

# Home

BY NOVOGRATZ

**ROBERT AND  
CORTNEY  
NOVOGRATZ**  
WITH ELIZABETH  
NOVOGRATZ



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# Pioneering Attic

Ree Drummond, also known as The Pioneer Woman, and her husband, Ladd, invited us to their ranch in rural Oklahoma to create a new bedroom for their two daughters, Alex, thirteen, and Paige, eleven. Ree and Ladd live on a large working cattle ranch with their four children and hundreds of animals, mostly cattle, but also horses (wild mustangs as well as domestic horses) and many cats and dogs. Their house—the same house that Ladd and his two brothers grew up in—was built in the early 1970s. It’s a large, inviting, and incredibly warm place that stands on their breathtaking land, surrounded by the Oklahoma plains. We’d never worked in this part of the country before and were excited for the adventure.

# WHERE WE STARTED

## THE BUDGET

\$25,000

## THE GOAL

To transform a long, narrow storage room into a bedroom for two young girls

## THE CLIENTS' WISH LIST

1. A space the girls could call their own
2. To replace the orange carpet
3. Closet storage space for clothing
4. An area for schoolwork and crafts
5. Girly feminine touches

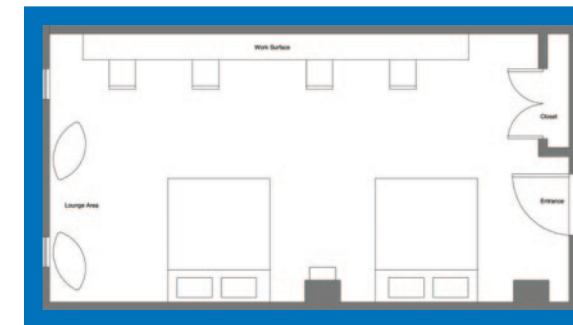
"THE LONG ROOM"

WE NEEDED TO BRING IN MORE LIGHT.

HOW TO MAKE THE SPACE LESS ATTICLIKE?

WE WOULDN'T BE NEEDING THIS.

We wanted to build the ultimate girls' bedroom.



Before we began our work, the girls shared the upstairs—a large open space with three small, doorless, cubby-type bedrooms—with their two younger brothers, Todd, nine, and Bryce, seven. Needless to say, the girls were eager for a place of their own.

The plan was to move the girls into a separate, unoccupied room off of this space. It had always been used for storage, and because it's very narrow and extremely long, the family referred to it as "the long room." By the time we arrived, it had been emptied out; all that remained was the orange wall-to-wall carpeting, a reminder of the decade in which it was laid.

We wanted to build the ultimate girls' bedroom: a place where Alex and Paige could sleep, study, create, and hang out with friends. Our goal was to bring in the girls' personalities through color and fun furnishings and to keep a sense of openness. The shape of the room was a challenge—not only was it long and narrow, but the ceiling also sloped on one side. The upside was that the door and closet were at one end, while the two windows were on the opposite wall, which left a lot of space in between.

We loved working with the Drummonds because they gave us the green light to go wild with the room and take design risks. After spending some time with Ree, Ladd, and their kids, we realized that they were the country version of us—an active family living amid chaos but loving every minute of it.

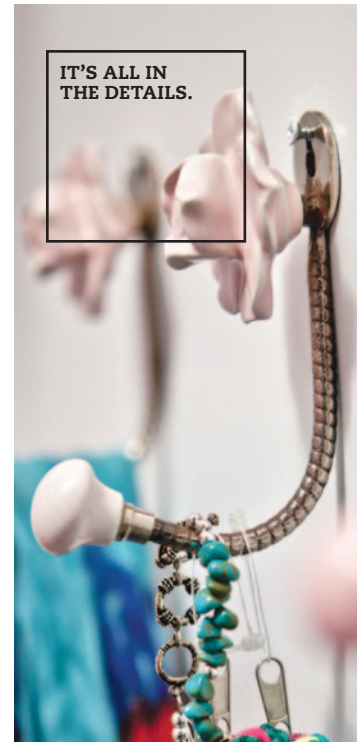
## STEP 1

# DEMOLITION

Before we could begin, we had to strip down what was left. First we pulled out the orange wall-to-wall carpeting. And because the room had been mainly used for storage, the walls were in bad shape and needed to be repaired. After we fixed the walls, we painted them white. Then we were ready for action.

With not enough in our budget to lay a new floor, we replaced the carpet with blue “Ins and Outs” Flor carpet tiles. The bold blue kept the room from feeling too girly, and although there’s a lot going on in this pattern, it’s almost so busy it becomes neutral and grounds everything on top of it.

