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MAGIC places

The winners of our dream-room contest
show off their fabulous makeovers

By Karen Burge

Photography by
Trevor Read and
Stuart McKellar-Basset

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Resene **KidzColour**

BLASTING off

Tommy's mum launched the plans for his space-themed bedroom, then his dad and grandparents pitched in

By Karen Burge. Photography by Stuart McKellar-Basset.

Thomas Donnell loves space, particularly the moon. In fact his mum Lisa remembers "moon" being one of his first words, so it seemed the obvious theme for his new room.

The Auckland family already had a special Tintin "Walk on the Moon" poster and some reasonably new space-themed blackout curtains, so the new room evolved from there.

Tommy is one of the three lucky winners of our Resene kid's room makeover competition. Each winner received free paint from Resene and \$750 cash for the project.

Before the makeover, Tommy's room was sunny with a high stud and polished wooden floors. But with no built-in storage and a neutral colour scheme, it wasn't particularly child-focused.

Tommy's mum Lisa, an architect, sent in a fun moon scheme featuring built-in storage with bright colours inside and lots of room for Tommy's toys and clothes. The new bed frame would be made to resemble a moonscape and painted with Resene Crackle Glaze Effect, which allows cracks of the bottom colour to show through a contrasting top coat.

Lisa and husband Scott also planned the room to last Tommy through the school years by including a built-in desk space with a back wall in magnetic paint. The end result is a more spacious and organised room with special touches and splashes of colour to make three-year-old Tommy feel at home.

The room was a collaboration between Tommy's parents and grandparents, who all put time into sewing, painting, building and helping to look after Tommy and his baby sister Kate while the work got done. Scott's professional eye – he is also an architect – came in handy when he was making the cabinetry.

Winning the competition was a real help for the single-income family and Lisa worked hard to stick within the \$750 budget, hunting high and low for bargains online and at second-hand shops. What she couldn't find for the right price, she made herself, including the beanbag, cushions, mobile and artwork. Her best buys were the \$150 orange shag-pile rug, (which runs under the bed) from the Rug Warehouse in East Tamaki, and the 1970s orange globe lights, bought off TradeMe for \$45.

The biggest outlays were for the MDF board for the cabinets and bed surround and all the hinges and drawer runners. The handles were proving a problem until Lisa's dad whipped up some little wooden ones on his lathe.

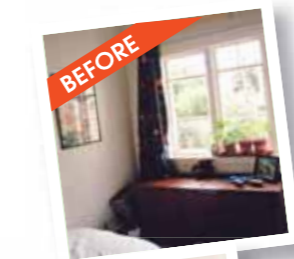
"We tried to stay within the \$750 we were given," Lisa says. "It showed us what we could achieve, but on the other hand there was a lot of time involved."

Lisa and Scott found the hardest part was getting the work done around little people. And even the best-laid plans had tweaks along the way. Some of the colours were changed for different shades once the original testpots were on the walls.

Because the curtains were already in place, Lisa kept experimenting until she found the right blue from the Resene range to match them. "I would definitely suggest getting the fabrics first rather than trying to match fabrics to the paint at the end."

The family has been enjoying the room. "It's such a fantastic space that is now full of light, colour and, my favourite, storage."

BEFORE



Space-themed walls were painted in Resene True Blue



A planet mobile hangs above the bed



A rocket is ready to launch from the wardrobe



Left: The lunar theme continues

Top right: The insides of the cupboards were painted brightly



Right: Lisa with Tommy, three, and baby Kate



Tommy and Kate enjoy the shag-pile rug



Tommy and the Tintin poster

RESENE COLOURS:

- ❖ Blue on walls – True Blue
- ❖ Orange – Balloon
- ❖ Red – Rocket
- ❖ Light Blue – Splash Splash
- ❖ Cream on Walls – Karen Walker Milk White
- ❖ Green on cabinetry – Killarney
- ❖ Cream on headboard – Fossil over Crackle Glaze Effect over Indian Ink
- ❖ Magnetic paint on the backboard by desk
- ❖ White on cabinet – House White



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Katie's combination dolls' house and bookcase



A room fit for preschool royalty

PRINCESS Katie

By Karen Burge
Photography by Stuart McKellar-Basset

Pink-mad Katie's dream has come true with a fairy-tale makeover of her once-grotty bedroom

It's hard to imagine Katie Graham's beautiful new bedroom was once the grottiest room in the house. With its fairytale mural and girly gorgeousness at every turn, there is no doubt this princess room is the ugly duckling turned swan. Katie's mum Sarah says the room was cold and dark with dirty white paint on the walls and desperately needed some TLC to make it a special space for Katie. On the plus side, there were some great character features – a high stud, timber floors, character sash window and a tongue and groove built-in wardrobe.

