

DESIGNER'S CORNER

## Decorating a Nursery That's Chic, Not Babyish

You want it to be warm and cozy, but it can be stylish, too

BY JENNIFER TZESES | ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019 | [MANSION GLOBAL](#)

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Each week Mansion Global tackles a topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week we look at how to design a baby room that's truly chic .

Designing your baby's room does not have to mean an explosion of Disney characters or predictable shades of blue, pink or yellow.

"One thing to always keep in mind when picking the decor for a baby's room is that children are really only considered babies for about two years," says Michelle Gerson of Michelle Gerson Interiors in New York.

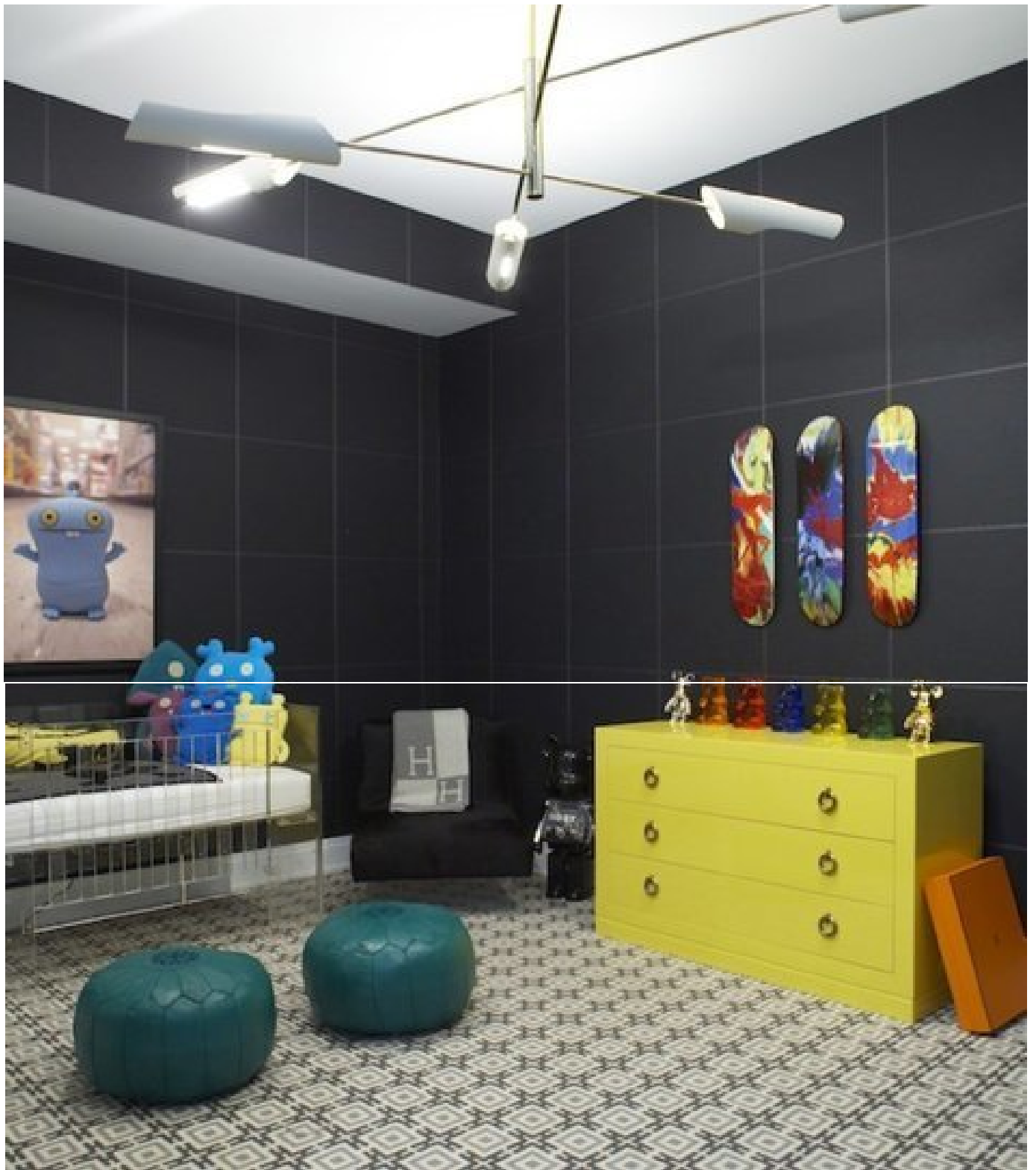
"Therefore, it's better to design a more sophisticated room that a child can grow into instead of grow out of."

