

# Young at Heart

It's no secret that possessing a youthful outlook towards life can positively affect our overall well-being. And much like our minds, our interior spaces also need a dose of adventure to maintain a youthful spirit. Three top designers share how they created whimsical, yet refined rooms sure to please the child in each of us.

By Craig Argenti





"This second story loft was designed for four growing kids to relax. Since it's located near all their bedrooms, it has become the go-to area for these kids and their friends. This space was designed several years ago when the reclaimed wood look was being introduced into interiors...it's very forgiving and adds a casual and natural spirit. I kept the color scheme mostly neutral with accents of chartreuse, fun geometric patterns, and cozy soft textures."

## RESOURCES

- Sofa and pillow fabric: **Kravet**, Suite 105.
- Ottomans: **RJ Thomas, Ltd.**, Suites 72 & 82.

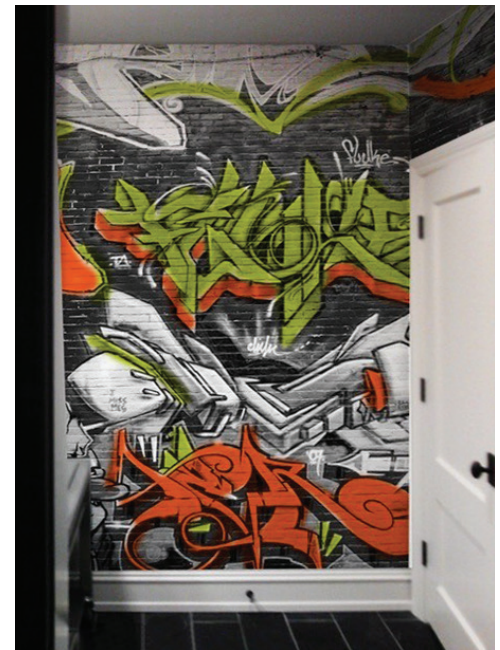
Photo by Beth Singer



## Fun and Games

The desire for at-home recreation has reached an all-time high with many homeowners creating game rooms that rival the amenities found at the most sought-after neighborhood amusement centers. Amy Weinstein of **AMW Design Studio** is no stranger to designing recreational spaces and she explains her approach to maximizing the fun in these playful zones:

“I like to pay attention to current trends when asked to design recreational spaces for families with kids, whereas in most other areas of their home, I prefer a timeless and classic approach. It’s exciting to experiment with a unique mix of colors and patterns to create dynamic spaces that are fun and a bit whimsical. I believe a strong wall treatment is essential, as well as bright colors and geometric patterns, resulting in spaces that have longevity and are kid-friendly for years. I’m currently working on a few adult-friendly recreational spaces and turning to inspirational themes from the Danish style as well as the 60’s mod era.”



“This client requested a ‘sporty and urban’ feel for the design of their large lower-level entertainment area. The bar includes a lot of steel elements and the choice to use bright colors and strong graphics resulted in the mood that was desired. The furniture always looks tailored (never messy) and I’m told many teenage gatherings happen here. The bathroom has a cool steel vanity and four walls of graffiti wallcovering.”

Photos by Michael Weinstein

“This space is used by three boys and is a popular spot for television and gaming. Not pictured is a retro pool table from Brunswick, a colorful ‘bar’ wall with a high-top table that seats six, and a large TV screen. Also on this lower level is a golf simulator, wine room, exercise space, and sauna. Loads of recreation!”

Photo by Beth Singer



## RESOURCES

- Drapery fabrication, accent chair, and ottoman: **Decoroom**, Suite 38.
- Drapery fabric: **Kravet**, Suite 105.
- Nightstands and bench: **RJ Thomas, Ltd.**, Suites 72 & 82.
- Area rug: **The Ghiordes Knot**, Suite 90.

Photos by Jeff Garland



## *Playful Bedrooms to Inspire Young Minds*

When Annie Kordas of **Annie Kordas Interiors** designed her nursery vignette for the *Junior League of Detroit Showhouse* in 2020, her goal was to forego the exaggerated juvenile energy of the typical nursery:

“I wanted to create a sense of curiosity and mystery, but above all I wanted to illustrate sophistication. Even though it is a children’s room, I didn’t want it to be dumbed down like so many children’s spaces tend to be. I wanted to create a sense of wonder while remaining a sanctuary. The room showcases a mixture of vintage and new pieces, like the burl wood wardrobe located near the mid-century crib. I created a play area near the pretty bay window using an old miniature piano, an hourglass, a sculpture of a molecule, and a German tea set to add charm.”



