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THE BEST OF SOCAL

The Man Whose Mouse Roars

Web Whiz Matt Drudge Has Launched Rumors, Libel Suits and Clinterngate. Call Him a Gossip, News Gatherer, Sleaze or Kangaroo, He Is Rattling the Journalistic Landscape.

By Janet Wiscombe

SoCal's Keepers of the Ayn Rand Flame • FASHION: Back to School
VERY FIRST PERSON: The Need for Speed • HOME: Rooms to Grow In

For daughter Sophie's room, designer Sasha Emerson Levin went mid-century modern with a birch side table by Paul McCobb, a birch twin bed and bookshelf by Heywood-Wakefield and a bleached mahogany

dresser by Gilbert Rohde. Maple blinds and a framed kite provide wood accents.

moppet modern

Sleek Vintage Furnishings Avoid the Kiddie Clichés

by Judy Prouty photographed by Grey Crawford

Sasha Emerson Levin, believes that a child's room should have as much style as the rest of the house. "Most kids' furniture these days is that fake country look," says the former film executive-turned-designer, who lives in a 1962 contemporary-style house in Santa Monica with her husband, screenwriter Larry Levin, and their daughters, Sophie, 4½, Eden, 5½, and month-old Isabel. "I wanted an aesthetic for my own kids that would be compatible with modern architecture—light, whimsical and colorful."

For starters, Levin filled the older girls' rooms—situated with a third bedroom, a playroom and a bathroom in garage space remodeled by architect Mark Mack of Venice—with mid-century blond wood furniture. She found many pieces, including a $100 pair of Heywood-Wakefield twin beds, at secondhand stores, flea markets and garage sales. "Almost nothing came from a legitimate kid's store," she says. "And everything was inexpensive." Levin, who with Marne Dupere owns Orange, a home furnishings store in Beverly Hills, then gave the rooms different identities with mismatched dressers, bookshelves and chairs made by mid-century furniture manufacturers and designers. For Sophie, she bought a Gilbert Rohde six-drawer dresser and a side table by Paul McCobb. For Eden, she paired a vanity with a Thonet bentwood school chair. At the store, Levin says, "we specialize in refinishing school furniture, which is perfect for kids' rooms."

Accessories range from flea-market prints of Paris street scenes to old globes and a framed paper kite. "Most of the little objects I found at Pic 'n' Save, Ross Dress for Less and Ikea for a few dollars," Levin says. Even a toy box was salvaged from a pile of junk at the Long Beach flea market for $30. "Cheap is good for kids . . . if it gets ruined, it's OK."

Styled by Barbara Thornburg

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... if it gets ruined, it's OK.'

Tile covers the bathroom floor and walls, and colorful resin handles decorate the drawers. The plastic and chrome stool is from Orange in Beverly Hills.

Top right: In the playroom designed by architect Mark Mack, a built-in wall unit with desks gives Eden and Sophie activity and storage space. Bottom right: Eden's vintage vanity sports '50s Italian glass shades and is teamed with a Thonet children's chair. The carrot piñata is from Orange.