



A Girl's WORLD

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Lavender saves the day.

Five-year-old Alexis Wilkins had visions of a purple bedroom in her new home. Even though she had the second floor of the family's Germantown home entirely to herself, her mother, Pam Wilkins, and decorator Jackie Glisson could not go for the purple fantasy. Glisson preferred a soft pink palette and Mrs. Wilkins had visions of transforming her frothy wedding gown into bedding fit for a princess. But Alexis was not budging on her favorite color.

Solution

With the wedding gown and complementary sparkly pink-and-green fabric in hand, Mrs. Wilkins and

Glisson selected a lovely lavender paint for the walls. Plenty of bright white trim completed the transformation.

The room became a charming hide-away with floor-to-ceiling windows and a dramatically pitched cathedral ceiling. The leafy view gives the tiny room the feel of a tree house. As the focal point in the room, two new beds would have to be show-stoppers.

To create the necessary drama, Glisson envisioned tufted headboards and large canopies. In order to save money, the pink-and-green fabric, with delicate flowers and embroidered sparkly beads, was gathered and suspended above the beds in mock

canopies. Carefully camouflaged chains and cup hooks helped achieve the desired effect.

The next challenge was how to use the wedding gown Mrs. Wilkins affectionately describes as "Scarlet O'Hara goes to Paris." The dress was custom-made in Paris and had yards of tulle with a giant pink-and-cream stripe silk overskirt and bustle. Glisson used the tulle for whimsical bed skirts and had luscious pillow shams made from the silk. The soft tones all work together in a look that will outlast a five-year-old's purple fixation.

Alexis' father, John Wilkins, also had something to add to the mix—



white denim from his family's textile business. The crisp fabric was used to upholster the headboards as well as the window cornice. Glisson dressed up the denim with hot pink fabric-covered buttons and accent cording. The pink buttons were also added to customize the bedspreads Mrs. Wilkins found at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

The family pulled pieces from its existing collection to furnish the room, including Alexis' changing table, which was converted into a three-drawer bedside table, and a simple pine armoire to hide clutter. Finally, the team collected playful accessories like a bonnet-top lamp and stuffed animals from Germantown boutiques.

An adjacent bath, vanity and walk-in closet complete the bedroom suite. The existing pink-and-green wallpaper in these rooms is a perfect complement to the new bedroom's palette.

While the family used cost-cutting tricks and recycled fabric, the overall effect is nothing less than every little girl's fantasy. Everyone is pleased with the "purple" room. Mrs. Wilkins, however, can't help but worry in jest about, "the poor guy that marries Alexis. She is so spoiled." ■

(below) Mrs. Wilkins turned her custom-made wedding dress into bedding for her daughter's room. Tulle from the dress was turned into a bed skirt and pillow shams were made from the silk overskirt and bustle. Hot pink fabric-covered buttons were also added to the bedspreads. (facing page) Lavender paint became the perfect backdrop for Alexis Wilkins' charming hideaway bedroom. White denim tufted headboards and large canopies created the necessary drama over the room's focal point: two new beds.

