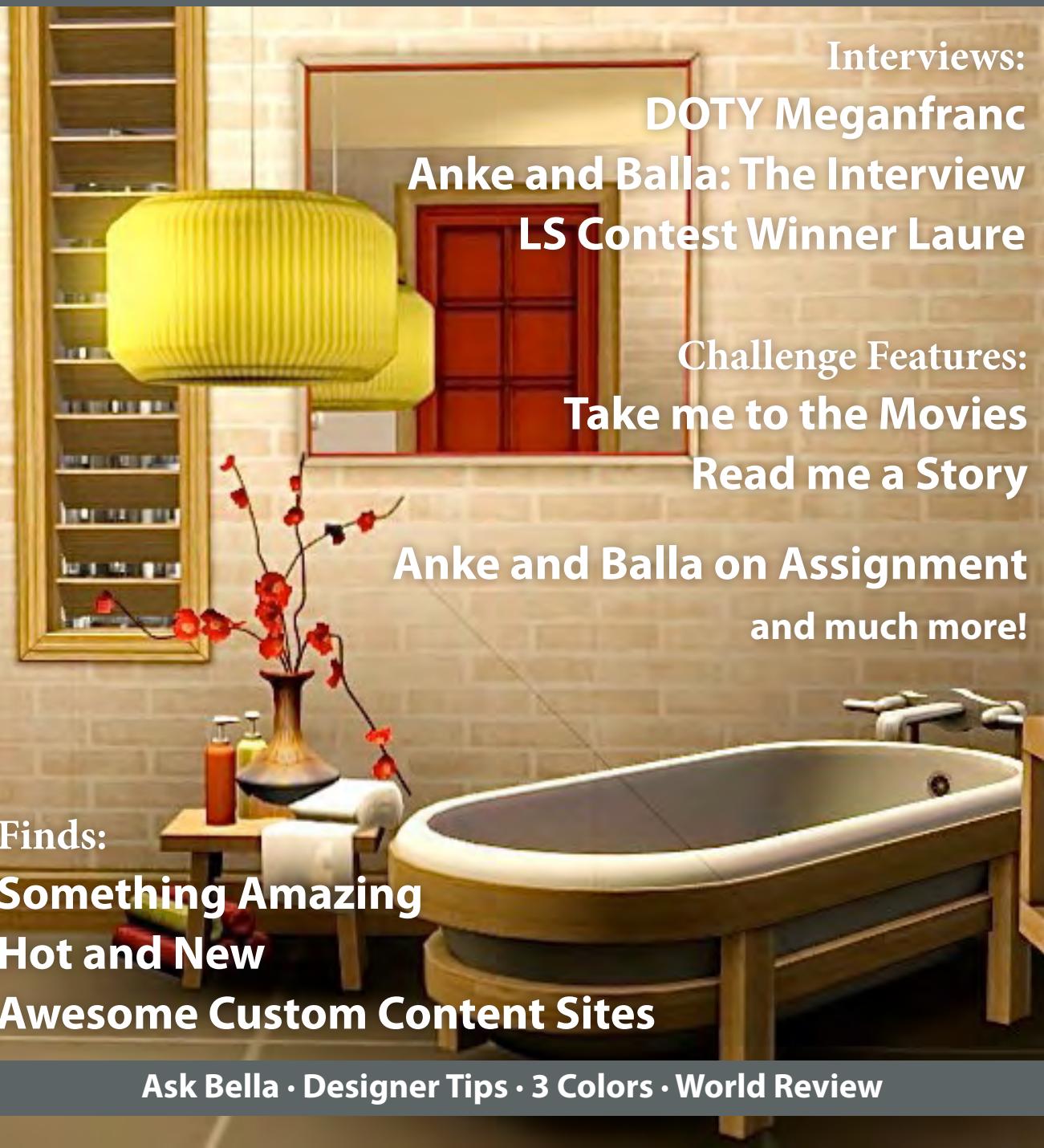


# LIVING Sims

The Sims Magazine for more style



Interviews:

**DOTY Meganfranc**

**Anke and Balla: The Interview**

**LS Contest Winner Laure**

Challenge Features:

**Take me to the Movies**

**Read me a Story**

**Anke and Balla on Assignment**

and much more!

Finds:

**Something Amazing**

**Hot and New**

**Awesome Custom Content Sites**

**Ask Bella • Designer Tips • 3 Colors • World Review**

# Editorial

## Summer Buzz

It's been a hubbub of activity here at LivingSims. We have hired some new staff and with new staff come new energy. Ideas are flying around left, right and centre and we love it! The creativity and dedication amongst our staff never ceases to astound me. No matter how busy people's schedules are, they are always willing to jump in with a helping hand when needed. For this I am very grateful. A very special thank you to both the newbies and the oldies!

For most of us, lazy summer days are ahead. We have another issue full of delights for you to enjoy while lounging in your sun chair. The release of Generations has inspired an article on several generations living under one roof. We will also take you on a private tour of Landgraab Manor and go on an incredible journey with a house through the decades. And as usual, there is a terrific selection of finds and designer tips for you and much more.

I hope the summer brings you much sun, lots of time with family and friends and plenty of fizzy drinks!

Enjoy your summer, and the magazine.

*Macthekat*



Sunset Valley Department of Public Health  
reminds you to always make sure your infant  
is properly secured inside your vehicle.



Sunset Valley Department of Public Health

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NB

all finds have a direct link to the website where you can download the object



Sims 2 related article



Sims 3 related article



RENAULT  
Z.E.

drive it, feel it, live it



100 % electric car 100 % ecological 100 % yours

# 3 Colors: Spring into Summer

The cool days of spring have left us, and in their place are the hot but fun-filled days of summer. Soft pastels are giving way to bright yellows and vibrant greens, and cotton candy pink has been replaced by fire-engine red. The common perception is that exchanging cool colors for livelier shades and tints is the natural order of things when it comes to the change in seasons. Living Sims' designers are anything but common.

This issue we're going to focus on an unexpected combination of colors: fuchsia, blue, and red. One would not find it strange to see the pairing of fuchsia with blue; they're both cool colors that complement the other nicely. In this instance, the living, dining, and kitchen area use fuchsia as the base color - a color that pulls your chosen scheme of colors together.

Let's take a look at the kitchen first. Our palette works its deceptive charm in a space that, when in full use, can be rather warm.

Walls colored in a soft, antique fuchsia almost appear to put a sheltering arm around the heart of this home. They define the boundaries of the space while the blue cabinets bring a touch of coolness to an otherwise warm kitchen. Brick-red seating offers a nice 'pop' of color for the eyes, and the designer used a brilliant white for the counters, effectively balancing the darker colors in the room. The dark wood floor grounds the room and reinforces the depth of the space.





Next up, we have the dining area. Blue dominates the dining area and makes its presence known. A tweak in the color scheme makes this primary shade the principal focus here. From the dark blue of the wood flooring and the metallic blue of the seating to the voluminous window accents, the frosty blue color ensures that this modern dining nook is coolly elegant in its charm. Still, there are hints of our supplementary colors; and one should note that both the fuchsia covered walls and the small burst of red in the centerpiece work in tandem to provide a needed visual break for the eyes.

Last, but never least, we have the living room - the one place in the house that most guests are likely to see. This space takes on a different dynamic than the kitchen or dining area: its focal color is red, and liberal doses of the color add a nice zing to an otherwise laid-back atmosphere. A broader use of neutral shades like beige, tan, and off-white helps to tone down the vibrant brick red without subtracting from the brighter shade. While fuchsia and blue are still in the running, it's the red accent pillows

and living chairs that give the space a certain summery spice.

Living Sims designers are always looking for different and fun, new ways to showcase their spaces. One of the easiest ways to make a creative space is to pick an unusual blend of colors. The oddest duo or trio of colors can transform an ordinary space or bland furnishings into something new and vibrant. Never be afraid to take on the conventions of design: you just may luck up on the 'it' trend of the season!

#A65A7A

#476993

#C32B35





IMAGINE having a kitchen whose quality is both  
INSIDE and OUT

**SVANE**  
KØKKENET



# SOMETHING *Amazing*

This season, the creators in the Sims 3 community have been industrious! They have released plenty of goodies for you to have. So if you need to furnish your sims' holiday home, or simply wish to redecorate their home, then take a look and grab this selection of items we've gathered for you! Happy simming!

*Text & Photos by Sebausten*



B5Studio

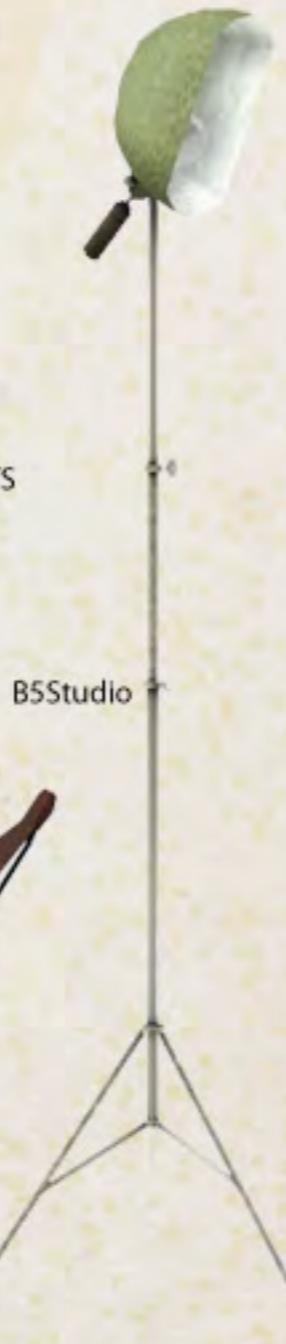
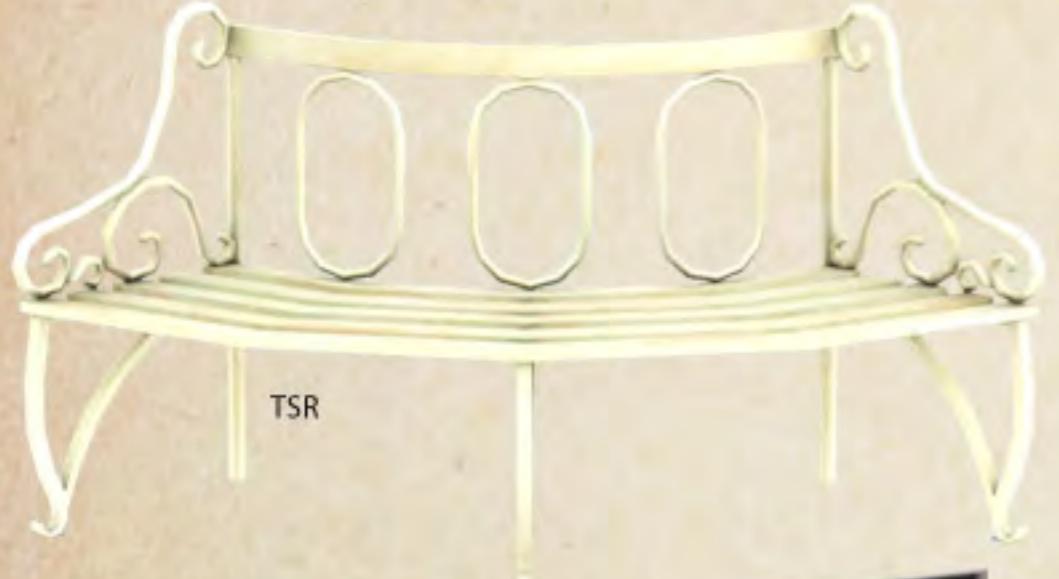
Cr閐a Sims 3

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Alkea\_Guinea at  
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**MADE TO TAKE ON THE MOST**  
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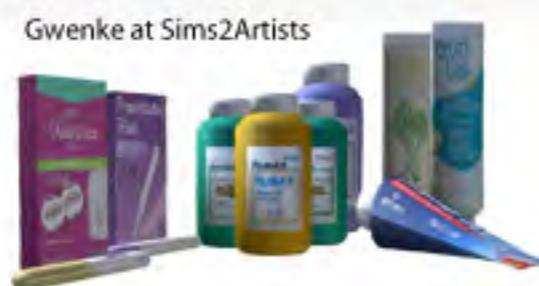
Also available is an Audio Pack, including an Audio system - with radio and 6-disc in-dash CD changer, auxiliary input and 6 speakers with audio system.

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Evanesco at GoS

photos by moxxa



Engelchen at Al4Sims





## Ask Bella

Article & Photographs by Velvet & LilyBox

Dear Bellas,

I was recently accepted into the university of my dreams and find that life has suddenly become a lot more stressful. My bedroom has ceased to be a place for me to relax. Most of the decorations are all made up of my mom's old things and it just isn't me! The wallpaper needs to be replaced with something less "grandma-ish" and I'd love to incorporate bold colors into my furniture. How can I make my bedroom a place that allows me to chill, sleep and get my school work done?

Thanks,  
Stressed Out Student



Before photographs





## *Dear Stressed Out Student,*

The advent of university life and the headaches it can entail are bound to make life a bit more stressful. Relieving some of that stress, as much as you're able to undertake yourself, can be a relatively simple thing. A good first step toward a less stressful you is to recreate your room to fit you instead of your mother.

There are a few key things you can do and it shouldn't cost you very much (I know it's important to count your pennies while in school). First, you're in desperate need of a new light source – the one you have is not enough. The

dim lighting is conducive to eye-strain and can affect your mood for the worse. Adding a few task lights or replacing the light fixture you have will help immeasurably in lifting your spirits.

Next, tear off the wallpaper (it's definitely seen better days)! I see an interesting texture beneath the fraying cover. If I'm right, and it is a neutral wall texture hiding underneath, it will make a perfect backdrop for those bold colors you want to incorporate into your new space.

Alright, now for the really fun part – bringing in the color! "Grandma-ish" is as good a term as any to describe your bedroom furniture but, let's not be too hasty in throwing everything on





the trash heap. I see some interesting pieces in a few of your snap shots. I believe that rather plain nightstand and chair have true potential for a bit of refurbishing. There's nothing a little paint-in-a-can won't fix. Go to any major warehouse store, furniture barn or crafts store and browse the shelves in the home paint section. You'll be surprised at the selection of choices that are rather inexpensive (especially if you want to avoid buying a whole new bedroom suite etc.).

So, you have a better light source, a nice neutral backdrop for your color extravaganza, your personalized color scheme and paint-in-a-can, what's next? Décor items and accessories!

You say you want to chill, relax and study in a personalized space. Nothing frees you up like sectioning – yes, sectioning. You want to section off your room into three zones: sleeping, studying and relaxing. Designate each space by using furniture items and accessories unique to its function. You already have a bed for sleeping,

a desk for studying (although I advise a more utilitarian and modern one but only if it's in your budget) but what about relaxation? Bean bags, floor cushions, rugs, throws, ottomans and the like all scream 'me time'. You can mix things up a bit as well by trading that desktop for a laptop – computers are good for more than writing dissertations and essays! Can't you just picture yourself lying in bed or propped up on a cushion cruising the information highway or chatting with your friends?

