

Ideas of Order

Volume 4

THE CALIFORNIA CLOSETS MAGAZINE

THE HOME ISSUE

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Ideas of Order

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Home is where one starts from
— T.S. ELIOT

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Dorothy knew it: There's no place like home. Remember the final scene in
The Wizard of Oz? Dorothy wakes up in her bed surrounded by the people she loves
only to repeat that now iconic line. There IS no place like home.

Home. Our safe place, our origin story; the place from which we begin the journey and
the place where we find comfort when we return. Lately life is making all of us
feel like Dorothy, caught in a tornado of uncertainty and chaos. The message? Head
for shelter. We want to be home. Home is reassuring, it's our comfort zone,
it's the place for everyday moments of pleasure. Honey, I'm home!

Come in. Sit down. Pull up the covers. Put up your feet. Rest your eyes. Curl up under that
cashmere blanket. Build a fire. Read a book. Make a cup of tea. Pour a glass of wine.
Stroke the cat. Hug the baby. Read a book. Sing in the shower. Take a nap.
Take a bubble bath. Dance to a Latin beat. Light a scented candle. Smell the flowers.
You're home. There's no place like it.

(Cont. next page)

Please send comments and questions to ideasoforder@calclosets.com

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BY CARRIE TUHY

To make a home, as Dorothy discovered, takes brains and heart and courage. You have to know who you are and what you need and have the will to pursue it. The people profiled in this issue have all these attributes and more: They have a dream.

Misty Copeland grew up impoverished, living in a motel room with her mother and siblings, longing to be a ballerina even though at 13 she was considered too old with the wrong body type. But she also dreamed someday of having a room of her own fit for a princess, a place where she could be alone, get dressed, and find the time to be herself.

Joy Cho, the daughter of immigrant parents, was raised to work hard, save money, and put family first. Today she's a mother of two and a successful entrepreneur, having built not just a business but also a home with room enough for work and play.

Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell were living the dream as sophisticated urban professionals dwelling in New York City and working high-powered jobs. They thought they had lost it all during the recession. Instead, they put down roots in a rural area and found community and new careers that fulfill them.

As a young boy in Tel Aviv, Dan Brunn liked art, music, and Bauhaus buildings. After moving to America at age 7 and training as an architect, he designed his dream house — a zero-waste construction that respects the planet and nature. Brunn's Bridge House is built over a stream on a tiny lot in the center of Los Angeles. How's that for a dream?

But there's something else these people have in common: a shared belief in order. Organization is key to a satisfying life—dreams realized—and the very foundation of home. Order invites balance and harmony, the groundwork for happiness and contentment. And yes, we've made it the title of this magazine: *Ideas of Order*. We've said it before (this is the fourth issue, after all): We can all use more ideas of order, especially in that special oasis we call home. Order in the House! There's nothing like it, and there's no place like home.

Organization is key to a satisfying life
and the very foundation of home.
Order invites balance and harmony,
the groundwork for happiness and contentment.





ON POINT



World-famous ballet dancer Misty Copeland knew exactly what she wanted: an apartment with easy luxury and a chic dressing room of her own

BY LOUISA ERMELINO

MISTY COPELAND

Principal Dancer at American Ballet Theatre | NYC

To be a dancer, a Sugar Plum Fairy, a ballerina, is a fairy-tale fantasy, but Misty Copeland, the first Black principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre’s 75-year history, has made it a reality. And her sumptuous apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, purchased two years ago with her husband, lawyer Olu Evans, reflects the life she lives and the life she dreamed.

The couple enlisted the know-how of Los Angeles-based interior designer Brigitte Romanek when, as Copeland has said, she realized how making a home involves many layers. Evans is quoted as saying they chose Romanek as a person of color for the cultural connection she would bring to the project, among other attributes. Romanek worked with Evans and Copeland to make the apartment a center of calm in the life of two busy urban professionals, incorporating lush fabric, velvet, silk, linen, and suede, along with dramatic area rugs, to add beauty as well as function to the classic three-bedroom apartment. Works by artists of color like painter Asuka Anastacia Ogawa and photographer Lorna Simpson are featured throughout.

