

What a cool idea for recycling tyres. Make a toy storage box with two tyres and some castors.

GREAT IDEAS FOR YOUR KIDS' ROOMS

A NEW book by a children's decor specialist is jam-packed with affordable, creative ideas for kids' rooms and play spaces.

In *Rooms Your Kids Will Love*, Sam Scarborough reveals 50 great projects for redoing your child's space. Some are uniquely South African, such as the fabric tree mural for babies made out of gingham and shweshwe, or a toy storage box made out of tyres for toddlers.

The projects range from very easy to difficult and are aimed at all age groups, from babies and toddlers to young adults.

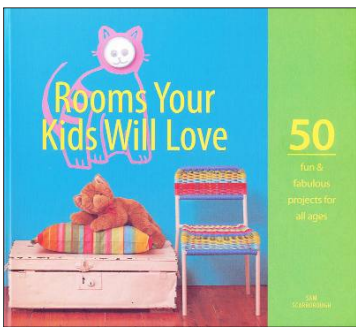
Scarborough also shares tips and advice for small changes that can make a big difference in the appearance of your child's room.

Step-by-step instructions are combined with striking colour photos.

Scarborough is a creative director, author, stylist and children's decor consultant. Her previous publications include *Children's Rooms*, *Cool Spaces for Kids*, and *Baby Rooms & Nurseries*, which she published herself, and *Kids' Market Day*.

She runs her own interior decor company, Kids Decor, specialising in spaces for kids.

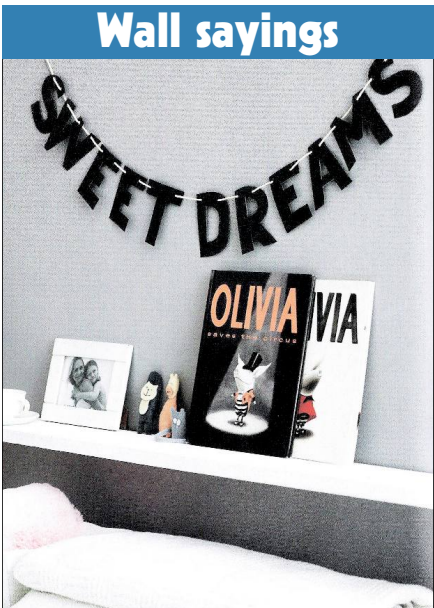
Her book is a great source of inspiration if you're looking for ideas. Verve chose a few of those in the book to share with you. – Lifestyle Reporter



Rooms Your Kids Will Love is published by Human & Rousseau and costs R267.



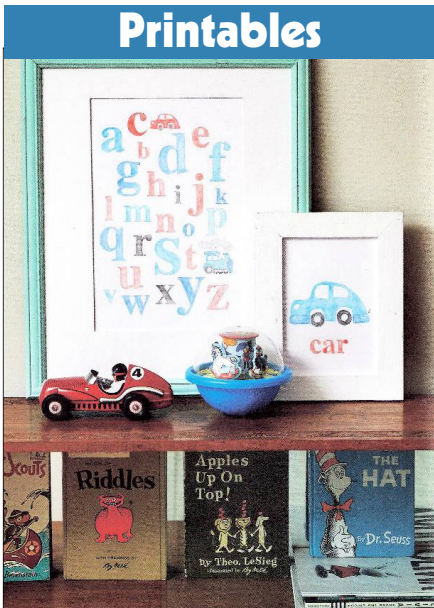
This fabric tree made from cotton gingham and shweshwe is a lovely alternative to a conventional wall mural. Create a picture out of fabric on the wall. Use low-tack glue to secure the fabric onto the wall – cold white glue does the trick.



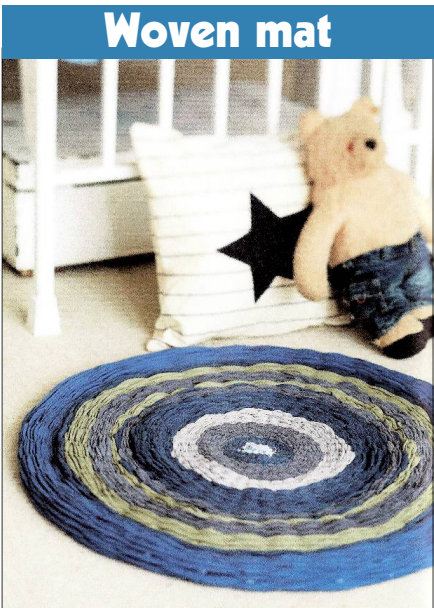
Words form part of wall decor in many applications, from wall stickers to murals and paper bunting. Use coloured paper and string.



