

VISION IN WHITE

No, you're not seeing things. Kids and white furniture can live together peacefully—and beautifully.

THERE IS A REASON WHY HOLLYWOOD'S VERSION OF HEAVEN IS USUALLY POPULATED BY WHITE-ROBED FIGURES floating through misty white passageways: No other color is as dreamy and soothing. But here on terra firma—specifically, in your home, which is populated by grape-jelly lovers—no other color is quite as nerve-racking. “I have so many clients who are parents,” says New York City–based interior designer Thomas Jayne. “They buy a white sofa they love, and then they get it home and realize, *Hey, even our kids' clean clothes aren't that clean—how are we going to live with a white sofa?*” But thanks to new stain-resistant fabrics, as well as an ever-growing selection of kid-friendly material like leather and nylon, young families no longer have to resign themselves to dark colors or mottled, mess-friendly patterns. In other words, it is entirely possible for fantasy furniture and finger-painting children to live in perfect harmony. Now *that's* divine.

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From left: Tremolo push toy, \$30, **Selecta**, Maukilo Toy Store, maukilo.com. IQB Clutch ball, \$5.50, **IQ Baby**, Small World Toys, shopatron.com. Plus Petit cubes in zebra wood (stacked), \$236 each, **André Joyau**, andrejoyau.com. Russian Never Fall doll, \$18, **Plastica**, plasticashop.com. Farmhouse stools, \$99 each, **West Elm**, westelm.com. Build Your Own Lego Duplo Zoo, \$25, **Lego**, shop.lego.com. Lillabo train set, \$13, **IKEA**, (877) 345-4532. Bazaar elephant pillow, \$75, **ABC Carpet & Home**, (212) 473-3000. *Doodles*, \$19, **Chronicle Books**, mxyplyzyk.com. Mellah cushion, \$95, **Etro**, Auto, thisisauto.com. Switch-on three-arm floor lamp, \$1,750, **The Conran Shop**, conran.com. Balsawood Cloudscape (on wall), \$250, **Salvor**, Salvor Kiosk, (212) 226-5155. Krystle loafers, \$198, **Coach**, coach.com for store locations. Leather boxes, \$250 to \$350 each, and leather coasters (in box), \$95 for eight, **Clearly First**, clearlyfirst.com.



SOFA

The easiest way to introduce white into a living room is with the centerpiece: the sofa. This generously proportioned tufted three-seater is upholstered in fabric finished with stain-repelling Stoneguard. (Crate & Barrel can similarly treat any of its fabrics.) The creamy brushed-cotton cushions beg to be sat, eaten, napped, even jumped on—though you don't have to advertise that last option to your resident gymnasts. *Petrie sofa*, \$1,499, *Crate & Barrel*, crateandbarrel.com.

CHAIR

Fearlessly rest a cup of coffee on the arm of any white chair—as long as the fabric has been treated with Gore Seating Protection. If it spills, the coffee will bead instead of soaking through. Though the treatment causes a slight increase in thickness, the cushions are still plush enough to curl up on. *Chair R809*, \$3,900, *Jarrett Hedborg for A. Rudin*, (323) 589-5547 (available through the trade). *Presto fabric in Winter White*, \$15 a yard (plus \$11 a yard for Gore Seating Protection treatment), *KnollTextiles*, knolltextiles.com.

POUF

Relax. Put your (dirty) feet up on a comfy foot rest made of leather, the coarser the better. Tough leather isn't as porous as fine leather—and is therefore great at resisting messes. *Moroccan leather pouf by Michelle Baconnier*, \$225, *John Derian*, (212) 677-3917.

CARPET TILES

Flor's lifesaving stain-resistant nylon-fiber tiles will remind you that flexibility is a parent's best friend. Each square can be lifted individually and rinsed in the sink—or easily replaced, should its fate involve a Chuck Taylor and a wad of chewing gum. Tape down the perimeter tiles and the inner ones won't shift. *Walking on Clouds carpet tiles in Marshmallow White*, \$15 for each 19.7-inch square, *Flor*, florcatalog.com.

"WE LIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND MESSY WORLD, BUT WHITE HAS A PEACEFUL,



Opposite: Farmhouse dining table, \$649, **West Elm**, westelm.com. Mixed fruit bowl, \$125, **Harry Allen**, urbanpeel.com. Metal Profile candlesticks, \$38 to \$58, **Anthropologie**, (800) 309-2500. Small Groove table lamp with shade, \$480, **Furthurdesign**, furthurdesign.com. Solid-wood curtain rods and ball finials in Espresso, \$30 to \$120, **Restoration Hardware**, restorationhardware.com. Quarter-size BeBop Kidz guitar, \$80, **Music for Little People**, musicforlittlepeople.com.



