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buzz

Family Style

No kidding around: Keeping house with children afoot and enjoying a touch of chic aren't mutually exclusive, as designer Lilly Bunn shows in this Manhattan apartment. Learn how she balanced the needs of the parents and their mini-mes—and check out stylish wares for munchkin spaces—this way. >>



Slipped into identical white frames and hung in an informal floor-to-ceiling grid, children's paintings and drawings blend seamlessly with modern art. Lamp, McCoy Design. Curtain fabric, Schumacher's Infinity Linen Stripe.

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For parents raising two kids, ages six and four, in an open-plan urban apartment, Lilly Bunn created a great room as multitasking as it is multigenerational. “Everything happens here, from dinner parties to finger painting,” she says of the all-in-one space, which serves as dining room, living room, family room, playroom, *and* backyard. Not wanting the parents to be second-class citizens, forced to suffer with practicality and plastic toys until the tween years, Bunn—a mom of three who also lives in the city—sidestepped the precious and formal and gravitated instead to contemporary pieces and unfussy materials. A cheerful palette set the relaxed tone, while sculptural lighting and modern art gave the room Manhattan polish. Bunn says the “serendipitous, free-form” look is in tune with today’s laid-back parenting: “We spend a lot more time now with our kids, talking and laughing and playing. I wanted that shift to be reflected in the design.”



1. Easy-to-Move Tables

Rather than a standard coffee table, Bunn subbed in two Made Goods ceramic stools for their versatility and mobility. If the kiddos launch into a spontaneous dance-a-thon or a cocktail-party guest needs an extra drinks perch, “just move a stool across the room,” she says.

2. A Stressless Rug

While Bunn loves the shaggy of Moroccan rugs, the deep pile is tough to vacuum thoroughly. A custom Beauvais wool rug defines a seating area and has the same stain-obscuring Moorish pattern and fuzziness as the real deal, but the shorter hairs make for easier cleaning.

3. Sofas for Togetherness

This is the family’s sole hangout spot, so Bunn chose large-scale Holly Hunt sofas sized for lounging. “Everyone can put their feet up and share stories about their day,” she says. Bright yellow fabric from Castel adds to the happy spirit and tempers the “clean, disciplined lines,” she says.

4. Carefree Dining

There’s no worrying about kid-inflicted damage on the walnut table from BDDW: “It’s meant to look beat-up, so you can beat it up,” Bunn says. The vintage plywood-and-beechwood Roland Rainer chairs—“simple and functional, like you’d find in preschool”—are wipeable and stack for storage.

5. A Hardworking Built-In

By day, the wall-spanning console with clutter-concealing drawers is the family computer station. Having the monitors face into the room allows “Mom and Dad to keep an eye on websites the children visit,” Bunn says. On nights the parents entertain, the built-in acts as a combo bar and buffet.



Your New Coffee-Table Alternative

Quickly change up your floor plan with nimble, portable accent tables, or use an upholstered ottoman that guards against ouchies.

1. MORRO MARTINI TABLE Hand-cut stone over a fiberglass frame. 12" W × 11" D × 20" H. palecek.com. **2. MOROCCAN DRUM TABLE** In brown and white. Bone and shisham wood. 22" Dia. × 20" H. \$549. wisteria.com. **3. UNAI STOOL** In Ivory Faux Horn. 15" Dia. × 19" H. madegoods.com. **4. MENIL COCKTAIL OTTOMAN** By Barrie Benson. In Blonde Cerused. 46" Dia. × 17" H. \$2,700. Available in fall 2018. highlandhousefurniture.com



6. Not-So-Serious Patterns

To boost the living room's playful quotient, the midcentury-inspired Julian Chichester lounge chair was done in a floral Designers Guild fabric that's "a tongue-in-cheek take on chintz," Bunn says. Fortuny pillows in polka dots are also "fun and lighthearted, and a cinch to change out."

7. A Kid-Proof Coffee Table

Lucite is loved by designers for disappearing in a space. What's more, says Bunn of the custom piece, "the plastic is impervious to spills, and no coasters are necessary."

8. Meaningful Art

The homeowners fell hard for Rick Shaefer's charcoal drawing of a majestic oak, and not just because the neutral palette offsets the colors of the kids' framed artwork. "To the clients, the tree represents the strength and endurance of family," Bunn says. "It's truly the heart of the apartment and what the decor is all about."



Trend-Resistant Fabrics and...

These whimsical fabrics and trims hit the sweet spot without being sugary.

- 1. QUARTZ FABRIC** In dark red. Cotton and linen. \$180 per yard. [fermoie.com](#). **2. CIRQUE POM POM FRINGE TRIM** In Dragon Fly. 1¾" W. [samuelandsons.com](#). **3. EMMIE FABRIC** In blue. Cotton. Hand-screened. [mallyskokdesign.com](#). **4. EDWARDIAN STRIPE FABRIC** By Kate Loudoun Shand. In Mallard Green. Linen. \$158 per yard. [studiofournyc.com](#). **5. ROUSSEAU TAPE** In Citron. Cotton ground with embroidery. 4½" W. [fshumacher.com](#)



...Timeless Wallpapers

Hesitant to cover your youngster's room with the franchise character du jour? Good! Try a paper with youthful—not childish—charm, like this naive floral or a simplified riff on an Indian motif.

