

from the get-go

for mother, baby and Mother Nature

the change is easy. "All our favorite paint brands make a low-VOC paint now," she adds. "It's just a matter of spending a couple more bucks at the paint store."

While first-place isn't strictly a green design firm, but Moore does keep Earth-friendly strategies close at hand. "We'll work with a client in any way that they want," she says. "But whenever possible, we look for the greener approach."



Moore in her baby's eco-friendly nursery

furniture that's made with wood from a sustainably managed forest or that has a low-toxic finish." And since furniture plays such an important role in a nursery, Moore says this is one of the best areas to focus your eco energies. "Babies gnaw on everything," she says. "They're going to slobber on it and they're going to learn to pull themselves up for the first time on it."

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Baby goes green

Amanda Moore designs nurseries perfect

NED EHRBAR
edward.ehrbar@metro.us

PROFILE. Amanda Moore has worked to incorporate green elements in her interior design projects since launching her firm, re:place, in 2001. But after the birth of her son Ryder two and half years ago, she was inspired to take that mission into the nursery, and she soon started

first:place, a nursery design consultancy that helps parents make eco-friendly choices for their children's rooms without skimping on aesthetics or fun.

"For years, you could only get organic linens in certain colors, and the furniture used to have a certain look to it," Moore says. "Now everything's gotten more modern."

One of the easiest ways to make a nursery — or

any room — greener is with choosing the right paint. As Moore learned, the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) found in most conventional latex paints break down or vaporize, and off-gas into the atmosphere. "We've all lived in latex-painted homes for all of our lives. It's not something a lot of people still really know about," Moore says. But making

Greening-up baby

TIPS. You don't need to hire a pro to make your nursery eco-friendly. Moore offers these four quick tips for making your child's room a happier, greener place.

1 Start with the finish. Going green when it comes to your wall finish is easy, Moore says. "If you're repainting a room, choosing a low- or no-VOC paint is very easy."

2 Pass on plastics. When you're buying toys, think natural. "There's a huge market for toys made of wood with non-toxic finishes," Moore says. "Even most stuffed animals are safer than anything plastic."

3 Don't skimp on the crib. "You're going to spend a little more money," Moore says, "but something that is natural

wool or natural latex with an organic cotton cover is going to off-gas less and be much more comfortable and allergy-free for the baby than the conventional crib mattress."

4 Furnish with pride. "The market for modern, eco-friendly furniture has expanded," Moore says. "You can choose any design style and find

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