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## INTERIOR MOTIVES

# As children change, so should their rooms



NAOMI STONE  
LEVY

It is hard enough to keep children in shoes. How do we keep up with your youngster's environment? It will seem like yesterday that the crib was dismantled. Today he or she is a pre-teen, and wanting to be treated as if ready for college. Bridging all the many gaps requires ingenuity as well as dollars. We also need to build for the future.

As a nursery, the painted walls and woodwork may have been powder blue; highly unsatisfactory now. Repainting is in order. If you are able to paint everything white you have a background for the years ahead.

Your youngster will undoubtedly opt for a contemporary mode; a place for the gang to sit on the floor with potato chips and Cokes. The carpeting should be a good neutral taupe. That will be compatible now, and with any future changes. Choose one that doesn't show footprints.

The second problem to solve is the window treatment. The practical options are plasticized vertical louvers, or horizontal metal mini-blinds. I still recommend white. Get all the flamboyant colors young people crave from several wild posters, always changeable, always important to them. Allow them to make their own selections.

Take your boy or girl with you to a fabric warehouse that has vast selections of sheets and pillowcases. You can even mix and match in a quilt that will serve as the bedspread. Be discriminating and practical. Don't select too light a color format. There is no absolute need for a headboard. The mattress and spring can rest on a platform.

### Desk set

Next on the hit parade should be a desk. This is the most difficult piece to

find, because most of them look as though they belong in an office.

My own personal favorite for a young person would be "campaign" in style, with brass corners, and military hardware; very square and simple in configuration. The color of the wood might range from pecan (light in tone) to very dark and highly polished mahogany. If your occupant is very lucky and has a personal computer, he or she will require a typewriter return that is several inches lower than the desk.

You can create your own desk by using two colorful files that are no taller than 28 inches and adding a large piece of plastic laminate any size you choose as the writing surface.

Topping the writing surface I recommend a "Tizio" lamp: the best of the modern lamps and currently considered a classic. They afford terrific halogen lighting, as well as swiveling 360 degrees, fulfilling every need. Now select a secretarial chair in an appropriate vibrant color.

### Storage

Storage for clothing is critical. If the youngsters design to put their possessions away rather than toss them on the floor or across a chair, give them the option of drawers and/or cabinetry. The latter will also house a small TV.

Furniture stores display an entire group of white or gray plastic laminate furniture (if you choose the gray be sure it is agreeable with the carpeting). Some of the components are stackable and utilitarian and not overly expensive. A bookcase will be meaningful in completing one great room.

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a Touch-Tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.



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**MODERN KITCHEN and BATH ideas**

Presented by Carl J. Crespi & Mark Aronoff

**GALLEY FACTS**

With As two facing walls of cabinetry and open-ended design, the galley kitchen presents the biggest challenge to both cooks and designers. The galley kitchen's chief failing rests with the fact that its layout forces traffic to march directly through the kitchen's work triangle. These limitations can be minimized by locating the refrigerator on the end nearest the entry area. Otherwise, it may only to open up a pass-through to a dining or family room. This will not only provide the galley kitchen with some visual interest, but it may well save steps in and out of the kitchen when it's time to clear the dishes. If possible, it helps enormously to close off one end of a galley kitchen with a wall of cabinets and counters to create a U-shape kitchen (the most efficient layout).

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MODERN KITCHEN & BATH can advise you on how to design your kitchen so that it is both beautiful and approximately functional. We offer complete service to our clients, from initial design conception through installation. We are an authorized DuPont Corian® dealer. Corian is perfect for color-coordinating countertop and sink combinations. It is also ideal for island units, wet bars, cooktops, and much more. New Corian kitchen sets are now available through Ebony Vail our showroom at 819 E. Fourth Street, or call us at 540-0660 for personalized attention. Customer satisfaction is our tradition!

**HINT:** Less than ideal one-wall kitchen layouts may also benefit from locating the refrigerator and oven at the end of cabinet runs.

**AMERICAN**