“In my daughters’ room, the botanical wallpaper and other décor are youthful. They’ve shared the space for about three years and our goal is to design another bedroom on the other side of the house, which will become our older daughter’s room. The younger one will stay here, so the elements were intentionally chosen to feel timeless. It’s a sophisticated space with botanical and vintage items, including the antique beds from France. The room has good bones and design structure. The built-in bookcase displays toys and piggy banks now, but as they grow older, the items will evolve to showcase whatever is relevant for the moment. The items were carefully chosen to inspire their curiosity. A wise person once told me to have my girls share a room while they were young. It was good advice. The sweet sounds of nighttime giggles bring smiles to our faces each night. Before long, adolescence will ensue.”

The eclectic chairs and bistro-style table used in the Junior League nursery vignette on the previous pages were pieces borrowed from Annie’s own home, located in the play area in her two young daughter’s shared bedroom.

Photos by Jeff Garland





## A New ‘Spin’ on Paying Homage

In this primary bedroom designed by Laura Zender of **Laura Zender Design**, the homeowners paid tribute to a family member’s accomplishment by displaying a ‘period correct’ racing bicycle in their Ann Arbor condo. The bicycle creates a unique focal point and reveals something about her clients, making the space feel fresh and personal. Her client shares the charming story behind this unique piece of decor in his own words:

“My great-great-grandfather won the silver bicycling trophy in 1895 when he was 22 years old. He received a trophy for winning the Tri-State (Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio) championship for 2 ¼ mile track racing. Because Dawn and I are also active cyclists, we thought it would be fun to pay tribute to his accomplishment by displaying a ‘period correct’ racing bicycle in the condo as well. The bicycle is a Templar hard tire safety bicycle likely built around 1892. Parts of this bike were likely made in Indianapolis and Cleveland; we believe the bike was assembled in Chicago and sold under the ‘Templar’ name. This is one of the last of the ‘hard tire,’ as opposed to pneumatic tire, bicycles. We believe most of the parts are original or at least period correct although we believe the saddle is from 1894 or possibly 1895 and the peddles were likely a late 1890’s upgrade.”

### RESOURCES

- Wallcovering: **Schumacher**, Suite 110.
- Headboard fabricated by **Designer Furniture Services + Fabrics**, Suite 22.
- Headboard, bench, and valance fabric: **Kravet**, Suite 105.
- Nightstands and bench: **RJ Thomas, Ltd.**, Suites 72 & 82.

Photos by Werner Straube

# Get the look

Add a bit of whimsy to any room with these juvenile-friendly collections from MDC showrooms.



Christopher Corr



Yuval Zommer



Frann Preston-Gannon

Villa Nova collaborated with three talented children's book illustrators - Frann Preston-Gannon, Christopher Corr, and Yuval Zommer - to create the jubilant *Picturebook* collection of fabrics, wallcoverings, and accessories. **Tennant & Associates**, Suite 61.



Birds & Butterflies



Opera



Balloons (also pictured in this article's intro)

Schumacher's new *Flight of Fancy* collection is a cheery, lighthearted grouping of their most popular fabric and wallcovering designs, re-imagined in several new colorways and prints. **Schumacher**, Suite 110.



Garden Friends



Above and Below



Hide and Seek

Harlequin's *Book of Little Treasures* is a collection of playful fabrics and wallcoverings that are sure to inject a dose of color and excitement into any children's space. **Rozmallin**, Suite 60.





# Miles of Style

Designer Miles Redd chats from New York about his line for Schumacher, his love of fashion, the influence of Bunny Williams, business partner David Kaihoi, and his own maximalist style.

By George Bulanda



Arm chair: Miles Redd *Cubist* fabric in Peacock.  
Side chairs: Miles Redd *Watercolor* fabric in Celedon.  
Also available as a wallcovering.  
**Schumacher**, Suite 110.

