

# home & garden

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## *Celebrities* HELP BUILD A **DREAM**

12-year-old Mikayla gets  
star treatment. See page 10

# FIT FOR A FAN

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True fan: Mikayla Stirling's bedroom now really is a fitting tribute to her fave soccer club.

## This devoted soccer fan can truly live her dreams now she has the perfect bedroom to suit her personality

There are stars all around 12-year-old Mikayla Stirling of Trinity Park.

The Manchester United soccer team supporter, who has been a huge fan of the English team for half of her young life, now has a new bedroom, completely themed in Manchester United colours and styles, thanks to two well-loved Australian home designers.

It was local Insideout Group designer Richie Stevens, who became a household name in the TV show *homeMADE*, who

initially designed the soccer-themed bedroom for Mikayla, who is slowly getting her life back on track as a normal, athletic 12-year-old after a mysterious illness left her in severe pain, unable to walk and confined to a wheelchair for months.

Her bedroom, in the family's new home, is a tribute to all things Manchester United.

Red and black colours, a bedspread imported from overseas and even the team's logo on the wardrobe mirror doors make the

room a shrine to Manchester.

"I just love it," Mikayla said.

"I've been playing soccer since before I was six and I've followed Manchester for a long time."

The Kewarra Beach Trinity Anglican School student (daughter of Paul and Alanna Stirling and sister to Nathan) recently finished competing with the Peninsula team in the four-day Queensland School Sports 12 Years and Under State School Championships in Ipswich where her team finished eighth.

While others may have wanted to finish in the top three, Mikayla was so thrilled just to be on the field, playing soccer again after she suffered a rare syndrome that caused extreme pain in her legs (even a bed sheet on her legs hurt enormously) and had prevented her from walking since late last year. After months of medical tests and new medication, Mikayla is back walking again, and more importantly in her eyes, playing soccer.

Celebrity TV designer Chontelle Samios, from *Domestic Blitz*, joined Richie for the

final stages (pictured above). Chontelle was here at the time and she helped me style the room," said Richie, who first met here on the set of *homeMADE*.

"We had a lot of fun styling Mikayla's room together."

Not only did Richie donate his time (and recruit Chontelle for no fee) to the project, he also drummed up a lot of help from his friends.

"Status Signs were fantastic with the decals," he said. "And Artizan Cabinets donated the study desks."

The piece de resistance of the room is the authentic soccer net that takes the place of a headboard. As Mikayla is a soccer goal keeper herself, the net has extra significance to her.

"I just love it," she said.

Mikayla is thrilled with her room and can't wait to show her friends.

"And I will try and keep it clean. You may be able to see the floor, but not much else," she joked.

"But, yeah, I will try to keep it clean."



## RICHIE'S TIPS

### Dark walls

The common misconception of painting dark walls is that it closes the space in and it is quite the contrary. Generally, you would only paint a feature wall to make the eyes recede into the distance. However, this room had a lot of features that could handle the dark walls and even the ceiling (I used Domino by Dulux Paints). With a mirrored wardrobe, loads of natural light and high ceilings, I also used reflective gloss vinyl graphics (supplied by Status Signs) on the walls and popped a vibrant red (Hotlips by Dulux Paints) throughout the space. I know this is quite daring, but remember – it's only paint. It is the cheapest way to completely transform a room.



### Interactive pin board

Create a pin board that's fun and eye-catching. Here I bought 1.5m of green golf sport roll-a-carpet from bunnings (\$14/per metre) and with a fine artist's paintbrush, painted the outlines of a soccer field with a little leftover white house paint. It was attached to the wall with double sided tape and now all those important dates are tacked to the wall so a game is never missed.