When they began the renovation they had no idea how much time they would be spending there, but Copeland always knew her closet would be, as she told *Architectural Digest*, “my number-one priority.” Copeland wanted not just a closet, but a special dressing room where she could be alone, feel at peace, and get dressed. This space, created from a spare bedroom, has places for her vast collection of shoes, her dresses, and her handbags. There are full-length mirrors, as well as a dressing table and lots of good natural light. In short, everything she wanted and needed. Like the rest of the apartment, this room reflects Copeland’s desire for simplicity and ease with ample accommodation for her busy, accomplished life.

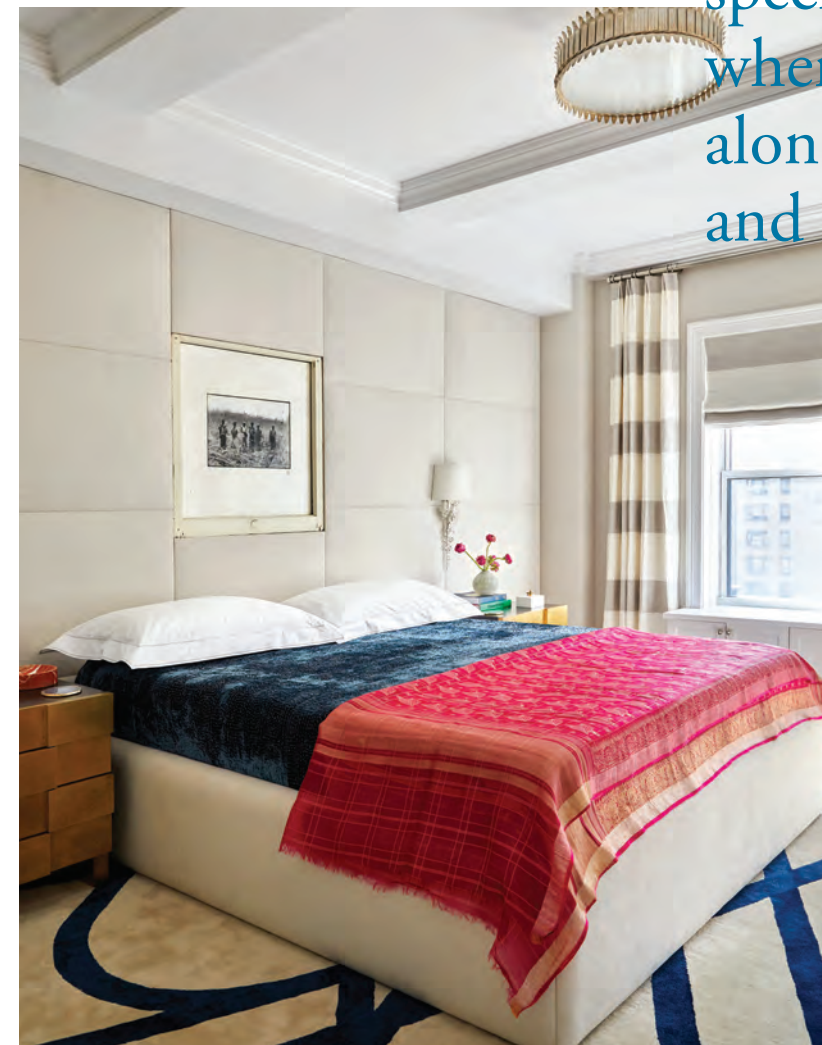
Copeland’s life, and her home, are far different than that of her childhood. Living in a motel room with her mother and five siblings, Copeland was 13 when she decided she wanted to be a ballerina. Being told she was too old and did not have the right body for ballet didn’t deter her. In one year, she was dancing professionally and on point within three months of her first dance class.



The elegance and simplicity of the living room is highlighted by a custom plush blue velvet couch, matching chairs, and a vintage cocktail table.



Copeland wanted a special dressing room where she could be alone, feel at peace, and get dressed.



OPPOSITE PAGE: *Femininity* and *function* are the key words in the expansive dressing room with its display of floor-to-ceiling shoe shelves and crystal chandelier. **LEFT:** The bedroom boasts a suede wall and suede-upholstered silk velvet-covered bed accented with a red-and-gold textile. **BELOW:** A tutu gets pride of place among color-coordinated clothes and bags.