Ah, one last thing before we declare victory; you have got to get rid of that mirror. Yes, it's reminiscent of the by-gone days of prom fittings and dancing in front of the mirror in your jammies but, you're in college now and that floor space can be used for something more interesting and useful, like a clothes hamper – you'll stress less with that pile out of sight.

Here's wishing you fun, stress-free university days!

Best Wishes, *Bella*

TIME FOR BED  
BRIDGEPORT

THE HOME OF EXCLUSIVE & LUXURIOUS HANDCRAFTED BEDS

# Designer Tips

Summer is here, and for some the living is easy. But for others the season can kickstart a decorating itch that needs to be scratched. Are you low on ideas? Fear not! The LivingSims staff is here with some creative tips for your home and garden, so you can make the most of the sunny days and the romantic, sultry nights.

*Article by Deelightful*

*Photographs by Chicagostorm, Kementari, Oumamea, Moxxa, Lylim6, SimsFvr, Erica, Bschn, Tanpeaches & BrooklynnRose*

## White on White

White on white doesn't always have to be sterile. Work with different shades to accomplish a lovely, warm feel.



**Staircase as Room Divider**  
Who says a staircase can't be placed in the middle of a room? It creates an attractive focal point while simultaneously working as a room divider.

## Fireplace Outside

For those chilly summer nights, create some warmth by simply adding a fireplace to your patio.

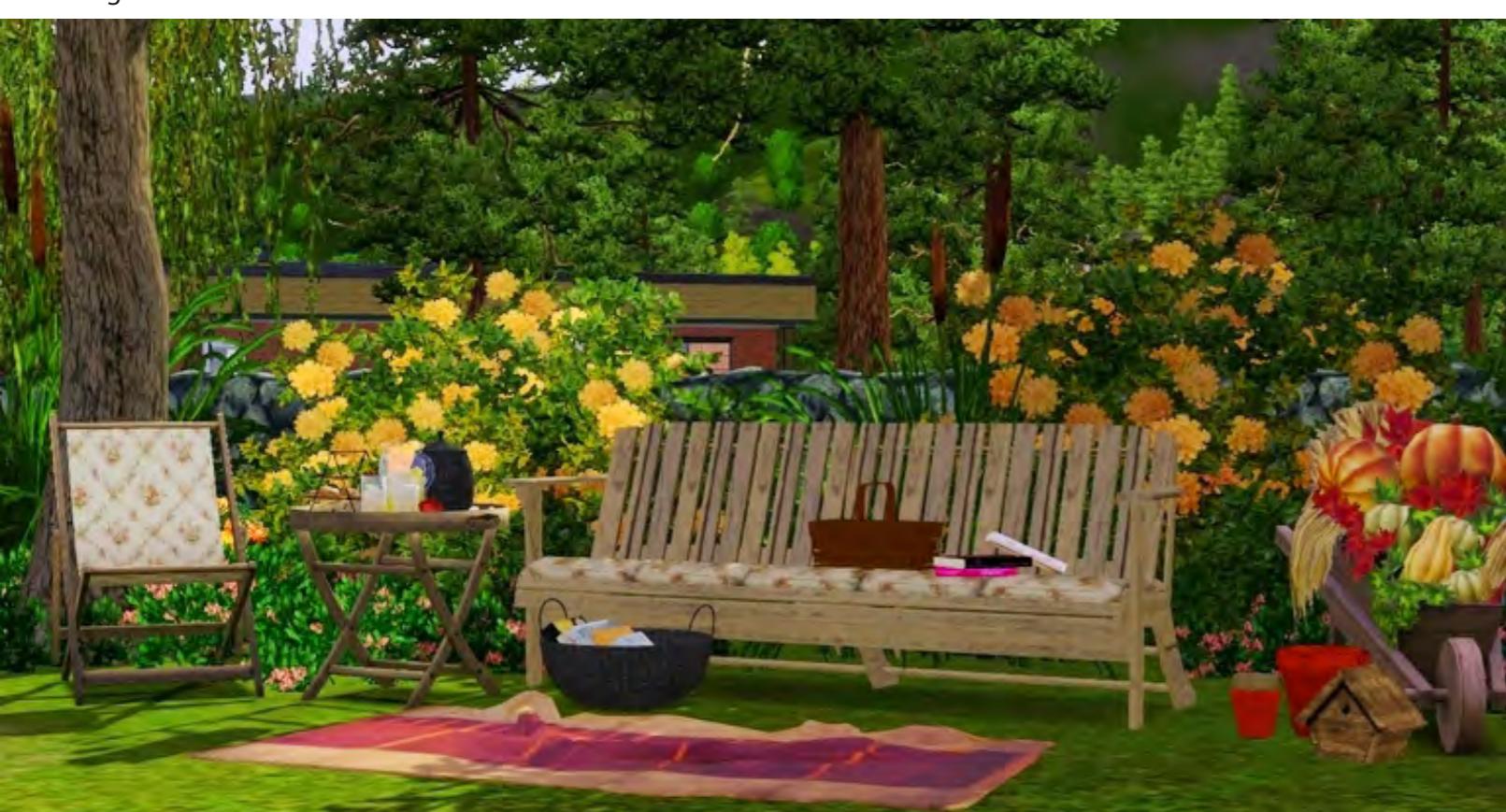
## Soft Bedroom

Bright colors aren't the only colors that can make a space special; sometimes neutral tones are the way to go. Soft pastels, whites, and rustic colors are just as welcoming and attractive as the brightest reds or greens.



## Clutter Outdoor

Don't be afraid to use clutter in your gardens to give it more of a realistic touch.



## Funky Colors

Use funky and bright colors to create a colorful and fun space. Your toddler will love you for it.



## Simply Stunning

Keep your room looking clean and simple to make the most out of a stunning view.



## Manly and Pink

Pink does not always have to be girly. Little touches here and there can brighten up even the manliest pad.

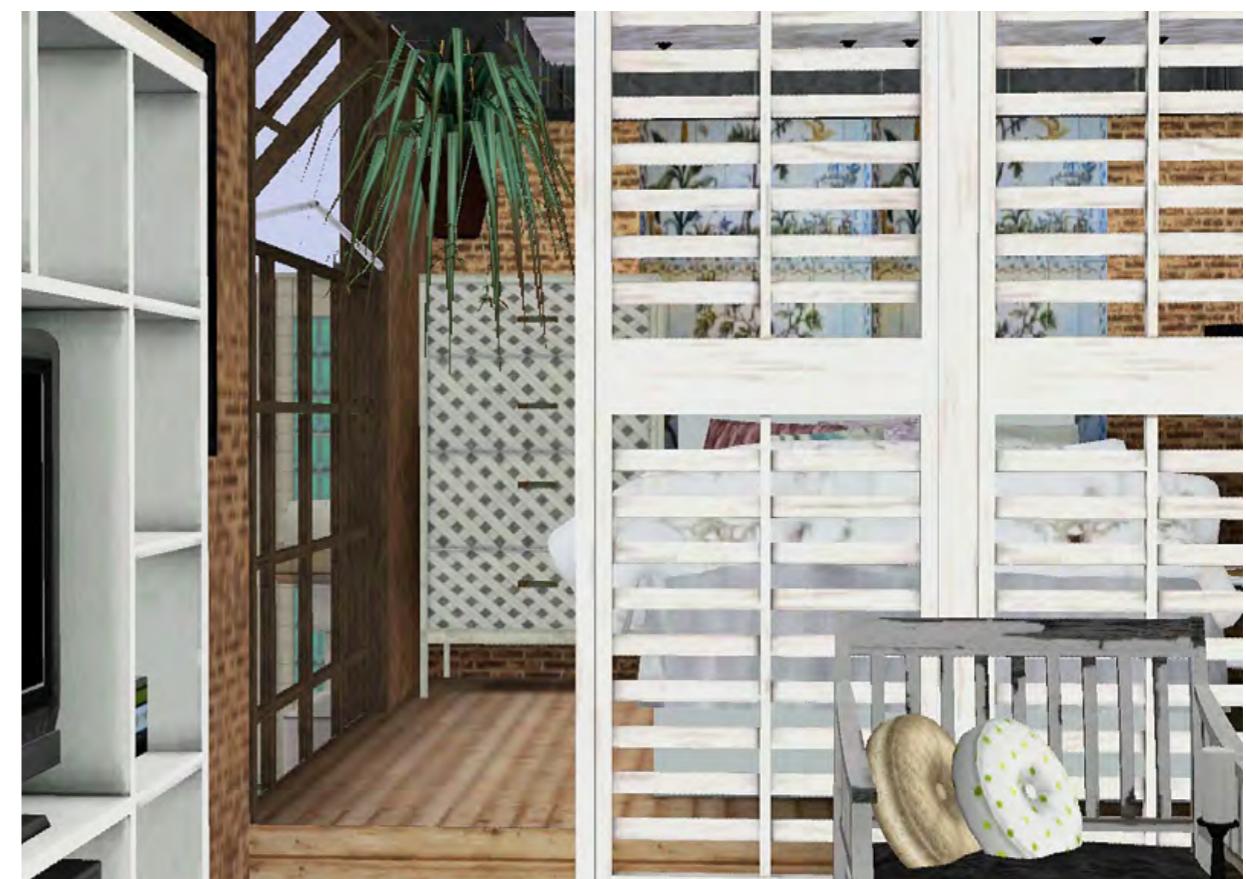


## Splash of Yellow

Bring that summer feeling into your home and brighten up your room with a daring splash of yellow.

## Private Stage

Use the stagetool and screens to create a private space without losing the open floor plan feel.



### Things that speak for themselves

A couch is not just a couch. It is the center of your living room. Its style establishes the room and sets the mood. Because a couch is more than a couch, you should invest in one you love and one you will cherish; one that will remind you of all the good times and one that will support you during the bad ones. At Eilersen, we know how to make a couch just for you.



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Eilersen has combined innovation and tradition since we started our company in 1895. We are committed to bringing you the best products we can make. Let Eilersen's craftsmanship and modern design light up your home. Our passion for high quality handmade products and modern sleek design has made us a leader in furniture production worldwide. We

# Anke and Balla on Assignment:

Article by Ballarose  
Photographs by Ankuuh

## Day Care Nightmare



Hi girls, I just got off the phone with the community daycare centre in Twinbrook. They have now completed the renovations to their building and rooms, so I have set up an interview with them. Remember to bring the camera; we don't want it to end up like that time with the farm do we? You might have to help a bit with the kids as most of the staffers are away at an early childhood education conference, but I am sure you don't mind. It will give the article a genuine feel.

Good luck!

Macthekat  
LivingSims Editor-in-Chief



"Anke, can you handle this one on your own? I think I am going to have a migraine tomorrow." Balla raised her hand dramatically to her forehead. It was no secret around the Living-Sims offices that Balla and kids do not mesh, and she would go to any extremes to avoid contact with the "little snot muffins," as she liked to call them. The fact that Mac gave this assignment to her and Anke did not surprise Balla, and she pictured Mac giggling madly behind her computer screen as she fired off the e-mail.

"You'll be fine Balla. It sounds like it will be a pretty easy and quick assignment. We will get you in and out of there lickety-split, and I will protect you. Let's head over to the Library and get some background info, and then I'll take you out for a drink...or three."

The next morning, they pulled up in front of Twinbrook Little Learners Community Day Care Centre. Only 8 months ago it was an abandoned brownstone destined for the wrecking ball; but, with the hard work of the community

and funding from the municipality, the building was transformed into a state-of-the-art day care centre. The Centre provides care and support for children ages 6 months to 5 years.

"Kill me...kill me now," Balla said, as she pulled a bottle of aspirin from her purse and tossed three in her mouth. Last night's intention of getting Balla's mind off things was not such a good plan after all. Three drinks were shortly followed by several rounds of tequila shots, and now both Anke and Balla were paying the price in the form of raging hangovers.

The girls were welcomed by Marissa Brighton, Director of the Centre. A slight young woman, she shook their hands firmly and led them into a room.

"This is our main activity room," she told us. We have an area where the younger babies can be fed in comfort. Also, many wonderful stories are read to settle down little ones. Parents and staff can also get together here and just chat. We have quite a collection of parenting videos and books which they are welcome to view here or sign out. Let me go get us some tea, and I will be right back."



The room's primary color was blue, and an entire wall was devoted to a bookshelf which housed everything from fairy tales to parenting books. One area had a comfy sofa, armchairs and even a flat screen TV. It looked more like someone's cozy and well lived in living room. The rest of the room had activity tables, musical instruments and various toys. Balla muttered out loud that she thought it was pretty weird that they used wallpaper with martini glasses on it for a day care centre.

"You know...you really have a one track mind," Anke giggled. "Those are whimsical little space-like creatures; can't you see their little feet?" Just then Marissa returned with a tray of steaming hot tea, and we proceeded with our interview.

"One year ago this building housed squatters and drug users. It was a scary place. Today it is filled with the sounds of children playing, laughing, and of course sometimes crying. It is so full of life and love now."

We were impressed with how quiet it was and mentioned that the soundproofing must be excellent.



Marissa laughed, saying it is not usually this quiet and that the children were out on a field trip to the zoo. Balla let out an audible sigh of relief and said something about how unfortunate it was that they would not be able to meet the children.

