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1



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HOME DESIGN



3

Looking for inspiration? Three New York City interior designers—who also happen to be moms!—show off their families' pads. By **Marissa Patlingrao Cooley**



5

JENNIFER WARD

When Jennifer Ward, the owner of Minor Details (minordetailsnyc.com), an interior architecture firm that focuses on children's spaces, moved with her daughter Parker, now 6, into a one-bedroom Carroll Gardens apartment in 2009, she faced problem after problem. "The walls were trashed and the space was raw," says Ward of her now-cheerful home. To brighten things up, she took a white paint roller to the wood floors, walls

and ceiling and sectioned off her and Parker's shared bedroom with curtains. The pair also have the three most important assets in real estate on their side: location, location, location. Not only is the area idyllic for families, but Ward's best friends own the brownstone. "Their eldest daughter and Parker are BFFs. We have an interior staircase, and they come in and out. We have a parent co-op thing going on."

1 "The inspiration for our place was that rustic-girly Anthropologie look," says Ward, who split the shared bedroom into two sections with a curtain repurposed from the canopy above Parker's old bed. It hangs from an exposed beam overhead. Parker chose the paint color—Flower Pink Petal by Martha Stewart for Valspar.

2 "Parker likes to lie in her bed and read," says Ward, pointing out the pink bookshelf within arm's reach of her comforter. "All the books are easily accessible to her. That's something I tell my clients when we're working on a space: 'Make as much as you can easy for your children to get at.'"

3 Below a display of toys tucked inside a picture frame, Ward lined up a row of Ikea shoe bins that she's cleverly turned into a catchall for Parker's drawing materials. "I use these in a lot of rooms I design. No one's shoes should go in here; paper fits perfectly!"

4 Ward found Parker's vintage schoolhouse desk on Craigslist, which, along with Ikea and local sales and consignment shops, have proven to be rich sources of many of her brag-worthy finds. "Carroll Gardens has great stoop sales in the summer. We got our mini tulip table at one."

5 Ward decided to skip cable TV in the living room and instead create a space conducive to activities she and Parker could do together. "When I'm home, I just want to chill out and play games," explains Ward. "We try to stay as analog as possible. This space is perfect for that: It's casual."



1



2

PURVI PADIA

“Children’s rooms should have a sense of magic to them,” says interior decorator Purvi Padia, who imparted miles of enchantment when designing a room for her now 2½-year-old son Rehan. When Padia and her husband, Harsh, first moved into their four-bedroom Tribeca apartment, they had to work a bit of real estate alchemy as well. “Rehan’s room wasn’t a bedroom,” explains Padia, who recently launched her own residential design practice (purvipadia.com). “It was supposed to be a study off the master. We wanted his room to be connected to ours, so we put in doors and converted it.”

While Rehan’s nursery is a child’s room through and through, his play space, set in a corner of the living room, is designed to harmonize with the home’s warm yet clean-lined aesthetic.



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1 The vaulted window overlooking Tribeca’s bustling streets gives Rehan plenty of light by which to paint on his new easel—a gift for his second birthday. Padia chose a wooden easel from Imaginarium: “It’s his favorite thing. He loves to paint!” says Padia. “Plus, it really enhances the space.”

2 “The whole living room is kid-friendly, but Rehan has his own little section,” Padia explains, pointing out the inconspicuous play corner, subtly outfitted with a dark bentwood table with nesting chairs by Bloom, linen toy bags from Soho’s Makié, and Pottery Barn shelving with customized toy buckets.

3 Padia waited until Rehan was old enough to weigh in before she chose the theme of his room. “I would show him pictures and he was very drawn to elephants and giraffes, so that’s what we chose for the mural.” Other personalized touches: a Paul Smith-inspired custom rug that complements the walls.

4 The shelves that seem to float among the mural’s clouds serve as a landing spot for sentimental pieces and keepsake items as well as favorite books. “The frog and cow are family hand-me-downs—not mine, but from my niece and my nephew—so those things are special to us,” explains Padia.