

a fresh start

Sarah Richardson offers a pretty, new take on the modern nursery

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PHOTOS BY STACEY BRANDFORD

"I HAD A 'NO BUNNIES' RULE," laughs designer Sarah Richardson, describing the chic yet playful nursery she designed for her new baby. "I wanted there to be colour, energy, vitality and happiness, but not the traditional nursery trappings." For the star of HGTV's *Design Inc.*, the magic lay in customized pieces from her own furniture collection, a sleek 'n' sweet designer crib, and a sophisticated cream, red and walnut palette. (Not to mention the gorgeous fabrics she used, which add hits of verdant green, blue and yellow to the space.) While Richardson and her husband, Alexander, didn't know whether they had a boy or girl on board - daughter Robin was born just after this shoot - one thing's never been in doubt: baby's got style.



**TURN WALLS
INTO FOCAL POINTS**

This decorative treatment was inspired by the armchair fabric. **TIP** Know when to stop. Wall art usually looks best in small doses.

DESIGN LESSON

Does plenty of pattern mean plenty of clashing? Not if you take Richardson's Patterns 101 crash course – as illustrated by her own nursery. (How many fabrics are mixed in this room? Eight!)

1. Use the largest, boldest pattern as a jumping-off point. In this case, that's the gorgeous floral on the armchair.

2. "Starting from that, find other fabrics [both patterned and solid] with similar colours," she says. Here, she's mixed the cream denim covering the loveseat with red and cream stripes on its armrests, the red and pink check on the bolster pillow, and the star print on the footstool.

3. Go heavy on the main hues, light on the rest. "I like a monochromatic scheme, so this room reads mostly as red and cream; the blues and yellows fade into the background." >



CLOSET CALL

Nesting instinct hitting you full-on? Head over to your local big box hardware store. Richardson (above) made this closet organizer with plywood from The Home Depot (they'll cut it to size for you), covering the outward facing edges with moulding from the mill-work department. Inexpensive, but totally designer. **FAB FIND** These attractive red canvas baskets from Pottery Barn Kids offer toteable storage (perfect for schlepping toys from room to room!).

LOOK BEYOND COLOUR

Textured and sculpted forms look lovely and fascinate wee ones, even in subdued hues. (Check out this Jonathan Adler giraffe lamp!)



PHOTO BY BRANDON BARRE (SARAH RICHARDSON)

SHIFT INTO NEUTRAL

Some of us love the traditional nursery – hey, this is the only time in your life you're going to be able to stick giant animal decals on the walls, so do it now, if you're so inclined. But if you're hankering for a more contemporary style, use this action plan.

- > Set up a minimalist canvas, with warm-neutral walls and unfussy flooring, such as hardwood or a low-pile wool carpet.
- > Bring in some wood; darker stains like walnut are particularly on-trend right now and offer an unexpected soigné touch to change tables, dressers and shelving units.
- > Create a wow factor with design-forward furniture, lush fabrics and upholstery, eye-catching wall art, classic books, vintage wooden toys – you name it. Best part: the timeless grounding of the room means you can transform the space with accessories as Junior grows. >

LIGHTEN UP

Richardson says baby-proofing a light-coloured nursery isn't as hard as you might think.

- > Choose more-forgiving warm cream hues over stark whites.
- > Use a washable paint formula on walls. Richardson used Glidden Paints' Corinthian Column (30YY71/138) in Ceramic Matt finish. **TIP** "Washable" and "scrubbable" aren't the same thing - use a soft cloth. (And let latex paint cure for 30 days first.)
- > Get washable slipcovers. The covers on the loveseat and footstool were pre-shrunk, and are both machine washable and dryable.
- > If you love the look, be willing to spot-clean. "I'd rather use light-coloured surfaces and maintain them regularly, than use darker materials and go without cleaning them," says Richardson.

ADOPT A LESS-IS-MORE APPROACH

Want a serene nursery? Cut the visual clutter. Drape the crib with a simple linen canopy, and display a few choice toys and accessories.



To learn where the products in this room came from, see Find it! page 90.

find it!

