

The stuff that **DREAMS** are made of



These two bedrooms and a shared bath have the magical looks sure to pass any child's coolness test.

by Alyssa Ettinger

photography by Laurie Black



■ The young inhabitant of this room opposite will feel like she's sleeping on a cloud in her feather-plumped bed with painted clouds on the wall above her head and breezy curtains at her feet.

■ Pixieish fairies and realistic daffodils dance and bow around the bedroom below. The white wicker dresser above picks up the wall colors to blend with the scenes instead of block them.



How do you decorate two basic bedrooms, and the bathroom that links them, to appeal to a child's dreams and a grown-up's practicality? This challenge faced Vancouver interior designer Jayne Sanders, who was assigned these adjoining spaces in a Street of Dreams showhouse in Portland, Oregon.

Sanders called decorative painter Jane deForest to help jump-start ideas for the combined spaces. "She's one of the most creative people I've ever talked to," Sanders

says of deForest. So the two women put their heads together, focusing on one room at a time. As a general starting point, Sanders wanted to do "something with daffodils," and deForest mentioned her 6-year-old friend "who can see fairies." These visions resulted in a theme for the girl's room, and after several sketches of fairies and flower-filled settings, deForest was ready to pick up her paintbrush.

The room gradually became a blue-sky and white-cloud heaven with large, Alice-in-Wonderland flowers and magical flying fairies. To



DREAMS



■ A budding space explorer can view the real night sky out the minimally treated window, or pick out new constellations on the painted walls and ceiling left.

■ More than just a place to hang your hat, this peg rack above completes the outer-space illusion by conjuring a view of a busy city from miles away.

complete her murals, deForest used latex paint and some acrylics, which wipe clean of fingerprints and marks. The finishing touch was a ceiling full of fairy dust—a shimmering sponge-painted effect that combines flat and semigloss paints.

With her head already among the clouds, deForest thought a starry boy's room would tie in nicely. But she decided the theme should be a bit more scientific to balance the nearby fantasyland. "Jane thinks all

children's rooms should be educational to encourage their curiosity," Sanders says.

After painting the walls a deep blue, deForest added a night sky, complete with stars, a moon, a rocket, and an astronaut. The twin-size bed has the look of an astronaut's bunk, and making it each morning is easy thanks to tailored bedding and a comforter with boxed corners. Above the bed, Sanders added the crowning accoutrement: a painted peg rack decked with a city skyline.

DREAMS

■ Celestial tiles break up a solid-color vanity on the boy's side below. A star-filled sink and starry door hardware carry on the theme in a child-appropriate—but not too cutesy—way.

■ Scattered pale and dark blue tiles on the vanity countertop opposite marry the girl's space to the mosaic in the shared bath. The hand-painted sink is filled with flowers.



Each room's theme was carried into the Jack-and-Jill bath—an arrangement that gives each bedroom its own vanity space and links them with a shared tub and toilet compartment. In the vanity areas, the different themes come through in unique tile configurations and hand-painted sinks (containing daffodils for the girl and stars for the boy). The vanity cabinetry is the same in both baths. Different hardware, however, helps solidify the separate themes.

The shared shower compartment is the true middle ground, with tiles in hues plucked from both rooms. With a washable cotton shower curtain and easy-to-clean tile surfaces, this room tidies up in a pinch. □

RESOURCES on page 98

Field editor: Barbara Mundall.

