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Kips Bay: Coloring In the White Boxes

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There was a dead loon on the floor of Sara Story's study, designed for a woman seemingly unfazed by testosterone and clearly comfortable with firearms. "I didn't want to do a dressing room," she said. "Women are so much more than a closet full of shoes."



A breakfast room by Turkish architect by Sara Bengur.



A child's bedroom, with paper airplanes by Jennifer Carpenter.



A child's bedroom, with paper airplanes by Jennifer Carpenter.

It felt, said one exhausted photographer who had made her way through all six apartments, just like oxygen.

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The Kips Bay Decorator Show House, to benefit the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, is open through May 22. Cost: \$30; (718) 893-8800, ext. 249; kipsbay.org.

The lion belonged to her grandmother, who was a big-game hunter, she said. A black-and-white photo by Guy Aroch showed a woman with her head thrown back, in a parody of a swoon. "You just know what she's thinking," Ms. Story said. "Like, 'What am I going to do with that guy?'"

A lot of decorators were thinking about the single life. Ellen Ward Scarborough (a.k.a. Mrs. Chuck Scarborough) and her sister, Madeline Roth, made a bedroom for a "twinging '60s chick," said Ms. Scarborough, who wore a flannel miniskirt and black straitjacket. "Maybe for 'That Girl,' or a model, like Jean Shrimpton."

That the only reading material was a copy of "Valley of the

Sara Bengur's walls were orange, too, but her kitchen looked like a sunny Miami bungalow; most of her ideas about urban living had to do with getting out of the city. "You could be anywhere, up here," she said, adjusting the bird calls on her Sony Vaio notebook and indicating a banquette inspired by those in Turkish palaces. "There is such protocol about what city living should be, a great concern with what other people think, and this idea that you should live a 'New York' life in New York."

white box was also the suspect. Next to the photograph of the gagging woman in Mr. Laslo's entry (in a penthouse Ms. Lenz said was in contract for \$10 million) was a tiny bedroom by Jennifer Carpenter, a principal of Truck Product Architecture.

Ms. Carpenter designs children's furniture that looks like delicate modern buildings. She painted her room two shades of blue, added a bunk bed, a shelf and a desk, and 100 paper airplanes, which she suspended from the ceiling in a flight pattern that started at the door, looped once, and headed out the open window.