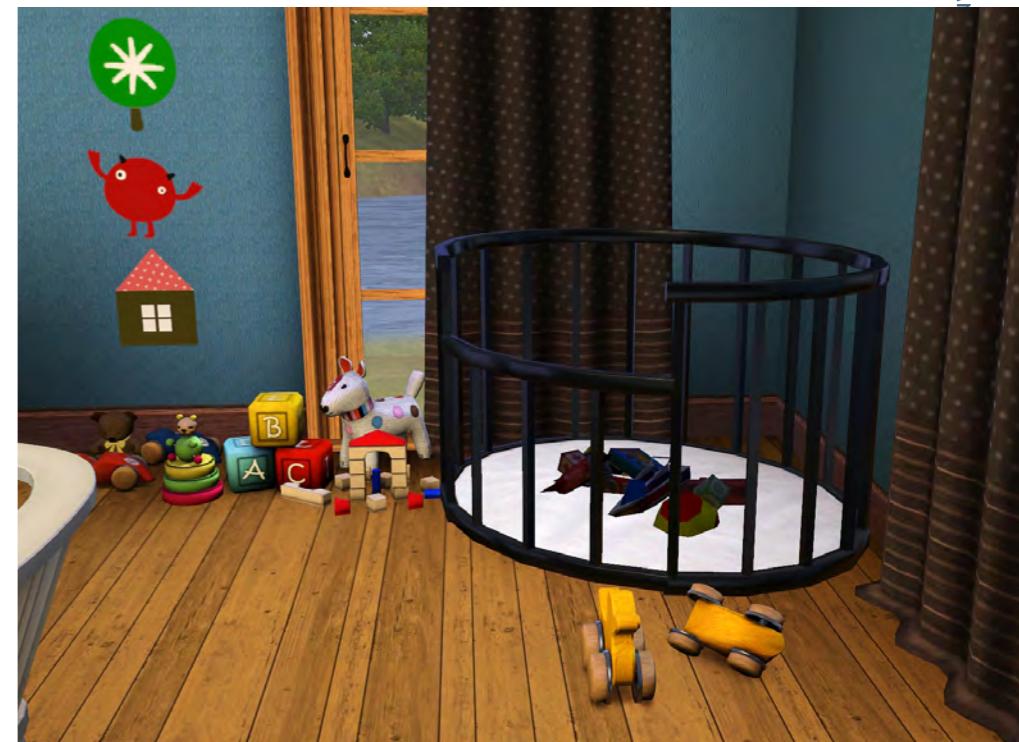
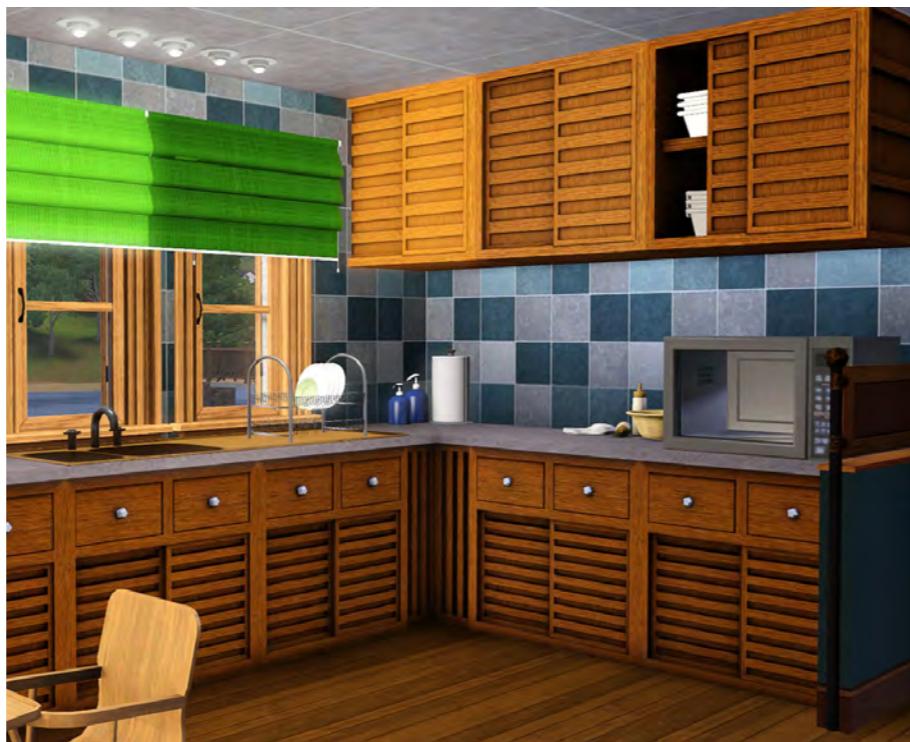
"Oh but you will get to meet some of the children," Marissa said. "Most of them are being dropped off at home; but we have a few children whose parents work a little late, so they will be brought back here." Balla opened her mouth to say something, but Anke shot her a look that immediately shut her up. "Let's take a quick tour," Marissa said.

The first stop on the tour was the infant and toddler nap room. One wall was papered in an adorable, colourful aquatic theme and cribs were lined up against the wall with musical mobiles over the top of them. The room was noticeably absent of any curtains or carpeting, and Marissa explained that this was for hygienic reasons.

"Some of the children have pretty severe allergies. We also have a special dryer, and each night all the stuffed animals are put in there on high heat for 20 or so minutes to get rid of any dust and bacteria that have accumulated during the day."

Next stop was the arts and crafts room which also doubled as the lunch room. Colourful artwork created by the children graced the walls, and there was a small partial kitchen conveniently located nearby where messes could quickly be cleaned up and lunches and snacks prepared.

The interview over, Balla looked visibly relieved that they had managed to finish it before the children returned. She thanked Marissa for her time and scurried to gather everything together and bolt out the door.



"Hang on ladies," Marissa laughed. "Here are the kids now, and Mac made me promise that you would have some alone time with them so that the article would have a real and authentic feel. She assured me that you two have plenty of experience with children and are naturals. I have a couple of business calls to make, so I will be back in about 20 minutes. Have fun!"

The look of sheer terror on Balla's face cracked Anke up. "Honestly Balla, don't you think you are over-reacting just a bit? It's only 20 minutes out of your life. I'm sure you will survive."

No sooner did the words come out of Anke's mouth than kid chaos erupted. Anke quickly jumped in and tried to take control while Balla stood in the middle of the room, looking for an escape route. Hopped up on cotton candy and junk food, the kids were zipping around the room like raving lunatics. There was ankle biting, snot smearing and lots of stinky pants... pretty much Balla's worst nightmare.

"Anke! Look! They have cages!" Anke turned around to see what the heck Balla was talking about and collapsed in fits of laughter when she realized Balla was referring to the playpens.

It seemed to take forever for the 20 minutes to pass; but soon Marissa returned, and they said their goodbyes. As they drove away, Balla told Anke that if she sees another 'kid dump' again it will be too soon.



# Macthekat Gets the Scoop on Anke and Balla

Over the past year or so I have sent Balla and Anke out on many assignments. By now, we all know they have big personalities and have dropped a few clues about themselves along the way. I don't know about you, but I want to know more! I sat the two ladies down on my sofa and didn't let them leave until they answered all of our questions! Now onto the questions.



Pictures by Ankuuh  
Article by Ballarose/Ankuuh/Macthekat/LS Community

From Carlos

I'm glad there is finally a place where I can ask this. Anke, this is for you. I don't know if you remember me, but I'm the guy to whom Santa sent you "to fulfill your every wish" after you helped him save Christmas. We really got along, but you never called me back... Why?

Well Carlos, you know that saying, what happens at Christmas stays at Christmas? That is what the situation is here. Even though I really liked you, and we had some special moments, it was just not meant to be. I mean, we had a great time, but when I got home I forgot your number. And there was this other dude at that rock bar anyway. The thing is, I hope you got it together and have moved on because I did, and maybe we will meet again next Christmas. I, for one, would not find it a problem to have you under my Christmas tree.

From Sebausten

Well girls, we've been working together for some time now; me staying at the office while you lucky girls are sent on adventures by our beloved Editor in Chief. Yet I've always wondered, how did you two meet? How did you become so inseparable? Tell me everything! Oh and please, next time you go on an assignment, bring me back something and you shall both have a cookie.

Well Seb, we met at college. Anke was studying photography, and I was studying journalism. We clicked immediately, started working on school projects together and quickly found out we made a great team and had fun together to boot. There was only one internship available at LivingSims Magazine, and we both applied. There was lots of begging and tears involved, and that one internship turned into two...and the rest is history.

Did you say cookies? We will do pretty much anything for cookies, so keep your eyes out for a little surprise sometime in the future.

From Ninoochat

I'm new here, so I don't know you guys very well. My question is what is the best thing you learned in this past year? Such a lame question, sorry.

Not a lame question at all. We have learned so much and keep learning every day, but some of the most important things we've learned are:

1) Always keep a fully packed suitcase handy. You never know when your next assignment will be and how quickly you will need to fly out the door.

2) It is really easy and kind of fun to annoy Mac.

3) Never ever let a boy try to get between you and your BFF. There will be blood and, guaranteed, the boy will lose. Some have tried and have suffered for it.

4) The most important thing we learned is that there really is a Santa Claus. He is awesome, but that's all we can say. We have been sworn to secrecy.



From Kementari

Have either of you thought about settling down and starting a family? And if so is there someone "special" in your life that you're keeping from us?

**Anke:** No settling down any time soon. I'm young and want way too much to really settle down just yet. But, yes, one day for sure.

**Balla:** I am having way too much fun to settle down, and there are no kids in my future. They annoy me. Anke doesn't know this yet, but I plan to live with her for the rest of my life...well unless she has kids. Then I'll find my own place.

From Amoebyte

Which country would you like to visit the next time you have enough simoleons saved up? And name one souvenir you'd like to bring back, and why you chose it please!

**Anke:** Bahamas, baby! I want myself a lovely man souvenir, so I would be finding a way to bring back some hunky Bahamian.

**Balla:** I want to go somewhere where there are lots of tropical jungles to explore, and my souvenir would be a totally legally acquired parrot...oh, and of course cool patterns for Anke.



From Kementari

I see you recently moved into a new house by the beach? How are you loving it? Are you both becoming beach bums? Most importantly, when is the house warming party!?

Well, unfortunately our first beach house had a little fire disaster. But we re-built, so now we are beach bums whenever we get the chance. As far as a house warming party, our door is always open, so come on by...bring cookies.

From Hollywood Sims

When did you guys realize that simming was your passion? What brought you to the community?

Your question confuses us. What is this simming community you speak of? Is there something we should know? Should we be afraid?

Before I finalize this interview, I have one more question which has been driving me crazy. What is the deal with that goat?

While on assignment in Dubai, I was approached by a man, and he offered me 33 camels for Anke. I told him to give me a goat and we've got a deal. Anke was not impressed. He showed up at the hotel the next day with the cutest little goat; and, when he realized I wasn't being serious, he wanted to take the goat back and turn it into Sunday dinner. How we got the goat out of Dubai is top secret, but I can tell you that having friends in high places sure helps. Poopsy now lives happily with us on the beach.





# The Dandelion & Crown

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# As You Make Your Bed 1 Room, 1 Bed, 5 Styles

Decorating a bedroom to suit your sim can sometimes give you a headache. There are so many things to take into account such as the colour of the walls, the choice of furniture, accessories and so on. More often than not, especially if we want to play and not spend three hours decorating, we end up leaving the room minimally furnished and decorated. Well, it doesn't have to be so difficult. With simple tips and tricks, you, too, can give your bedroom a great look with minimal effort. Our designer Kiare has done the test for you, working with a white room and a simple bed and adding small touches to give the room character.

Article by: Sebausten  
Photographs by: Kiare





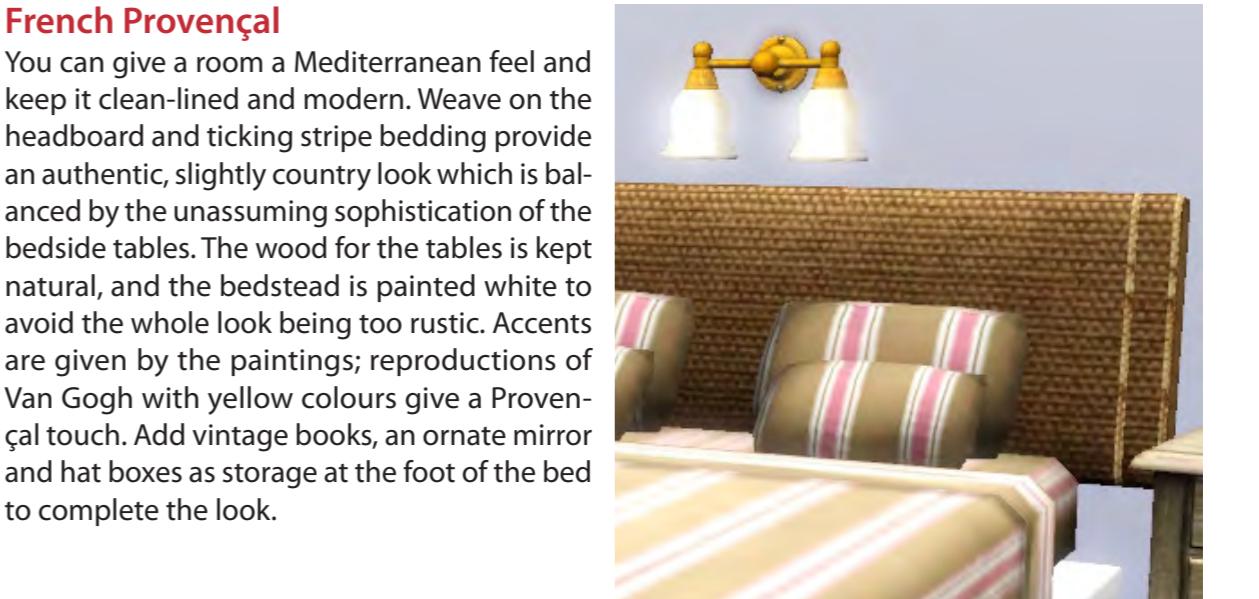
### Asian Zen

To achieve a Zen feel to the bedroom, our designer chose earthy colours and natural woods. In order to stick to the Asian idea, the chestnut brown bedspread displays Chinese styled medallions in pure white. The graphic orchid and the calligraphy mural sticker above the bed provide red and hot pink accents while a black and white floral print on the side wall adds character without overpowering the room. Add in the finishing touches like cobbles on the nightstand and a pair of Japanese geta to complete the Zen look.



### French Provençal

You can give a room a Mediterranean feel and keep it clean-lined and modern. Weave on the headboard and ticking stripe bedding provide an authentic, slightly country look which is balanced by the unassuming sophistication of the bedside tables. The wood for the tables is kept natural, and the bedstead is painted white to avoid the whole look being too rustic. Accents are given by the paintings; reproductions of Van Gogh with yellow colours give a Provençal touch. Add vintage books, an ornate mirror and hat boxes as storage at the foot of the bed to complete the look.





### Coastal Chic

Light blue in different shades is the way to go to achieve a coastal look. Stripes, both on the headboard and the bedsheets, contribute to that look. Red accents the room, and the declining monochrome of blue gives it a dynamic without overpowering it. The coastal theme continues with the choice of accessories like the miniature lighthouse on the bedside table or the worn-looking vintage clock. Yet coastal chic needs chic touches! This has been achieved by our designer through the baroque chandelier decal above the bed and the collage artwork on the wall.