Like most four year olds, Katie has changing interests but her one stipulation was that the room had to be pink. Her wish was granted with Resene colours Princess and Pretty in Pink.

The main feature of the room is a fairy-tale mural, which Sarah designed and painted herself. But before the mural could go on, the walls had to be sanded and prepped, including pre-painting with three coats of Resene Magnetic Magic paint.

The mural had been scale drawn and Sarah measured out the distances to make sure the design went in the right place. In a stroke of luck, Sarah's friend, a professional muralist, offered to add some wonderful finishing touches to the artwork.

"Her work really made the room, it made it really magical.

She gave the mural depth and details that I couldn't do."

Sarah then copied and laminated fairies from a book and attached bendy magnets to the back so that Katie can move them around the different scenes in the mural.

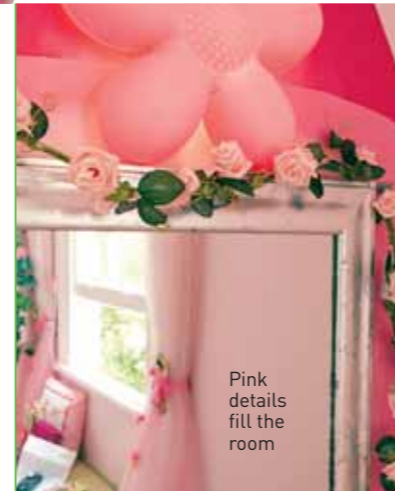
The built-in furniture, courtesy of dad Paul, ties into the mural, with the bedside shelf making the drawbridge, and the existing wardrobe having a set of ramparts added to the top.

One of the sweetest features of the room is the dolls' house bookcase. Sarah and Paul took a plain MDF bookshelf, added some MDF panels as doors and then cut out window holes. Sarah edged them with photo frames from the Warehouse, which she painted white. With the doors open, the bookshelf becomes a dolls' house with little curtains on each window, all hand-made by Sarah and tied with little ribbons. The frames are repeated on the mural wall as windows for the castle and Sarah has put photos of Katie, her sister Sophie and their friends in them.

Sarah also made the floral blind, the curtain, the window seat cushion, and the padded toadstool seat. "This competition is the best thing I have ever won because I won it for my ideas and what I wanted to do with the room. It was obviously about doing something nice for Katie but also because I wanted to do something creative for me."

Princess Katie loves moving the fairies around the walls and playing with the dolls' house cupboard. "Katie and Sophie really enjoy the room and I do too," Sarah says. "I'll often slip in there and have five minutes' peace during the day. I would have loved to have a room like that when I was young."

Sarah's best buys were the chandelier for \$80 and the bed for \$50, both off TradeMe. The mural can accommodate a change of interests from Katie. "We can easily paint out the pink but I really don't want to paint over the mural," she says.



Pink details fill the room



The \$80 chandelier Sarah found on TradeMe



Sarah and Paul with Katie and Sophie

RESENE COLOURS:

- ❖ Walls – Pretty in Pink
- ❖ Hills, grass – Groovy, Mantis and Feijoa
- ❖ Castle – Princess, Pretty in Pink and Hopskotch
- ❖ Ceiling – Alabaster
- ❖ Sky – Oxymoron
- ❖ Clouds – Alabaster
- ❖ Tree leaves – Grass Stain, Kermit, Groovy
- ❖ Tree trunk – Woodbark, Chocolate Brownie, Toffee
- ❖ Water – Subzero and Oxymoron
- ❖ Pink wall – Princess and Hopskotch

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Brighten your kid's room with a colour blast



Where should I start?

