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Spring 2006
May and June

\$5.99 U.S. \$5.99 CAN.

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18 ideas for hard-to-please tweens



mod squad

Designers on a mission create a tween hot spot.



For this tween room, designer Amy Walnsain paired a king-size headboard with a twin-size mattress placed lengthwise alongside it. The result: a hip "daybed" that offers extra storage. Walnsain says showing shorter pieces with an "Rutab" like simplicity keeps furniture from overpowering a room with limited square footage.

Bold colors and groovy graphics

were the starting points in this guy's room, part of the Suite Dreams Project showcase in Detroit. Designers Amy Weinstein and Jeffrey King took their cues and the room's punchy palette from an abstract-style poster that hangs in the room's study area. The strong mix of colors—including deep red, lime green, soft maize, and medium blue—was part of the team's overall mission. "Our goal was to make a style statement in a small space and to create a room that could grow with a boy into his teenage years," Weinstein explains. A teen or tween is less likely to tire of a scheme that includes several colors, she adds. Lighter colors can be pulled out into bedding and accents for a young boy, and richer, deeper tones can replace them as he gets older.

Firm believers in the power of paint, the designers ringed the 10-1/2-foot room in horizontal stripes of varying widths. "Horizontal stripes make the room look larger and [they] are a little more unexpected," Weinstein says.

Because a sliding glass door takes up precious wall space, the designers added storage shelves on one side of the bed and chose a headboard that fills the space above with modern cubbies. Funky finishing touches such as a wicker-tufted floor seat, metallic accessories, and a large, modern light fixture add pizzazz.

The room passed the ultimate test. "I have a 13-year-old boy and he thought it was great," Weinstein says. "Kids want a place of their own that's both a personal escape and a place to be with their friends; as a designer and parent, I want the room not only to look good, but also to function well. This room does both."

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THIS PHOTO: Because the room has little wall space to accommodate a desk, the designers chose this stand-alone full-size table, which offers a handy place for a card game or homework. The bright poster inspired the room's palette. Weinstein suggests using a piece of art or a favorite poster as a design starting point if you have a hard-to-please tween. "Find a piece your child really loves and take it from there," she says. "I'm a firm believer that kids' rooms should reflect the person who lives in them." **OPPOSITE, TOP, and BOTTOM:** A handy CD rack serves as storage and adds a sculptural touch to one of the room's walls.





A multipurpose storage corner near the bed holds books, a laptop, and other daily necessities. Weinstein says the key to success in a small space is maintaining one look; in this case, a clean, contemporary design. "Eclectic looks are great in larger spaces, but not here," she cautions. "Keep it simple and you won't go wrong."