

Hi Samantha (Nov letter)

I enjoyed reading about your messy room and the cleanup/re-arranging process. It reminded me of other examples with which I have lived.

It made me think of Daegan's rooms in our house. She started off sharing a room with us when she was an infant but we soon moved her to our office space when we lived on Montcalm street and 15th Ave in Vancouver.

After we moved to Montréal she got a room of her own (but only for 2 months since JP soon joined her soon after he was born. It was the master bedroom of the previous owners and although the wallpaper was a bit riské we decided to leave it since we were so busy with getting organized in our new surroundings. I have added a photo of the room. It was taken in 1972 in her room on Terrebonne St in Montréal. She insisted on wearing her hat, scarf, and mittens in the house. From the look on her face, I guess we had suggested she take them off.



When we moved to Ile Bigras in 1974 she and JP shared the room which is now our bedroom upstairs. Their beds were on one end and the play area was on the other. I have added a photo of this room as



well. It was taken in 1974. You can see the desk and shelves we set up for her at the end of the room. I can't remember if this was before or after we cleaned the room, but since she shared it with JP, I expect this was after we cleaned it.

She finally got a room of her own when she moved to the room at the top of the stairs. Eventually, she settled into the room on the ground floor where you sleep when you come to visit. You might remember speaking about these rooms in your media debut when we

made that video for Daegan. I remember what fun that was. Have you taken a look at it recently? If not, you can check it out via the link below.

http://billreimer.ca/workshop/personal/videos/Daegans_40th/Menu01.htm.

Daegan was rather neat in her organization of her room but it was JP who would accumulate stuff all over the place as he proceeded with his busy life. In some cases it was part of the play equipment – lego blocks and related constructions, super-heros, and Star Wars paraphernalia. But often this was mixed with piles of clothes or the leftovers from an impromptu snack. The photo that I have included below is

C:\Users\Bill\Documents\Personal\BillHistory\Stories\SamanthaLetters\Letter2SamanthaNov2013CleaningRooms.doc
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one where he had strung string from one end of the room to the other and organized his figures and equipment all over the web. He had it like that for a few days and just lived and slept around it all. There are a couple of his friends in the room at the time I took the photo. It was taken in 1986 – JP was 14.

It would usually take us a few days (or sometimes weeks) until we would get overwhelmed by the mess (as we saw it) that went with his “constructions”. After many attempts at organizing cleanup time, we eventually came up with the following idea. I would put all his “junk” in the middle of the room. This involved clearing off all his dresser, bed, shelves (except for books), and any other horizontal surface in his room that had accumulated stuff – and piling it all in the middle of his room. We would then give him a set amount of time to pick up and distribute the stuff in the pile back onto the shelf or into the drawer in which they belonged (in a neat manner). At the appointed time, we would then sweep up what was left on the floor and dump it in the garbage.



That didn't mean there weren't tears involved, but it usually meant that we could get the room back into shape to begin another round of gradual accumulation of stuff.

I was amused (and a bit pleased) to receive the attached photo from JP showing how this technique has now been passed down to the future generations when it comes to room cleanup time. Poor Charlie!!

I hope you like your new room arrangement. It is amazing how a cleanup and rearrangement of a space can give you a new perspective and new energy.

Now if only I could find the time to clean my desk!!
Maybe I need JP to use the cleanup technique on me!

Love,
Bill

