

# Sugar 'n' spice

It's a riot of colours and characters at Mumbai-based kiddie salon, Tears to Cheers designed by Kumpal & Associates.

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Oh, how cute! As clichéd as it may sound, you can't help but exclaim as you take in the striking pink-and-green polka dots splashed across the exteriors of Tears to Cheers, a salon for children in Mumbai. On opening the frosted-glass door, etched with a line of polka dots, you enter a world that's easier dreamt of than witnessed.

Owned by partners Pooja Saraf and Tripti Arya, the space was exclusively designed in 'kiddie style,' with a dash of élan. Pooja reveals, "My daughter's incessant howling during a hair-cutting session, led me to think out of the box. Tears to Cheers serves as a rescue operation for mothers, saving them from such ordeals." The salon is stocked with amazing gizmos, sure to sustain the attention of the crankiest kid, when subjected to the grooming routine.

Soaked in hues of fuchsia pink and neon green Dupont paint, Tears to Cheers casting an alluring welcome for its young clients. Interior and furniture designer for the space, Kumpal Agarwal says, "The idea was to ensure an enjoyable and comfortable grooming experience for the children. So I zeroed in on a retro theme and purposefully accommodated child-friendly furniture with rounded edges."

The pink and green combination, chosen by the clients and underplayed with white tones, offset a zany sugar-and-spice look. Combinations of sparkled granamite and vinyl flooring with a light-veined wood finish are enhanced by hollow, wooden waiting-stools, the inner rims of which have been sprayed pink and green. Bright green pendant lights add to the chirpy ambience of the space.

[1] Fuchsia pink and neon green Dupont paint coordinations are deftly toned down with a white ceiling and light brown vinyl flooring

[2] Tears to Cheers facade displaying the salon logo and frosted glass entrance door etched in a line of clear polka dots, supported by a minimalist style handle, in brushed steel





The store is sectioned into three split levels: the main work area, the upper level (play area) and a lower level (pantry). Tucked away to the right of the entrance, is the C-shaped reception desk. Across from it, stands a shampoo chair against a wall punctuated with square niches, display areas for purchasable kiddie accessories and products. Among the goodies are Mickey Mouse pendants, animal-shaped earrings and Disney-branded shampoos. The main area consists of three chairs hoisted on metal stands, designed specifically to cater to different age groups. The first takes the shape of a car crooning musical tunes; the second, a high-chair; and the third, a standard chair. These look into free-standing multi-purpose mirrors, complete with glass shelves set onto their thick frames. LCD screens hooked onto the mirror frames allow the children to view their favourite movie — from the vast DVD collection provided — totally oblivious to a pair of scissors snipping at their locks, styling blunt, layered, pineapple or mushroomed hairdos. The mirrors are deliberately positioned at an angle to make

- [3] The C-shaped fluorescent pink reception table with the frosted-glass entrance door
- [4] A cute pigeon-hole unit neatly embedded in the depth of a wall, exhibiting an array of child grooming-accessories and shampoos for sale
- [5] The grooming area complete with its car-shaped chair catering to tiny tots and free-standing multi-purpose mirrors. The flooring shows off the Tears to Cheers branding
- [6] Clearly demarcated split-levels depicting a staircase leading to the mezzanine play area above, outlined with a fluorescent pink picket fence. A tiny pantry and toilet below, is hidden from view with the help of simple white string curtains

### [conceptmaterials]

#### >CONCEPT

A chic salon designed exclusively for kids, packaged with trendy innovations to make the grooming process a comfortable and friendly activity

#### >MATERIALS

<b>Flooring</b>	Sparkled granamite tiles at the entrance, followed by a light-veined wood-finish vinyl flooring in the play and balance areas
<b>Furniture</b>	Light-hued wood sprayed with combinations of fuchsia pink or neon green Dupont paint
<b>Walls</b>	Washable, white lustre paint toning down the pink and green tints used on the furniture

> clip service



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[7] A play area at the mezzanine level is a mini toy-land and choc-a-bloc with gaming gizmos; a special treat for kids waiting their grooming turn

room for clutter-free storage and seating to doting, monitoring parents. The entire space is spiced up with child-friendly attractions such as the quirky Donald Duck blow-dryers and the cartoon-shaped coasters.

At the far end, distinctly defined split-levels project a well-balanced backdrop, creating the illusion of space. A picket-fenced play area at the top level reveals a minuscule toy-land featuring a rocking chair, air-hockey and tea-party table — the ideal respite for kids waiting their turn. The level below demarcated by string-curtains, hides a compact loo and pantry. The simple bathroom covered in white tiles flaunts white sanitary fittings and a mirror that shows off the Tears to Cheers logo design. The insignia also makes an appearance on the vinyl flooring and picket-fence strips of the play area.

Apart from pampered hair-washes and funky hair-cuts, Tears to Cheers also offers baby manicures and pedicures supplemented with nail-art. And the crowning glory... its birthday package crafts an ideal solution for treating friends to plenty of mollycoddling gimmicks. Now, the next time you want to get your little one's hair styled without a temper tantrum, you know where to head... 🎂

#### [factfile]

<b>Client</b>	Pooja Saraf and Tripti Arya
<b>Location</b>	off Kemps Corner, Mumbai
<b>Project area</b>	400 sq ft
<b>Design team</b>	Kumpal Agarwal and Anu Gala