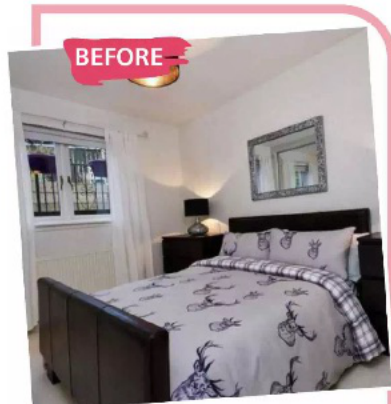


# 'I created a playful look with a colourful palette'

A vibrant trio of pink, green and orange, with circus-themed stripes and a fox print, gave **Angela Clarke's** eldest child the lively, bright room she wanted



BEFORE

## STEP INSIDE...

**WHO LIVES HERE?** I'm Angela Clarke, 39 (@the\_upside\_down\_house), and I'm a claims assessor. I live here with my husband, Stuart, 41, who works in compensation benefits, and our daughters, Olive, eight, and Iris, six. We bought our four-bedroom Dunfermline house, built in the early 2000s, in April 2016.

**WHAT WAS UPDATED?** We decorated Olive's bedroom, changed the flooring and added colourful furniture, bedding and accessories.

**WHY THE CHANGE?** After I decorated Iris's bedroom, Olive was keen to have her room updated and painted in her favourite colours, too.

**HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?** It would have taken about a week in total, but we spread the work out over a few weeks. It's such a transformation for very little money.

**TOTAL COST** £994



## DOUBLE UP

For a cohesive look to bunk beds, style with a two-pack duvet set that comes in different patterns but the same colourway

Angela applied her creative skills to save money on the makeover. 'We'd wallpapered years ago, and used paint we already had,' she says. 'I could push colour much further in here than elsewhere in the house and have fun with it'

Angela Clarke has loved crafting and being creative with interiors since she was a child, and remembers the pleasure of decorating her dolls house and choosing her own bedroom décor. So, she wanted her children to create the same memories. 'When we moved into this all-white house, it was really important for me to decorate fun and inspiring rooms for the kids to give them good memories and encourage their own creativity,' she says.

## THE PROJECT

The early 2000s house has an unusual upside-down layout (prompting Angela's Instagram, @the\_upside\_down\_house) where three of the bedrooms are on the ground floor. The couple chose the one at the back for Olive, looking onto the garden. She was six months old when they moved in.

'The room was the second biggest and fairly square, with a double bed, so it was a good size,' Angela recalls. 'But it was entirely white – even the carpet – and there were built-in wardrobes with mirrored doors that weren't to my taste.' The couple decided keeping the practical storage outweighed the aesthetics. Instead, they redirected the attention onto the playful Scion Living Little Fox wallpaper that's seen as soon as you come into the room.

## WHAT WE DID

Fast forward eight years, and Olive wanted to revamp her room in a colour scheme of pinks

and greens. 'We already had orange in the wallpaper and Olive was keen for a stripey wall,' says Angela. 'Since I've used the same three colours elsewhere in the house, I looked at what paint we had leftover in the garage.'

Angela discovered they still had plenty of Lick's Green 05 after painting the playroom and used this to decorate the largest area in

the room – the ceiling and above the new picture rail, which Stuart fitted. 'The pink stripes are in Crown's Satin Lining, which we'd used to paint Iris's ceiling,' says Angela. 'The orange was the colour of our bathroom before we recently repainted it and is more of a peachy-tangerine. It's not the same tone as the wallpaper, which is what happens

## My style tips

### MAKE THE BEST OF IT

While there were elements of the existing space I didn't like, it would've been expensive to change them. So, instead, I drew attention away from these areas by creating other focal points in the room.

### USE LEFTOVER PAINT

A child's bedroom is a great place to get creative with paint leftover from other room makeovers. Play around with colour-blocking, stripes, shapes and more to add fun details little ones will love.

### TRY STICK-ON DECALS

It's a great way to personalise furniture, if you're not confident with hand-painting yourself – you can buy slogans, spots and other motifs to stick on walls or furniture for an easy update.



