

Room to grow

Create gorgeous rooms for the Alpha Gen by following these inspiring examples set by three style-savvy, design professional mums in Dubai

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Left Meet three-year-old Lara and her siblings (overleaf), and discover how her mum created a shared bedroom for her and her sister that encourages them to read and play. **Above** This pre-teen's bedroom in Dubai features furniture customised with the things 10-year-old Lana loves; find out more on page 57.

THREE'S COMPANY: SIBLING TALES & NURSERY STYLE



Sammy's nursery features hanging clouds and hot air balloons to engage his attention; the walls are a day-sky blue while the rug brings a starry night into the scheme. Continued from overleaf, Tala and Lara's shared room has fun house-frame beds and pom-pom garlands as playful accents.

Photography by Stefan Lindeque



Samar Habayeb, founder and CEO of Silsal Design House, and her financier husband, Fawzi Jumean, have three children, Tala, 6, Lara, 3, and Sammy, 2. The Jordanian-American family have lived in Dubai for several years and have settled in Dubai's Jumeirah neighbourhood.

What look did you want to achieve in the nursery?
In Sammy's nursery I opted for a calming and timeless space and I love the tranquility in this room. I made sure to include things hanging from the ceiling, as babies love that. I liked the idea of having clouds and hot air balloons overhead as I really wanted the theme to be about looking up and reaching your goals and being positive.

How did you involve the kids with their bedroom décor?
I'm practical when it comes to decorating and I like involving the kids throughout the process. In the girls' room (seen on page 50 and left), while the wall looks like it's papered it is actually painted pink and Tala and I stuck on colourful circular stickers. She helped me do the same with Sammy's room, choosing where to put the cloud-shaped stickers. The house-frame beds were chosen by Tala (Lara was too young to be involved at the time), and the floral decorations around the bed frame.

What influenced the style of the girls' room?
I wanted their bedroom to reflect their personalities and the things they love. They are very much into the colour pink, and they love flowers and anything fairytale-like. They asked for a beautiful night-light – we found the perfect one that could include their names – and lots of sparkle, which we included in the canvas prints. However, I also used a base of white to keep things light and spacious; in turn, this doesn't restrict the room by being overly coordinated. I purposely left the middle of the room as an open space so they can sit and play together and with their friends.

What's your favourite spot?
I love the reading corner they have as it creates beautiful memories before bedtime. Every night they choose one or two books that we read together before they sleep. It's a great way to bond and relax with the girls at the end of the day.

BUNKING UP: CREATING A BOYS' CAVE



Sam prefers to sleep on the Paris daybed from Byron Bay Hanging Chairs while Jack enjoys the top slot of the Perch bunk bed from Oeuf. Linda has upgraded an IKEA Frosta stool with a padded seat and rust-red paint, complementing the boys' La Cerise Sur Le Gâteau bedding from Smalable.

Photography by Natalie Cocks



Portrait by Stefan Lindeque

Dutch national Linda Dekkers, founder of Dubai-based interior styling company Live Loud Girl, lives with her husband and their two sons, Jack, age 8, and Sam, 7, in Arabian Ranches.

For Jack and Sam's shared bedroom, where did your style cues come from?

A key feature of this room is the boys' Perch bunk bed from Oeuf. It had been on my wish list ever since I first had the kids, and I believe investing in a piece of furniture that will go a long way is always worth it. They needed a place for their Lego so I used a vintage cabinet that was previously in their playroom as storage. With any room, I like working with what there is. By adding some colour and shopping around in your own house you can create a fresh vibe without breaking the bank.

What trending home fashion ideas have you included?

Paint! Adding colour to the walls is a great way to create something unique. When we moved to this villa I painted the bedroom walls in Jotun's bold Fusion teal blue. It doesn't make the room look smaller, which is what people often think when using a dark tone.

Did Jack and Sam have any requests?

The boys love reading so adding a place to do so was high on their list. The lounge that was previously in the playroom is now a daybed as Sam wanted his own bed, so the lower level of the bunk bed is now a place where they can sit and read.

Because kids grow up quickly, how have you made sure their room décor has "staying power"?

Staying power is our priority when we design a room for a client and I also incorporate that at home. I like to design rooms that kids grow into, not out of, so in terms of the boys' bedroom I can easily update this space with accessories; posters, prints and wall art are a great way to do this.

