

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN: THE FIVE BASICS OF LAST-MINUTE ENTERTAINING

House Beautiful

MORE SPACE!
FIND IT, CREATE IT

MORE LIGHT!
A BRILLIANT
CALIFORNIA
MAKEOVER

PLUS
KATIE COURIC AT HOME:
HER DAUGHTERS'
ROOMS (SO COOL)

\$3.95 US/\$4.95 Canada/Foreign



0 74820 08458 8

01



8

Color for KATIE'S KIDS

Katie Couric and her daughters team with designer Karen Reisler to create bedrooms filled with vivid hues and whimsical personal touches

Opposite, clockwise from top left: Katie Couric (left) and interior designer Karen Reisler, in Carrie's room. An existing chair was slipcovered in Designers Guild Miramar plaid; coordinating Roman shades were made from Paraskeva floral print. Carrie loves Marilyn Monroe, so Reisler looked for vintage posters and framed them, along with the girl's own artwork.

Here's a little-known fact about Katie Couric, the beloved cohost of NBC's *Today* show: She does not like neutrals. "They're boring and they don't wear very well when you have children and dogs," she says. "Color is very uplifting."

Color is what Couric got when interior designer Karen Reisler stepped in to redecorate the bedrooms of her two daughters, Ellie, 14, and Carrie, 10. The rooms hadn't been rethought since the younger girl was a toddler, and it was time for an update. "The most important thing," says Reisler, who has been friendly with Couric and her family since the early 1990s, "is to have design meetings with the kids so that you know what their fantasies are. After that, of course, you work within the parents' parameters, but I like to keep an element of whimsy."

Reisler has a strong predilection for the Designers Guild prints, and it's from a range of these fanciful English fabrics that the girls picked their favorite designs. Carrie chose a pink and green scheme, so Reisler picked out a matching Designers Guild flocked-pink wallpaper and an inexpensive fuchsia shag rug from Pottery Barn. Then she played with contrasting designs, slipcovering an existing chair and ottoman in a bright plaid and using an overscale floral print on the Roman blinds and pillows. To tone down the intensity, existing bed and built-in desk, as well as doors and trims, were painted in Benjamin Moore's White Dove.

Ellie, initially convinced that she wanted orange and purple, "got cold feet," says Reisler. They picked out cool turquoise and lime hues together, and went on frequent shopping trips for accessories like the Artemide bedside lamps, a sunburst mirror, and vintage rock posters.

"I didn't want to fill their rooms with expensive antiques," says Couric. "I wanted classic pieces that would work even if one day we change the scheme again. For now, the bedrooms are comfortable and colorful, with a real sense of fun."

Writer: Roslyn Sulcas Photographer: Eric Piasecki Producer: Doretta Sperduto



"I didn't want to fill their rooms with expensive antiques," says Katie Couric. "For now, the bedrooms are **comfortable and colorful**, with a real sense of fun"



Clockwise from top left: Reisler looked for vintage rock posters for Ellie, who is, she says "obsessed with retro music." An Artemide "lollipop" lamp sits on each bedside table. Couric persuaded Ellie not to paint the built-in bookcases; the honey-colored wood sets off the brushed turquoise Kalamkari Designers Guild wallpaper and lime headboard. A clean-lined Crate and Barrel vanity is paired with a transparent Kartell chair. Opposite: A two-seater Edge sofa is upholstered in Rosca, which has a chartreuse raised geometric pattern over a turquoise base. Tiny squares in the same hues on the Roman window shade pick up on the geometric theme. Both fabrics and sofa are from Designers Guild. For more details, see Resources.