When you're putting together a children's room it's easiest to start with a fabric, says Jeannette Troon, of Wellington's Doodah Design, who provided the room inspiration for Resene's KidzColour range and whose children's interiors feature on these pages. A fabric will give you an idea of what kind of colour appeals to you or your child – whether it's bright and primary or softer and laidback. And it's easier to match the paint to the fabric than the other way round, says Jeannette. If you choose a wall colour first, finding the right duvet or curtain fabric to go with it can prove to be next to impossible. Sometimes it helps to have a general theme – something the child loves – like mermaids or the sea. Jeannette steers clear of a theme that may be a passing phase. Your child may be crazy about a particular cartoon character now, but totally over it a year or two later.

Stencil know-how

Add a splash of colour and originality to your child's room with stencils from Resene's website. Visit www.resene.co.nz/kids/kids_stencils.htm and just print out your favourite stencil pattern, trace onto light cardboard and cut out. Tape the stencil to the wall using low-tack masking tape.



Then get painting

Dip your brush into your chosen paint colour. Dab the brush on a paper towel to get rid of any extra paint, then place your brush at the edge of the stencil opening and apply the paint by dabbing the surface lightly or moving the brush in a circular motion. Repeat until you get the colour intensity you desire.

You can also stencil using a roller

Get a small roller, moisten it with water and squeeze it between paper towels to dry the excess water off, leaving a very slightly damp roller. Put a small amount of the paint colour you plan to use on a paper plate or in a flat-bottomed, lowsided container. Roll the roller through the paint and then onto a clean part of the plate or container (or use a separate sheet of paper) to ensure the paint is distributed evenly on the roller. Roll backwards and forwards across the cut-out area of the stencil. Make sure you roll in several different directions to get the best coverage.

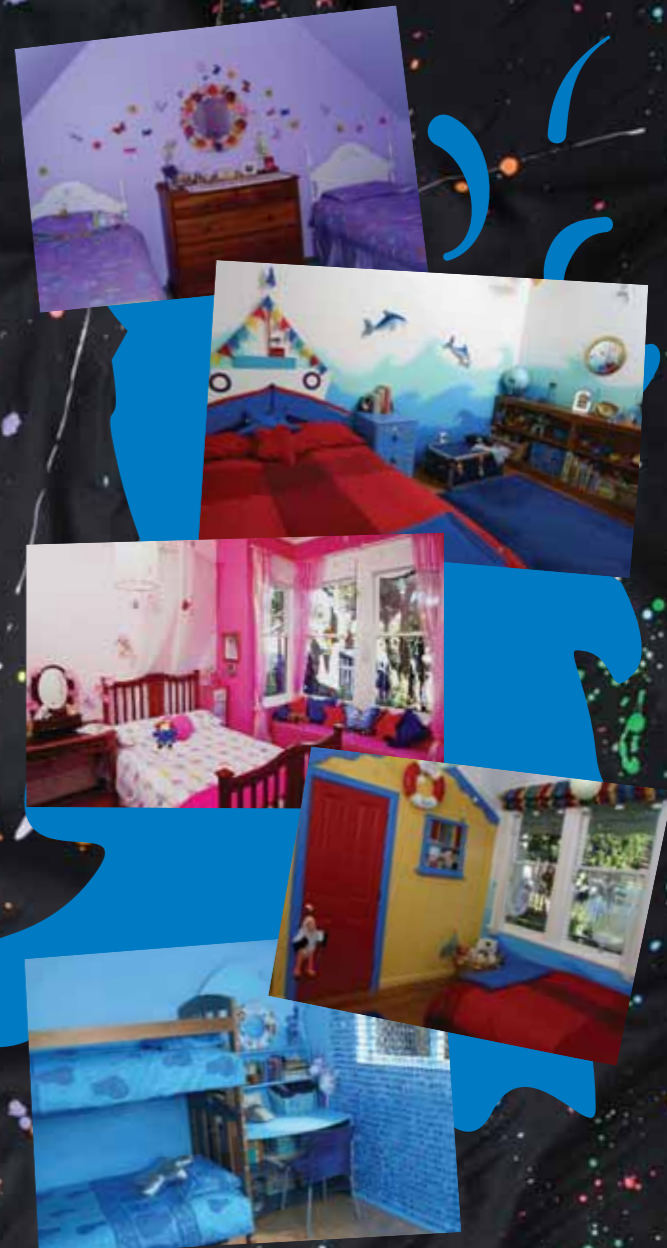
As well as brights, Resene KidzColour has a range of more delicate shades for new baby nurseries.