A glass-ceiling breaker, Copeland has written books, including her best-selling memoir, *Life in Motion*; has performed with Prince and Taylor Swift; was the subject of a documentary, *A Ballerina's Tale*; and even has a Barbie doll created in her image.

Her professional life is augmented by her commitment to giving back. Stateside, she is involved with programs for at-risk youth and is an advocate for more girls discovering ballet regardless of their age or background. In Rwanda, in 2015, she launched the inaugural girls' dance program with international nonprofit MindLeaps. In May 2020, she became a creator of Swans for Relief, a virtual performance of international ballet dancers to raise funds for dancers all over the world.

A dynamic woman embracing a changing world, Copeland is a model for young girls everywhere. Dream it. Then make it happen. That's the point.

CC design consultant: Megan Garcia

a welcoming home

Joy Cho built a successful web business from the ground up. Next project? A house that balances work, family, and life

BY JENNY ALLEN



“This is my family’s house, the house my kids will grow up in. It’s our forever home.”

For 14 years, Joy Cho and her husband, Bob, were apartment renters—first in Philadelphia, hometown for both, and then in Los Angeles, where they moved a decade ago. The couple craved space for entertaining friends, more room for their kids, and a yard for them to play in—a home for making memories. “At the end of the day, we think of our family, our friends, our connections,” Joy says. She had no interest in “rooms you use one or two times a year.” “This is my family’s house,” she says of the finished product, “the house my kids will grow up in. It’s our forever home.”

Joy is the founder and creative director of the successful lifestyle empire Oh Joy!, which brings her playful use of color and pattern to everything from suitcases to sneakers. Bob is a surgeon. Both are hands-on parents to daughters Ruby, 9, and Coco, 6.

When they were finally ready to buy their first house, they were stunned at LA’s steep prices. Building a home in the area costs on average about 50 percent less than buying one, so in 2014, they found a hillside lot, hired an architectural firm, dug into their savings, took out a construction loan, and set to work creating a house that would embrace both easy entertaining and family life.

JOY CHO

Founder and Creative Director of Oh Joy! | Los Angeles



The result is cheerful, open, and warm. Windows and skylights bring in the California sunshine, and pale wood floors and terrazzo tiles add texture to temper the house's clean, contemporary lines. The couple made trade-offs to increase space and keep costs down, but one priority Joy was clear on: places to put things. "Storage makes whatever space you're in feel bigger," she says.

Cleverly designed closets in her daughters' bedrooms can grow with them; cubbies in the entryway prevent loose shoes from taking over the threshold. Ample storage "has improved the general sanity of my family, and my sanity," Joy says. Her favorite room, she admits, may be the couple's closet. Instead of a vast master suite, Joy and Bob opted for a smaller bedroom. "I wanted to take some of that space and make my dream closet," she says. Among its custom features is a hamper, with a pass-through to the laundry room, cunningly camouflaged in cabinetry.

But storage isn't everything. "We have stuff in our lives, but that's not what propels us," Joy says. Family and friends, and keeping those connections strong—that's where her heart lies. "We've fallen in love with the house," she says, "and I can't wait to have people over."

CC design consultant: Nicole Caswell

CLOCKWISE: The dining room is for family meals as well as dinner parties. Light wood and softly iridescent wallpaper make the couple's closet feel like a separate room. In the living room, the sofa's deep green velvet has "personality," Joy says, but also hides stains, while shelves display beloved items out of the way of accidents. "These things tell a story of you and your family," she says.

Green Acres

Two city dwellers turned a 19th-century farm
and a rundown mansion into a
thriving business and an elegant home

BY LOUISA ERMELINO



JOSH KILMER-PURCELL & BRENT RIDGE

Farmers & Beekman 1802 founders | New York State



“When life gives you lemons you make lemonade,” Brent Ridge (above, right) has been quoted as saying. And when life gives you goats? Well, he’s added, “you make cheese!” Actually, when physician Brent Ridge and his husband, advertising executive and author Josh Kilmer-Purcell, got those goats, the first thing they made was goat milk soap, but it was just the beginning of an incredible journey.