### Sleek Boyish

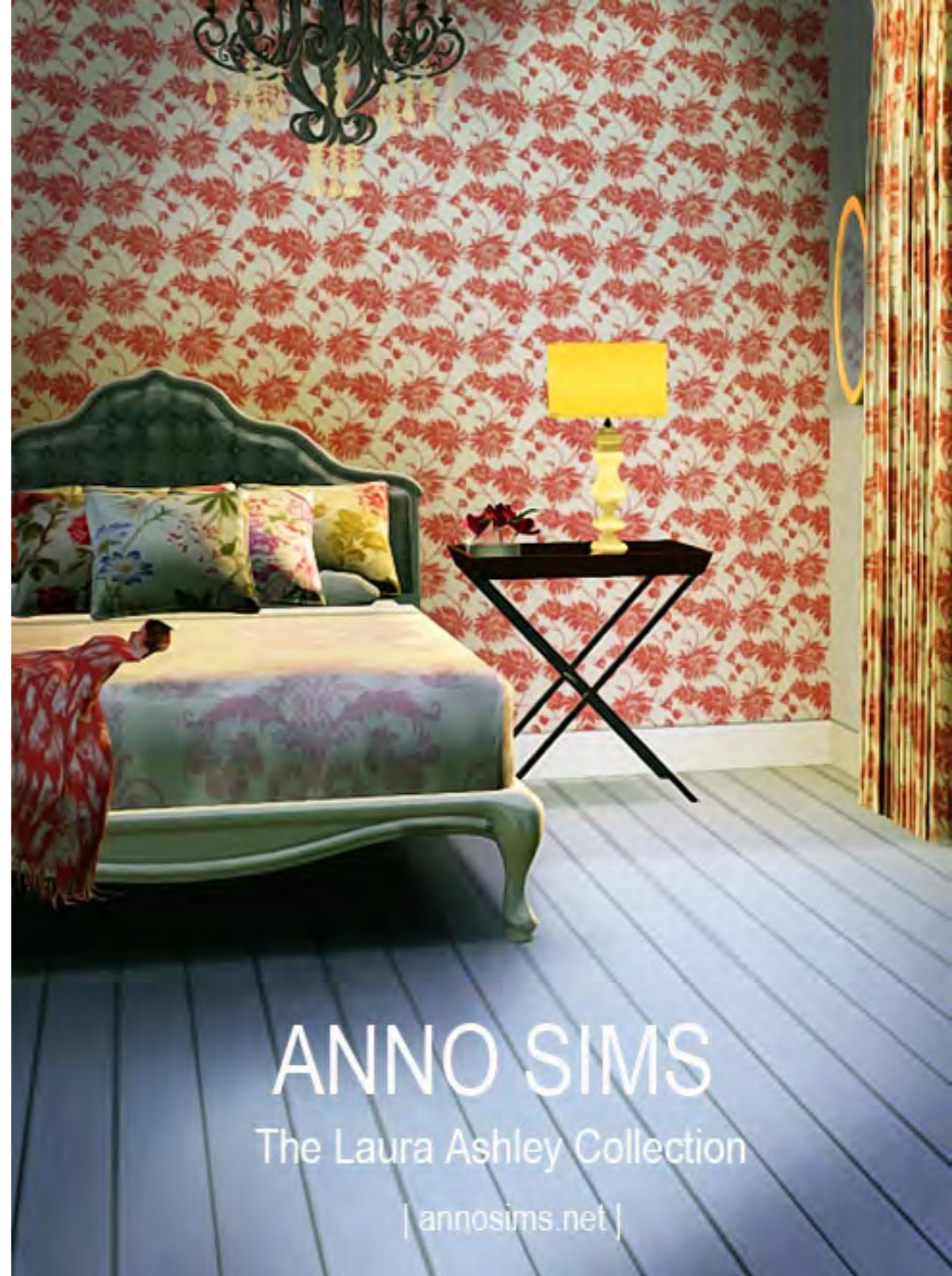
"No frills" and modernity are the keywords for this room. The bed is given a modern look with the contrasting white headboard and dark brown bedstead, which is mirrored in the bedside table, while the bedding displays a graphic geometrical pattern that subtly sets the tone. The carefully chosen artwork gives the room its character; the painting above the bed adds the accent colour while the black and white print on the sidewall adds a slightly geeky touch that aptly fits a man's room.



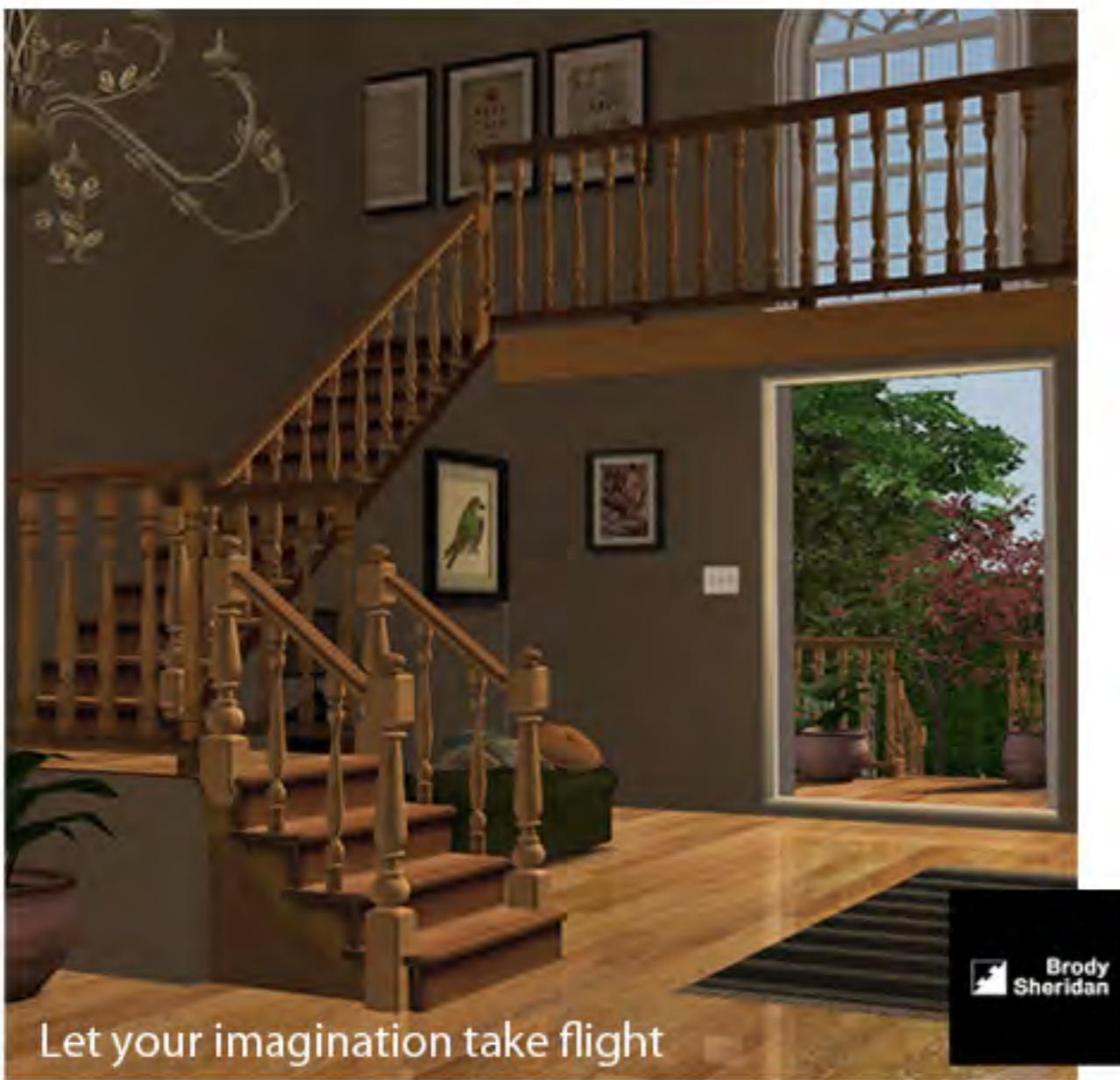


### Fashionista Girly

Pink, clutter and swirling shapes are the way to go for your girly fashionista sim. To avoid the "fairy tale princess" look, go for a bolder shade of pink. The white-on-fuchsia patterned bedspread is mirrored by the fuchsia-on-white decal that runs to the ceiling. Since this feature makes a bold statement in the room, our designer chose to keep the rest of the furniture plain white. Another statement is the golden baroque chandelier which adds a touch of sophisticated femininity. The beauty and fashion clutter scattered on the tables and on the ground adds the lived-in feel that such a room needs.



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# EASY AS 1,2,3: DESIGNING A NURSERY

*Article by Eronoel | Photos by Catvonpaxton*

Inviting a new little one into your home is a special time, so why not prepare a special place for him or her filled with whimsy, fun, and love? Still, from making sure that you have all the outlets covered to embracing practicality along with style, preparing a home for your new child can be daunting. So we are going to introduce you to three families, their great nursery designs, and some useful tips. Grab the paint, drop those preconceptions, and get ready to have fun – we are going to decorate a nursery!



## Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice

After having five boys, Maria and Fred Phillips were thrilled to find out that they were expecting a girl. Maria transformed the guest room into a whimsical room for her daughter. Maria's baby room is a great example of a variation on the traditional girl's room. Using a dusty pink for the walls announces the gender of the child, but eclectic touches like the lobster rug bring a modern touch to the design.

- Increase storage by using hanging baskets and shelving. Babies require a lot of stuff from toys to diaper wipes, so pre-planning plenty of storage will make it easier to keep your child's room clean and still leave plenty of crawl space on the floor.
- Include touches of unique wallpaper to add whimsy. If you have a design that you just love, but it is too loud for the rest of the baby's room, use it on one wall or one segment of the wall.
- Don't be afraid to re-use old adult furniture. As long as the furniture is safe, you can easily incorporate it into your nursery design. Various furniture types help create an eclectic look and avoid the design looking overly "matchy." Also, adult furniture will grow with your child without having to replace it.





## Snips and Snails, and Puppy Dog Tails

Tiffany and Tom Milward were ecstatic when they found out they would be adopting a little boy. Immediately after they found out, they started to re-decorate their computer room into a comfortable and peaceful room for their new baby. Their baby room, which has a slightly rustic feel to it, embraces dark, rich colors and woods.

- Don't feel like you have to be confined to traditional "baby" colors. Dark, rich colors can make a great baby room. Just be sure to off-set the dark by using light furniture, rugs or curtains.
- Make yourself a comfortable place in the room. When the child is an infant, their room is as much a place for you as for your baby. To encourage bonding, create a special place for you to sit comfortably with your baby. Add some colorfully designed pillows for a little style.

## A Little Bit for Everyone

Callie and Matt Chang are expecting their first child. Even though they know the gender, they don't want to use color or design to start classifying their child before it is born, so they haven't told anyone else. They decided to design the nursery in gender neutral fashion, with white wood walls and hints of orange and green.

- Instead of buying a changing station, use some old counters or a desk and transform it into a changing table and storage unit.
- Keep your design simple. As exciting as the birth of your child is, remember that the room will need to grow and age with them. If you have a simple theme, it will be easier to add and subtract items as the child ages rather than having to completely renovate and re-wallpaper each time your sweetie has a birthday.
- Re-think storage. Create some whimsical decorations by using a planter to show off teddy bears or some vintage hat boxes to store crayons. As long as they are baby proof-able and safe, you can find a lot of fun storage solutions at your local flea market.



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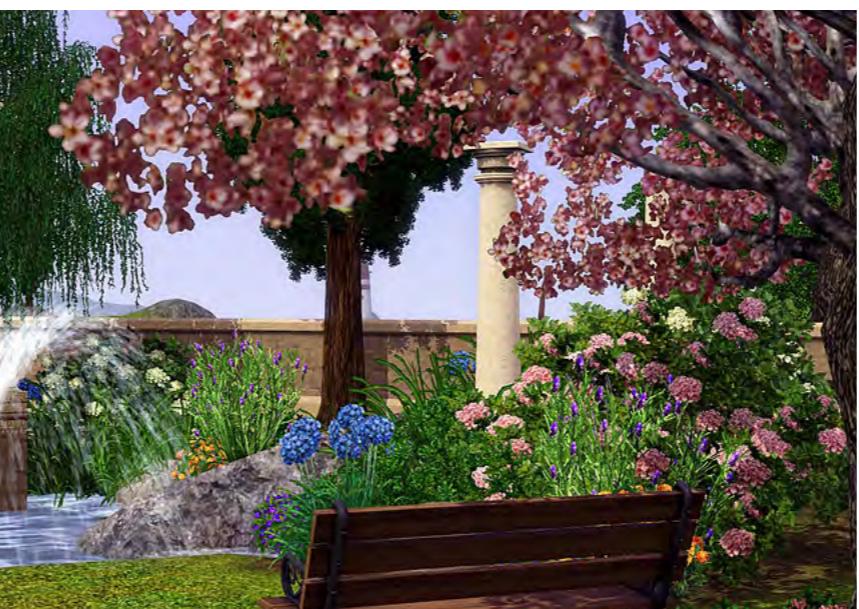
Mansion available for download | [Click here](#)



After months of gossip in Sunset Valley, the huge building site walls are finally down, and we can now ooh and ahhh. When the Landgraabs decide to make over their family mansion, they do it in style! Follow us for an exclusive tour of the latest buzz in the Sunset Valley home design circles and see for yourself.

The chief decorator of the project, Benedikt "Roberto" DeWeir, stated on the Press invitations cards that the Landgraab family wanted to restore their home to its original glory. Indeed, the mansion dates back to the late 1800's. The builders scrapped the plaster and mock Tudor timber to reveal a beautiful brownstone. The Victorian windows were custom made from period drawings by D. Join & Co in Twinbrook, and the result is breathtaking! We now gaze upon a mansion that recalls those of the wealthy magnates that spread their acreages along the Hudson River in New York. After crossing the deliciously landscaped front yard, we were led inside the house.

Mr. DeWeir told us that the family was still away from home, currently on holiday in their château in Champs Les Sims. The Landgraab family holds several properties all around the world; the family is an old one, and their legendary fortune can be traced to ancient, if not always honest, origins. Admiral Malcolm Landgraab I, whose visage is well-known through the portrait reproductions that were all the rage in classic decoration 10 years ago, was a famous buccaneer for the Prince of Orange. He was a famous figure in Barnacle Bay in the 17th century, and the word is that not all of his loot was transported to France when the Bay passed



under British rule in 1792. The wealth passed through the glory of the Industrial Revolution and the making of the Landgraab fortune to the development of Sunset Valley in the 1920s by Kermit Landgraab. The family retained a prominent position in the land and remained under public scrutiny; everyone surely remembers the glamorous and much press-covered wedding of heiress Anne-Margaret "Nancy" Landgraab to Geoffrey Biggett some twenty years ago.

Given the wealth and history of the family, we were not surprised to find their newly decorated interior oozing with an old money, classical feeling. After passing through a dramatic neoclassical two story hall, the living room, with its stone fireplace, exudes good taste without overwhelming the visitor. A neutral colour scheme with accents of blue in the sofas and chairs and the quality, wood-carved furniture contributes to a feeling of comfort.

