



DOUBLE THE EFFORT



It's no child's play to design a room shared by two children. It may not always translate into two pieces of furniture each, but it does require careful thought

FEATURE FAREEDA KANGA

i

t's a dilemma most modern parents face. Two children sharing a room—often a boy and girl of varying ages and habits. How do you accommodate your daughter's love for Barbie dolls alongside your son's penchant for Ben Ten?

"When planning a twin room, the first rule of thumb is demarcating separate spaces for play and work. Children and clutter go together, so planning is paramount," says interior designer Shibani Mehta of Naksh Designs.

"If both siblings are of the same sex, it's easier to match the different co-ordinates, otherwise in a boy-girl combination, we



IN GOOD BED STEADS

Start with the sleeping arrangements. The options are multi for Bunk beds are a good idea when space is at a premium. Most designs come with built-in storage that serves as storage.

"If the kids are too small and bunk beds are not an option, pull-out sleeping arrangements. These are easy to push back in morning and free up valuable floor space for play," says architect and interior designer Anita Desai.

Individual beds with headboards that open up to offer hidden storage also work well in short space.

"The idea is to give them both, joint and individual spaces so they feel some sense of individuality as well as shared joy in their room. Sometimes clients prefer having a rolling partition to divide the sleeping and work spaces

— SONICA ARYA, ARCHITECT

use some contrasts to make the room look interesting and not jarring.

"The idea is to give them both, joint and individual spaces so they feel some sense of individuality as well as shared joy in their room. Sometimes clients prefer having a rolling partition to divide the sleeping and work spaces," suggests architect Sonica Arya.

THEMES AND COLOUR SCHEMES

Here's a tricky one. How do you please a fussy ten-year old or fickle pre-teen when it comes to colour schemes and the theme? Follow these easy hints.

■ Add bold colours, do away with a theme and let your pre-teen or little child choose the basic colour tone or pattern. Yellow is a work well as wallpaper and are generally unisex in nature.

■ Personalise this space—let the kids go crazy. A collage of their artworks and trophies serves as the best decor accent in their room. Not only will it make the room look colourful, it also serves as a platform for your children's talents.

IT'S ALL HARD WORK!

Let your children's room spread out by installing a workbench that runs along an entire wall. Suspended corner desks provide workspace without taking up room. Movable drawer packs on casters with multiple drawers work as storage. "Use a C-board for the counter or keep a glass over the wood for maintenance. You can also opt for a PU finish for the furniture. For younger children, keep whiteboards and green boards at eye height to doodle and have fun," says Sonica.

CUT THE CLUTTER

The secret to a storage-packed bedroom is providing lots of organisation spaces without making things look cluttered. Under bed drawers and hidden headboard shelves store items inconspicuously. Lots of shelving on the walls is another option that makes everyone's lives easier and less stressful when things are organised and clean. Floor to ceiling shelving is a clever way to utilise maximum space.