They made a dramatic change from New York City living to rural farm life in Sharon Springs, an upstate New York town with a little over 500 residents. The couple purchased the farm in 2007 after falling in love with it during an apple-picking trip. Shortly afterward, those lemons arrived.

Both men lost their high-powered jobs and decided to relocate and, unwittingly, reinvent themselves. Next came the goats, courtesy of their neighbor, Farmer John, who asked if he could

house his herd in their barn. The result of this adventure is a lifestyle brand, Beekman 1802, which includes a skin-care line, locally sourced artisanal products, and home items.

In recent years, they’ve turned their attention to the house, which was built in 1802 and, Ridge says, “looks huge but is actually four rooms on top of four rooms. Originally it was all bedrooms with 12-foot-wide hallways and an outdoor kitchen.” Their plan was to mix traditional and contemporary pieces with the goal of maintaining the integrity of the house. The library houses books and framed maps from the time of William Beekman, the original owner, and a collection of curiosities as homage to the 19th century.

An important element of the restored farmhouse is the shared closet, created from a small room. “We’ve always shared a closet, from the time we lived in New York City,” Ridge says.



The sense of real community where you depend on your neighbors was well worth the move.



“The closet in our apartment was tiny.” But now their closet can accommodate all their needs, including their varied wardrobes. They have clothes for everything from TV appearances on HSN and QVC to charity events and mucking out stalls.

A big request in designing the closet was lighting. “Electricity is always a challenge in an old house, so we asked for all the bells and whistles when it came to lighting.” There’s under-the-shelf LED lighting wherever possible to give the closet a boutique feeling. The floors are the original wood, and there’s a custom-built chest of drawers. An unusual feature of the closet is a window. Ridge says it’s a great advantage when you’re getting dressed: One look outside and you can see the weather!

Ridge and Kilmer-Purcell have 47 goats, and the population swells in spring. They also have 10 chickens, a three-legged dog, and extensive gardens. They grow, freeze, and can all their own food. The transition to the country means everything isn’t available around the clock, Ridge concludes, but the trade-off, the sense of real community where you depend on your neighbors, was well worth it.

CC design consultant: Kendall Connors



OPPOSITE PAGE: The stately Beekman House, an example of a Georgian Palladian-style mansion built in 1802, presides over the 60-acre estate. In the center hall, a whimsical chair with the image of a deer printed on leather is by artist Maurice Renoma. **THIS PAGE:** The library has a collection of curiosities to reflect the era of world exploration in which the house was constructed; the taxidermied pheasant was a gift from a neighbor. Gamboling baby goats Darcy and Hannah. Josh and Brent in their shared closet.

STATE OF HIS ART



Dan Brunn designed an eco-chic residence that not only straddles a stream but also bridges the future

BY ALEX FRANKEL



DAN BRUNN
Architect | Los Angeles

Dan Brunn lived across the street from a house in Los Angeles for seven years. By the time it came up for sale, he'd had ample time to imagine how he might rebuild it. His firm, Dan Brunn Architecture, bought the building and started designing a remodel. Brunn's challenge was to juggle nature with neighborhood views and incorporate a seasonal creek that ran through the property. In the end, he decided to tear down the existing structure and build the house not next to the creek but above it.

What was soon named Bridge House is 210 feet long and just 20 feet wide, a house shaped like a line of boxcars that flies buttress-like above the banks of the creek that runs through its one-third-of-an-acre lot. As the project progressed, Brunn decided not only to use the house as a calling card for his

“I am constantly discovering new moments throughout the house.”

business but to actually move in. Living there in turn changed his outlook on the built environment. “It has made me appreciate nature even more,” he says. “New projects are taking this connection to new horizons.”

Brunn spent his early years in a farming town north of Tel Aviv before his family moved to Los Angeles when he was 7 years old. It was the Bauhaus architecture of Tel Aviv, he says, that gave him a desire to become an architect. The 4,500-square-foot Bridge House also exemplifies a minimalist aesthetic that Brunn has become known for and demonstrates innovative systems that serve to bring in light and expand volume. It’s one thing to design and hand off a house; it’s another to live there through four seasons. “I am constantly discovering new moments throughout the house, as the house accepts the sun’s beams, with shadows ever present,” he says.

