

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

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# HOUSE & GARDEN®



NEW COLUMN  
THE DOs AND DON'Ts OF DECORATING  
THIS MONTH  
*Ben Pentreath*

## PLAY TIME

Fun furniture, whimsical wallpapers and reversible fabrics



## LANDMARK LEGACY

The team turning endangered properties into holiday retreats

## FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Five period interiors transformed



CHILD'S  
PLAY

Fabric wall stickers, 'Summer Rain', £39.95, from Nubie. [nubie.co.uk](http://nubie.co.uk)



Rita and her daughter Margot at the Bobo Kids shop in Chelsea

RITA  
NOTES

Continuing her series offering interior-decoration advice, Rita König turns her attention to the nursery

PHOTOGRAPH CRAIG FORDHAM



Cot, 'Mini' (dusty aqua), 84 x 124 x 64cm, £69.95; mattress, £14.95; both from MoKee. [en.mokee.eu](http://en.mokee.eu)

I am not big on 'nursery furniture' or 'kids' stuff'. In fact, I am not sure I like style pigeonholes: I didn't want anything 'pregnancy' and, come to think of it, I don't think that I had anything 'bridal' at my wedding. So when it came to doing my daughter Margot's bedroom, I wanted somewhere that had the charm of a baby's room without the overpriced baby-themed furniture or fairy-motif curtains.

There is obviously no escaping the cot as an essential piece of baby furniture and happily I found a company online called MoKee ([mokee.eu](http://mokee.eu)) that makes charming cots for under £100 including the mattress; surely too good to be true – but not in this case. Bonton ([bonton.fr](http://bonton.fr)) and Combelle ([combelle.com](http://combelle.com)) also make traditional-looking cots, high chairs and playpens in lovely colours.

I never need much of an excuse to go to Bobo Kids ([bobokids.co.uk](http://bobokids.co.uk)) – particularly for bedding by Bonton and Ketiketa – which makes pretty cot bumpers block printed with patterns of stars and butterflies, and other motifs. I noticed that when Margot was very small, she was intrigued by the butterflies around her head before going to sleep. It sadly takes a little more effort these days.

The rest of the furniture in Margot's room is stuff that I had before and I would really encourage this. Both the chest of drawers and the Jenny Hicks Beach rug in pastels, will take her through to adulthood, but I love the way they mix with her toys and endless bunnies. A tall and slim brass

lamp on her chest of drawers is an old and loved purchase from William Yeoward, from which I've hung a Perspex cross, but it could be anything.

The walls are painted pale grey and the blinds are pale pink, in Raoul Textiles' 'Raja' – both relatively grown-up choices, but the bedroom looks anything but. I've found embellishing a fairly neutral canvas works well and is great fun (which is what this should be). I love hanging things in here and there is plenty of opportunity to do so. Wall stickers have become a slight obsession: I have stars from [lereperedesbelettes.com](http://lereperedesbelettes.com) and clouds from Bobo Kids, and

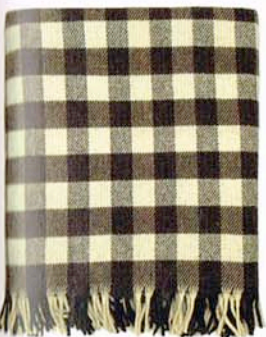
Nubie ([nubie.co.uk](http://nubie.co.uk)) has more wall stickers than you can imagine – I like the fluorescent-pink hearts and the clouds. I've also hung pictures and draped pom-pom fairy lights from Hedgehog ([hedgehogshop.co.uk](http://hedgehogshop.co.uk)) in fluorescent pink – so pretty on

a grey wall – which has given such life to the room. Almost all of this embellishment is easily removable, the stickers can be peeled off and the lights undraped.

There is something about physically decorating your child's bedroom yourself that feels more wholesome than simply picking out a fabric and wallpaper. I am never going to manage to paint the room myself, so hanging pictures and decorating with wall stickers is as close to DIY as I'll get.

I should mention that editing is important. Take your time choosing what you want, as it is a shame to do it all at once and discover new things you don't have space for □

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Blanket, 'Check Wool' (brown and white), 192 x 138cm, £95, from Hedgehog. [hedgehogshop.co.uk](http://hedgehogshop.co.uk)