

Features



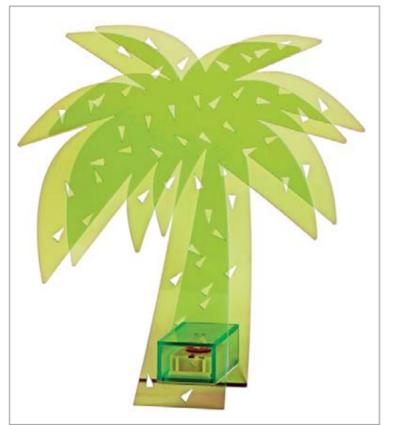
In this photo provided by RH Baby & Child, dramatic oversized art can be a great way to decorate a contemporary child's room. — AP photos



RH Baby & Child offers several murals, including a photograph of a fighter jet and an illustration of the constellations.



In this photo provided by J and J Design Group, bold pops of color and playful details make for nurseries and children's rooms that are stylish and sophisticated.



In this photo provided by The Land of Nod, acrylic neon hues and tropical-themed shapes evoke the '80s in this Paradise nightlight.

# New nursery decor with style

**B**aby, it's a brand new year. And when it comes to creating the perfect sleep space for little ones, there are more fun options than ever. Styles range from haute to homespun, vintage to vanguard. A look at some of the best:

### Blurring the lines

Traditional parameters like gender-specific motifs and colors, and room-specific furnishings, are giving

able to the child's interests, and easy to swap out as they grow. We like to use mixed media - prints as well as wood and metal sculptures - to create a really interesting gallery."

### Baby glam

Parents-to-be should view the baby's room as a place to let their own imaginations fly, says Naomi Alon, owner of the Irvine, California-based Little

damask wallpaper, a baroque mirror, organza furniture skirts and a big fluffy rug to create a glamorous, girly confection.

Los Angeles duo Emily Current and Meritt Elliot designed gold, arrow-shaped lamps and finials, and gold-woven storage bins for their new Pottery Barn Kids collection. A bold, black-and-white diamond pattern graces a quilt. RH Baby & Child's new collection features upholstered cribs resembling wing chairs; conversion kits allow them to be turned into beds down the road. There's a big selection of chandeliers, too.

### Granny chic

Antique (or antique-looking) furniture, quilts and afghans give baby's room homespun charm.

Connecticut-based designer Eileen Blanchard crafts sweet pillows, bedding and soft toys using chenille and fabrics with vintage children's prints and winsome cottage florals.

Artist Emily Isabella's Homestead organic fabric collection features an array of animals, scenery and farm folk.

### Mod modern

As in the rest of the home, decor in the nursery is revisiting the past. Midcentury and '70s- and '80s-era cribs and other furniture bring in style elements that can match the home's aesthetic. Room & Board, DwellStudio and AllModern have great options. Gick and O'Dowd did a feature wall in a boy's room that featured a big, '70s-style geometric design, and balanced it with a similarly bold rug.

Garnet Hill's got butterfly chairs from Argentina with canvases embroidered with boho crewelwork designs. And Zulily has some pretty boho crib bedding with paisley and elephant prints. Land of Nod's managing director, Michelle Kohanzo, thinks the 1980s in particular fit the vibe of kids' rooms now. "There's no better decade for kid's decor," she says. "The trend is all about bold, playful color and pattern - it's over-the-top and just plain silly."

There's nostalgic appeal for mom and dad, too. "This is exactly how I remember my own room growing up!" Kohanzo says. Look for acrylic wall cubes, and

banana and flamingo nightlights in hot neon hues. Land of Nod partnered with Kansas City-based studio Ampersand on a whimsical bedding collection stitched with rainbows and geometrics, in retro color combos like pink, blue, red and turquoise.

### Prep school

Crisp stripes and a palette of whites, navy, reds, greens, yellows and oranges create a preppy vibe. "Almost any color pops with navy," says Gick, and it works for both boys' and girls' rooms. Pottery Barn Kids' Harper bedding collection pairs white with chevrons, dots or stripes in bright hues. Monogrammed wall art ties it all together.

### Neutral territory

Even parents-to-be who know their baby's gender may prefer a neutral nursery. Beyond yellow, gender-neutral decor includes gray, greige and cream along with muted, chalky pastels. Julia Rothman's wallpaper patterns are a good example: Hand-drawn birds and clouds move across the wall in soft, daydream-y hues.