Your collection for Schumacher is heavily influenced by fine art, which is no surprise considering you studied art. In fact, one fabric is called *Cubist* and another, *Tumbling Blocks*, resembles an M.C. Escher pattern. Could you talk a bit about the role art has played in your Schumacher designs?

I always start with art and fashion; they are just two major veins of creativity that fuel the zeitgeist. I always believe that we borrow from many, and that one idea builds on another and that ideas beget other ideas. So, your observations are correct; it is all part of the collective unconscious.

You also studied film. Do you consider your interior design in general to have a cinematic element?

I do like drama, and a certain cinematic quality. You know it when you see it – your eye is electrified. I have great expectations and am always striving to make decorating interesting – and if that reads as cinematic, I will take it. I just want you to feel sensorial, but that has a wide range. It could be fresh and airy or rich and glittering; it just depends on the space and person's needs and desires.

You worked for a decade as the creative director of Oscar de la Renta Home and studied fashion design at Parsons. What role does fashion play in your home designs?

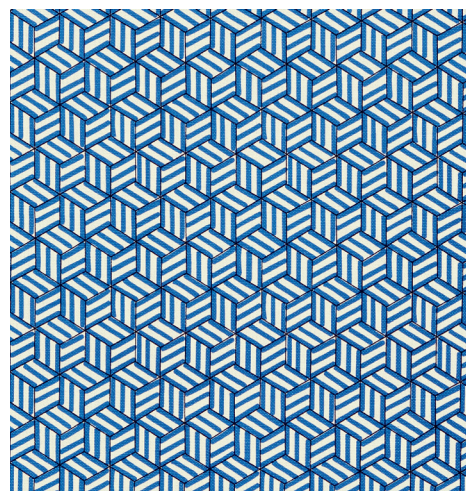
Fashion is so of the moment, but for me it is the sense of luxury and glamour, and refinement, and craftsmanship. The way a satin lining feels in a camel hair coat. I want the same experience in interiors, slipping into that satin lining can be very much the same experience as falling into a sofa. Fashion turned me on to that experience, but it does not have to be exclusive to clothes, it can be in rooms as well.

You must implicitly trust your business partner, David Kaihoi, because you even renamed your firm Miles Redd to Redd Kaihoi. Could you talk about your professional relationship?

He is the bomb, and an absolute joy of taste, sunny attitude, and hard, thoughtful work. Decorating takes so much, so it is nice to have a partner to share the workload. We each have our strengths and it's just great to divide and conquer.

You worked with Bunny Williams early in your career. Does what she taught you still have resonance in your work today?

You bet it does. Bunny is the best and really taught me how to run a decorating business, how to break it down for the client, and how to take care of the vendors and craftsmen as well.



ABOVE | Miles Redd's maximalist style is on full display in this children's space that features Schumacher's free-floating *Balloons* motif from the *Flight of Fancy* collection. Note the upholstered red door, a Redd signature.

LEFT | *Tumbling Blocks*, available as fabric or wallcovering.

Schumacher, Suite 110.



Photo courtesy Miles Redd

You scored a lot of favorable recognition for *The Big Book of Chic*. Are there plans for a second book and, if so, what will it concentrate on?

Maybe someday. I think at the end – just a retrospective of the greatest hits.

Interior designers often decorate by the mantra “less is more.” In your interior design work, there is a layered, saturated look, with salon-style art on the walls that looks comfortable without being cluttered. Could you comment on your style of interior design?

I suppose my gift is maximalism. I just do not fight it – I can see the potential in objects and where they will shine in a room, and just go about what I do.

One of your signature touches in your interior design is your attention to doors. Doors with upholstery, fabric, wallcoverings, which effect is quite attractive. Why did you decide to give doors so much attention?

I think doors are such an element in a room and are often overlooked, and decorating your door, as I say, just elevates that room to the fashion level I am talking about.

You’ve been quoted as saying “Powder rooms should be outrageous.” Could you please elaborate on this?

I feel like people go in a powder room at a party and everyone sees it. Why not give it a little wow moment? It just makes the party better, to be in a hall of mirrors or Moroccan tile fantasy. You don’t sleep there – so you can take some liberty. You come out of the loo, and you feel like you have been to Turkey or Versailles and rejoin the party. It keeps things interesting.