The same can be said of the dining room. Placed under the sign of wine and good food, a burgundy paint treatment on the walls brings a feeling of warmth and sophistication. A muted

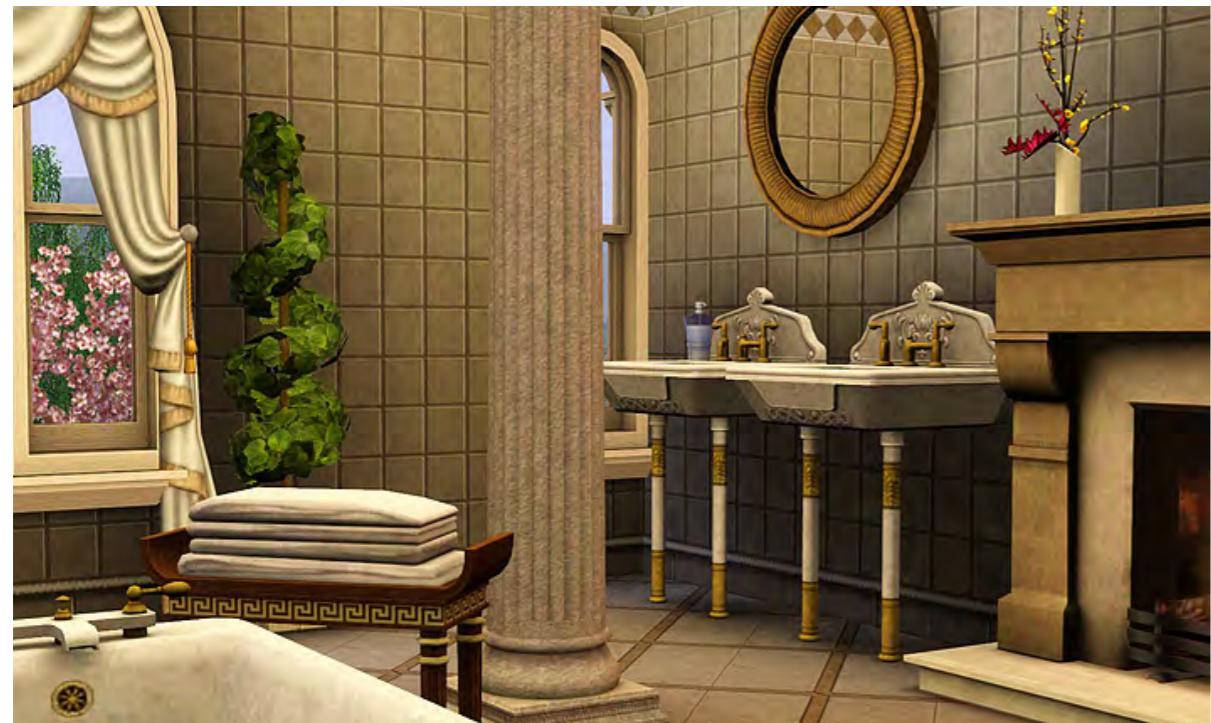
green rug placed under the French dining table and chairs and the vine pattern on the curtains complete this tribute to Bacchus. A wine rack stands on a side wall, waiting for the family to fill it in with bottles from the best Champs Les Sims vintage.

Making a kitchen livable and sophisticated is a tour de force! This has, however, been achieved in this house. Carved, arched frames and high-end fixtures provide sophistica-

tion; but the layout, including the cooking station placed on the breakfast island, shows guests that the kitchen was, first and foremost, designed to be a family space.

Upstairs, the master bedroom, with its purple and gold colour scheme, transports us to an Italian palazzo. The rich fabrics and the softness of the oak furniture make this room the sort of bedroom one would not mind spending a night in.

Before ending our tour, we were given the chance to glimpse the main bathroom which was, for me, the most impressive room in the house. Ionic columns set the tone, signaling that





we were not in just any bathroom. A fireplace contributes to the feeling that this room is more a bath boudoir than a bathroom per se. From the choice of the sinks and tub to the exquisite attention to details, everything invites one to relax in style.

Due to a confidentiality clause regarding the Landgraab family's privacy, we were not allowed to photograph the other rooms in the house;



but from the media room to the offices for both Mr. and Mrs. Landgraab, there is still much to discover and wonder over in this mansion. You may have the chance to be invited and see for yourself, who knows?



# LemonJelly Sims Designs

*Whimsical Patterns*

# A Q and A with LS Contest Winner

Article by Ballarose || Photographs by Laure

LivingSims held a contest where entrants were asked to decorate rooms in an apartment for a family moving to the big city after a job change. There were three rooms in three rounds in their big city apartment. A layout was provided and, after each round, judges scored the entries. The person with the highest score after round 3 would be declared the winner.

The winner was Laure! We sat down with Laure to ask her a few questions so we could get to know this terrific designer just a little bit better.

*Laure*



**Please tell us a little about yourself.**

I live in an unfashionable part of Brooklyn, in a tiny apartment crowded with decor magazines and art books.

**When did you start playing the Sims?**

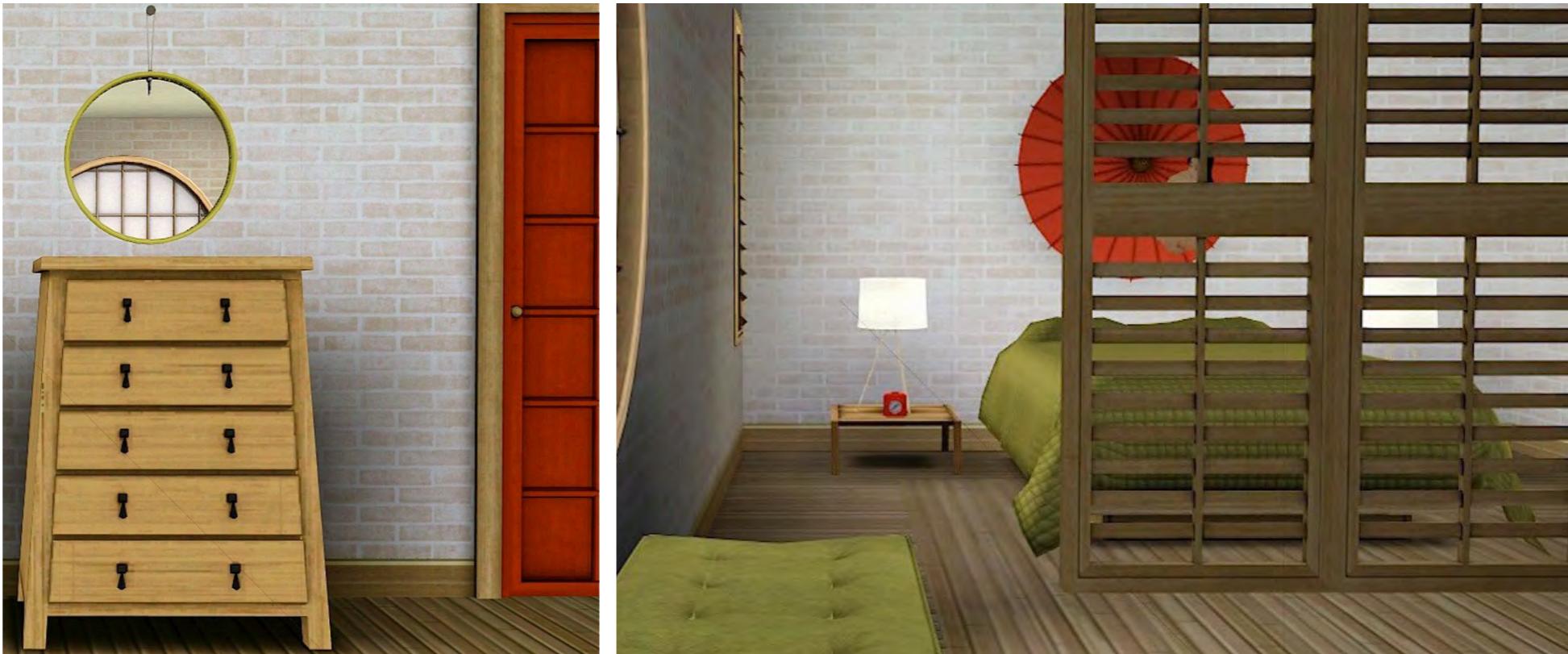
Let me think. It was probably sometime in 2001 - 2002 when I first played the game. I didn't really get "hooked" until the summer of 2003 when I realized that one could make, and then add, custom content to the game.

**What made you enter this contest?**

I love to be challenged. Also, I find having a set of limits or rules imposed forces me to rethink how I do things.

**What did you find hardest in the contest?**

Finding the right balance between the clean lines of the required modern styles and the amount of clutter needed to make the apartment seem like a realistic home of a family of four.



**Where did you find your inspiration for your entries?**

Looking through old Dwell, Metropolitan Home & Domino Magazines and online at sites like Apartment Therapy.

**What have you learned from this contest?**

I was amazed at how different (in a very good way) all the entries were. I spotted a lot of things that I will try to incorporate into the buildings and homes I make for my own game. I especially liked the idea of using the platform tool to create separate spaces within a single room; which was used by several contestants.

**Would you do it again?**

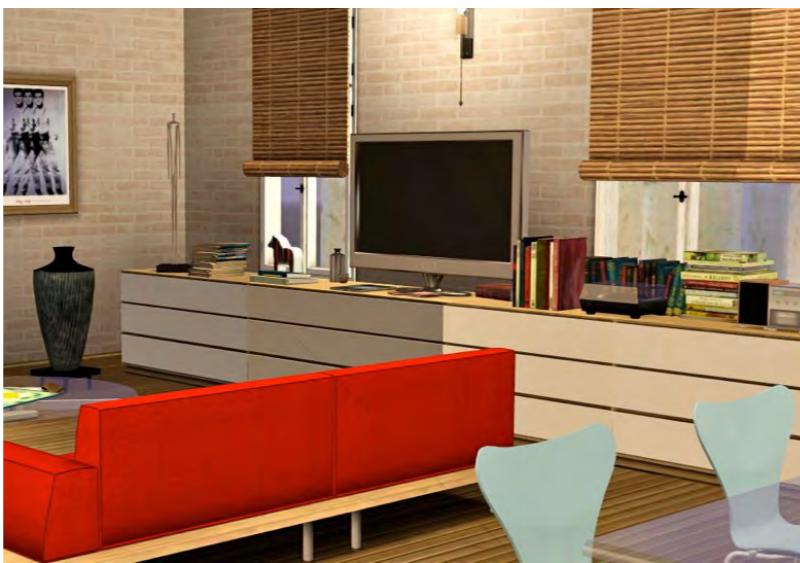
Yes, in a heartbeat.

**What are your 3 tips for our readers?**

**1.** Don't be afraid of using strong colors together. Think back to the mixing of paints we did in our childhood to help you find the right balance. For example, using red and orange is often thought of as a "no, no", but throw in a bit of yellow and you have a classic analogous color scheme.

**2.** To create a more casual "lived in look", place furniture and decorative objects at angles other than 45 and 90 degrees by holding the alt/option key while placing. Conversely, if you want to suggest a very formal living space, keep objects arranged at more regular angles.

**3.** Get your sims to help decorate their own homes. Use the easel's "paint a still life" option and the cameras to have sims make artwork picturing their surroundings. Then add it to their walls. It adds another layer of realism to sims dwellings.



# LEXINGTON

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## AWESOME



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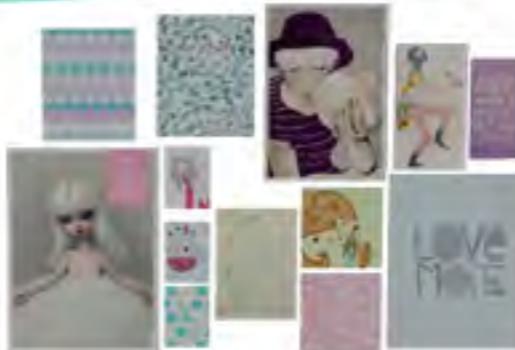
Looking for CC  
Check out these  
unique design ideas

Looking for CC for your Sims2 game?  
Check out these blogs for some truly  
unique design options.

*Text by KitKat & Photos by Felikaish22*

## Strawberry Mousse

Explore the eclectic, feminine CC options from Strawberry Mousse, and you won't be disappointed. The site combines recolors into attractive sets and includes the required meshes when needed. You'll find some fantastic patterns here as well.





## Peace + Unrest

Looking for some funky furnishings with an industrial or retro vibe? The Peace and Unrest blog is the place for you. At Peace and Unrest, you will find recolors of some really fantastic meshes grouped together into striking sets. Download options are interspersed with picture stories of the author's builds which you can draw design inspiration from.



## Salixsims

Salixsims is another Sims2 site with a decidedly vintage, yet funky flair. The recolor choices are fantastic, and the snapshots advertising them are guaranteed to inspire. A few new meshes are offered, including a scrumptious looking piece of chocolate cake and an antique two-tiered tray complete with clutter. Salixsims is definitely a site to watch.



## Nonsensica

Recolors, rugs, wallpapers, and more can be found at Nonsensica's Sims2 blog. Many sets are included in builds such as homes and coffee houses that will keep Pleasantview fresh - or at least caffeinated! Those simmers looking for more traditional Sims2 design options should look no further than Nonsensica.



## Clutteraholic\*

Clutter, lovely clutter! Clutteraholic\* is a decorator's dream. This blog offers an array of new meshes and recolors as well as TS2 conversions of TS3 objects, all of which are sure to become must-haves for you Sims2 interior designers



## Garden Breeze

Garden Breeze offers new meshes and recolors in a variety of types and styles. Whether you're looking for modern or shabby chic, furniture or clutter, or something in between, Garden Breeze is sure to have something to suit your style.

# Rise and Shine:

## *Renovating Twinbrook One House at a Time*

Photographs by Ankuuh

Article by Ballarose

When we saw the advertisement for an open house in Twinbrook, our curiosity went into overdrive. We had visited the town of Twinbrook on several occasions for various LS stories, and there was no way we could begin to imagine the house described in the ad fitting into the swamps of Twinbrook. However, we were soon to be proven wrong. Calling the number in the ad, we arranged for a private tour of the property.

We met up with Rosa Sartorini at her real estate office. She and her husband, Franco, recently transplanted both their home and their real estate/architecture business to Twinbrook to be near Franco's mother, whose health was failing. They had a vision - take one of the most dilapidated and rundown shacks located in the swamps of Twinbrook and transform it into an aesthetic dream. The project was an ambitious one, but they both had faith that, once completed, it would realize Twinbrook's potential as a trendy and vibrant place to live. As Rosa explained, Twinbrook had long been undervalued as a potential bedroom community for Sunset Valley and Bridgeport, both booming communities and within ideal commuting distance.

Respecting the structure and integrity of the natural landscape was the top priority for the Sartorinis. They brought in a team of engineers and surveyors to assess the area. A plan was formulated to prepare the property with the least amount of stress and disruption to its delicate wetland ecosystem.