The existing closet was fairly deep but had only one hanging bar and no storage, shelving, or doors. It was just a lot of dead space and was perfectly suited for the custom shelving we installed. We finished it off with closet doors that were painted white to match the rest of the room.





THE FOUR PAIRS OF PILLOWCASES FROM LAYLA ARE MADE FROM A COMBINATION OF VINTAGE TEXTILES AND HER OWN PRINTED PIECES.

EVERY PARENT SHOULD STOP TIME AND GET A PAINTING DONE OF THEIR CHILD.



GREEN AND BLUE ARE GREAT TOGETHER.

Installing the beds was an enormous challenge.



THE THROWS ARE MADE BY BRAHMS MOUNT.

THE BEDSPREADS ARE EACH ONE-OF-A-KIND INDIAN HAND-LOOMED PIECES.

## STEP 2 INSTALL HANGING BEDS

Our goal was to maintain an airy feel, so we hired a local craftsman, Carl Engel, to build the hanging beds out of iron and wood to reflect the aesthetic of the Drummond ranch. Installing the beds was an enormous challenge—they were incredibly heavy and needed to be attached to the beams in the ceiling. The open space under the beds makes the room feel less crowded.

Instead of going crazy with pink and frilly girly bedding, we chose simple but beautiful fabrics in muted country colors. They show off the beds yet keep things feminine and sweet.

The green nesting tables between the beds are bold and functional, while the bunny lamp is playful and provides enough light to read by.

Our good friend Linda Mason, a New York-based artist, painted the portraits of the girls that hang above the beds. We thought this was a special way to introduce personal art.

### ASK THE EXPERT LINDA MASON

Artist Linda Mason has been a friend of ours since our early days in Manhattan. We asked her to talk about creating portraits of kids.

**Q:** Why do people love paintings of children so much?

**A:** When we love our child, there are moments that we would like to keep forever. Great portrait artists capture one of these beautiful moments and fix it on canvas so that everyone can look at the painting and, even if it is not their child, see the child's essence, character, and beauty. It's deeper than a photograph.

**Q:** What inspired you to start painting children?

**A:** I have always loved children, and I trained as a children's nurse many, many years ago. But I was first inspired to paint them by the love I felt for my daughter, Daisy.

**Q:** Is there a standard size your paintings come in?

**A:** The sizes of acrylic on canvas that I do most often are 18 inches by 24 inches, 18 inches by 18 inches, and 24 inches by 36 inches, depending on the child. I prefer these sizes because they may be larger than life if the child is young but not so big that the viewer is overwhelmed.

**Q:** Is it easier to paint from a photo or a live sitting?

**A:** I must admit that originally I would only paint from photographs that I took myself. This process would enable me "to get to know" the subject, so to speak. I do still prefer this, but I will work from photos clients have sent in. A variety of photos with some close-ups on the eyes are useful, especially because the photos are used more often as inspiration.

**Q:** Is there a perfect age for a portrait?

**A:** From ten months upward. At ten months, babies have a strong personality and are so relaxed. I find the early teens not impossible but the most difficult, as the children are going through a transition and aren't so relaxed and comfortable with themselves. But every age is interesting, so it's hard to say. I think that the parent is a good judge.



THE LENGTH OF THE DESK MAKES THE ROOM FEEL LARGER.

THE PURPLE CUBBIES HELP TO SUPPORT THE DESK AND ALSO PROVIDE COLORFUL STORAGE.

### STEP 3

## BUILD A LONG DESK

We asked Carl Engel to build a desk using the same local materials he used to build the beds, and he came back with the stunning sixteen-foot-long desk that runs most of the length of the room. The supports below were built as storage cubbies, and we painted them purple to bring in color and make the desk feel a little younger. We added the white shelf above to give the girls a place for their books, photos, collections, and awards.

Because Alex and Paige both like to sew and knit, we reserved one end of the long desk as a craft space. We created a yarn wall, added storage for needles and supplies, and made space for their sewing machine.



### STEP 4

## CARVE OUT A NOOK

Our goal for the area below the windows was to create a nook where the girls could hang out, read, knit, and spend time with their friends. We papered the wall behind it with a paint-by-numbers wallpaper designed by Jenny Wilkinson. It's gorgeous whether it's colored in or not, but we added a big basket of paint markers in case the girls felt inspired.

The beanbag chairs are Sitonit Originals made by Loopee Design. They're great for lounging and can be laid flat as extra beds for sleepovers.

The chandelier came from the River City Trading Post in Jenks, Oklahoma. Ree had always wanted a beautiful chandelier, but Ladd didn't think it would look right on a ranch, until this one found a home upstairs. It was the perfect way to define the nook as its own space.



