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Decorating For Real People

By LaJoyce Kerns

Decorating For Real People by © LaJoyce Kerns of www.decorate-bedrooms-for-less.com

I spent a recent weekend curled up with a stack of decorating magazines. I read them cover to cover – usually back to front, but that's the way I read most magazines and newspapers. I studied each photograph and tried to determine the particular design concept that was being presented. I looked at the number and placement of accessories, how and where arrangements of items were hung on the walls, choices of color and texture, and flooring selections. Each photo was scrutinized in the minutest detail. At some point I started to wonder for whom these absolutely gorgeous rooms were designed.

Bedside tables held no alarm clocks or clock radios. While there was usually an abundance of decorative items, there were no tissue boxes or eyeglass cases. Dressers displayed beautifully arranged floral creations and perhaps a cut glass perfume bottle or two, with ornamental stoppers. No jewelry boxes, no lotion bottles, none of the everyday stuff of life. I don't know about you but I want a telephone at the side of my bed. And someplace handy for the TV remote.

And the bathrooms! Don't even get me started on the bathrooms! Do the users of these bathrooms ever need to replace the toilet paper or the hand soap? Do they have their hair done weekly (maybe daily?) at beauty- or barber-shops and thus have no need of shampoo and conditioner bottles? Toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss? The men don't have to shave and the women have no need of makeup? Streamlining and organization can only take you so far. Sooner or later you need a place for feminine supplies, room deodorizers, and the extra cotton balls and swabs that don't fit into the pretty little designer containers. And I can't be the only person who thinks that a plunger should be stored someplace handy to the location of possible need.

No cords for the lamps, no tangle of wires for the home office computer system. One photograph featured an elegant "work space" with a large bouquet of flowers drooping fetchingly over the printer. I could imagine spent blossoms dropping into the works, and I couldn't imagine how to open the paper tray without knocking the vase over. I suppose the person who would work at such a desk would have no need of a mouse pad, paper clips, or a pile of sticky notes. I wish I could work like that.

Decorating For Real People

I want to know what the rooms in the photographs look like a week later. Are the same three Granny Smith apples still in perfect position on the glass-topped table? Is the fringe on the cashmere afghan still draped just so over the arm of the rocking chair in the baby's room? Does the kitchen counter look bare without the tureen of soup and the matching soup bowls? I mean, the soup was eaten, wasn't it? Am I losing my perspective here?

Show me a playroom after the children have been forced to put away the toys. I'll bet there are no cunning arrangements of stuffed animals having tea, and the blocks aren't stacked into just-right pyramids with one block placed in front and a little to the side. The pillows are all over the room and the bedspread is trailing onto the floor. That's real.

I realize that the decorating magazines present rooms and arrangements that are idealized and stylized. They are intended to give our imaginations a jumping-off point; we are meant to adapt their

ideas to our own needs. They do a wonderful job and I will continue to peruse the glossy pages of each publication. Occasionally, however, I'd appreciate a view of a real room, spiffed up for company, perhaps, but real. I want to be able to imagine waking up to the clock radio, to see myself sitting at the computer and actually getting some work done, to know where I would store the supply of makeup without which I cannot face the world. I want to think that I could actually live in the room. Isn't that the point of the whole exercise? Don't we all want comfortable homes that suit our life styles, organized and better looking, maybe, but still us?

Go take a look at the pictures in a decorating magazine. See if you agree with me. I think I'm going to go clean out a couple of drawers and straighten a bookcase shelf or two. It won't end up picture perfect, but it will be real.

LaJoyce Kerns is the creator of the website: www.decorate-bedrooms-for-less.com. She provides tips, ideas and techniques on decorating bedrooms for real people. LaJoyce believes that you can achieve beautiful results without breaking the budget.

Children's Bedroom Decorating Ideas Begin With The Right Furniture

By Grace P. Fairchild

When you are trying to come up with children's bedroom decorating ideas, it is important that you select the proper furniture to go with the kids bedroom decorating of your choice. It may not have even crossed your mind that there is actual furniture out there created specifically for decorating a kids bedroom, but these are essential for creating a child-sized space that is easy and safe for your kids to live and play with.

There are many different styles of furniture that you can use for decorating childrens bedroom, so the first thing that you will need to consider is the age of your child, the size of the room, the shape of the room, and whether or not the room is being shared. No matter what, this do it yourself bedroom decorating for kids allows your child the ability to:

Decorating For Real People

* Rest well * Study in comfort * Play in a safe and attractive space * Store all belongings in easily accessible places

Among the best children's bedroom decorating ideas for creating space is to purchase multi-functional furniture. These kids bedroom decorating ideas allow the furniture to be used for many purposes such as storage, bins, bookcases, and stackable crates. Decorating kids bedroom this way allows you to keep things off the floor, but still remain within reach of the kids.

Other real space-saving bedroom decorating ideas for kids include using bunk or loft beds when children are sharing the room. This allows two beds to be in the room, taking only the space of one. When your children aren't sleeping, they'll really appreciate these children's bedroom decorating ideas for the extra play space they have.

You will be certain to discover that when it comes to children's bedroom decorating ideas these days, the options are practically limitless.

Grace writes for

North Carolina's largest online furniture store

offering premium furniture including a large selection of children's bedroom furniture

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