

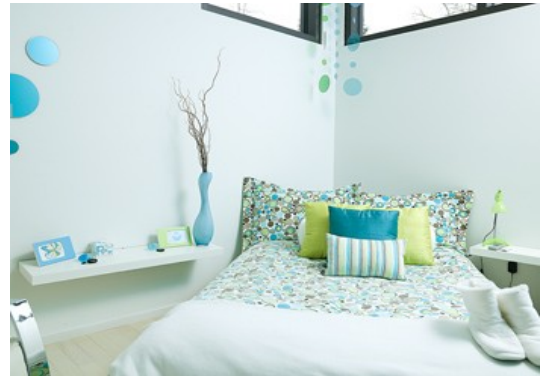
Mystery Solved: What Teens Want

Your teen needs a new room. They've outgrown their furniture along with their childhood, and you want to help them create a space that will support them in dreaming bigger dreams, and striving for larger goals.

But how? HOW do you do that? Is it possible to give them what they want and need, while sticking to a reasonable budget, and maybe even fulfilling some of YOUR hopes... like a clean room and finished homework?

Yes.

Ultimately, there are really only five things most teens look for in their bedroom. They're not complicated and honestly, four of them are more subconscious than conscious.



1. Separation: This first isn't a design issue, and therefore, won't cost a penny! Teens want a space that is totally their own, where their privacy is respected. (Don't you want the same thing?) Give them this simple luxury. Let them keep the door closed if they wish, and commit to knocking before you enter. Insist that siblings do the same.
2. Personalization: To really enjoy it, the space needs to feel like THEM. Don't inflict your design style on their private living quarters.
 - What mood makes them feel at home? Color will go a long way to setting the tone in the space. Are they bright and bubbly? Choose yellows or aquas. Outgoing and energetic? Reds, oranges, or limes. Quiet and focused? Blues or grays are a good choice. If they have a preference, go with it. Honestly, who cares what color the room is? YOU don't have to live in it, and you can always paint over it when they leave.
 - What activities / objects really represent their interests? Teens want a space to display the things that are important to them, whether that's photos of friends and family, awards and trophies, pictures of celebrities, books and music, or travel memorabilia. Provide ample shelving, wall space, or cabinets as required.
 - If you're redoing the furnishings, take into consideration whether they are more contemporary, or more traditional. This would be the difference between a white-painted, cottage-style bed, and a sleek, espresso-colored platform bed.
3. Organization: Though it may not look it now, given the opportunity, almost everyone would prefer to be organized, rather than not. The problem is that most of us don't give ourselves sufficient tools to maintain any level of organization long term, and the same goes for your teen's room. Do they have a dedicated place for homework? Does it have enough room for them to spread out, to house paper, notebooks, and other supplies? Do they have enough storage space for clothing (clean AND dirty), books, music, and personal belongings? If you PROVIDE a place for everything, things are exponentially more likely to end up in their place!

4. Relaxation: Most of us don't give teens enough credit for the hard work they do, and it's tougher today than ever before! As if those years weren't stressful enough just with constantly worrying what everyone thinks of you, they are also expected to take increasingly high-level classes, participate in sports and music such that they may be deemed “well-rounded” by the powers that be, as well as to maintain their responsibilities at home. Just like you, all they want is somewhere they can exhale in peace. Make sure the bed is comfortable enough for them to get a good night's sleep, and if space allows (which it almost always does), give them some sort of separate sitting area to curl up with a book, or talk on the phone with friends.
5. Recognition: I'm not talking about awards here. I'm talking about the number one thing on any teen's mind... I'm talking about the cool factor. They want the room that is recognizably the coolest room on the block. The good news is that if you've fulfilled requirements 1-4, number 5 should just fall into place!

Not sure how to create the ultimate teen hideaway they'll be sure to enjoy for years, without breaking the bank? Visit www.onlinehomedecorating.com now, and select from fabulous, fully complete, professionally designed teen rooms at prices to fit any budget!

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