How did you create a bedroom that can be shared happily by boys of different ages?

I am lucky to have two boys so close together in age and they love sharing a room. For children with larger age gaps I advise including items for both, trying to create their own little domain within one big space.

GIRL POWER: FASHION-FORWARD PRE-TEENS

Much of the girls' furniture was designed by Sameera and made by Dubai-based carpenters, including Sasha's bed and bedside table with illuminated features, her wardrobe with a laser-cut stag design and her cloud-shaped desk.



Photography by Stefan Lindeque



British national Sameera Ameer has two daughters, Lana, 10, and Sasha, 7, both born in Dubai. They recently moved into an apartment on Palm Jumeirah, decorated using Sameera's expertise as an interior designer and partner of the interior styling service Stella + the Stars.

How did you achieve a contemporary look in each of the girls' bedrooms?

Lana had outgrown her previous bedroom style as she's now in the pre-teen phase, so I wanted something age appropriate yet fun and unique (seen previously on page 51). She loves the colour mint green but because we couldn't find anything ready-made that we loved I custom-made her bed. She wanted to have a bed inspired by a white tiger, so I incorporated this in a way I felt was tasteful, and the fabric of the headboard can be changed at any time. The rest of the room is pared-down girly with natural wood elements.

The girls used to share a bedroom so this is Sasha's first room to herself (as seen on the left). She is very feminine, so I incorporated a lot of pink while keeping the palette neutral, which I achieved by layering white furniture on a grey background. All the furniture in her bedroom is custom-designed by me, because I couldn't find what we wanted in stores and because I wanted something unique. Lana and Sasha chose the artwork in their bedrooms and we had a lot of fun deciding the prints, colours and sizes.

What trending home fashion ideas have you included?

In Lana's room, the use of mint green with rattan and natural wood, and in Sasha's the unicorn bedding, which she chose. In both rooms they have Beni Ourain-style rugs from JYSK, and a soft-toy animal head on the wall.

What do the girls love most about their rooms?

That we designed the rooms together. As they see me designing homes regularly they could not wait until it was their turn to design when they finally had their own rooms.

What's your advice for decorating a child's bedroom with "staying power"?

Have the main pieces of furniture in a white or neutral finish and leave the pops of colour and fun elements to the accessories and soft furnishings. This means you can play with themes and change them over time whilst still using the same pieces of furniture.



Home Centre

Samar's inspired ideas for a stylish nursery...

- ★ Keep things versatile so that the room can be changed easily and "grow" with the kids.
- ★ White is an important colour to use; it allows for longevity and adds a calming effect.
- ★ Decorate with books; they add colour and help instil an early habit of reading.
- ★ As much as you can, involve the kids in decorating their rooms.
- ★ Create open space for the kids to play in.

HER FAVOURITE UAE KIDS' STORES

- ★ Home Centre
- ★ IKEA
- ★ Zara Home
- ★ Indigo Living
- ★ Bloomingdale's Home

Linda's top 5 décor tips for shared bedrooms...

- ★ Bunk beds are great for saving space.
- ★ Use colours, patterns and prints that appeal to both.
- ★ Use proper storage, do not clutter.
- ★ Kids grow up quickly so use items that they will still love in five years' time.
- ★ Use a big rug to tie the room together; this is often where they like to play.

HER GO-TO BRANDS FOR BOYS' STYLE

- ★ Caramel and Sun
- ★ The Bowery Company
- ★ H&M Home
- ★ IKEA
- ★ Tribe



Ikea

Sameera's top interiors tricks for girls' rooms...

- ★ Plan the space so that you are maximising the flow as well as the use of the space. Having a rough floorplan helps, even if it is hand drawn.
- ★ Start with the main pieces of the room like the bed, bedside table and storage. Make sure these pieces are well made and neutral in colour.
- ★ Go bold with soft furnishings and artwork.
- ★ Use framed art prints in different sizes to add depth.
- ★ Have options for lights – such as bright lights for everyday use and mood lighting for bedtime and story time.

HER BEST DUBAI SHOPS FOR KIDS' DÉCOR

- ★ Caramel and Sun
- ★ H&M Home
- ★ Tribe
- ★ MarMarLand
- ★ Love Joba



Tribe



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