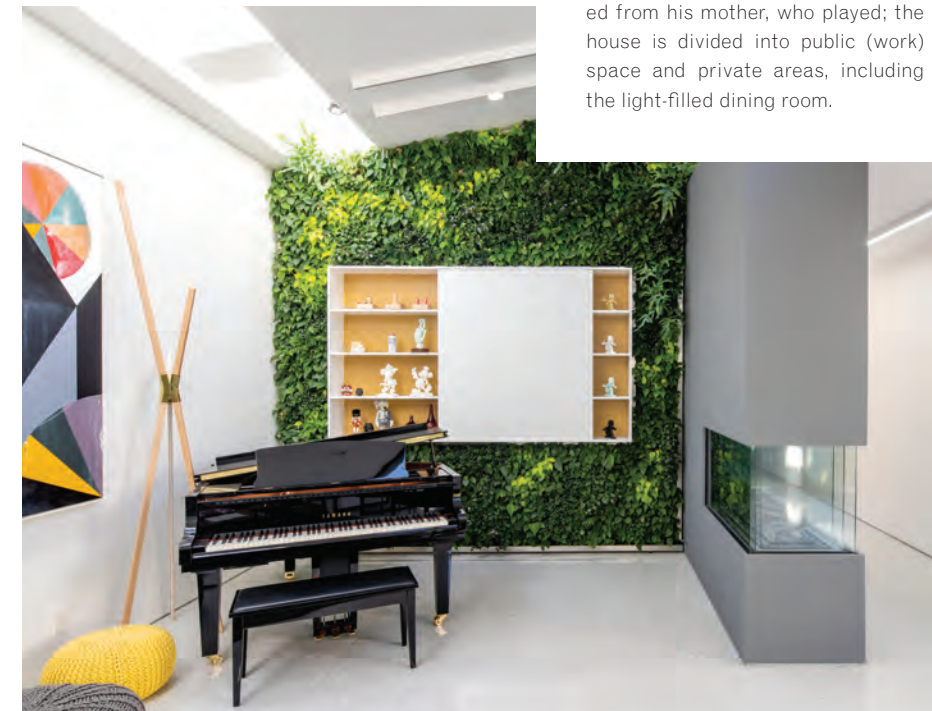
Living and working at Bridge House brought Brunn an intimate connection with his creation. In other words, the master closet is not just a closet but *his* closet. “I think of it more as a room than a closet,” he says. The shelves appear to float off the back wall and promote a sense of unconfined space. The design matches Brunn’s sensibilities and, he says, “exudes the rhythm of Bridge House.”

Far from being one long corridor, Bridge House embraces the landscape outside thanks to its many windows and slender width. It’s a true indoor-outdoor design, and Brunn says he’s fortunate to have a home and office that act as “a tool toward nature.” When he is not playing the baby grand piano or relaxing among this modern art collection, the elongated house also forces him to walk a lot each day, racking up steps taken on his fitness tracker device, which is certainly a bonus if you are there 24-7.

CC design consultant: Darlene Lillehaugen



CLOCKWISE: Brunn’s design uses recycled steel to form the bones of the structure; the room-like closet has floating shelves that invoke serenity; his love of piano was inherited from his mother, who played; the house is divided into public (work) space and private areas, including the light-filled dining room.





MID-CENTURY MADE MODERN

For Elise Loehnen, editor at large of goop, the main goal of her new master closet design was to honor the aesthetic of her mid-century modern home, designed by A. Quincy Jones. Her wardrobe-style closet, with a natural wood finish and strategic organization, feels as if it was meant to be part of her airy Brentwood house.

CC design consultant: Katharine Mills-Tierney

Closets are the first place to turn when you want to tidy up your stuff...

ORDER IN THE HOUSE

...if you can get organized *here*,
you can get organized *anywhere*

BY JESSICA SCHUSTER



CALIFORNIA COOL Two-time Olympic gold medalist Shaun White wanted to create his own Palm Springs-inspired abode in the Hollywood hills. He purchased an A-frame house with many mid-century details still intact, and his objective was to bring it back to life. For his master closet, this meant a simple, minimalist design. Graphite rods and handles against a white backdrop keep the closet simple and light and make it feel like a true extension of the home.