### Tiny traveler

Introduce baby to the big wide world and the skies above with printed bedding and accessories to spark imagination. Rifle Paper Co.'s Safari wallpaper puts zebras, gazelles, ostriches and elephants in metallic gold on a hunter-green background - great for boys or girls.

RH Baby & Child has dramatic murals of constellations, maps and jet planes. Minted also has art to spark a child's flight of fancy. Put the sky overhead with one of Gale Fitzsimmons' photo murals on the ceiling: Puffy white clouds bound across an azure vista, perfect for daydreaming. Or naptime. — AP



In this photo provided by The Land of Nod, design motifs of the 1980s inform a new collection.



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way to a more free-spirited approach. Designers are deploying to the nursery dressers, credenzas, art, lighting, mirrors and seating more typically found in grown-up rooms like the master, dining or living room. Joanna Gick and Jennifer O'Dowd, interior designers in Scottsdale, Arizona, like to use vintage dressers, toys and books as nursery inspiration. Art's a big element, too.

"Gallery walls seem to be a hot trend," Gick says. "The fun thing about them is they're totally custom-

Crown Interiors. "I encourage my clients to think about the nursery as their inner child's fantasy space," she says. "This is the one room in their home where they can get away with neon pink wallpaper or an over-the-top chandelier. The nursery is just as much about the parents as it is about the baby, and making it a place where mom and dad feel comfortable is key."

In one of Alon's favorite projects, a nursery in Newport Beach, California, she used pink and gold



Colorful bunting fluttering in the breeze along Independencia Avenue in Tlaquepaque. — AP photos



'El Grito Continua', a street sculpture in Tlaquepaque.

## Tlaquepaque: Arts and crafts enclave near Guadalajara



The Santuario de Nuestra Senora de la Soledad, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Solitude, built in a mix of styles include Byzantine and neo-classical, in Tlaquepaque.



A cafe advertising the daily specials and 'musica en vivo-live music' on a street in Tlaquepaque.

**S**trolling the boutique-lined streets of this arts-and-crafts enclave near Guadalajara, Mexico, is like stepping into the brightly colored pages of a storybook. Above, rainbow-colored bunting flaps beneath an often cerulean sky. Fantastical sculptures on the sidewalks cast stark shadows on the vivid yellow, white and terra cotta walls of the stucco buildings. Even the name has an engaging rhythm - tuh-lah-keh-pah-keh. And the best part is this fairy tale visit to Tlaquepaque's historic center includes tacos.

### How to get there

Tlaquepaque, historically known as San Pedro Tlaquepaque, is a suburb of Guadalajara, capital city of the state of Jalisco. To get here from downtown Guadalajara you can rent a car or take a taxi. Another option is to take an open-air tour bus. Once in Tlaquepaque, head for the historic center. The main street is Independencia, which is lined with stores, galleries, restaurants and bars. You'll also want to explore the smaller side streets. A major landmark is the Jardin Hidalgo, a large plaza flanked by two colonial-era

churches on Independencia and the Parian, 199 Calle Juarez, which is a block of restaurants and bars known for mariachi music, especially on weekends.

### Where to eat

Casa Luna, at Independencia 211, is a restaurant set in the courtyard of an old mansion with art-decked walls and colorful lanterns hung above the tables, lending a warm glow at night. Live bands play during the dinner hour and the menu offers traditional Mexican cuisine with a high-end twist, like the duck carnitas tacos. Tlaquepasta, 139 Reforma, is also a popular spot. For a more casual experience, street vendors sell a variety of foods including sweet corn on the cob.

### What to do

**Shop:** Independencia is lined with upscale boutiques selling handmade jewelry, pottery, glassware and home goods.

**See:** There are two ceramics museums. The Regional Ceramic Museum is at 237 Independencia. The larger

Museo Premio Nacional de Ceramica Panteleon Panduro, 191 Prisciliano Sanchez, is named after Panteleon Panduro, considered the father of modern ceramics in Jalisco. Admission is free and the museums are open 10 am - 6 pm Tuesday-Saturday, closing around 3 pm Sundays.

**Sit:** The Jardin Hidalgo, on Independencia between Guillermo Prieto and Francisco I. Madero, offers shady benches where you can watch the world go by. The garden is named after Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a key figure in Mexico's fight for independence, and there is a statue of him here. Two churches overlook the garden, the Parroquia de San Pedro and the larger Santuario de Nuestra Senora de la Soledad. If you visit in June, you may catch the celebrations of the saints' days of St Peter and St Paul, which include music, dance and fireworks. — AP