

# Style *at Home*

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MAY 2020

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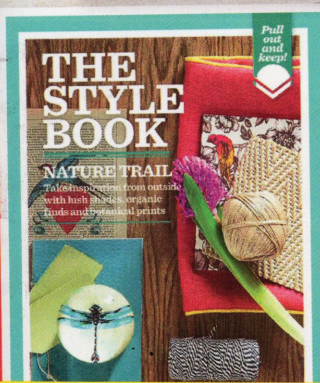
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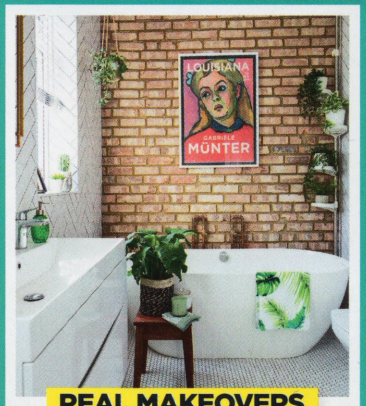
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# 'It's calm yet STILL COLOURFUL'

## MADE TO MEASURE

'We used an Ikea worktop and units to create a desk to fit the alcove. The cabinets provide storage and it doesn't take up floor space'

## COSY BURROW

'Alexa helped to choose the cushions for her bunk bed - there's definitely a rabbit theme at the moment!'

## COME ON IN!



**ABOUT ME** I'm Leoma Harper, an interior stylist and blogger at [stylethecollector.com](http://stylethecollector.com), and I live with my husband Gary and our children Alexa, six, and Seb, three. We live in a Victorian house near Hampton Court. We moved here in 2015.

**MY CHALLENGE** When we moved in, Alexa's bedroom was plain and had no personality. She now spends a lot more time in here and I wanted to make it a fun, cosy space for her.

**MY WISH LIST** Alexa wanted plenty of pink, but I prefer a calm, Scandi-inspired feel. She had wanted a bunk bed for a long time, so we made sure that was a focal point.

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Get this gorgeously girly look  
**PAGE 99**

## IDEA TO STEAL

'Cosy up hard floors with a large rug that complements your colour scheme'

Leoma has given her young daughter's bedroom a future-proof makeover with a pretty pastel colour scheme

**W**hen we moved into this house five years ago, our daughter Alexa was still in her cot, so I gave her bedroom a quick makeover with a lick of white paint, balloon wallpaper and some fitted shelves,' says Leoma.

My husband Gary and I decided to keep it neutral and just dress it with some pretty accessories and toys until she was a little older, when we planned to redecorate. Now Alexa spends a lot more time in her bedroom, the time felt right to redesign the space and transform it into a multifunctional room that she could sleep and play in. She absolutely loves to draw and colour in, so having a large desk space was one of the top priorities, as well as a bunk bed, which she had been asking to have for years!

Unfortunately, the original floorboards in her bedroom (and throughout the rest of the house) weren't in a good condition when we moved in, so these had to be replaced. But the rest of the room was in a fairly good state, which meant we could update the space without any major decorating work being needed.

## Selecting shades

When it came to choosing the scheme for Alexa's new room, I wanted something I knew would last her a long time and could easily be updated with accessories as she grows. I wanted her and her brother Seb's rooms to have a calm and airy feel to them, with a Scandi-inspired edge that still incorporates fun touches and pops of vibrant colour. Alexa loves anything bright pink, so there was a lot of negotiating that went on when it came to choosing the colour scheme! I ended up going for a more pared-back palette, using pastel tones instead, but still including pink accents like the painted bunk bed to fit Alexa's brief! It's easy >>

**TOTAL**  
**£1,074**  
TURN OVER FOR  
MY SHOPPING  
LIST



## Do it! REUPHOLSTER A SEAT PAD

- 1 Take the seat out of the frame, then repair, repaint or varnish.
- 2 Remove the old seat fabric, (likely stapled on), and look at the padding underneath. Remove and replace if needed (see step 3).
- 3 Place the seat frame onto thick foam padding, draw around and use a serrated knife to cut.
- 4 Place the foam padding and seat on top of calico fabric. Loosely cut around the seat, leaving enough fabric to reach over the edge of the seat base.
- 5 Pull fabric taut over the foam and seat base, and use a staple gun to secure. Start by stapling the centre of each side. Work your way around, folding corners as you go.
- 6 Hammer any staples flat and cut off any excess fabric.
- 7 Repeat steps 4 to 6 with your chosen upholstery fabric.



**BARGAIN BUY**  
'The alpaca-print chair was a steal from Sunbury Antiques Market for just £35!'

## Why it works



### STYLE AT HOME SAYS...

'The wooden floor adds warmth and depth to the cool, grey walls and Leoma's chosen colour combo cleverly bridges the gap between child-friendly and chic sophistication.'