CC design consultant: Andrew Rayas



BRIGHT WITHIN SIGHT Inside a two-story brick home in Atlanta, lifestyle blogger Kelly Page dreamed of a closet built around pristine visual appeal and accessibility. She also had a specific request from her husband, who wanted the closet to be bright enough for him to distinguish between his navy blue and black socks. With this in mind, LED lighting was integrated throughout the design above all hanging rods, and puck lights give the closet a boutique-style feel and prevent any future color confusion.

CC design consultant: Carmin Francisco



WALLS OF WHITE Beach homes typically have a soothing, relaxing feeling designed to help you refresh and recharge. Cherie and Keith Hughes' beach home in Key Largo, Florida, is no exception. Made up of a wardrobe along one wall and a walk-in hallway, the master closet space has a luxury Zen vibe, with its white Shaker cabinets and oil-rubbed bronze hardware.

CC design consultant: Andrea Boet



SLEEK IN THE CITY For her new apartment in New York City, dentist Stephanie Dumanian wanted a modern boutique look for her walk-in closet. Custom sliding doors with a black powder-coated finish enclose her belongings, with her favorite shoes displayed as the pièce de résistance.

CC design consultant: Megan Garcia



FIRST-HOME FLEXIBILITY After completing a major renovation on their first home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, Jen Norman and Kirk Christiansen were more than ready to find a solution for their walk-in master closet that would give them plenty of storage space but also match the mid-century modern feel of their renovations. Christiansen was eager to consider The Everyday System, California Closets’ modular organizational system designed in collaboration with his aunt Martha Stewart, and its thoughtful flexibility, overall movability, and adjustable shelving worked perfectly for everything from shoes to sweaters.

CC design consultant: Kelly Higgins



TROPICAL FLAIR Set high in the Vancouver clouds, Ashley wanted to transform a bedroom in her condo into a walk-in closet so she could get rid of the rolling racks and boxes she had been using. While displaying her treasured handbag collection was one of her dreams for the space, the overall inspiration actually came from a closet she saw in a previous issue of *Ideas of Order*. Designed around the room’s unconventional angles, Ashley’s walk-in covers three separate walls and overlays the tropical palm frond wallpaper that reminds her of her Californian roots.

CC design consultant: Emma Beaty



HIS-AND-HERS HAVEN Kris and Tom Caravela consider their New Jersey house their forever home, and they wanted to make sure their closets (hers, left; his, right) offered a glamorous retreat with thoughtful storage and display space. Lighting became a crucial piece of the first-floor walk-in closets, creating ultimate visibility and dimension but also adding a bit of magic. Once the lights are turned on, you're able to see through the mirrored doors thanks to a reflective bronze coating applied to the mirrors.

CC design consultant: Shellie Topper



Photo: Fudil Berisha

“VISUALLY STUNNING AND DESIGNED
FOR OUR EVER-CHANGING MODERN LIVES,
THE EVERYDAY SYSTEM
IS HOME ORGANIZATION AT ITS BEST.”

—MARTHA STEWART

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*Shown: The Everyday System™
4.5' Wall Mounted Pantry Storage
Unit with 14" Shelf Depth / Graphite
Metal Frame with Perry St. White
Woodgrain Shelves.*

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®



"This is me in a pool in Riverside, California. We all love water, and my father is the best swimmer I've ever met. I think he has hollow bones."

No Memory Is Ever Alone

Past became present when a daughter turned her father's slides into shared recollections of home

BY SARAH RUTLEDGE

Catherine Panebianco has been taking pictures for 30 years. Although she works as a communications coordinator for a school district, this art form has always been a passion. For decades, she primarily photographed animals: fine art (her work has been exhibited from Massachusetts to Texas), commissions of people and their pets, and snapshots of adoptable dogs at the local humane society.

Panebianco also took part in "365 projects" on Instagram, where participants commit to posting an image relating to a word or a phrase every day for a year. Four years ago, the phrase was "from where I stand," and she was stuck. She dropped in on her parents, Jean and Glenn Wilcock, who lived down the road in Jamestown, New York.

