nameplates, multi-facet crystal drawer-pulls and stained glass center panel.

Matching barstools, curio cabinets, and hall trees are also available.



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