

Interiors

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TRADING SPACES

Erin Gates transforms her son's former nursery into an enticing guest retreat.

By Jenna Pelletier

Photography by Sarah M. Winchester



By the time Erin Gates' (eringatesdesign.com) son, Henry, turned 3 years old, it was clear that he had outgrown his nursery, the smallest room in the family's Newton home. "He's active and has lots of things, so I decided to move him into what was the guest room, which is bigger with a bigger closet," says the interior designer, author and popular blogger (elementsofstyleblog.com). "He got a major upgrade."

After Henry's transition to his "big-boy" room was complete, Gates went about transforming his old baby bedroom into an elegant guest room. It proved to be a snap thanks to decisions she had made years before while designing the nursery. Those choices included installing a soothing—but decidedly not babyish—Susan Harter mural of a winding country road done in gray tones, the focal point of the room. She kept the rest of the space mostly neutral, accenting it only with

splashes of baby blue in the form of art, bedding and window treatments.

For the revamp, she swapped the cool blues for white, beige and gray shades to play up the neutral nature of the mural. "We pulled the whole palette from it and amped the room up with tons of texture and a mix of textiles," Gates says.

Out went the crib and rocking chair; in moved a low-profile Serena & Lily woven bed and grass cloth-wrapped dresser. Gates tied the room together with a modern take on a traditional Persian-style rug, and contemporary art, including a funky abstract painting she picked up while on a book tour for her latest, *Elements of Family Style: Elegant Spaces for Everyday Life* (\$35, Atria Books).

Now, the space evokes the feel of a well-designed hotel room and serves as a serene getaway for guests and Gates alike. "I joke that I'm going to lock myself in there and have a staycation by myself," she says. "It's kind of like my little escape."



From top: The space as her son's nursery; Gates worked with Serena & Lily, which recently opened a shop in Chestnut Hill Square, to furnish her new guest room.