

## The Home Designer

# Fit For A Little King (or, Queen)

... continued from page D10

I used a woven wood roman shade ordered from a national retailer with a blackout liner to serve as the functional covering to control light for napping. Layering window treatments gives a more finished look. And the best part is the graphic line drawing drapery panels were found at IKEA – \$20 for the pair!

Since my clients were on a budget, but wanted something high impact for the room, we installed a forest of birch trees and owls that I found online to one wall – a perfectly easy project made of full-sized peel and stick decals. The animated scene brought the room to life and brings a smile to all who enter. Simply peel off when you or your child outgrows the look.

Need more inspiration? How about white? Yes, white! Who says you can't go light from floors to walls to ceiling? The beauty of white is that it allows you to add limitless layers of color to the mix – everything works with a clean white base. For example, add a black striped rug for a mod and graphic expression. Or mix in lime and citrus orange accents for a fresh "Palm Springs" combination that inspires cheery optimism even on the cloudiest days. Try combining navy, chocolate brown and silver stripes for a sophisticated feature wall, and accent with red bedding for a decidedly Upper East Side luxe.

Feeling preppy? Install a painted Kelly green chest with brass hardware, and hang felt tartan drapery panels to bring out an Ivy League vibe – the options are endless.

If you're worried about durability, look for outdoor fabrics to dress the room – there are literally hundreds to choose from – manufactured by most fabric mills and available to the trade. They're made to withstand whatever your kids can muster – stain resistant and anti-microbial – perfect for drapes, bumpers, pillows and even the changing table cushion.

Design is in the details. With so many nursery outfitters out there it's hard to settle on a look that feels personal. Sometimes, the best spaces are made up of items you already own. Try framing a cherished childhood board game as wall art, or repurpose well worn baby clothes into a new quilt or toss pillow cover – connect your own past with your child's future, and hand down items they'll cherish for years.

I always encourage my clients to think about their design legacy. What will they pass down to the next generation? In this age of mostly disposable and forgettable design, I look to vintage and heritage pieces to connect families. When I was a kid, and decorating my room for the umpteenth time, I loved using items I collected from my parents. My father's fraternity paddle from UC, a souvenir hat from the 1952 Rose Bowl, or a collection of black and white theater photographs from my mother's days as an actress were all fantastic treasures I used to inspire my early decorating adventures. I believe a passion for art and design is inherited – start early.

Need more ideas? Check out a couple of my "go to" web destinations: [www.SerenaAndLily.com](http://www.SerenaAndLily.com); [www.LandOfNod.com](http://www.LandOfNod.com); [www.RoomAndBoard.com](http://www.RoomAndBoard.com); and [www.DesignWithinReach.com](http://www.DesignWithinReach.com).



*A neutral background with punches of color in an unexpected palette makes this nursery chic.*

*Photo courtesy Lovejoy*



*Mostly white elements and a bold wallpaper keep this nursery from looking too sweet.*

*Photo courtesy The Brick House*



*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*

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Write me and tell me what trends you're following. What looks are inspiring your design decisions? I'd love to know what topics and stories interest you. Don't be shy, drop me an email and say hello!