

# CHALK IT UP TO FAIRIES

LITTLE PIXIES INSPIRE PLAYROOM IDEAS



Mushrooms, attached by buttons, are a perfect idea for an all-yarn, custom-made area rug in a fairy-themed playroom.

**T**HINKING OUTSIDE THE WAINSCOT when her client requested a lower-wall panel chalkboard for her daughters' fairy-themed playroom, Susanna Samaniego designed an imaginative slate that goes beyond the usual.

"I wanted to give her a chalk wall at the girls' height without doing the obvious," Susanna says. "I asked myself what a fairy garden might look like, and the idea for grass blades came to me quickly. These blades were individually cut by the contractor and stacked to give a 3-D feel. Each one is hand-painted in vintage green shades from the Annie Sloan paint line."

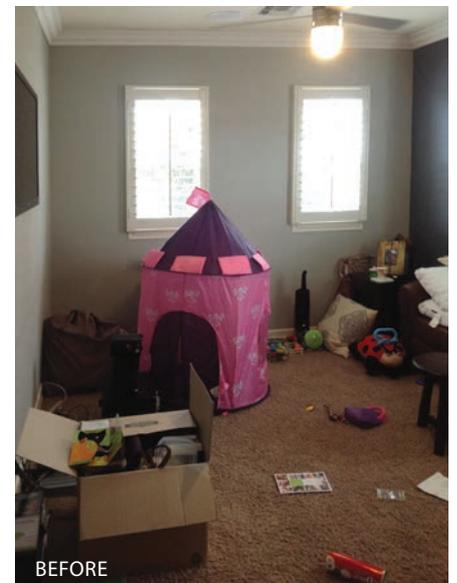
Muralist Katie Gaines sprinkled fairies on the walls throughout this once-unused guest room. Some hide bashfully in the grass, others flit about near the windows and a more-

educated trio spells out the sisters' names on a string of painted leaves across from a fort.

"Where the closet had been, I custom designed a structure that has a rolling ladder to take you to the top where the fort is," Susanna says. "The fort has holes and a bubble window that the kids can peek out of. Inside is a custom cushion for comfort and a chalk wall on the back."

Although the 3-year-old and 1-year-old are not doing homework yet, the room was designed to grow with them. Below the fort, a closet and a built-in bench flank a built-in desk. There's also a large, flat-screen TV.

"When the girls are teenagers, it will be simple enough to remove the grass blades and paint over the fairies," Susanna says. "Then, voila! You have a room where they can have slumber parties and watch movies." ❖



BEFORE