

Homes DESIGN



JOHN

Amabile

THE TOP SCOTS DESIGNER SHARES HIS HOMES NEWS AND VIEWS

New kids on the bedroom block

WHETHER your child is frantic about Frozen or batty for Buzz Lightyear, we all want our little princes and princesses to have the bedroom of their dreams.

Next week I'll explain how I created a really individual kid's bedroom at the recent Ideal Homes Show Scotland exhibition.

It was great fun, but designing a themed bedroom does have its drawbacks.

As with fashion, kids' favourite characters change with time or the next new 'big thing' appears.

And it can be quite costly. I recently designed a themed room, but used the colours of the theme so the actual character could be easily changed if it went out of favour!

Young children love bright, fun colours.

That's why cartoons are so popular and the primary

colours in block work very well.

But there's still a place for pretty pink princesses or football mad themes — we just need to think carefully to get as much longevity as possible and a few years' grace before we have to tackle the room again.

Designing for children is very like designing in general.

A theme or brief needs to be taken to get a starting point, then related to budget to build the design.

I love these new ranges from Harlequin which include everything from primary colours to pretty pastels and can be mixed, matched and coordinated to great effect.

Ready-made curtains and duvet sets can immediately change the room in two easy big block areas.

When tackling a 60 Minute Makeover I always decide on curtains, fabrics and wallcoverings first as they wrap around the room and dictate the overall theme.

Then I look at soft furnishings and accessories to enhance it.

These ranges are a great example of what you can achieve.

A new block of fabric on beds and windows can really set the trend.



I'M looking for fun but safe bath toys for when my young grandchildren stay over. Any suggestions?
L. Fordyce, Kirkintilloch.

How about this Bath Time Build And Play Submarine? Made from chunky, fun and colourful foam, it's ideal for ages three and over. £9.99 from greatgifts4kids.co.uk

■ If you have a homes query you'd like some help with, write to: Ask Amabile, The Sunday Post, 80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL or email askamabile@sundaypost.com



BEST BUY

GET the party started with these fab lollipop lights! Perfect for dressing up a party table or illuminating a space. £21 from berryred.co.uk



■ harlequin.uk.com



■ jmlgardenrooms.co.uk

Stuck for space? Get into the garden!

By Tracey Bryce

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WHEN painter Kim Somerville quit America for Scotland, she found it hard to find a suitable space to be creative.

"The only place I was able to enjoy my painting was in the utility room which had the best natural light and clean space," she says.

"But being surrounded by piles of ironing and the hum of the washing machine was very distracting."

Kim and husband Ian moved back to the UK from Chicago in December and settled in a traditional stone house in Auchterarder with stunning views of the Perthshire countryside.

Kim and Ian's new property had a summer house, but as it was old and run down, they decided to replace it.

And what better option than a garden room. They commissioned JML Garden Rooms, run by husband and wife team John and Katie Langley, to build them one.

With more than 20 years' experience in building homes, the couple spotted a gap in the market as more homeowners wanted to extend their current homes or move to a larger property.

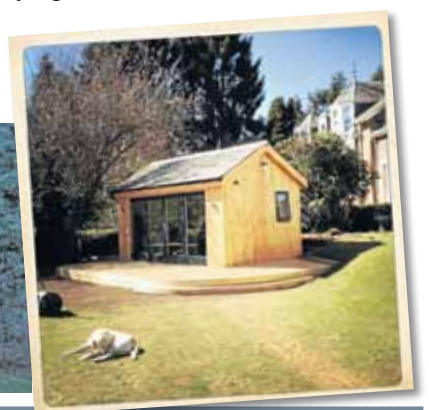
Conventional solutions like extensions require planning permission, are disruptive and expensive and buying a bigger home involves the misery of moving — so garden rooms provided the perfect solution.

They are ideal if you need an office, playroom, gym, studio or even an en-suite guest room and simply don't have the space indoors.

The Somervilles' 13sq m design (below right) with slate roof has been kitted out with a TV and music system so Kim can enjoy some entertainment while she paints — and the whole family can use it all year round.

"I'm so thrilled with my garden room studio and am looking forward to painting and drawing in it for years to come," she says.

■ Prices range from £16,000 to £28,000 for off-the-shelf designs to £18,000 to £45,000 for larger and bespoke garden rooms. For further information, visit jmlgardenrooms.co.uk



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