Sand was flown in to prepare the floor of the swamps to make sure its load bearing capacity could handle the planned structure. Lightweight building materials that replicated the look of traditional materials were selected. The Sartorinis opted for a sleek, modern design.

Surprisingly, the modern design blended in beautifully with the area. The open decks around the house, with no railings to fence you in, made it feel as though you were on a dock rather than on the porch of a house.

"We really designed this house with a professional couple in mind," Rosa said. "Obviously, children were not part of the equation in the initial design, but the house is flexible and can easily be adapted to a family, albeit a small one. There are already brackets in place, so enclosing the porches would be a quick and easy task."

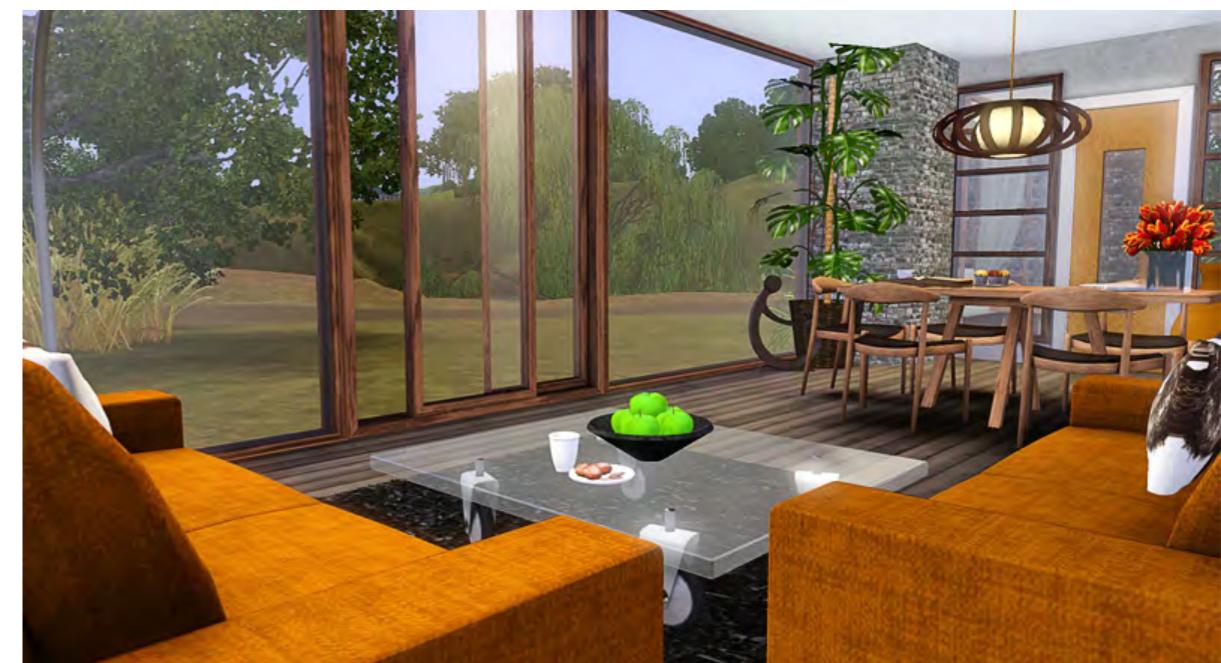
Rosa led us into the house. The house was an open concept design, and every room had floor to ceiling windows, a breathtaking effect. Mist from the marshland swirled outside the windows creating a dramatic view.



"Twinbrook, for some odd reason, gets very little sunlight and seems to be forever shrouded in mist. Rather than make it a negative quality, we decided to embrace it," Rosa explained. "We added brightly colored pieces of furniture to show that the mist doesn't have to feel depressing and can create a great ambience. We kept the materials, such as the walls and flooring, neutral so as not to compete with the lovely effects of Mother Nature. Very little artwork was used on the walls for this same reason."

We finished off our tour of the house in the oversized bedroom, complete with an en suite bathroom and private balcony. Rosa explained that this room could also easily be converted to two rooms, making it an ideal starter home for a young family should a second bedroom be required.

We thanked Rosa for her time and asked her if we could continue to report on her progress with the makeover of Twinbrook. She was delighted with this prospect. As we drove away, the last glance of this home proved quite a contrast to the other homes surrounding it, and we couldn't help likening it to a rose amongst the thorns.

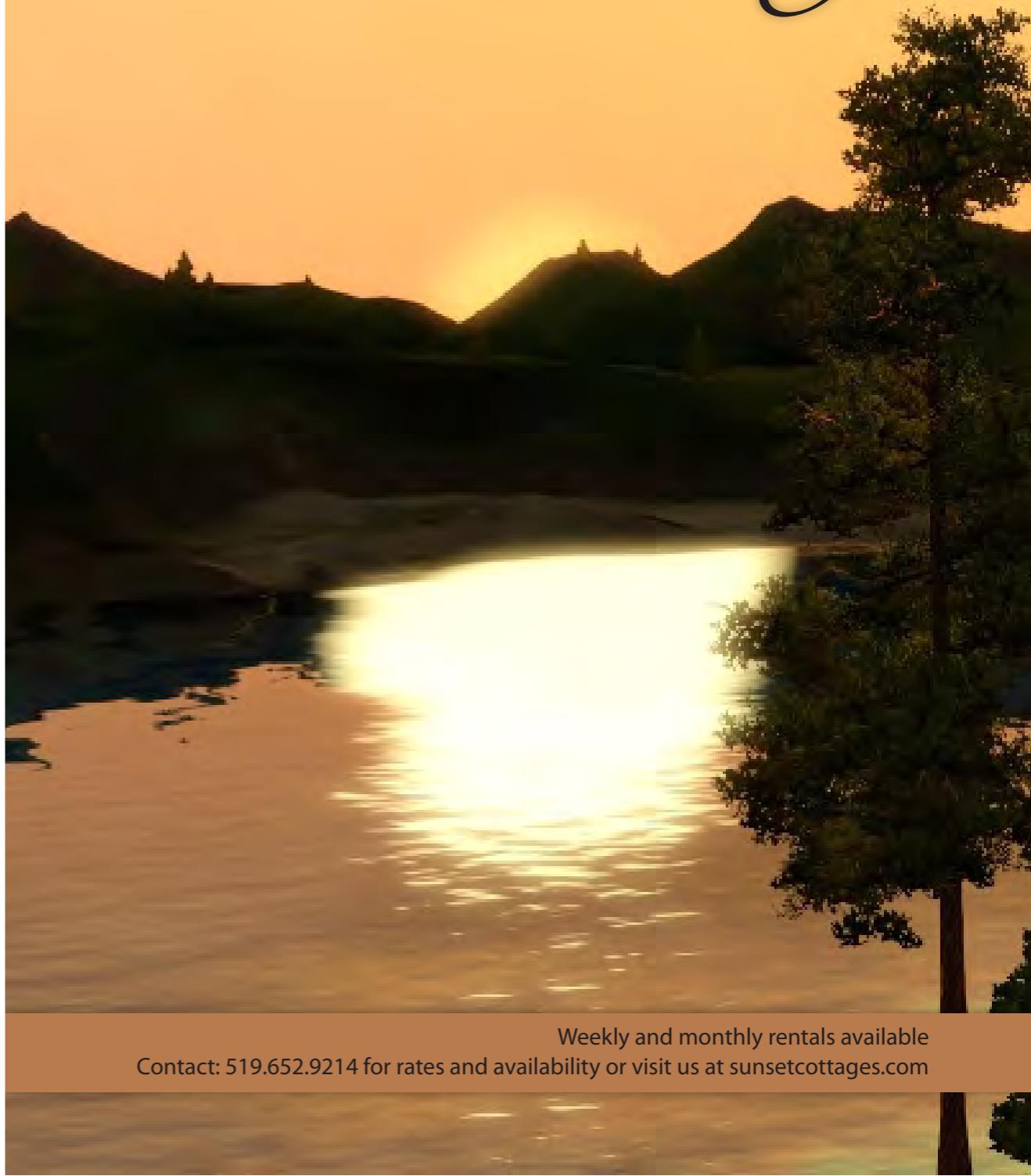


"The house was an open concept design, and every room had floor to ceiling windows, a breathtaking effect."



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What makes a house? Is it the wood, plaster and bricks? Or is it the people who live there, the lives that take place between those walls, and the memories that seep into the brick? Carrie Morgan, who graciously gave me a tour of her home through time, definitely thinks it's the latter.

# Sweet Home

## One House Through the Decades

Carrie's house, at first glance, looks quite unspectacular. But this local historian let me know there is more to her house than meets the eye. After our introductions, she told me "This house, like all houses, is filled with stories. The people who have lived here since 1919, when it was built, have each added their marks to the home. I am going to take you on a tour through the ages". Carrie invited me to her living room in the tiny house and, after I was seated, pulled out a large album.

"The people who built the house were Caroline and Jacob Meyer," Carrie said as she opened the first page of the album and pointed to an old sepia photo of a man, a woman and two children. "I haven't been able to find a lot of pictures from this time period, but there was a lot of information about the Meyers. Jacob served in World War One; and when he came back, his

wife had saved enough money from his deployment for them to buy and build a Sears Catalog Home."

Carrie showed me a picture of a Sears Catalog advertisement which had a drawing of a house similar to the one that I had entered just a half hour before. The advert read: "Machine Made-Cut to Fit. Money, Time, and Labor Saved." She clarified to me, "This was the home – it cost just \$287, which, adjusted for inflation, would be about \$4,000 in today's currency. It's a pretty good price for a house; but you had to build it yourself, and that price didn't include plaster, brick, or cement. Jacob was a civil engineer, but not a carpenter. Still, I don't think it would have been too hard for him and his buddies to build this place." Carrie smiled. "And they did a pretty good job - after all, it's standing almost 95 years later!"

Article & photography by Eronoel

"Both Jacob and Caroline lived well into their sixties. When they passed away in 1955, their children decided to sell the home. And another young family, the Listmans, purchased the

**Machine Made-Cut to Fit. Money, Time, and Labor Saved.**

### A Home of Your Own



house. I actually got to meet the granddaughter of the Listmans - she lives right here in Sunset Valley and brought over a whole bunch of pictures for me one day."

Carrie flipped the page and pointed to the living room, decorated in teal and orange. As she showed me the pictures she told me, "Apparently the wife, Linda, was a part time home economics teacher at the local high school. She was responsible for the redecoration of the house when they moved in, and she really embraced the colors. Sure, it was the fifties and sixties, but she had a good eye for modern design. Although some things, like the strange green

and gray tile they had in the kitchen, obviously didn't make it to today. The Listman family left once they had twins as the house really is too tiny for a big family."

"Oh," Carrie giggled, "the neighbors told me that the next inhabitant was quite a scandal when she moved in! Dawn Wong was a single mother when she moved into the neighborhood. Of course, today that isn't a big deal, but in the early seventies divorce wasn't as common as it is now. I just love her baby room." Carrie pointed to some bright orange pictures in her album. "Once Dawn's daughter found out about my project she gave me these nursery





pictures. Dawn really loved orange and green. I don't know that I would have the courage to pull those colors off today." The biggest change that Dawn made to the house, Carrie explained as she crinkled her nose, was adding a four seasons porch to the back. "But," Carrie was quick to point out, "Dawn also changed the color of the siding to blue, which I think was a great change."

"I don't know so much about the person who lived here during the nineties. His name was Mellon Benji. He was single and I guess not so much of a decorator. He was pretty quiet and kept to himself. He didn't have much furniture even though he lived there for several years. I guess a bachelor pad doesn't have to be fancy! I bought the house from Mellon, but I only met him once. I would have quizzed him more about the house but that was before I started my project."

"And so, here we are today, with me living in the house," Carrie said as she beamed proudly. I asked her how she added to the house. She

didn't have to contemplate that question - in fact, she seemed to be waiting for me to ask. "Oh, clearly the four season porch had to go. I transformed that into an open porch on the back, and I added a veggie garden. I incorporated a little more landscaping in the backyard as well. It's nice to go out and relax there during the summer."

After touring the backyard, I thanked Carrie for her time and for telling me about her house. On the way home I started thinking about my own house – who had lived there? Why did they sell? What birthday parties, weddings, deaths, births had occurred there? I was occupying the same place as many other people before me. We shared a common bond, but I didn't even know their names. After arriving home, I had to agree with Carrie - each and every house has a story to tell.



*Article by fashionista125  
Photographs by catvonpaxton*

Where the Children Play:

# A Visit to Twinbrook Orphanage





**The old orphanage on the outskirts of Twinbrook has stood the test of time for many generations. Each new generation brings new owners and new children, but one thing that seems to stay the same is the building's imposing atmosphere. Not many have seen the inside of the striking old building, so when offered the opportunity I was both intrigued and slightly scared by the prospect. But my curiosity overpowered my nagging fear, and I agreed to take a tour of the orphanage.**

The contrast between the main town of Twinbrook and the surrounding area was stark to say the least. The quaint shops lining the streets were replaced by swamp reeds, and the daunting fog which surrounded my car as I drove along the roads leading to the orphanage. Excitement and a slight nagging fear mingled inside of me as I approached the orphanage. After all, the stories associated with the building were far from pleasant, but no one can judge something before experiencing it. As I stepped







2204  
BY BORGE MORGENSEN



# Summer is Here Or A Berliner Biergarten in Bloom

Article by: Eronoel  
Photographs by: Eronoel



A Berliner Biergarten in Bloom • 106

After passing field after field, I began to worry and peered again at the map I had printed out. Having lived in Berlin for over two years I knew the city pretty well; but, since Herr Bildmann invited me to his beer garden, I was traversing areas of Berlin where I had never been before. He had purchased the lot ten years ago and spent his retirement rebuilding the beer garden. Since it re-opened two years ago, the Beirgarten am Simsee has made a small splash with its friendly family atmosphere, beautiful views, and local beers. Finally, the name appeared on the electric sign of the bus and I knew I was there – Simsee.

Simsee is a quiet lake nestled in the outskirts of Berlin. Herr Bildmann's beer garden was just a short walk from the bus stop. In the distance I could see the lake with a couple of ships sailing on its quiet waters. As I neared the beer garden, I could hear the quiet murmurings of conversation along with the rhythmic lapping of waves. I saw pockets of people drinking beer and talking around wooden tables with folding chairs, and I knew I had reached my destination. A well rounded older man who was clearing off one of the wooden tables, looked up and saw me. He trotted to the entrance and gave me a grand welcome: "Ah, Hallo! Welcome to the Biergarten am Simsee! I am Martin Bildmann."

The Biergarten am Simsee isn't the oldest or most famous beer garden in Berlin, but it is a quiet, wonderful place to spend the afternoon with friends enjoying the sun, drinking beer,

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and watching boats. Martin bought the establishment in the early two thousands and worked to refurbish the rotting cabin and garden, which had been abandoned for ten years.

