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ROOM TO GROW

A home office becomes a fanciful nursery for one family's newest addition. And, with a few simple changes, it's a bedroom that will grow with their baby.

FAIRY FUN

The nursery's palette (left) is a soothing blend of pink, yellow, and green—a retro color scheme that's still fresh. The wingback chair and ottoman are sized to fit Gillian's older siblings. Right: For convenience, the decorator placed the changing table near the closet. When Gillian is older, the piece can be used to house toys.



By John Loecke • Photographs by Wendell Webber



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Mark and Jennifer Mullin (holding Gillian) with, from left: Erin, 4; Kyle, 8; and Courtney, 5.

When Mark and Jennifer Mullin learned that they were to become the parents of another girl (their third daughter and fourth child), they decided the time was finally right to create the nursery of their dreams. "When Kyle, Courtney, and Erin were infants, we were either moving, renting, or renovating, and we were just too busy to decorate a baby's room," Jennifer says. "By the time Gillian was born last May, we were settled and had the time and space to do it."

Not sure where to begin, Jennifer sought the assistance of decorator Karen Reisler. The first challenge? To enlarge the tiny, 120-square-foot space visually. Reisler's solution: covering the walls in a painted wash and hanging a wallpaper border just below the ceiling. "The pale-green wash makes the walls recede, and the placement of the border makes the ceiling seem higher," she says. To soften the floor, she added a beige wool area rug that ends three inches from the baseboard on all sides—yet

another trick to make the small room look bigger.

When it came time to choose the furnishings, Jennifer and Mark were thinking ahead. "We didn't want to invest money in items that would be used for only a short time," Jennifer says. So instead of buying a new crib, Reisler gave the old one a coat of pink paint. The new changing table converts to shelves, and the curtains are reversible. "When she's tired of fairies," says Reisler, "they can be flipped to reveal a more sophisticated plaid."

*Make sure all reused cribs meet current safety standards.