"The key is not to go too 'themed' in a way that a child will grow out of," said Jane Landino, creative and design head of Studio, Taylor Howes Designs, London.

To create a space that's stylish—and still age appropriate—follow these tips from the design pros.

### **Be Creative**

"I always steer away from the predictable pink and blue baby rooms and lean toward something more adult and pop it with fun, colorful accessories. For my own son's room, I chose a black wall covering with white stitching and a gray, black and ivory David Hicks printed carpet. I popped it all together by painting a vintage Dunbar dresser bright yellow lacquer and used some limited-edition Damien Hirst for Supreme skate decks as art on the wall. Although we've since transitioned his room to a big kid's room, the skate decks remain on the wall, and my son's appreciation for them has only grown as he gets older. To keep things light, we chose a Lucite crib."



Designer Michelle Gerson opted for sophisticated black walls, a neutral geometric print rugs and pops of color in the way of art, furniture and accents for her own son's room.

Michelle Gerson Interiors

## — Michelle Gerson of Michelle Gerson Interiors

### **Think Long Term**

"We love color. There are so many ways to incorporate color and patterns. One of our favorite spots is on the ceiling; it's a great place to introduce graphic wallpaper or a wonderful pattern. Other ways we like to incorporate color and pattern is with an accent wall, a mural, textiles (be it a bed or crib skirt, window treatments, upholstery, accent pillows and rugs).

"You want to select furniture pieces that can grow with your child from the nursery into the bedroom, not something that will be cast aside just in the first year. Many cribs can convert into a child's first bed, and some dressers are designed with a detachable dressing top.

"It's good to have a combination of easy storage solutions, such as built-in cabinets with deep drawers or cupboards with commodious storage baskets. When everything is tucked away, you avoid clutter and allow plenty of room for baby to play. Floor-to-ceiling bookcases allow you to display books, toys and keepsakes—make them chic by painting the interiors or line them in a fantastic wallpaper."



Designed by Phillip Thomas, this nursery features a clean palette, framed nautical flags and an artistic light that lend character but don't feel babyish.

Aydin Arjomand

### **–Phillip Thomas, founder and principal of Phillip Thomas Inc. in New York City**

#### **Keep The Palette Neutral**

"Just because it is a baby's room, it doesn't mean that it can't be chic or that you have to be restricted to using bold childish prints. A nursery needs to be a room that both baby and parents can enjoy. We add character and fun elements with sweet accessories and artwork.

"For example, you might use a more sophisticated fabric such as Schumacher's Chinois Palais in the palest of nude pink on a crib mixed with velvet piping and a soft grey Greek key border. You can also have fun with trimmings. Samuel and Sons has a wonderful selection, including jumbo pom pom fringe. Playing with scale and pattern can look chic when done nicely.

"Lighting should not be harsh; we always use dimmers and never place spotlights directly over the cot, as these can hurt a newborn's eyes. Plus, you need the flexibility to dim lights down at bedtime. Nightlights come in a wide range of designs and are a sweet way of adding character to a room.

"Choosing just the right shades of pink, blue, or green mixed with soft taupes/greys, to make sure a room looks stylish and not saccharine, is the key to keeping things sophisticated while still includes some playful touches. Think outside the box by incorporating delicately printed wallpaper or a beautiful hand-painted decorative mural in understated colors." **–Jane Landino, creative and design head of Studio, Taylor Howes Designs in London**