- 1. INDIAN CHINTZ WALLPAPER** In pink/orange. Digitally printed. [peterdunhamtextiles.com](#). **2. DRISTI WALLPAPER** In Indigo. [peterfasano.com](#)



High-Performance Fabrics

They look posh, but these specially engineered fabrics—and leather!—can handle the worst of kids, pets, and clumsy adults.

- 1. SUNBRELLA CAST FABRIC** Not only is it bleach-cleanable, but it's also mold-, mildew-, and UV-resistant. Acrylic. In Petal. [sunbrella.com](#). **2. KRAVET SMART FABRIC** Soil and stains are no match for this water-repellent chenille. Polyester. In 34959.513. [kravet.com](#). **3. EDELMAN STELLA LEATHER** Thanks to a proprietary finish, this easy-clean leather fights off even coffee, wine, and ketchup. In Lemongrass. [edelmanleather.com](#). **4. FABRICUT PREMIER VELVET** You'd never guess that this supersoft velvet is also antimicrobial and antibacterial. In New Aqua. Polyester with Crypton performance finish. [fabricut.com](#)



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A Hit of Modern

Today, contemporary verve is a must, even in a traditional space. These pared-down pieces get high marks for bold hues, streamlined silhouettes, and stylish staying power to take tykes through the teen years and beyond.

- 1. RUTLEDGE CONSOLE/DESK** In Geranium. Brass hardware. 48" W × 20" D × 30" H. \$2,280. [studioziggy.com](#). **2. UPHOLSTERED STORAGE BASE OTTOMAN** In Lagoon. Performance velvet. 19½" Dia. × 19½" H. \$349. [westelm.com](#). **3. MARLEY HOUSE CLOSET** By Sissy + Marley. In white with light wood. Hardwoods. 20" Sq. × 72" H. \$1,395. [ducduncyc.com](#). **4. KIDS' CLUB CHAIR** By the Inside and Maisonette. In Doodle. 21" W × 24" D × 22" H. \$299. [theinside.com](#). **5. X BOOK CADDY** In gold. Wood. 22¾" W × 8" D × 19½" H. \$99. [crateandbarrel.com](#)



Distinctive Toys, Decor, and Storage Solutions

Jump-start organization and spark their imagination with eye-catching extras that are worth the splurge. (At least the grandparents will think so.)

- 1. CHILDREN'S STAR CLOTHING HANGER** In gold. Laser-cut brass. \$42. arianaost.com.
- 2. ESSENTIAL PLAY KITCHEN** In white. Maple and Baltic birch. 30" W × 12" D × 26" H. \$499. miltonandgoose.com.
- 3. DOTS PRINTED FLOOR PILLOW** In Indigo. Belgian linen and cotton with exposed zipper. 30" Sq. \$300. stfrank.com.
- 4. ELEPHANT LAUNDRY HAMPER** In Natural. Handwoven wicker. 20½" W × 23" D × 27½" H. \$109. homedepot.com

Pretty and Practical Underfoot

Tough enough for rug-rat shenanigans, but comfy beneath bare toes.

- 1. KASURI RUG** By Loloi. In Ivory/Persimmon. Hooked wool. 5' × 8'. \$379. Available in August. magnolia.com.
- 2. POM POM RUG** In Multi. Hand-tufted wool. 5' Dia. \$280. pehrdesigns.com.
- 3. PLAY RUG** In Lulu. Waterproof, nontoxic foam mat; reverses to a play map. 4'7" × 6'9". \$199. ruggishco.com.
- 4. TERRAZZO RUG** In Rose Quartz. Machine-washable cotton. 4'7" × 6'7". \$325. lorenacanal.us



A chic canopy frame for littles!

Bedding You'll Want to Snag (for Yourself)

This batch of must-haves won't guarantee that you'll enjoy 10 hours of peaceful shut-eye, but why not dream big?

- 1. WILTON 4-POSTER BED** In Parakeet. \$4,110. oomphhome.com.
- 2. POM POM SINGLE BED** In Natural. Baltic birch plywood. 77" W × 41" D × 70" H. \$369. gautierstudio.com.
- 3. ELBA EMBROIDERED PILLOW** By Suzanne Kasler. Cotton/linen blend. 20" L × 12" H. \$59. ballarddesigns.com.
- 4. JAMES TWIN FLAT SHEET** In Sky/Grass. Cotton. Block-printed. \$140. miaandfinn.com.
- 5. FAIRFIELD PASTEL STRIPE SINGLE FLAT SHEET** In blue. Cotton. \$70 for twin. redlandcotton.com.
- 6. NEW LATTICE DUVET COVER** In gold. Cotton. Block-printed in India. \$334 for twin. lesindiennes.com.
- 7. OUSIE NECKROLL** Cotton. 21½" L × 6½" Dia. \$180. biscuit-home.com.
- 8. PERSONALIZED TASSEL SHAM** In orange. Cotton/linen blend. 16" Sq. \$40. potterybarnkids.com