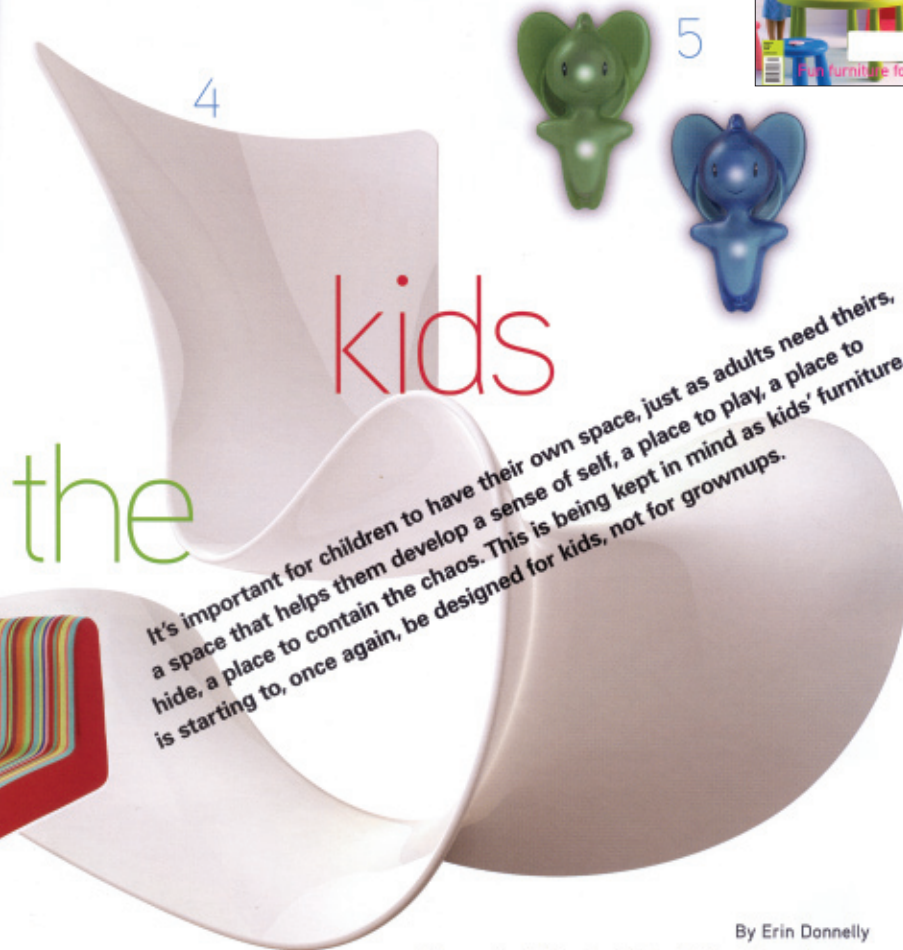


TRENDWATCH

1_ The megaflyde inside skate is part of the Recess line of play furniture from Modern Conventions. www.modernconventions.com
 2_ The PS LUMAX swivel chair, with pull down head, www.ikea.ca
 3_ Adults and children can play together on this Sennet sofa, designed by Louisa Campbell. www.ark-jour-games.com
 4_ When Patrick Messier and Sophie Fournier, of Montreal's Messier Designers, learned they were expecting they immediately went in search of a rocking chair, an essential piece of furniture to get new parents through those long sleepless nights. When they couldn't find anything that met their criteria for aesthetic appeal and comfort, Messier designed the curvy, comfy MAMMA chair. www.messierdesigners.com
 5_ The Beba Light nightlight from Alessi. www.alessi.com
 6_ My Youth cabinets can change as the child grows, simply by changing the large rubberized fabric handles on the metallic reflector upholstered fronts. nonvertooyouth@reil.telepac.pt



It's important for children to have their own space, just as adults need theirs, a space that helps them develop a sense of self, a place to play, a place to hide, a place to contain the chaos. This is being kept in mind as kids' furniture is starting to, once again, be designed for kids, not for grownups.

By Erin Donnelly

Once upon a time the biggest issue in interior design for children was determining whether the nursery should be painted pink or blue. This has changed dramatically over the past few years as kids retailing has exploded into a major market. "Kids versions" have been popping up everywhere. First it was clothing, with Gapkids, then babyGap, then into the home with Pottery Barn Kids, Pier 1 Kids (formerly Cargo Kids) and Bombay Kids. Everything adults were buying was introduced in miniaturized versions, and the grownups went crazy for it.

Many of these new lines were introduced with comments that parents were finding it difficult to find furnishings for their children's rooms because everything on the market was so "childish" and "juvenile." How terribly inappropriate.

The first furniture pieces bought for a child are in actuality for the parents, and perhaps this is where the confusion about who kids' furniture is really for begins. But it isn't long before the rocking chair and changing table are put away and it's

