



# THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

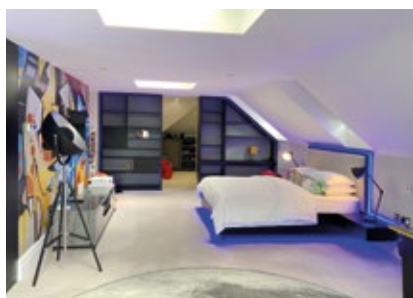
Parents are no longer in charge. Children want a say in their bedrooms, thank you very much, finds *Tessa Dunthorne*

Designer Manuela Hamilford, who has for two decades created luxury private residences, suggests that kids, newly crowned rulers of the roost, want to get more involved in their family's interior design conversations.

'There's been change in the landscape of children's bedrooms, especially with the rise of technology,' says Manuela. This is the tech generation, after all, and 'kids are savvy on Zoom, with all their day-to-day tasks taking place on laptops or iPads.'

In particular, social media has given kids a peek into a world of interiors, meaning their bedrooms matter more than ever. Plus, it's created a new wave of trends to follow. A big craze today is to mimic Twitch-streaming idols (whether ImAllexx, XQC or another gamer de jour), featuring screen set-ups, LED lights and amusingly ergonomic chairs.

'And by the age of seven, they gain a



real sense of how they want their bedrooms to look to reflect their identities', Manuela explains, 'and parents don't understand this.' She has observed a pattern. Notably, parents tend towards safer, cuter choices: slides, bunk beds, teepees, and calming colours. They picture the nostalgia of their own childhood bedrooms and seek a tranquil, spa-like space in which little 'uns can reflect and unwind. The truth of what their kids actually want comes as a surprise.

'My process has changed. We now encourage meeting with the kids, to get a sense of what they really want,' Manuela says.

This entails a balancing act. Discovering what your child likes is key, but then compromise – because a complete pirate-ship set-up might err on the side of extravagance – is a vital next step.

The result, according to Manuela, is a new generation of kids' bedrooms, that move with the changing tide of parenting. These rooms feature blue LED lights dotted under desks, vanity stations that would make beauty influencers jealous, and graffiti walls with mounted basketball hoops. Parents, as it turns out, are coming around to the ideas put forward by their offspring – and are happy to yield some of that power. [hamilforddesign.com](http://hamilforddesign.com) ■

## HERE'S WHAT KIDS ACTUALLY WANT

*Decided by C&TH's very own panel of Gen Alphas*



**Myan Harrison, aged 8**

'I love how the colours change from one to another.' Vintage Moroccan rug, £285. [theoldcinema.com](http://theoldcinema.com)



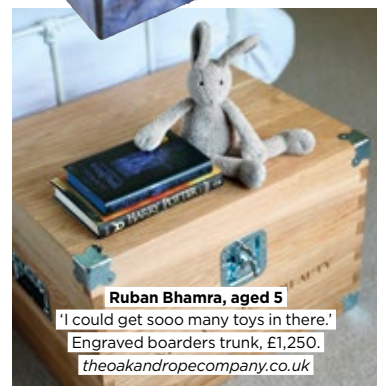
**Romilly Isaac, aged 11**

'It's a little house to hide in.' Tree house bed, £779. [roomtogrow.co.uk](http://roomtogrow.co.uk)



**Jack Cox, aged 6:**

'I like the frog because my mum says I am a frog.' Stained glass frog lamp, £1,056. [1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)



**Ruban Bhamra, aged 5**

'I could get sooo many toys in there.' Engraved boarders trunk, £1,250. [theoakandropecompany.co.uk](http://theoakandropecompany.co.uk)



**Hector Isaac, aged 9**

'Makes me feel cosy.' York upholstered arm chair, £1,865. [luxdeco.com](http://luxdeco.com)