"I like kids' rooms that have energy and impact – a fun, youthful spirit – but without seeming syrupy and sweet," says designer Sarah Richardson, host of *Sarah's House* (HGTV Canada). She turned a drab room into a cheery tween bedroom (on *Sarah's House 2*), combining her trademark timeless style with pretty, playful picks – all for under $2,500. By reaching into her bag of tricks, including bold fabrics, cool colours and imaginative accessories, she blurred the line between juvenile and adult to create a smart, sophisticated retreat any young lady would be happy to call her own.

FUN FABRIC The inspiration for the bedroom came straight out of the bargain bin at a local fabric store. Sarah bought the Greeff striped glazed cotton, which once retailed for $150 per yard, for a mere $1.99 per yard. Its '60s Palm Beach vibe has the fresh, youthful look she wanted. She created big impact by using the fabric to reupholster the reading chair, a $40 buy at auction.

FABRIC designerfabrics.ca. **SEWING** Dreams Home Fashions 416-596-8489. **CHAIR PAINT** Natural White 50YY 83/029 cil.ca. **CUSHION** alpaca GH Johnson's Trading Co. 416-532-6700. **TABLE** pier1.ca.

INSTANT UPDATE When it came to furnishing this room, Sarah followed the three Rs: reimagine, respray, reupholster. She picked up this solid walnut dresser at auction for $180, and even after updating the colour and hardware, it still came in under $400. "And it's far better quality than any $400 dresser you can possibly hope to buy new," she says. Her auction-going tip: "Test out the item and make sure it's in great shape and is of good quality. It's only a good deal if it's ready for you to add the next layer to it."

DRESSER HARDWARE leevalley.com. **DRESSER PAINT** Mild Wind 70BG 56/061 cil.ca. **LACQUER** torontopaintstore.com. **COAT RACK** Saguro urbanbarn.com. **TOWEL** homesense.ca. →