Top colour tips

- To involve your child, look at the Resene KidzColour range together and ask them to show you shades that appeal. The Resene KidzColour range has a manageable range of choices, so it's not too overwhelming for your child.
- If your house has more of a neutral feel, the Resene KidzColour range can be used on a feature wall or accessories to bring a blast of life and colour to your child's room.
- If you live in a rental property and can't paint the walls, use the Resene KidzColour range on a headboard, chest of drawers, framing or shelves for an original twist.
- Think outside the square to make original Resene KidzColour artworks. One of Jeannette's favourite pieces was a recycled window, which she painted and backed with the same colour material as the room's blinds, personalising it with family photos.
- If you can't afford the latest designer furniture, create your own. Decorate an old chest of drawers in funky colours – drawers in one colour, handles in another and the outside in a third colour.
- Always try out your colour scheme with Resene testpots to make sure the colours suit the area you are planning to paint.
- See the Resene KidzColour range at your local Resene ColorShop or online at www.resene.co.nz.

Keep your kids busy with colouring sheets from www.resene.co.nz/kids/colouring_in.htm featuring Resene testpot characters – like Resene Balloon, Resene Dizzy Lizzy and Resene Candy Floss.



Resene EzyPaint (download free from www.resene.co.nz/ezypaint.htm) lets you try out a colour scheme on your computer. Then when you find the colours you want to try you can even order your Resene testpots online.

For more gorgeous room ideas check out the Resene's Decorating inspiration gallery www.resene.co.nz/homeown/decorating_inspirations/index.htm and Resene KidzColour online (click on children's bedrooms).

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BUNKS on a budget

Brayden's bunk beds have built-in whizz-bang features dreamed up by his innovative mum and dad

There's no doubt which part of his new room two-year-old Brayden Ross loves best. It's the car stereo and speakers his electrician dad Tony built into his new bunk set.

Brayden already knows how to put CDs in and likes to lie on his bed and listen to *Jack and the Beanstalk* in surround sound.

The stereo is just one of the features of the bunks, which Tony and Brayden's mum Stacey, from New Plymouth, designed after getting inspiration from the internet.

The bunks also have a nightlight, a bookshelf, power points and storage boxes for toys in the bunk steps. The bottom steps can be moved away to baby-proof the room.

At approximately 2.5m square, the room was quite snug, but introducing bunks has made the most of the floor space. With Brayden moving out of his cot and out of the baby years, space to play was more and more important. Stacey and Tony wanted to create a room that would last Brayden through childhood. And because they were operating on a budget they wanted to reuse, revamp and recycle what they could to add to the room's appeal.

The bulk of their \$750 prize money was spent on MDF for the bunks and wardrobe shelving, plus \$300 for a new king single mattress for the bottom bunk. Their best bargains were vertical blinds from a demolition site and a chair and table set Stacey bought off TradeMe for \$4 then repaired and repainted.

Tony cut the blinds' track down to size and using a sewing machine, the couple shortened the drops to fit the window. Stacey gave them a couple of coats of Resene So Cool metallic paint, which gives them a shimmer when the sun hits them. Padding from an old waterbed was recovered to provide soft sides for the new bunk beds.

Stacey and Tony wanted to keep the heavy curtains they already had and worked the scheme around them. They also had patterned carpet, which runs through the rest of the house, but a nice bright rug took the focus away and tied Brayden's new colour scheme together. As Brayden loves planes and helicopters, the room has a flying focus.

Open shelving and easy-to-reach storage, both in the bunk stairs and inside the wardrobe, makes it easy for Brayden to find his things and, hopefully, put them all back again!

One of Stacey's most time-consuming jobs was removing all the old wallpaper, which was stuck on tight. She spent three weeks of evenings and weekends soaking the paper with Simple



By Karen Burge
Photography by Trevor Read

Brayden has a built-in bookcase in his cosy bunk



Brayden's clever mum and dad, Stacey and Tony

Green spray and painstakingly removing it shred by shred. From there the couple patched, sanded and skim-coated, which gave the walls a much better finish prior to topcoats. They used Resene Broadwall Surface Prep and Seal. Then Tony put in a mammoth weekend to get all the painting done.

For Tony, the difficulty was trying to get all the work done around Brayden's sleep needs, which meant lots of late nights. He designed and built the bunk set in the garage, using only a circular saw, handsaw and jigsaw.

