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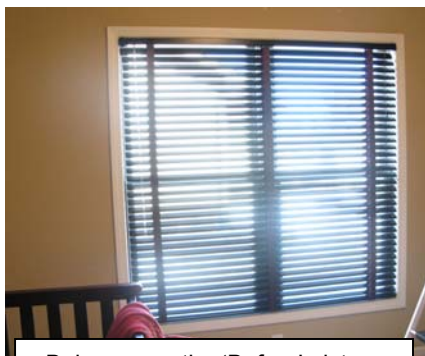
A NOTE FROM CYNTHIA

Look who's having a baby! No, not me, but I can think of four friends off the top of my head that are expecting, and one of them is on number nine! **Who do YOU know who's having a baby?** Please forward them this timely newsletter, all about decorating the baby's room.

It's hard to believe Thomas is almost 3 1/2. Here is a picture when he was only 2 weeks old. So much joy and excitement filled our lives. When he turned two, we gave away his crib to a friend who had surprise baby #4. Thomas needed a new bed, so I got busy in the pole barn and built him a Noah's Ark bed for his second birthday. It took 7 weeks to build, but it should last him for years to come. Read on to see the picture.



Thomas: 2 weeks old



Baby room: the 'Before' picture

Read the feature article for great tips to decorate a baby's room.

Keep on reading to see what we did for my client Nancy Chapman. Here is a sneak peak of the grandbaby's room. This is the 'before' picture. **See the "Client Corner" article to see the amazing transformation!**

Enjoy!

Cynthia

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- ~ CLIENT CORNER: Nancy Chapman welcomes grandbaby!
- ~ ABOUT CYNTHIA

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Looking Ahead to Next Month: Hunter Douglas begins their Sizzling Summer Sale running June 1 – August 15, 2010. Be sure to read next month's newsletter for all the details. Or call me anytime and we'll schedule an in-home appointment at your convenience.

FEATURE ARTICLE –Decorating Tips for the Baby’s Room

Decorating a baby’s room should be fun and exciting. The possibilities are endless. While parents anticipate the arrival of their little bundle of joy, trying to find just the perfect color or design scheme can be overwhelming. Here are a few great tips to get your new baby settled into a beautiful space.

Start with something you love

As a parent, you will be in this room all the time. So make it a haven for you too, a place you will find comfortable and inviting. Maybe there is a color you love. That could be your starting point. Maybe you have a special picture or framed piece art that you draw design inspiration from.

Choose a design direction

Using color as a starting point opens up an array of design possibilities. You can decide to be traditional with pinks or blues, or select contemporary color that is fresh, current and can play to a variety of themes. Stay away from a licensed cartoon or character as your theme; it can be overpowering and very limiting. Give yourself room for creativity and imagination to adapt and change as your child grows.



Antique crib - Traditional design

Add a pop of color

If you choose neutrals for your backdrop color, it will be easy to add in pops of color that can be changed over time. You could add flashes of bold color in bedding and other textiles, wall art, area rugs, window coverings and accessories. You can add chocolate brown or deep onyx to anchor your brights. Brilliant orange, bright red, citrusy yellow and lime green all convey fun and youthfulness, without being too boyish or girly — or, too babyish.

Choose a focal point

For many baby rooms, the crib has always been the focal point, lavished in pillows and stuffed animals. But with so much concern about baby’s safety, the crib is unadorned. A great alternative for a focal point is the window. Dress the window with a stunning window treatment, underscored with a functional yet beautiful blind. Choose fabrics that you love, with colors that are vibrant, and use those color cues throughout the rest of the room.

Think about safety

Choose a blind that blocks out the light for great daytime napping, without the danger of hanging pull cords. Hunter Douglas, the leader in innovation, has blinds in all colors and styles that lift without cords, a perfect choice for a child’s room.

Extra pillows on the rocker or chair can add a splash of color, but avoid buttons or beaded trim on pillows or cushions that could be pulled off by curious little hands.

Cover outlets with safety plugs. Or better yet, replace the standard outlet with new safety outlets that don’t need those plastic covers.



Hunter Douglas LiteRise TopDown BottomUp Duette

Feature article continued...

A Little Luxury

Don't be afraid to add a bit of elegance. A beautiful set of crystal sconces on either side of the crib can give the room a soft glow. Or a gorgeous chandelier can add wonderful ambience, and it's out of baby's reach. Even a lavish window treatment layered in trims and coordinating fabrics accompanied by an overstuffed comfy chair make a luxurious, inviting combination for you.

