



REAL SIMPLE

LIFE MADE EASIER

STORE YOUR
FAMILY
HEIRLOOMS

Relax & Reset

It's the Summer for Cool Dinners,
Easy Beauty & Time for You!

AUGUST 2021

DELIGHTS

SPACE OF THE MONTH

A Garage That Switches Gears

This chameleon of a detached space can be a home gym, a teen hangout hideaway, and—every once in a while—a parking spot.

BY STEPHANIE SISCO

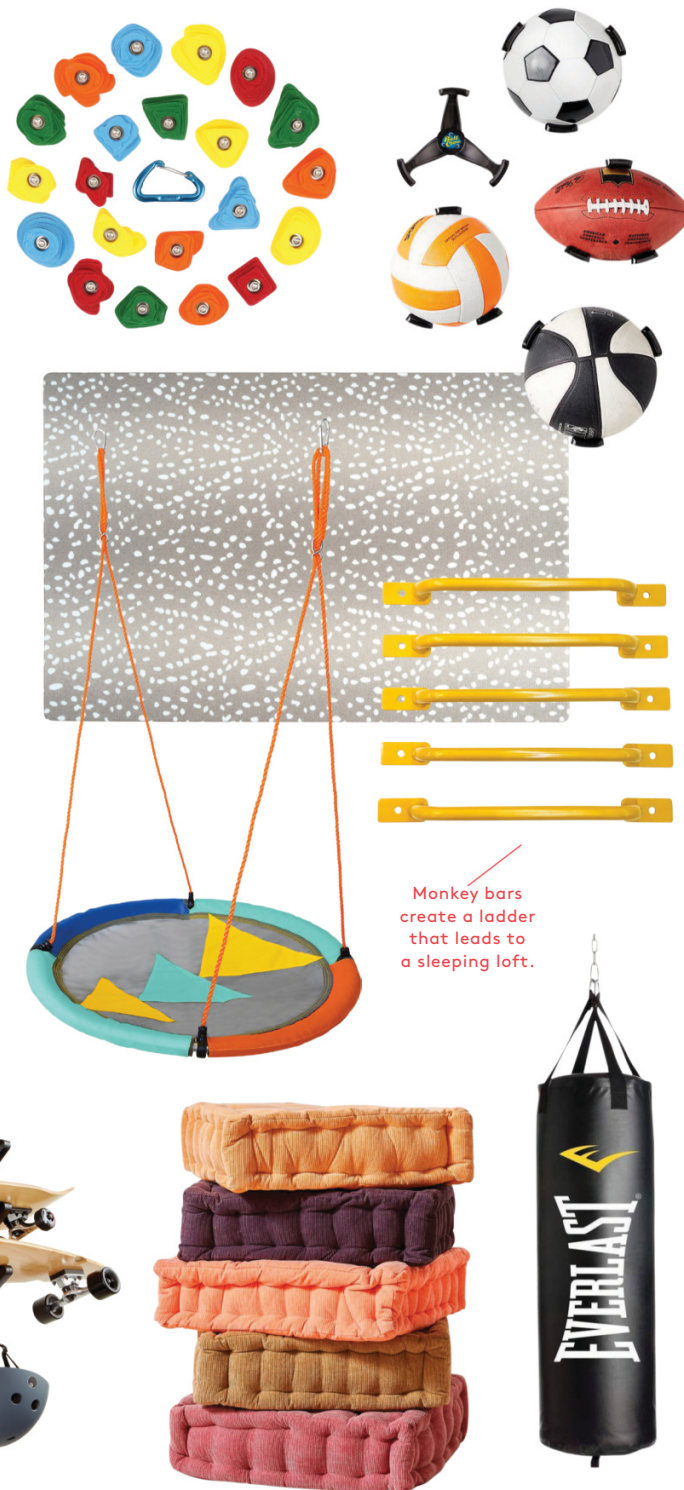




Meet the Owner

KARRI BOWEN-POOLE

A former teacher and the owner of Smart Playrooms, a design service in Rye, New York, Karri transformed her underused detached garage into a family-friendly gym and play space. Her three kids range in age from 12 to 25, so the area had to be flexible enough to suit everyone's needs—and still leave room for the car on the few occasions that called for parking out of the elements.



Monkey bars create a ladder that leads to a sleeping loft.

Get the Look

MAKE IT COMFORTABLE

When the kids need to study, the low, plush cushions are far more inviting than desk chairs. A vinyl mat provides the same softness underfoot as a rug, but it's easier to keep clean—especially when the doors are open. A coat of white paint freshened up the entire space.

USE EVERY SURFACE

To allow room for the car (or a yoga mat), Karri added hooks for storing sports gear, monkey bars for climbing to the loft bed, and clips for hanging interchangeable equipment, like a swing or punching bag.

LEAVE ROOM TO GROW

By making the space easy to adjust, Karri ensured it would meet the family's needs now and in the future. She's also helping her youngest practice independence at a safe distance. "I organized the walls so my 12-year-old and her friends can access whatever they want, but without my help," she explains.

TO BUY: 21 Sandstone Steep Wall Feet in Assorted Bright Tones #1, \$71; atomik climbingholds.com. Round Ball Claw, \$10; containerstore.com. Antelope + Stripe Reversible Mat, \$179; wander-and-roam.com. B4Adventure Sky Swing, \$80; dickssportinggoods.com. Mellow Yellow Monkey Bars, \$175 for 5; smartd2playrooms.com. Store Your Board Trifecta Rack, \$22; containerstore.com. Washed Corduroy Floor Pillows, \$49 each; urban outfitters.com. Everlast Nevatear Punching Bag, \$88; target.com.