He described the scene prior to his purchase as, "...disaster, pure disaster. We had to clean out the whole interior and basically start from the beginning. I guess one of the few things remaining is that tree there." He pointed to the large tree on the far edge of the garden. "But we rebuilt the cabin in a rustic style with locally farmed wood."



The garden itself was quite large; and, despite it being just noon, many of the tables had already been filled. Large strings of lights were strung up throughout the garden which made me imagine that spending an evening at the venue would be an enjoyable way to pass the time after sunset. Each table had a small vase and a flower which added a cheerful tone to the place. Martin noticed me looking around and asked, "Do you want something to drink?"

I followed him to the tiny hut on the edge of the garden where an elderly woman was working. The hut, like the cabin, was made of logs and was slightly rustic looking. Two large windows opened into the hut, where the woman was preparing drinks. Martin introduced me to his wife, Monika, behind the counter. Monika greeted me and handed me a large pilsner "on the house for our guest."

As we walked away, Martin informed me that his wife had designed the beer garden and that when she is not working in the hut pouring beers or helping out, she is sitting and enjoying the view of Simsee.

As I sipped my beer Martin told me more, "Tourists always think of Berlin as being a big city, but it has so many lakes and forests too. Sometimes it's just nice to stop and enjoy yourself. We have a small bar in the house for the winter, but generally we are forgotten, you know, the rest of the year" he said, waving his hands about. "Just because we live beyond the fields doesn't make us less Berliner. Lucky for us, since the weather is so warm, we have been having so many more people drinking and enjoying their time by the lake."

I finished up my beer while Martin and Monika were busy tending to their patrons. A boat sailed by on the lake, and ducks played in the water. Martin was right, it was hard to believe that this was part of Berlin; it was so peaceful and quiet. I finished my beer, took a walk along the edge of the lake, and already knew what I was going to do next weekend.



# Take Me To The Movies, Read Me a Story : *The Community's Tips For A Quiet Summer Afternoon*

Summer is upon us! Is there anything better than spending a hot summer afternoon lounging in the shade and losing yourself in a good book? What about watching a good film? Our forum members here at Living Sims offer you Sims versions of their best-loved books and movies. Here is a selection of our favorites. So if you are lost for ideas, why not let us read you a story or take you to the movies?

Article by: Sebausten and the community  
Photographs by: Community



# Eronoel

"Rebecca"

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again. [...] The drive wound away in front of me, twisting and turning as it had always done. But as I advanced, I was aware that a change had come upon it. Nature had come into her own again and, little by little, had encroached upon the drive with long tenacious fingers, on and on the poor thread that had once been our drive. And finally, there was Manderley. Manderley, secretive and silent. Time could not mar the perfect symmetry of those walls. Moonlight can play odd tricks upon the fancy, and suddenly it seemed to me that light came from the windows. And then a cloud came upon the moon and hovered an instant like a dark hand before a face. The illusion went with it. I looked upon a desolate shell, with no whisper of a past about its staring walls. We can never go back to Manderley again."



# Saprophyte

"Watchmen"

Based on a popular comic book, Watchmen takes place in an alternate 1985. A cold war is brewing between the United States and the Soviet Union. Superheros are just a normal part of society. The "Doomesday Clock" is permanently set at 5 minutes to midnight. Something terrible is about to happen. The house bunker is inspired by the movie. There are a lot of items that represent the characters. If you have seen the movie, you might detect them! If you haven't seen it, go and watch it. I hope you'll like it!

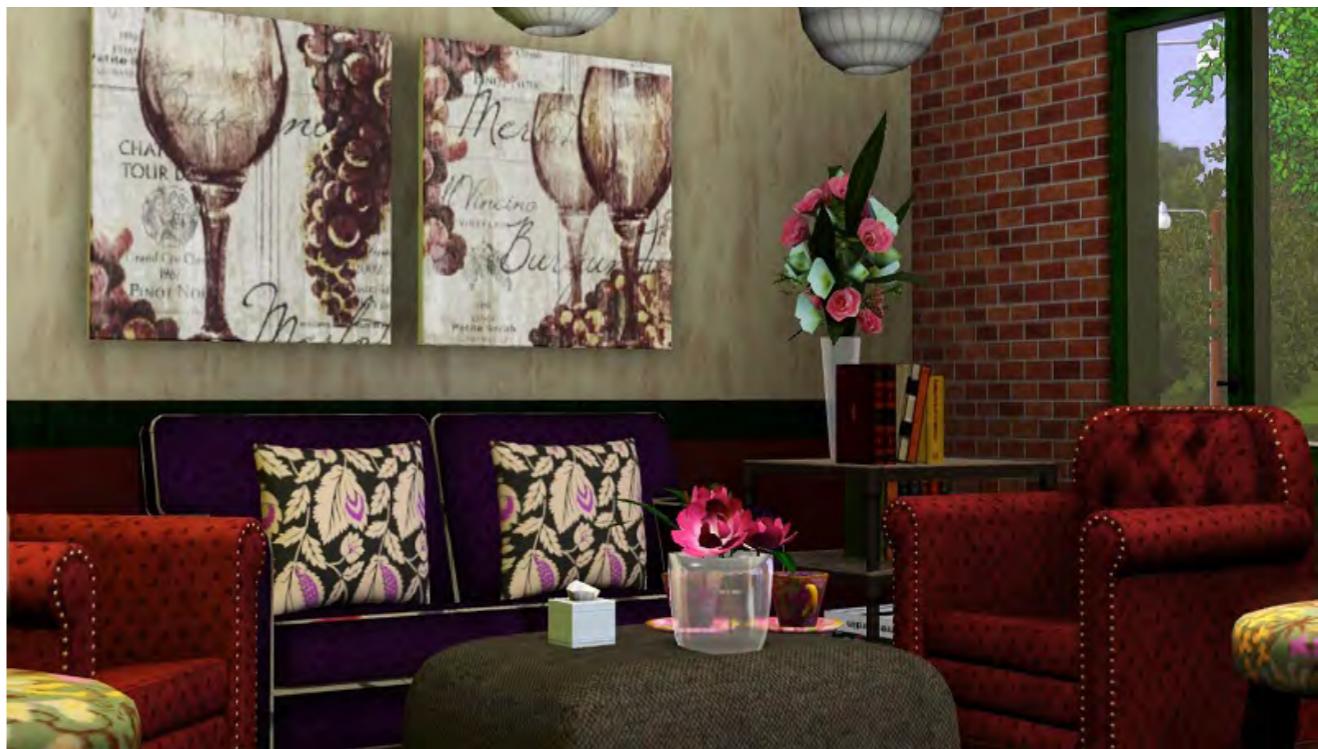




# Seraphica

"Friends"

Central Perk, the famous coffee house in The Village is so central to the series; the six friends gather there. They share their good and bad moments while sitting on the famous brown sofa. From the brick walls up to the green wood-work and knick-knack, the coffee place has been perfectly rendered. We expect to see Rachel in her wedding dress burst in or Joey being again flirting instead of going to an audition. Growing up, Friends was my favorite TV show ever! Well it still is... I've watched every episode about 17 times and still laugh every time I watch them!



# lylim6

"Inglourious Basterds"

Inglourious Basterds follows the story of a group of Jewish-American soilders in Nazi-occupied Germany. They are known as "The Basterds" and they target Nazis, scalping and killing them, which causes fear and chaos in the Third Reicht. This takes us inside farmer Lapadite's farm. It is one of the best scenes in this film. Colonel Landa invites himself in, awkwardly congratulates the family and the cows after drinking milk, and... well, we wouldn't want to spoil the rest of the movie for you, would we?



# Sebausten

"Pride and Prejudice"

Lady Catherine de Bourgh is never at loss for bestowing her wisdom upon her guests: "I have told Miss Bennet several times that she will never play really well unless she practices more. And though Mrs. Collins has no instrument, she is very welcome, as I have often told her, to come to Rosings every day and play on the piano forte in Mrs. Jenkinson's room. She would not be in anyone's way, you know, in that part of the house."

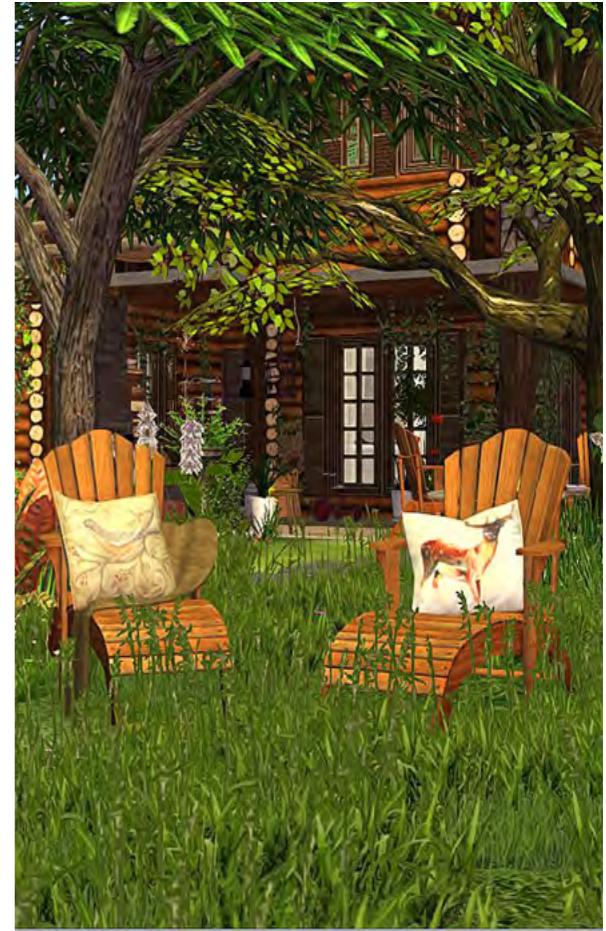


The Sims 3



the life you'd rather lead





Meet BlackPearlSims 2011 Designer of the Year,

# Meganfranc!

*Article by:Ballarose | Photographs by:Meganfranc*

DOTY (Designer of The Year) at BlackPearlSims is probably one of the hottest contests around, drawing together some of the best designers in the Sims community; this year was no exception. Without a floor plan and with very few limitations, entrants were challenged on a variety of tasks using two different styles and adding their own "twist." This year's winner, Meganfranc, sat down with us and gave us the scoop on being the 2011 DOTY winner.



**Please tell us a little about yourself?**

"My name is Megan. I am 40 years old, married, and blessed with 2 beautiful children. I live in Rizal, Philippines. I grew up in a small town called Angono which has recently been recognized by the government as the art capital of our country."

"My hobbies are reading books, watching movies and tv shows with my kids... and of course, playing the Sims."

**When did you start playing the Sims?**

"I started playing sometime back in the early 90's when my brother introduced the game to me. I remember it was when I went home for the weekend from medical school. After a while, I felt that I had played every feature the game had to offer and got bored. That's when I discovered the beauty of building and decorating."

**What made you enter this contest?**

"I love to challenge myself. And what better way to do that than to enter a contest where so many Sims players gather every year to show off their talent?"

**What did you find hardest in the contest?**

"To design a room with a style that I don't usually do. I can't begin to tell you just how low my jaw dropped when I saw the application and Round 1 - a contemporary study room/ workplace with a gothic twist. I don't do gothic."

"Also, I feel that my brain cells temporarily lose their synapses whenever I am asked to use colors that I don't like. But I guess that's where the real challenge lies... how to bring out your design style despite these restrictions."

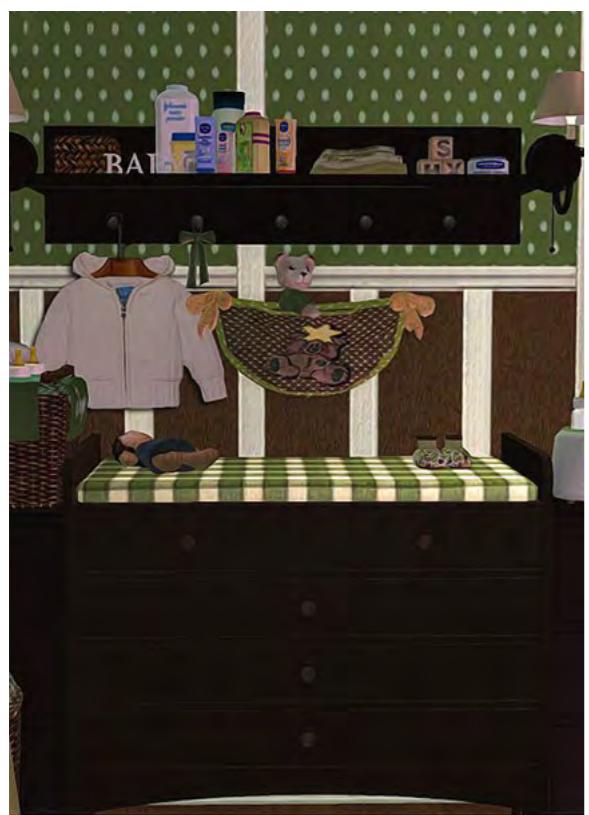
**Where did you find your inspiration for your entries?**

"It all depended on the all-round theme, but mostly I find inspiration in the books I read or sometimes in the TV shows my kids usually watch. For example, my contemporary nursery with a country twist entry was based on the TV show *Shawn the Sheep*."

**What have you learned from this contest?**

"I joined DOTY in 2009 and 2010. Both times I lasted only until round 2. I guess I was arrogant then. In my mind, I insisted on showing off my design ideas regardless of the contest rules and theme. I learned that winning a contest doesn't rely on talent alone but also on how well you followed the contest rules and instructions."





Would you do it again?

Yes! I'll do it again. You see, I'm a contest junkie. LOL. Whenever I am challenged, I get an adrenaline rush.

What are your 3 tips for our readers? (Building or Decorating-wise)

"First, and the most important, is to have an inspiration. You don't just build a room and fill it up with clutter. Look around you. Get ideas from the coffee shop a block away from your

house, your child's school, or even from your neighbor's backyard."

"Second, when you decorate a room, imagine yourself living there. That way every nitty-gritty detail is not missed."

Lastly, "feel" the room. Make sure that when you are decorating a house in the woods, you feel that you are transported to the forest. Can you hear the deer running? Do you hear the growling bear? Only when you answer "yes" to these questions can you truly say you have decorated your house perfectly."





# UNDER ONE ROOF

Article by:Ballarose

Photographs by:Ballarose

It was the perfect recipe for a dysfunctional family disaster. Take a professional couple, add a toddler in the throes of the terrible two's and a rambunctious 8-year-old boy. Mix in twin girls whose personalities are like night and day. Blend in the elderly grandparents and wait for the fireworks. Welcome to the home

of the McGregor's, where three generations have found a way to live together under the same roof in almost perfect harmony. We had to know how they manage it, and they were more than willing to share.

