

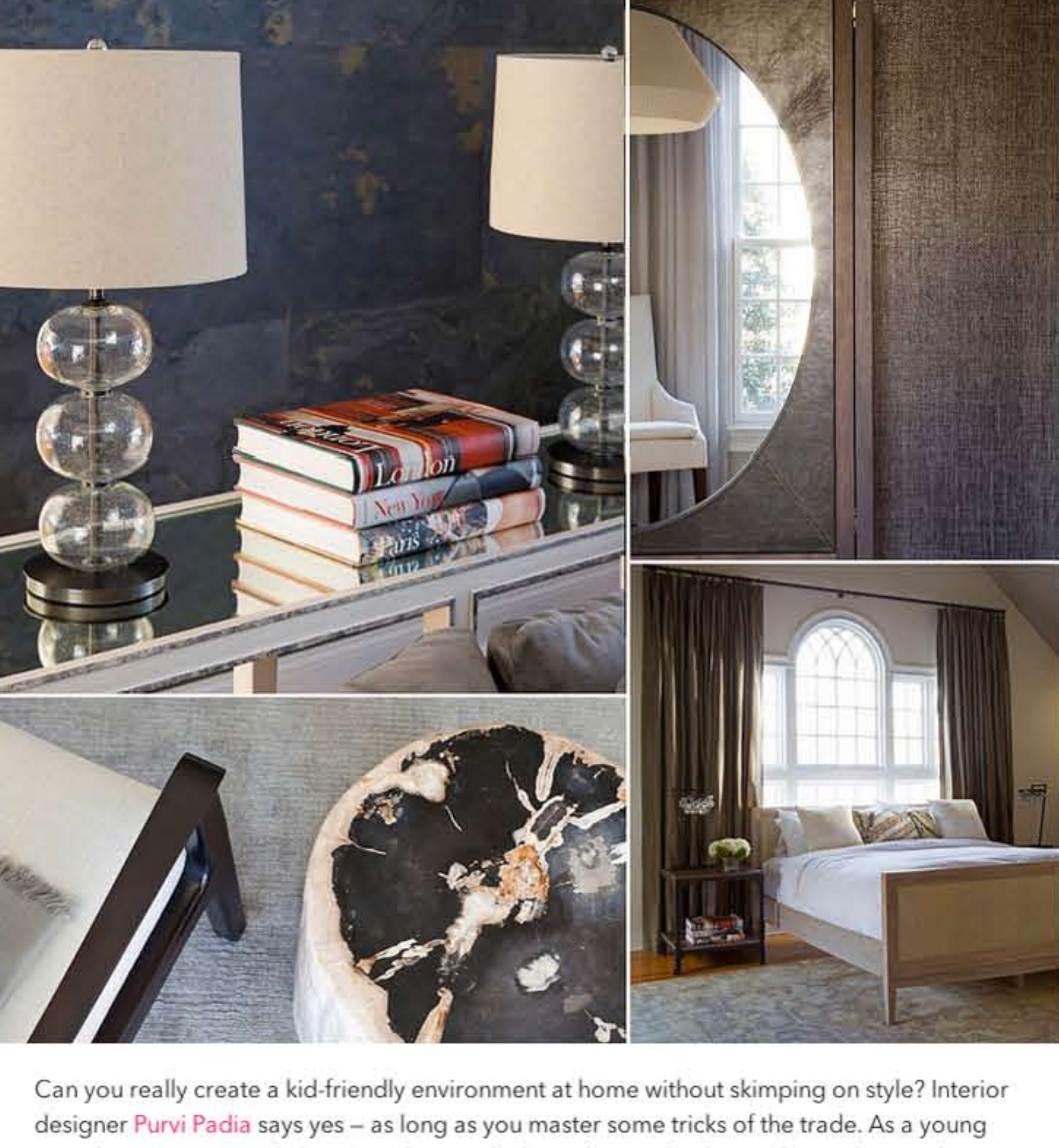


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CHILDPROOFING WITH STYLE

A Designer Mom Shares Her Secrets For Chic Childproofing

by Angela Elias 1/10/14 4 Reactions 16 Shares Print



Can you really create a kid-friendly environment at home without skimping on style? Interior designer **Purvi Padia** says yes – as long as you master some tricks of the trade. As a young mom living in New York City, Purvi knows all about the need to have a home that can host playdates by day and cocktail parties by night. Finding clever storage solutions and glamorous but sturdy materials are just some of her talents. Here are six solid tips for a chic childproof upgrade!

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design

Avoid Sharp Corners



Yes, it's a no-brainer, but you can only use so many poufs in one space – but alas, their wires are not child-friendly! Solution: put table lamps on a console flush to the wall behind a large sofa. This way, the wires don't hang free and the lamps are not a topple hazard. Choose a heavy lamp (so that it can't tip) with a tall sculptural silhouette instead of floor lamps to create height and a place of interest for the eye. Finally, use mirrors to reflect the light in the room to create the illusion of having more lamps than you actually do.

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design

Use Lamps Wisely



Lamps are gorgeous. I think of them like jewelry for a space – but alas, their wires are not child-friendly! Solution: put table lamps on a console flush to the wall behind a large sofa. This way, the wires don't hang free and the lamps are not a topple hazard. Choose a heavy lamp (so that it can't tip) with a tall sculptural silhouette instead of floor lamps to create height and a place of interest for the eye. Finally, use mirrors to reflect the light in the room to create the illusion of having more lamps than you actually do.

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design

Make Smart Choices on (Fabulous) Fabrics



I tend to focus on fabrics to create interest in a space; however, young children limit the fabrics you can use as many of them –including suede, silks, raw silks, etc. – show wear and stains very easily. To showcase the fabrics we love, we try to use them creatively, like on the wall.

These days there are lots of stylish upholstery fabrics designed to withstand the pressure of families (and worse!). At **Purvi Padia Design**, we love the stain-resistant fabrics from Holly Hunt, Slobproof, Crypton, and Nano-tex. Sometimes we use them only on the seats of upholstered pieces (the parts that get most wear), selecting a more striking, but perhaps less hardy, fabric for the frame.

Play With Texture



In family homes, I try to ensure that the upholstered furniture is very durable and play instead with the texture on hard elements like walls and furniture. A beautiful, durable wall covering can bring polish, comfort and warmth to a space while a leather or chagrin-covered table top is durable and über chic. Adding some glamour here lets the high-traffic elements – say, the couch in a family room – be quieter and more practical.

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design



Find Pieces That Do Double Duty



A sleek media credenza can be a stylish focus of a space; tricked out with custom interior shelving, it can also be a great place to stash toys. We love leather-upholstered ottomans with concealed storage. Low coffee tables make for a streamlined look and make perfect work tables for toddlers when paired with tiny chairs (that stack and stash when playtime is over).

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design

Bring the Outdoors In



These days, furniture and accessories intended for use on the patio have never looked better indoors. Designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, they are certainly tough enough for the playroom. Indoor/outdoor fabrics are great for upholstered pieces that get a lot of wear. We used indoor/outdoor floor coverings throughout a Summer house in the Hamptons for a family who was looking for a low-maintenance retreat with a clean, breezy feel.

Photo by Scott Jones for Purvi Padia Design

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