

# Bunk Rooms Climb the Social Ladder

These communal spaces may have humble roots, but now they're features with style, whimsy and nostalgia.

*This article is part of our latest [Design special report](#), about homes for multiple generations and new definitions of family.*

The bunk bed, born two centuries ago as an austerity measure, is living in some splendor. For country homes, luxury hotels and [yachts](#), architects and designers are theming and decking out the basic components of pillars, railings and ladders with [timbers](#), zingy colors, playful cutouts and gingerbread.

The trend has been partly attributed to Covid-19. As retreat from society may be required, some homeowners want to be prepared to hole up someplace cheerful and comforting, which can accommodate groups of people not necessarily willing to share mattresses. Liz Caan, an interior designer in Newton, Mass., said that her bunk room clients had said, in effect, "We want to be able to sleep a gazillion people."