Adaptability

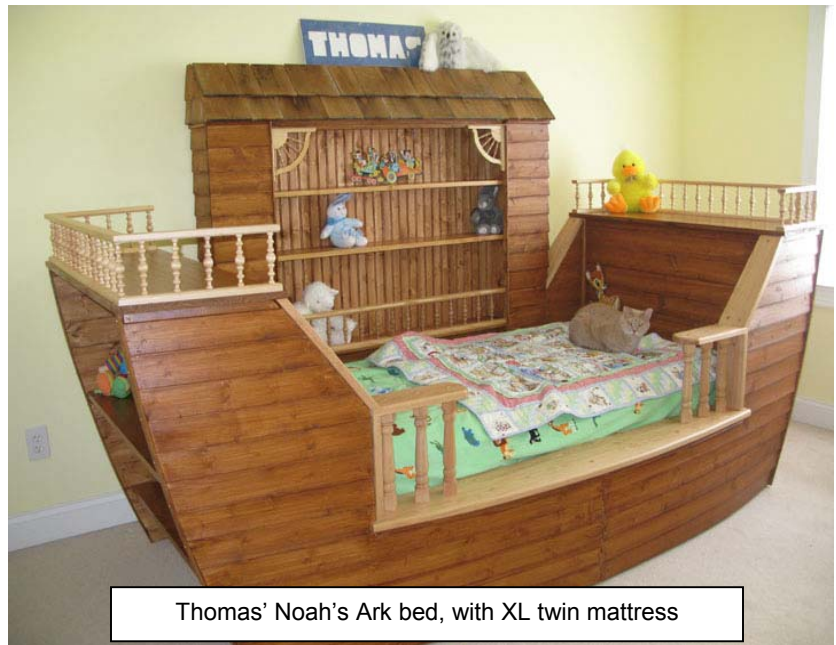
In the spirit of modern design, where multifunction and adaptability are prized, **choose furniture pieces that can be repurposed over time.** A dresser that has a changing table on top. A crib that transforms to a bed. A rocking chair that you can pull into the living room one day when it's no longer needed in the nursery.

Everything has a place – Everything in its place

Think about storage for clothes, toys, and books. **Baskets are a great alternative to toy boxes.** Not only are baskets functional to collect loose toys, but woven baskets add great texture and design. You can even replace the white fabric liner with a fabric from your window treatment for a great pop of color and unexpected coordination.

Plastic storage boxes that slide under the bed can hold and hide a lot of seasonal clothes or an assortment of small toys.

This is the Noah's Ark bed I built for my son Thomas when he turned two. It is 9 ½ feet long, with **bookshelves** in the center and more shelves on each end with space to slide **storage boxes underneath.** With a change of bedding, it will easily convert to a pirate's ship one day.



Thomas' Noah's Ark bed, with XL twin mattress

A **shelf smartly placed above the changing table** conveniently stores changing necessities and keeps them out of baby's reach, yet later can be used to display your favorite photos or keepsakes.

CREATE A ROOM YOU LOVE

No matter what the design scheme — modern, traditional, or eclectic — in the end a nursery needs to please only your baby and you. Buy what you love. The nursery should reflect your style and your home. So have fun and enjoy your new baby!

Read on to see a gorgeous room makeover, just for baby!

CLIENT CORNER – Oh Baby! What a Beautiful Room!

Recently I helped Nancy Chapman convert her son's old room to a dream for her new grandbaby. We wanted modern, vibrant color with bold sophistication for Amelia to enjoy for years to come.

We found a stunning diamond geometric with bold orange, salmon and green, anchored in basic black. We added a whimsical green circus animal print. And a bit of luxury with an embroidered flower design in a



Circus print stuffed bear



Shaped Lambrequin with roller shade valance, lampshade and rocker cushion

luscious salmon. For an unusual finishing touch to the window treatment, we chose a custom painted black metal monkey for the centerpiece of the lambrequin. I also made a little stuffed bear as a gift for Amelia.

Nancy's thank you note to me sums it all up. "I just want to thank you for all the hard work you put into the nursery. **Every time I enter the baby's room, I'm just in awe.** We love the look/design of the window treatment. It adds so much to the room. I am well, well pleased with the results. You do beautiful work. It shows!" ~ It was my pleasure, Nancy.

ABOUT CYNTHIA

For over 15 years, Cynthia has helped her clients create living spaces full of beauty, passion, and peace.

Her interior design business specializes in high-end custom window treatments. With more than 30 years of sewing experience, Cynthia personally creates one-of-a-kind designs, featuring exquisite embellishments that make each custom window covering a work of art.

Give Cynthia a call for your next interior design project. From flooring to walls to furniture, she will show you how to surround yourself with things you love, with colors that energize, and with objects that inspire. **Go ahead, wrap yourself in luxury.**

Cynthia Trygier Interiors, Inc.
7186 Delta River Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48906
Phone/Fax – 517.327.0686
<mailto:Cynthia@wrapyourselfinluxury.com>

We're on the Web!
See us at:
Wrapyourselfinluxury.com