"When my parents retired, they lost a substantial amount of their income," Maggie McGregor stated as she led me around the side of the house and stopped by a door that looked like it led to a shed of some sort. "They had this large house and this large property. Both my husband and I were busy with our careers and needed help with our large family, so for us moving in here was a win-win." She opened the door to the 'shed,' and I found myself in the middle of the cutest little apartment.

"When you decide to move three generations under one roof, there are a lot of things that need to be considered. Making it work requires a lot of discussion. The one thing that was very clear was that my parents needed their own private space removed from the rest of the family. We drew up some plans, and this was the result."

The space seemed surprisingly spacious and even had a small kitchen area. Maggie explained that her parents have dinner with the rest of the family every night. The kitchenette does not have cooking facilities, but there is a microwave and an electric kettle for little things like preparing a cup of tea or heating up some soup.

Looking around, I couldn't help but comment on the fireplace. Maggie explained that they installed the gas fireplace to help heat up the small space that extra little bit for her parents who, like many of the elderly, tend to feel the cold a bit more. A desk was added so that Maggie's dad would have a workspace as he was working on the family history and often stayed up late at night doing his research. A curtain separated the sleeping area, blocking the light on those nights when Maggie's dad burned the midnight oil.

As we wandered over to the main house, Maggie told me a bit about her family. Heather and Gayle, 15, were identical twins but their personalities were polar opposites. Maggie led me into the girls' bedroom.



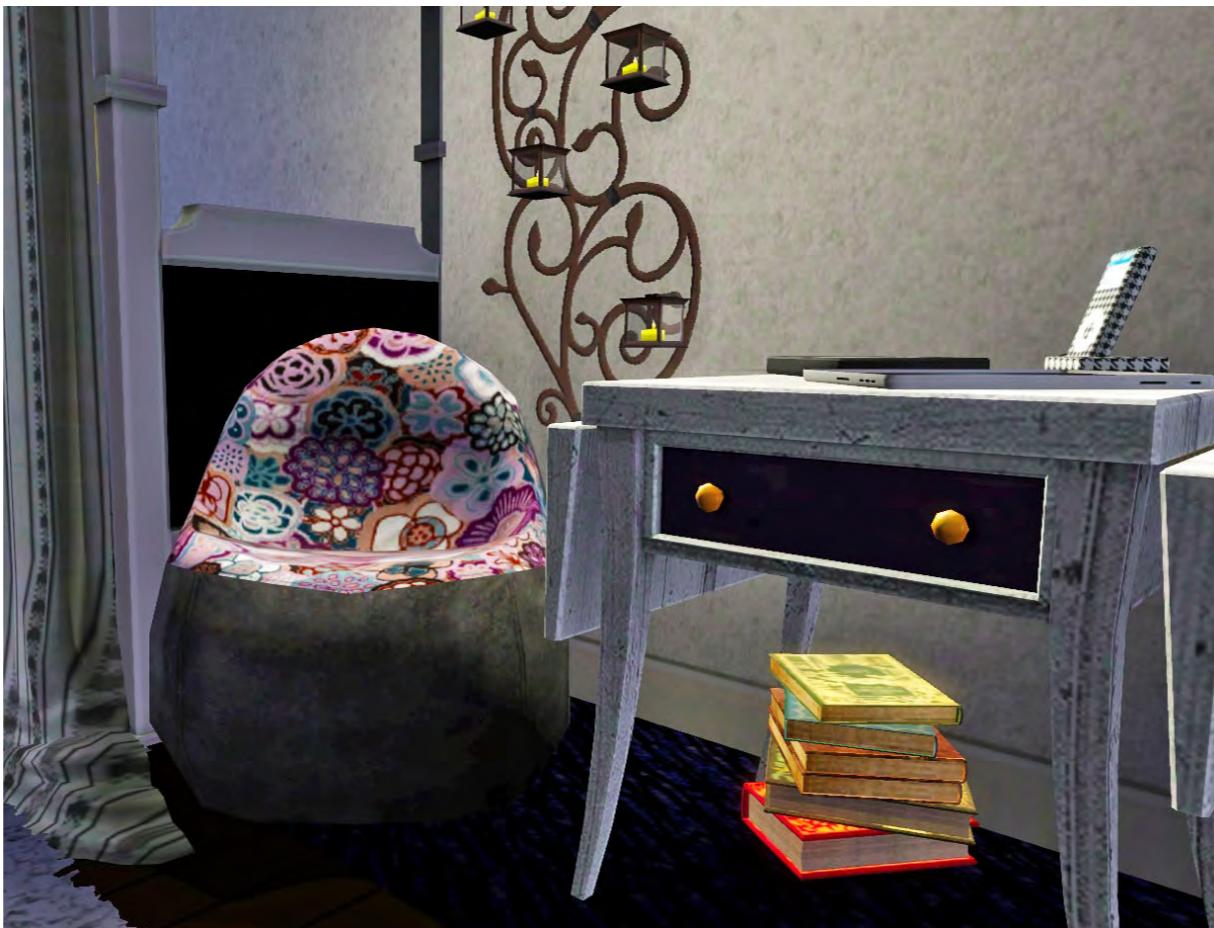
"Separate rooms were not an option, so we had to find a way to make their room work. We were lucky we found these loft bunk beds. They were a lifesaver."

I have to admit that I was impressed. Beneath each of the loft beds, the girls had managed to create their own little private space. Gayle, the more domestic of the two, had a passion for sewing and had made her space into a little sewing area, complete with shelving for fabrics. Heather, who preferred to spend her time listening to music, working on her website and chatting with friends, had made herself a cozy little nook with everything she needed at her fingertips, including a comfy beanbag chair.

Our next stop was the bedroom shared by eight-year-old Todd and two-year-old Stella. I was pretty curious as to how this would work.

The minute I saw the set-up, the word 'ingenious' popped into my head. Using the same loft bed a crib was tucked underneath, leaving plenty of floor space to accommodate the play styles of both children. Low shelving units stored the toys, and a small desk, for more serious tasks such as school work was tucked snugly into a corner.

"Todd had carte blanche in choosing the color scheme for the room; and, as you can tell, he loves blue," Maggie said, laughing. "He wasn't too keen on sharing a room with the baby, but when I told him he was the boss of the room and could pretty much decorate it any way he wanted, that sold him on it. It has worked out surprisingly well."



We were coming to the end of our interview, but I still had unanswered questions. I asked Maggie how they manage to spend quality time together as a family.

"We have a couple of traditions that are very important to us. The first is movie and/or game night. Everyone gets a turn to pick the activity of their choice. We needed the living room area to be flexible so that everyone could be accommodated. We have pillows and stools for the young ones to sit on when we are gathered around and when not used as seating, the stools serve as coffee tables. Our other tradition, the most important one, is the family dinner. Every Sunday, we all sit down and share a meal and just spend the time talking and connecting. The Sunday night rule is no TV and no electronics... just good, old-fashioned chit chat."

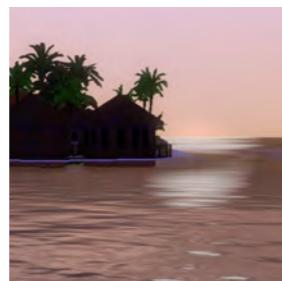
Our interview had come to an end; and as I was getting ready to leave, Maggie asked me if I would stay for dinner. I didn't need to be asked twice. The thought of spending more time with this lovely woman and her family was welcoming, so I took off my interviewer's hat and prepared to settle down and share in some "good, old-fashioned chit chat".



The world review series is becoming an excellent way to select the pick of the “Create-a-World” crop in The Sims 3 community. IggyJD03 has created an island-themed world with amazing attention to detail. Updated as recently as May 23, 2011, Coconut Island 3.0 provides a unique tropical retreat for both you and your sims. Lilybox kindly offered to give us the tour - grass skirts optional.

# WORLD REVIEW

Exploring Coconut Island 3.0 with Lilybox

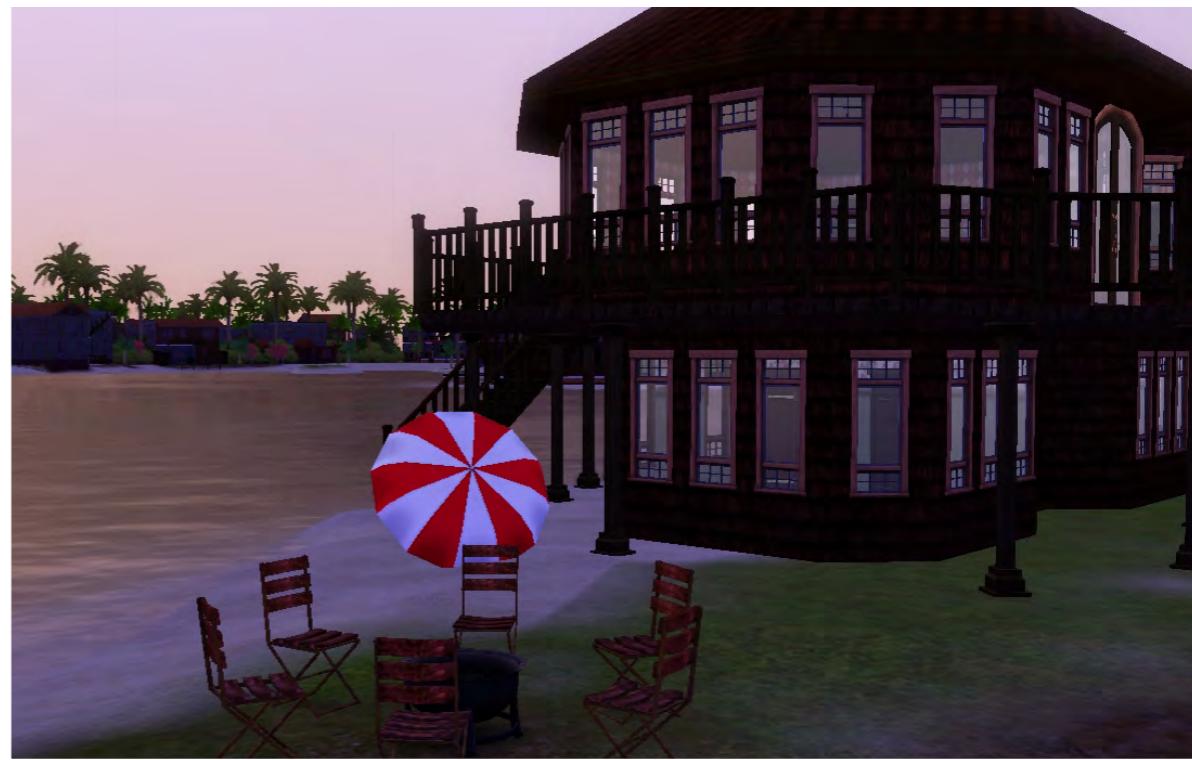


Article by: LemonJelly  
Photographs by: Lilybox



With a Woohoo on the Beach in hand, Lilybox chose to begin the tour with a walk along the ocean front. And what a wonderful beginning it was! The sounds of the waves and the seagulls will make you want to break out that towel and sunbathe on the spot. Tons of palm trees combined with the ocean and a whole lot of sand creates the island's very tropical environment. As she pulled us away from the beach, we noticed some island shacks and apartments along with various island-themed community lots. We also noticed how few places of work there are. Lilybox explained that "this is the case as it goes along with the whole "castaway" feel of the world in which you wouldn't have a job." Of course, it occurs to us that most Sims have come here to get away from it all, and Coconut Island certainly appears to encourage you to work less and relax more. Lilybox told us the reason she loves it here so much is because the world is so unique, and the beach theme makes her feel like she is on vacation which is a real treat!

"The pre-fab houses are great, and the inside is just as wonderful as the outside. IggyJD03 certainly has an eye for both interior and exterior decorating." She goes on to explain that one of her favourite things in this world is "the way the houses and residential lots are decorated. Everything has a sense of island living to it. It can create some very interesting and fun stories."



Apart from the fact that it is an island, a process helped by how easy the map is the one aspect of Coconut Island 3.0 to navigate, and she has high praise for which Lilybox feels makes it different this world's amazing attention to detail. from your average EA world is that "it However, that does come at a cost as Lilybox has so many hidden places," even on a medium map. In fact, Lilybox has spent a lot of her time trying to explore them all, putting resource requirements.

Created by IggyJD03

Rating: ★★★★☆

Required: Basegame, Riverview, Late Night & World Adventures

Download  
For More Information

Lilybox :)

# Shaken, Not Stirred

We asked our favorite mixologist Ricky, from the Aquarius Lounge in Bridgeport, to share some of his favorite summertime cocktail recipes and he was happy to oblige. So frost those glasses, get out those swizzle sticks and enjoy these yummy recipes which are sure to get your summer off to a sizzling start!

Article by:Ballarose

Photographs by:Ballarose



## Bad Cheerleader

1 bottle Red Wine  
2 cups Club Soda  
2 cups Cranberry Juice  
1 Blood Orange, cut into wedges  
1 Lime, cut into wedges  
1 Lemon, cut into wedges  
Ice

In a large pitcher, combine the wine and Cranberry juice. Add the fruit wedges. Chill overnight. Add the club soda and ice just before serving.

## Woohoo on the Beach

1 ½ ounce Vodka  
½ ounce Cointreau  
2 ounces Cranberry Juice  
2 ounces Orange Juice

Or any volume in a 1.5:0.5:2:2 ratio of the above. Stir, pour over ice and garnish with an orange slice.

## Simsmapolitan

1½ shots Citrus Vodka  
½ shot Cointreau  
¾ shot Cranberry Juice  
½ shot Lime Juice  
2 dashes Orange Bitters

Shake all ingredients with ice and strain in to a cocktail glass. Garnish with an orange zest.

## Fan Fizz

Add to a cocktail shaker:

2 ounces of good quality Tequila  
2 ounces of Grapefruit Juice  
½ ounce of Lime Juice  
¼ ounce of Sugar Syrup  
Club Soda

Top up the shaker with ice, shake and pour the contents into a tall glass. Top up with club soda, garnish with a lime wedge and serve.

## Sakura Shoji Sweetness

1 ½ ounce Vodka  
1 ½ ounce Bailey's Irish Cream  
1 ½ ounce Kahlua coffee liqueur  
Ice, the smaller the cube the better  
Chocolate Syrup  
Whipped Cream in the can

Place about a cup of ice in a blender and then add the vodka, Bailey's and Kahlua. Blend until its consistency is a bit thicker than a Slushie. You want it to be solid but not too runny. You can add more ice if it seems a bit watery.

While it is blending, drizzle your chocolate syrup around the inside of your chilled glass. Add your blended mix and top with whipped cream and more syrup.

The LivingSims Staff  
wishes you a great summer!