Stacey says since the room has been finished, she often finds Brayden in there playing and hanging out. "I guess he has found he now has a cool place to chill out, which is what we wanted to achieve for him, so I am taking that as a sign of approval."



All from Freedom:
• Circa red floor rug, \$99
• Snappy's children's armchair (blue) \$199

The steps, right, can be removed to baby-proof the room



A stripe of Resene So Cool gives an aeronautical feel to the room



A hot-air balloon lightshade



Stacey repainted the table and chairs she bought for \$4

RESENE COLOURS:

- ❖ Green on bunks and walls – Tutti Frutti
- ❖ Wall and ceiling blue – Anakiwa
- ❖ Bunk blue – Paua
- ❖ Blinds and wall stripe – So Cool
- ❖ Bunk red – Candy Floss
- ❖ Table and chairs – table top and chair seats, Anakiwa; legs, Candy Floss, Paua and Crackle Glaze Effect



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Make it HAPPEN

Get stuck in and do it yourself with tips from our clever winners

Finding the time

When you have young children, it's really hard to find time to redecorate, but Stacey and Tony Ross found that making a timeline helped. It doesn't mean they stuck to it, as there were hiccups along the way, but it gave them an idea of what they needed to have completed at different points. While our competition winners were working within a short time-frame, sometimes it helps to have a self-imposed deadline to spur you on. Get family to take the kids for a day so you can get some serious work done. Make use of the evenings, even just to do the prep. It's amazing what you can get done once the kids are in bed.



Don't dilly-dally

Bargains, like Brayden's good quality plane duvet at half price for \$62.50, can help a room come together on a budget. And when you find a good deal, be prepared to pounce because chances are it won't be there when you go back. Stacey went back for a second duvet to put on the top bunk but they had all sold.



Colour on hand

When you're doing up a room, paint your colours onto A4 cards and carry them with you when you are trying to match bedding or accessories. It can be hard to get a good match based on a tiny paint-chart square, and as Lisa Donnell found when trying to find matching accessories and bedding for Tommy's room, "orange is not always orange!"

Magnetic attraction

Resene Magnetic Magic paint was a popular product in our winning rooms. Used under topcoats, it enables the walls to be used as a big magnetic board afterwards. Sarah Graham used the product to great effect in Katie's princess-themed room. She says it's vital to use enough to give a strong magnetic base and to use the ratio specified on the back of the tin, rather than being hung up on how many coats. Sarah worked out how many litres they needed based on the square metreage of the walls. She



used a roller to apply each coat, ensuring she used all the product specified. She says the three decent coats they did gave a good sticking ability.

Reuse and recycle

Working on a budget can be restricting, but gives you the perfect licence to get creative. Sarah Graham and Lisa Donnell made a lot of the great accessories in their kids' rooms, while Stacey Ross turned old into new with revamped table and chairs and the painted vertical blinds.



stick
em up



Expand your children's playing area onto their walls with Resene Magnetic Magic.

Creating a magnetic masterpiece is child's play—simply prepare and prime the surface, apply Resene Magnetic Magic in two smooth coats and topcoat in your favourite Resene colour.

Formulated with more 'attraction', this magnetic coating is loaded with iron oxides for maximum magnetic effect.

Once you've done the hard work, arm your children with magnets and let them do the decorating!

For more information visit your local Resene ColorShop, phone 0800 RESENE (737 363) or visit www.resene.co.nz.

chalk it
up.



Transform walls into blackboards with Resene Blackboard Paint, a premium scrubbable acrylic coating.

Just prepare and prime the wall and apply two coats of Resene Blackboard Paint.

If space is limited combine Resene Magnetic Magic as the basecoat and Resene Blackboard Paint as the topcoat and create a versatile magnetic blackboard.

Once you've done the hard work, arm your children with chalk and let them run riot!

Cleaning up is child's play... just dust the chalk away.

For more information visit your local Resene ColorShop, phone 0800 RESENE (737 363) or visit www.resene.co.nz.

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splash some colour



Splash some colour and creativeness around your place with free art ideas for children of all ages. The four step projects are suitable for young children with adult supervision; the six step projects can be done by older children alone or by younger children with willing adult helpers! More projects added regularly to keep budding artists busy.

So check out www.resene.co.nz/artprojects/kids.htm and get creative!

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