We knew you'd love 'em! Here's where to buy the great products featured in this issue of *Canadian Family*. Products listed were checked for accuracy and availability at time of print; items left uncredited are from personal collections.

FAMILY COVER

BabyGap: *babygap.com*. Benjamin Moore & Co. Ltd.: *benjamin moore.ca*. H&M: *hm.com*. Hollister Co.: *hollisterco.ca*. Poof-Slinky: *poof-slinky.com*. Sheridan Nurseries: *sheridannurseries.com*. Urban Outfitters: *urbanoutfitters.com*. Zara: *zara.com*.

FAMILY STUFF

pages 19 to 24

Celestron: *celestron.com*. Creativity For Kids: *creativityforkids.com*. Diaper Dude: *diaperdude.com*. Happy Worker: *happyworker.com*. Kushies Baby: *kushies.com*, and Master-Mind Toys, *mastermindtoys.com*. Matter Company: *mattercompany.com*. Neutrogena: available nationally. Pierre Belvedere: specialty and gift stores across Canada. Pottery Barn Kids: *potterybarnkids.ca*. Sears: *sears.ca*. Shiseido: Sears, *sears.ca*, and the Bay, *hbc.com*. SunSmart: *sunsmart.ca*.

FAMILY STYLE

pages 40 to 44

Aldo: *aldoshoes.com*. Aveda: *aveda.com*. Browns: *brownshoes.com*. Fashion Crimes & Misdemeanours: Toronto, 416-592-9001. H&M: *hm.com*. Holt Renfrew: select stores,

holtrenfrew.com. Kingly: Toronto, 416-536-2601, *kingly.org*. Kol Kid: Toronto, 416-681-0368, *kolkid.ca*. Le Château: *lechateau.com*. Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics: *lush.com*. Mark: Avon sales reps, *avon.ca*. Secrets From Your Sister: Toronto, 416-538-1234, *secretsfromyoursister.com*. Smashbox Cosmetics: select Shoppers Drug Mart stores, Sephora and independent stores. Town Shoes: *townshoes.com*.

FAMILY NUTRITION

pages 46 to 47

Studio Brillantine: Toronto, 416-536-6521, *studiobrillantine.com*.

FAMILY SPACE

pages 48 to 50

Cory loveseat, Norton swivel rocker and Millie stool: Sarah Richardson Design, *sarahrichardsondesign.com*. Fabrics: Greeff Empire Poplin Stripe in Rouge (loveseat), Bilbrough & Co., Toronto, 416-960-1611 (through designers); Panama Bari Sintra in Colour 11 (rocker), and San Remo in Colour 3 (foot stool), Designer Fabrics, *designerfabrics.ca*. Glidden Paints' Corinthian Column (30YY71/138) paint: Color Your World, 800-299-9940, *coloryourworld.com*.

Stokke Sleepi crib: Moms to Be...and More, Toronto, 416-489-3838. Change table, walnut shelves: Treebone Design, Montreal, 514-277-3633. Jonathan Adler giraffe lamp: Kol Kid (as above). Decorative painting: Michele Jones, Toronto, 416-725-4473. Portico Wool Broadloom in Ivory: Elte, *elte.com*. Floating boxes: Caban, *caban.com*. Red canvas bins: Pottery Barn Kids, (as above).

FAMILY READING

pages 66 to 71

Forest and Company: Toronto, 647-438-2715.

FAMILY APPROVED

pages 72 to 73

BabyBjorn: *babybjorn.com*. Baby Trekker: *babytrekker.com*. Maclaren: distributed by Kushies Baby, *kushies.com*. Parents of Invention: *parentsofintention.com*. Weego: *weego.com*. ZoloWear: *zolowear.com*.

FAMILY FOOD

pages 75 to 84

Always Learning: 888-447-2229, *hipbaby.com*. Caban: *caban.com*. Home Outfitters: *homeoutfitters.ca*. HomeSense: *homesense.ca*. Pottery Barn: *potterybarn.ca*. Zevro: Linens-N-Things, *canada.lnt.com*.