Angela buys second-hand where she can as she feels it adds more character – the bedside table and magazine rack are both vintage finds



Wide stripes and a painted ceiling nod to the feeling of sitting inside a circus tent. 'With the green paint coming down the wall it feels immersive in here,' says Angela. 'Olive and I both love it'

Feature Jane Crittenden Styling Alison Gibb Photos Douglas Gibb



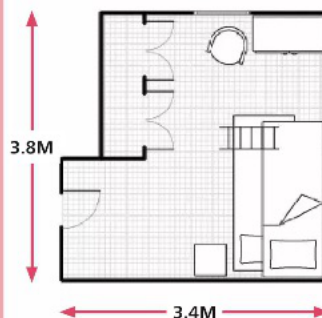


Angela upcycled the wardrobe with paint and stickers. 'I happened to come across Coral Crush milk paint by General Finishes in a local shop,' she says. 'It has a matt sheen, it's very easy to use and the shade of pink is a little unusual'

## OMBRE EFFECT

Achieve an easy and affordable colour burst by experimenting with paint on second-hand furniture. Angela painted the chair using leftover pink paint and then swirled on orange before it dried to create a mixed patina finish

## ROOM PLAN



## THE DETAILS

WALLPAPER	£55
LEFTOVER PAINT	£0
BUNK BED	£249
WARDROBE	£40
FLOORING	£650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£994</b>

## SHOPPING LIST

Little Fox **wallpaper** in Ginger, £55 per roll, Scion Living. Ceiling in Lick **matt emulsion** in Green 05, £45, B&Q. Wall stripes in Crown's flat matt **paint** in Satin Lining, £38 per 2.5L, Homebase; and for similar Orange paint try Absolute **matt emulsion** in Marigold, £29 per 1L, Little Greene. Miller House **bunk bed** in Pastel Green, £249, Home Detail; painted in General Finishes milk **paint** in Coral Crush, £24.75 per 473ml, Bruach Finishing Supplies. For similar wall stickers try 'We love you to the moon and back' **stickers**, £12.99, Designsforyouuk on Etsy. For similar rug try round crochet **rug** in Pink and Orange, £45, Resplendid on Etsy. **Lampshade**, £45, Clarabella Christie. ferm LIVING Pear **mirror**, £31.51, Nordic Nest. 'Meow' A4 **art print**, £18.99, Lorna Freytag. Door Bunny **sticker**, around £9.33, Sticky. Isabella macrame **bunting** kit, £19.99, Wool Couture. For a similar duvet set try the two-pack multi-stripe single **duvet set**, £23, Next. For similar blinds try Supreme blackout Marmalade **roller blind**, from £8.85, Blinds Direct. Junckers White Beech solid wood **flooring**, £50 per sq m, Direct Flooring.

when you use up paint you already have! I don't mind as I don't like everything to be completely matching.'

## HIGHS & LOWS

Angela painted the wall beneath the window in pink and repeated the colour on the opposite wall in preparation for the stripes. Beech floor planks in a pale tone replaced the grubby white carpet to keep the room feeling light and bright.

'The wardrobe was a £40 bargain find, as was sourcing the house-style bunk beds. 'I showed Stuart a picture and he managed to hunt them out for nearly half the price I'd seen,' says Angela. 'They were already pastel green and happened to be a perfect match for the room.'

## THE FINAL DETAILS

When it came to personalising Olive's bedroom, Angela made macrame bunting to hang across the window and added wall stickers to the painted wardrobe. Multi-coloured bedding and second-hand vintage bamboo pieces bring warmth and balance.



Angela painted contrasting pink and green around the door to make a feature of the bunny. 'I saw this cute sticker idea on Instagram and had to have it,' she says

Angela says there was no master plan before she started. 'I just do things and see where it takes me. I enjoy the experience of making a room personal and unique,' she explains. 'Olive is delighted. She loves re-arranging her toys and showing us what she's done. It's very rewarding seeing her happily playing in here with Iris.' 🐰