PAINT-BY-NUMBERS WALLPAPER MAKES IT OKAY TO COLOR ON THE WALLS.



EVERY GIRL NEEDS A CHANDELIER.

A MAGAZINE RACK IS A GREAT WAY TO STORE AND DISPLAY FABRIC.

## WHERE WE ENDED

The space was so long and narrow that we needed to think outside the box to create a room for Alex and Paige with enough space to sleep, work, and relax. We took the beds off the floor and went big with the desk. It's great to make a dramatic gesture, and all our risks paid off here.

A LIGHTER WALL COLOR COMPLETELY OPENS UP THE SPACE.

SISTERS' BEDDING SHOULD COORDINATE, NOT MATCH.

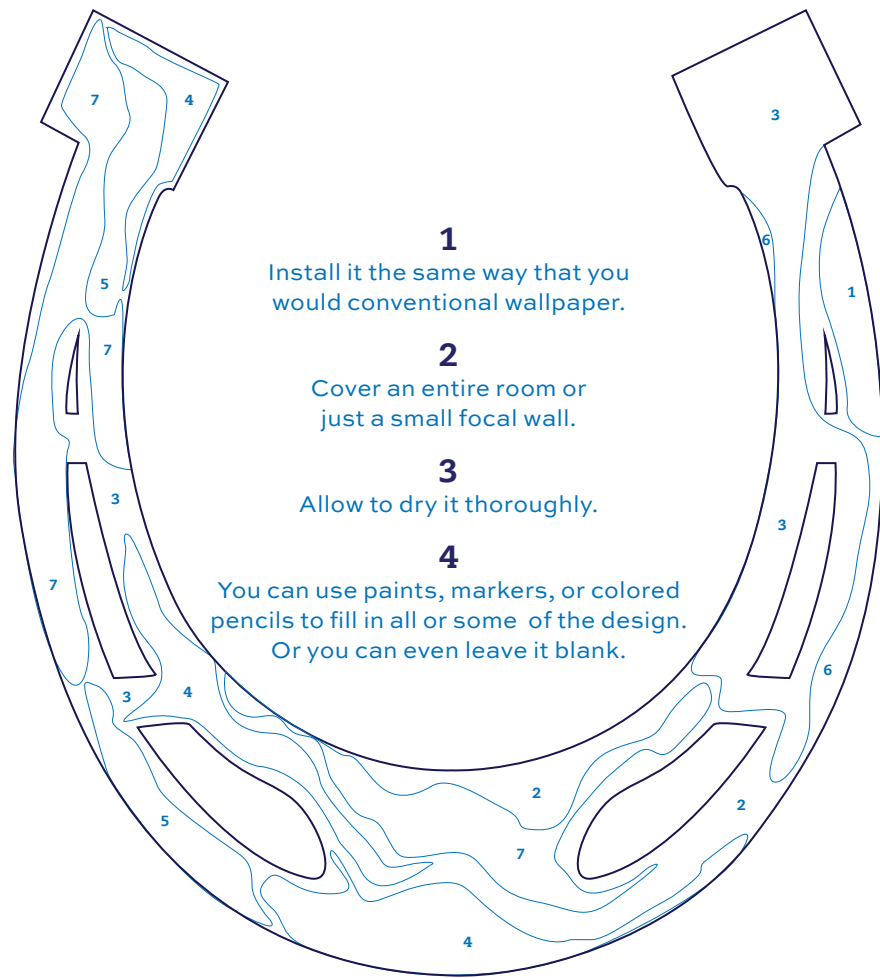
MIXING WOOD AND IRON FOR A GIRLY BEDROOM IS TOTALLY FAB.

WE LOVE THIS DINING CHAIR FROM PROPERTY, WHICH IS MADE COMPLETELY OUT OF RUBBER.










# HOW TO

## USE PAINT-BY-NUMBERS WALLPAPER



# BUDGET ANALYSIS

	<b>CONTRACTOR FEES</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
	<b>PAINT AND WALLPAPER</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>
	<b>FLOORING AND CARPETS</b>	<b>\$1,918.40</b>
	<b>WINDOW TREATMENTS</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>
	<b>LIGHTING</b>	<b>\$655.40</b>
	<b>FURNITURE</b>	<b>\$3,554.90</b>
	<b>MATTRESSES AND BEDDING</b>	<b>\$1,064.00</b>
	<b>ART</b>	<b>GIFT</b>
	<b>HOME ACCESSORIES</b>	<b>\$1,875.18</b>
	<b>DESK ACCESSORIES</b>	<b>\$383.00</b>
	<b>CRAFT SUPPLIES AND STORAGE</b>	<b>\$2,157.96</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,318.84</b>