Above: Brown Bag lunch set, \$34, **Lilly Bean**, mahardrygoods.com. Below: Color-by-number Insect Hustle Bustle wallpaper border, \$20, **2Jane**, 2jane.com. Metro vanity mirror, \$169, **Roost**, Haystack, (718) 246-2510. Hematite drinking glasses, \$12 each, and Opal drinking glasses, \$12 each, **Anthropologie**, anthropologie.com. Ceramic bottles, \$42 each, **Laura Zindel Ceramics**, zindelceramics.com.

DINING CHAIRS

There's no need to resort to plastic folding chairs on s'mores night—with chocolate-friendly Sunbrella upholstery, you can still dine like grown-ups. Each fiber is made from solution-dyed acrylic and coated with an antistaining treatment. The result is soft enough for comfort yet tough enough to handle full-strength bleach wipedowns. *Hostess Chairs 5867 in Rascal White Sunbrella fabric, \$590 each, Lee Industries, leeindustries.com for store locations.*

DRAPES

Instead of shutting out daylight with dark curtains, diffuse it throughout the room with billowy white panels. The 100-percent-polyester fabric is durable and drapes nicely; should it start to show the effects of one too many hide-and-seek sessions, simply throw it in the washing machine. *Kensho fabric in Pearl, \$65 a yard, Designtex, White + One, (516) 767-2698.*

SIDE TABLE

A gleaming white side table butted up against white walls will blend in and allow decorative accessories to pop. This table (at right, back of room) is made of wood, but it's sealed with a white high-gloss lacquer, so sticky smudges can be wiped off with a soft, nonabrasive cloth. (Glossy finishes do scratch, though, so try to limit Matchbox car races to the rug.) *Parsons desk, \$279, West Elm, westelm.com.*



ORDERED, AND FRESH EFFECT.”—LOS ANGELES INTERIOR DESIGNER PETER DUNHAM





“WHITE IS FUN AND TIMELESS. YOUR KID CAN GROW UP WITH THE ROOM JUST BY



CHANGING THE ACCESSORIES.”—NEW YORK CITY INTERIOR DESIGNER BENJAMIN NORIEGA ORTIZ



BED AND ROCKER

To begin integrating white into your child's room, start with a bed or chair, then add brightly colored accents. The rocker and bed pictured are upholstered in Crypton fabric. Antimicrobial agents and stain preventers help the material live up to its superheroic name—and allow your kids to act out their own superhero fantasies by climbing all over it without fear of grimy, villainous damage. *Fillmore Youth bed*, \$1,350, *Fillmore upholstered headboard*, \$650, and *Eddy rocker*, \$1,350 (all in Crypton Bella fabric in white), *ducduc*, ducducnyc.com.

TABLE

The petal-shaped white bedside table is made from molded foam with a polyurethane surface. It's soft enough not to cause bruises after those not-so-occasional collisions, yet sturdy enough to fend off small marks. To clean, just wipe with light soap and a damp cloth. *Flower pouf*, \$625, *Clearly First*, clearlyfirst.com.

RUG

Say goodbye to mysterious carpet splotches by throwing down this woven plastic rug. A stylish choice that's also soft underfoot, the surface can be wiped down easily, so afternoon tea parties will be every bit as pleasant and relaxing as they're meant to be. *Ella plastic rug*, \$98, *Pappalina*, *Scandinavian Details*, (800) 928-4010.

Opposite, from left: A-light bedside lamp, \$60, *Re-Surface*, re-surface.net. Rabbit radio, \$10, and Zoo puzzle (on bed), \$95, *Nest*, (718) 965-3491. Potato Queen 1 wall decals, about \$38, *Domestic*, domestic.fr. Felt kids' slippers, \$25, *ABC Carpet & Home*, (212) 473-3000. Pennant garland, \$34, *m*o*m*, mahardrygoods.com. Works Special Edition yellow-trim quilt, \$890, *Denyse Schmidt Quilts*, dsquilts.com. Top left: *Evita throw*, \$598, *Missoni Auto*, thisisauto.com. Alphabet photo print, \$400, *Grégoire Ganter*, gregoireganter.com.