All children love playmats, and these can be made by cutting felt into interesting shapes.



Make your own art by colouring in printables and framing them. You'll find free printable letters on the web.



Soft woven rugs add a touch of whimsy to a nursery. Weave your own to match your colour scheme by using T-shirt fabric and plumbers' piping.



Be creative with storage boxes – just adding a backdrop and racetrack carpet turns keeping tidy into a fun game.

HYDROCHIC HAS YOU COVERED THIS SUMMER



WOMEN of all ages, sizes, backgrounds and ethnicities who need swim or active wear with more coverage – whether for modesty, religious or sun protection reasons – will be interested to hear that HydroChic is now being imported into South Africa.

The founders of the brand, Daniela Teutsch and Sara Wolf, came up with the idea after watching women on the beach wearing big T-shirts over their bathing suits.

The lack of modest yet practical attire for swimming or sports spurred them to start their own line in 2007, which they began selling online.

HydroChic is a collection of activewear separates that allow women to choose the style and coverage they want and create an individual look that suits them.

Their fabrics meet the highest Ultraviolet Protection Factor standards.

Wendy Webb, founder of Sleek Swim, is the sole importer of the HydroChic garments to South Africa and is making them available on her online store, www.sleekswim.com.

She will deliver nationwide. "Sleek Swim now has the new generation of modest, quick drying, breathable, sun-protective HydroChic swim/active wear," Wendy says.

For more information, contact Wendy at 083 336 7623 or wendywebb@sleekswim.com – Lifestyle Reporter

MI CASA READY TO DAZZLE

URBAN jazz-house act Mi Casa are back home from a successful international tour during which 11 shows were sold out, says vocalist and guitarist J'Something.

Their global tour took them to London, Portugal, Canada and the Netherlands, and J'Something says "the reception was amazing".

"We kept asking ourselves during the trip if what we were experiencing was real. It was interesting and amazing that a lot of people knew who we are. At every single performance, people were singing along to our songs," says J'Something.

Now the award-winning trio are launching their third studio album, *Home Sweet Home*, and going on a national tour.

From Cape Town tonight, they go on to Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth and Durban before ending in Joburg with a concert at Carnival City's Big Top Arena on December 13.

The Joburg band comprise J'Something, Dr Duda and Mo-T, and are known for their catchy hits *Jika* and *These Streets*.

J'Something doesn't only sing, he also

Multi-award-winning band Mi Casa enjoyed sold-out shows in London, Portugal and Canada, and now want to impress local fans, writes Nontando Mposo

hosts the TV cooking show, *Something's Cooking*, running on SABC 3.

He says that the group named the album *Home Sweet Home*, which was recorded on tour, to pay homage to their fans.

"We chose the title because everywhere we performed we got so much love, as if we were home in South Africa. Everywhere we went there was either a little or a big Mi Casa family. In London and Rotterdam we had a huge following of people.

"We were pleasantly surprised that most of our fans were locals... we didn't expect that.

"This album means we are coming back home where everything started. It's a tribute to our fans, to tell them that without them we wouldn't be where we are.

"Without our fans, who have supported and bought our albums over the years, we wouldn't have lasted this long in the industry."

The trio first performed together in 2011 and their first album, *Micasa Music*, went gold within six months. It won several awards, including Best Dance Album, Group of the Year and Record Of The Year at the 18th annual South African Music Awards in 2012.

Their second single from the album, *Heavenly Sent*, was also a chart topper.

Fans can expect their new album to be a medley of their signature and distinctive home-grown sounds.

"A lot of things have contributed to our success and longevity," says J'Something.

"One of those things is constantly producing good music, and another is the fans who have been with us over the years. We have also been making the right tracks and quality music that our fans love."



IMPRESSIVE: J'Something, Mo-T and Dr Duda, aka Mi Casa. The trio are launching their third studio album, *Home Sweet Home*.

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