



high-low harmony



"Purple," said my 17-year-old daughter, Raleigh. "I know exactly what I want my bedroom to look like. Let's go shopping." One of her typically direct mandates. I saw this coming a long time ago. In fact, by the time Raleigh had entered senior kindergarten, she'd already told me she no longer required my assistance when it came to dressing. How, then, could I be surprised that she wanted to redecorate her bedroom her own way now that she was a senior in high school? Here's how we approached this mother-daughter decorating project, mixing high and low purchases to produce a final result we're both happy with. Written by Kimberley Seldon

start at the very beginning

I've always hoped Raleigh would follow in my footsteps (though she tells me she's planning on pursuing a fashion major next year) and felt it was time for a little training. So I took the liberty of preparing a floor plan for her bedroom. "Oh, I've already decided I want my bed in front of the window," she said. This project would call for some serious compromise, I realized. We eventually agreed that Raleigh would choose the trendier items and accessories, but first I would select the custom foundation pieces for the room – the more expensive items not easily replaceable. I think they're the place to start when the budget is tight.

investment pieces

A mattress and bedding are two necessities that I advise putting in your "high" column, whereas if you're looking for places to save, keep in mind that furniture is available in a wide variety of price points, so watch for deep discounts, sales and closeouts.

White furniture is not a new idea, but it certainly looks fresh set against the lavender backdrop Raleigh chose. I opted for a sturdy, design-savvy desk and chest of drawers in highgloss lacquer, then accented both with pale lavender glass hardware. But it's also possible to save by shopping garage sales and thrift shops like Value Village and Goodwill for inexpensive furniture, then transforming it with a coat of white paint and handsome new hardware. Convincing Raleigh to let me choose high-end bedding wasn't much of a challenge; she's grown accustomed to a good night's sleep. I picked out the oyster quilted coverlet as a neutral foil to the more vibrant purple tones. Since we were going for a luxurious, glamorous mood, I couldn't resist the Beacon Hill silk for the soft Roman blinds. I'm still not crazy about the bed in front of the window, but at least the window treatment is pretty.

COVERLET \$458, AU LIT FINE LINENS. **MARIE CLAIRE TAUPE EUROSHAMS** \$50 EACH, **SILVER BEADED TOSS CUSHIONS** \$30 EACH, **FLORAL KIDNEY CUSHIONS** \$30 EACH, **SATIN BOUDOIR CUSHION** \$40, HOME OUTFITTERS. **CHROME-AND-ACRYLIC TABLE LAMPS** \$280 EACH, LIVING LIGHTING.



raleigh's lows

faux croc accessories
shams and pillows

affordable style

Raleigh shopped sensibly at Home Outfitters, and Chapters and Indigo Books & Music for most of her accessories and the biggest hits of colour. The Euroshams, beaded pillows, and floral-print and silk kidney cushions were her first purchases. "Purple is very hot this season," she reported to me after one shopping trip. "I found a big selection, but I hesitated on a couple of items, and when I went back to get them, they were gone."

Table lamps from Living Lighting were Raleigh's most expensive picks. The mock croc desk accessories from Chapters and Indigo Books & Music are fun and functional. The Kartell Victoria Ghost Chair is a bit of a splurge, but it's a fraction of the cost of a more traditional desk chair and gives this small bedroom a little more breathing room. The Marilyn Monroe poster is the only item that made the cut from her former bedroom accessories.

Let's face it: stretching the budget appeals to moms and daughters alike.



kimberley's highs

design-savvy desk
ghost chair

So the best way to ensure your redecorating project finishes on budget is to start with a plan, purchase big-ticket items first, stick to classic colour combinations, and insist on good value when choosing accessories.

MYSTIC VASE \$23, FIG & BERGAMOT CANDLE \$24, SILVER-PLATED FRAME \$28, FAUX CROC IN TAUPE PAPER TRAY (UNDER VASE) \$21, LIDDED BOX \$18, PEN HOLDER \$12, AND MAGAZINE HOLDERS \$30 EACH, SMALL PURPLE LETTER BOX \$13, ROUND ALUMINUM BOOKEND \$24, PIERRE BELVÈDÈRE DAYTIMER \$30, CHAPTERS AND INDIGO BOOKS & MUSIC. PHILIPPE STARCK FOR KARTELL VICTORIA GHOST CHAIR \$380, NEAT. CUSTOM HEADBOARD, DESK, DRESSER, ROMAN BLINDS, UPHOLSTERED BENCH, KIMBERLEY SELDON DESIGN GROUP. FRAMED DRESS PRINTS BY LORI DOODY, ART INTERIORS. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE XXX

for more tips, SEE KIMBERLEY THURSDAYS ON CITYTV'S CITYLINE