HOUSES EDITOR  
Ruth Corbett

FEATURE: CASSIE PRYCE, MICHELA COLLING PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID GILES

'AS THERE ARE PLENTY OF ALEXA'S PLASTIC TOYS  
OFTEN LYING AROUND, WELL-ORGANISED  
STORAGE WAS AN ESSENTIAL'

### PRETTY IN PINK

'Alexa sleeps at the top of this sturdy wooden bunk bed and uses the bottom area as a snug to read and build dens'



### IDEA TO STEAL

'Layer up wooden window shutters with a light fabric curtain to soften the look'



### CREATIVE REVAMP

'I finished the Ikea drawer unit with handles from The Leather Handle Company at Etsy for a custom finish'

» to paint it another colour if she decides she doesn't like pink in the future.

Rather than have a bespoke desk area made to fit the alcove, we cut a piece of worktop to size and fixed it on top of two Ikea cabinets. The cabinets are only 35cm deep, which worked perfectly for this space, as I wanted it to slot in neatly and not jut out from the alcove too much. I added cute handles to the drawer unit to finish it off and then using tester pots I painted three spice racks, also from Ikea, to act as little wall shelves for books and trinkets. The desk chair was another Ikea find, which I painted using a leftover tin of paint to tie it in with the pastel scheme.

### Finishing touches

The pale grey walls give the room a neutral base that can be updated with new accessories over time, without the need to completely redecorate. Alexa helped pick out the cushions for her new bunk bed and I used the Graham and

Green rug as a starting point to pick out accent colours for the rest of the room. The balloon wallpaper, which we put up when we first moved into the house, already included pale pink, yellow and blue so I sourced finishing touches like the cotton ball string lights behind the bed and colourful storage boxes to pull the look together. I found Instagram was a great place to gather inspiration and share my own ideas, using my interiors account @styletheclutter.

One of my favourite pieces has to be the pink chair, which I stumbled across at Sunbury Antiques Market - it was painted pink and upholstered with a quirky alpaca-print fabric, so it just had to come home with us! Alexa is thrilled with her new room and spends hours up here, colouring and building dens at the bottom of her bunk bed. We hope this new space will suit her for years to come.'

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## Where to buy Leoma's style

Playhouse **bunk bed** is similar, £350, Fair Furnishings; painted in Nancy's Blushes **estate eggshell**, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For a similar rug, try the Focus circles **rug**, £70, The Rugs Warehouse. Lilltrask white **worktop**, £25; Eket **shelving unit**, £45; Eket three-drawer **cabinet**, £115; Norrard desk **chair**, £50, all Ikea. Casadeco balloon **wallpaper**, £30.46 a roll, House Decor Interiors. **Walls** in French Grey Mid absolute matt emulsion, £47 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Pink alpaca **chair**, £35, Sunbury Antiques Market. Mini Gaston **desk lamp**, £75, Loaf. Gold metallic-effect star **wall stickers**, £18 for 24, Nutmeg Studio. Cotton ball **lights**, from £22, Cotton Ball Lights. Pink cloud **cushion**, £9.99, H&M Home. Sheer linen **curtains**, £29.99 each, Zara Home. Townhouse wall **shelves**, £36, Great Little Trading Company. *Birthdays* framed **print**, £25, Belle & Boo



Find more tips on  
creating a charming  
child's bedroom at  
[idealhome.co.uk](http://idealhome.co.uk)

### CUTE DETAILS

'The trio of house-shaped shelves are from Great Little Trading Company and they make a fun feature'





# Buy Leoma's style CHILD'S ROOM CHIC

Calm colours and cute buys make for a dreamy bedroom



Display favourite things in house-shaped cubbies. Townhouse wall shelves, £36 for three, Great Little Trading Co



Create your own magical mural. Mini wall star stickers, £16 for a set of 49, This Modern Life



Decorate the walls with a selection of illustrated book characters. Snufkin poster, from £7.95, Desenio



Create a cosy glow at bedtime with a mini bunny lamp. Rabbit night light, £4.95, Rex London



Play house with a fun-shaped bed. Vox Spot kids tipi bed and frame with trundle drawer, £395, Cuckooland



Bring in plenty of colour and cosy up the bed with fun motifs on textiles. Rainbow cushion, £35, Sweetpea & Willow



House toys and play things in smartly stacked boxes. Velvet Pink storage trunks, £74.99 for two, Beautify



Deck out the bed frame with a line of cheery, colourful fairy lights. Pom-pom string lights, £16.50, Red Candy



Go for bold seating to add a pop of colour. Children's Yellow metal chair, £54.50, Maisons du Monde