

Designer Secrets

How to Define Your Style and Create the Nursery of Your Dreams

By Mary Bauer



When we design a space, we put some part of our self out into the world. It's an opportunity to allow our outside world to mirror our personal truths. You get to choose from amid your many varied passions. It's a deeply personal experience and every space brings out different parts of who we are, what we love, and how we live. And the most successful spaces are ones in which we feel completely understood. When designing a nursery, you are choosing from the deepest wells of love, protection, joy, and creativity. Nothing inspires us like our children and no space is as much fun as childhood spaces. I tell my clients to begin with how you want the room to feel and how you imagine you and your baby will move through the room. This first space, is really about you. Your baby will quickly grow and change, as will his needs, but this first nursery is where you will rock the night into the day. So, plan a space that you love and know there are no wrong answers. Some parents want the room to feel tranquil and peaceful, timeless, safe, classic, and imaginative, a place where the magic happens, and fun is had. Once you know the answer to that question, you've set the course of the space. Choose objects, fabrics, and artwork that speak to that direction. Nesting is primal, and very special. Have fun. Enjoy the process and remember to include your baby in all of your work, imagining them in the space and reveling in the knowledge that you are preparing for a brand new life.

To achieve a successful look in any room, you need to pull all the elements together in a way that creates harmony. Carefully consider your furnishings, color scheme, fabrics and lighting. Keep in mind, texture, scale and balance. Considering all of the details is vital to a successful look.

Although style is endless in its definition, there are four major design themes that covers almost everyone. They are:

A. traditional

B. opulent

C. clean and classic

D. modern



j'adore



chelsea lifetime
espresso

Traditional

If you love an old weathered Cape Cod house, or a beautiful vine covered brick cottage, traditional may be your style of choice. Here are some ideas to create a traditional nursery:

1. Many furnishing styles can be considered traditional, based on the other elements in the room. Avoid cool, modern looks, and opt for rich warm wood tones, or traditional wrought iron.
2. Romantic floral patterns work really well, as do mixing of fabrics like cotton, velvets, and silks. For a great boy look in traditional consider plaids and stripes.
3. Brick walls, hard wood floors, worn fireplaces, and dental molding all do the work for you, if you're going for a traditional look. If not, consider a braided rug for a floor covering, or wainscoting your nursery walls.
4. Color schemes should be, well, traditional. Pastels, neutrals, and natural elements like wood and brick are great.
5. **Designer Secret:** Consider scale when hanging your art. For example, don't put a small 4 x 6 print on a big wide wall, all alone. If using smaller art, hang several pieces for a gallery affect. If using a large piece, keep it simple and let the art breathe by giving it its own space.

Opulent

If chandeliers dripping with bling and silk brocade get your heart racing, you love opulence. Here are 5 designer tips for achieving an opulent nursery for your little prince or princess:

1. Opulence is not trendy, it does not give into the latest craze. Choose furniture with lines that have been around forever. While wood is wonderful, iron is also a great choice because it speaks to a bygone era.
2. Silks, brocades, damasks are all excellent choices for bedding and window treatments. The texture and weight will add to the finery of an opulent space. When dressing an opulent bed, more is more.
3. Sophistication is subtle. Avoid loud colors and opt for soft spoken walls, like grays, creams, or other classic looks. Don't be afraid to go dark for added drama. If you want a little more pizzazz, dress up the molding in a metallic gold or silver.
4. There's a reason it's called mood lighting. The light in a room can completely change the feel. Traditional chandeliers are a wonderful choice in an opulent nursery and the metallics can create a beautiful melody with other coordinating tones in your room, perhaps something in your furnishings or bedding.
5. **Designer Secret:** Add a dash or surprise. Avoid the common mistake of going overboard, and have something in your room that is unexpected. Perhaps it's a non-traditional floor covering, like a shag rug or an animal print. Maybe it's a sexy chaise. Whatever you choose, by adding the unexpected you bring serious design sophistication to your room.





Clean and Classic

If you love the crisp buttoned up look of Nantucket, and you're not afraid of color, your nursery style may be clean and classic. Consider these ideas for obtaining that look:

1. Less is more for a clean look. Choose furnishings with a quiet elegance and soft hues. White is wonderful.
2. The crib is your defining piece within the nursery, and the bedding enhances that look. For a crisp look in fabric, think cotton, laundered linen and seersucker. Bright clean colors work as well as soft hues. Also this would be a great place for a bold pattern, like a navy stripe on your bedskirt, but be careful not to overwhelm the look with too many colors and competing patterns.
3. Traditional walls like tone on tone stripes are great for a simple fresh look. Or choose soft pastel walls, trimmed out in crisp white. Artwork enhances the look.
4. If your doing a hanging pendent, choose something clean and simple like a round linen shade that works with your color scheme. If you need more light, opt for table lamp on your dresser. Be sure and keep the shade simple.
5. **Designer Secret:** Balance. When creating a specific energy in any room, be sure and balance the elements. For example, if you're using a very busy bedding set, keep the walls simple.



park avenue

Modern

If you're drawn to the simplicity of a plain white sheet, and think Van Gogh is predictable, you could be a modernist. Consider these designer tips for creating a modern look:

1. Form and function define a modern look. The furnishings are sleek, unadorned, and versatile.
2. Modern incorporates a wide range of style. Bedding can be sparse and barely there or bold and geometric.
3. Bright hues like orange and turquoise are popular in a modern setting.
4. Lighting can range from industrial pendants to silk shades. Just be sure and keep the look simple.
5. **Designer Secret:** Don't be afraid to mix up the energies and create something brand new. For a new twist on modern, place super ornate furnishings in a modern, industrial setting.



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