

BUNK BED *Bliss*

No longer just relegated to summer camp cabins, bunk beds can transform a family bedroom into a playful and stylish retreat. We take a look at some inviting stacked sleeping spaces in homes throughout Chatham.

BY LISA CAVANAUGH

DAN CUTRONA



Built for Sleep, Styled for Play

“Comfort, functionality and capacity were all goals for this bunk room,” says Matthew H. Cole, president and CEO of Cape Associates, who created this cheerful space for Chatham homeowners. Storage is incorporated in drawers below the lower bunk and in the steps; each bunk also has a storage niche intended for books and notebooks with individual lights so each occupant can read without disturbing the others. “The chalkboard paint on the end was a fun addition,” adds Cole. “It’s one more playful element.”

Cape Associates, capeassociates.com



From Storage to Sleep Space

Set within the historic Cyrus Kent House, just a few blocks from downtown Chatham, this bunkroom was created in what was once the attic during a full-home renovation. Because of the home’s location and historic pedigree, zoning regulations prohibited any changes to its exterior appearance.

With a large, multigenerational family and frequent summer guests, creating additional bedrooms was a key part of the remodel. Designed by ERT Architects and built by MJ Nardone Building and Remodeling,

the bunkroom makes efficient—and visually stunning—use of what was previously just storage space.

The shiplap ceiling and wall treatment, along with flush-mounted nautical sconces, add a distinctly coastal feel. An attached full bath completes what is now a charming and functional bedroom suite, perfect for visitors of any age.

ERT Architects, ertarchitects.com
MJ Nardone Building & Remodeling, mjnardone.com

PHOTOS: DAN CUTRONA



PHOTO CREDIT: LARA KIMMERER



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Clean Lines, Cozy Space

The design of this bunk room—led by John R. DaSilva, design principal at Polhemus Savery DaSilva (PSD)—maximizes every inch of the compact space. An upper bunk fits comfortably only at the center, where the attic-style ceiling rises with the main roof and dormers to its highest point.

The horizontal lines of the paneling carry over all vertical surfaces of the bunks, even the ladder to access the upper bunk and the railings that provide safety, says DaSilva. “This playfully treats wood like wallpaper over a solid object with openings cut into it.” With tiny storage niches for each bunk, cheerful, white-painted wood, and a lighthearted atmosphere, the room is a getaway for anyone in the family. “Children and children at heart will feel cozy in these bunks,” says DaSilva.

**Polhemus Savery
DaSilva (PSD)**
psdab.com
SLC Interiors
slcinteriors.com

Bunks, Books and a Bit of Magic

(opposite page)
Sharon DaSilva, Polhemus Savery DaSilva (PSD) senior designer, led the design of this airy, streamlined room.

“We incorporated shiplap, which ties into other areas of the house,” says DaSilva, adding the shiplap is MDF, a type of engineered wood made from compressed wood fibers, which is more dimensionally stable than wood. “The natural wood accents on the bunks add warmth to the space.”

The lower bunk provides a cozy space, and the upper bunk provides an overlook. “I think bunks, in general, tend to be a bit more fun for kids,” she says. To augment this, “each bunk occupant has their own small shelves

next to the bed for displaying or storing favorite toys and books and a wall sconce to accommodate reading.”

The perpendicular bunks allowed PSD to work in some storage space, such as drawers for both bunks and a small bookcase for the upper bunk. In addition, a dresser is built into the eaves, and storage is added in the window seat.

As this is the only bedroom in the house that doesn’t face the water, DaSilva provided a cathedral ceiling, built-ins and a window seat. “If I can, I like to provide something special for landside bedrooms,” she says.

Polhemus Savery DaSilva (PSD), psdab.com
Carolyn Thayer Interiors, carolynthayerinteriors.com

THIS PAGE: ROBERT BENSON; OPPOSITE: BRIAN VANDEN BRINK





Nooks, Ladders and Big Imaginations

Architect Erik Tolley of ERT Architects has mastered the art of the bunk room with designs that are both fun and functional.

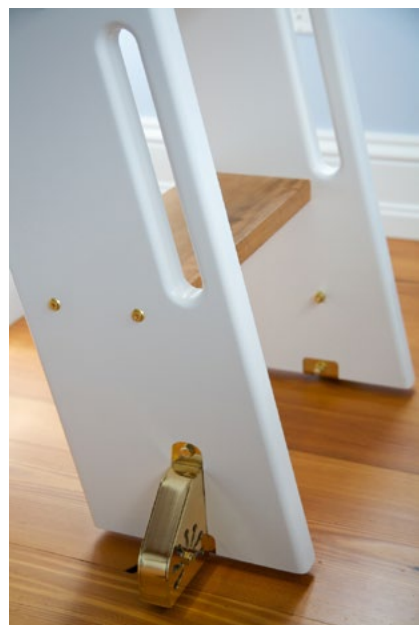
“Bunk rooms are the whimsy in any home,” says Tolley. “Kids love them, especially when you have a couple of sets in one room so they can be with all their friends and relatives.” He says that stairs and ladders add another dimension to the fun, and he will typically locate the bunks along a wall or, in the case of multiple bunks, in an inside corner of the room, leaving adequate space for other activities like playtime.

The homeowners usually come to him with some general examples of bunk bedrooms they have seen at friends’ homes, in magazines or online. “They typically give some programmatic requirements: bed size, built-in drawers, niches, lighting, fun stair/ladder ideas, etc., but they largely leave the design in my hands,” says Tolley. “Their goal is always to create a fun place, especially for grandchildren.”

While interior designers will often plan and source textiles, colors and soft furnishings, Tolley notes that kids sometimes like to decorate their own individual bunks and spaces when allowed.

One favorite detail is a porthole—a playful nod to nautical tradition and a delightful way for young visitors to imagine going on a fantastical sea journey.

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