Jean was going through boxes. "She was always organizing something," Panebianco says. Included among them was a collection of slides, which were a familiar sight. Glenn, a fellow shutterbug, began taking pictures as a teenager. As a young man, he had amassed about 400 slides, mostly flowers, travel photos, and people—especially Jean, whom he met when they were 15.

Glenn grew up to marry Jean and become a metallurgical engineer, and the family of four lived all over the United States, moving nine times before Panebianco graduated from high school. The relocations left her feeling adrift, like she had no steady home. But there was one tradition that grounded her: Every Christmas, her extended family gathered and looked at Glenn's slides.

"We told stories," she says, "and every year they got a little more exaggerated, and there was a little more truth telling." The slides featured not just family, but also "near misses" (like an uncle's girlfriend who drank too much), and they provided a lively cast of characters

for yearly fodder. Panebianco developed a sense of home and family lore through repeated viewings of these images.

That day at her parents' house, Panebianco pocketed a slide of teenage Jean reclining in a boat on a lake in Canada. She began experimenting with it, eventually holding it up to Chautauqua Lake near her home. "The backgrounds lined up," she says. "And I realized, I could see through the slide to the lake. I had this epiphany of connecting the past and the present." She also had the "from where I stand" image for her 365 project.

Although Panebianco liked the first image, eventually titled "Meditative Musings," at first she thought it was a one-off. Soon, however, she realized that other slides had the same potential for overlaying the present. She continued matching up Glenn's slides, by then nearly 70 years old, to current backdrops, usually in and around her own home. The result is the series *No Memory Is Ever Alone*, which has won numerous awards and accolades, including features in *The Guardian* and *PopSugar*.

Panebianco works manually, without digital manipulation, taking care to juxtapose her family history against her current life. Her images are carefully curated: In addition to considering light and palette, she selects only backdrops that have personal meaning. "The photographs are like little spirits," she says. "It's comforting to think about this connection." The series is ongoing, as she continues to add, as she says, "a few final slides."

No Memory Is Ever Alone explores many through lines in the family, including a love of photography (obviously!), water, and animals, especially dogs. Many of the images feature Jean, who died in March 2019. "She really liked the project," Panebianco says. "And it's like she's still here." The series has also been "a great way for my dad and me to bond." She says that although her widowed father doesn't understand why people want to see photographs of his life, "I think he secretly feels like a rock star."

In her novel *Cat's Eye*, Margaret Atwood wrote, "You don't look back along time but down through it, like water. Sometimes this comes to the surface, sometimes that, sometimes nothing. Nothing goes away." In Catherine Panebianco's work, nothing goes away, our loved ones are always nearby, and home is what lies within us.



TOP: "My father's dog, Tex, is on the stoop of his childhood home, and you can see my fat Lab, Murphy, at the top of my stairs. We are all huge dog lovers; you can't get that kind of love from anyone else."

BOTTOM: "My great-grandparents had supper every single Sunday. They played games, did skits, and dressed up. The two closest to the camera were Welsh, and real characters. They showed up one day with their suitcases and just stayed."



"This is my great-uncle Grange and his wife and kids. They lived on the outskirts of Toronto and didn't visit as much as everyone else. My father recently got in touch with one of his cousins who is still alive, and he has been sharing the slides he took of her family."

Panebianco developed a sense of home and family lore through repeated viewings of these images.



Work from

Skip the commute. Pick a space in your house and make it your own office away from the office, with everything you need for success. Pajamas optional.

BY JILL RUSSELL



Home

Forget answering emails from the couch or annexing half the kitchen table: Working from home doesn't have to be a makeshift affair. Think custom storage, meaningful artwork, and thoughtful lighting. Whether it's a designated room, a separate outbuilding, or an extension of your closet, you can create a comfortable, organized home office that goes beyond the bare minimum (computer, Wi-Fi) to shut out distractions and inspire creativity and productivity—and might even double as an exercise studio or a meditation space. Or to put a new spin on an old saying: If you work in a space you love, you'll never work a day in your life.

ERIN HIEMSTRA
#WFH Apartment 34 founder, San Francisco

"The couch or the bed just doesn't cut it when you're working 9 to 5 without leaving the house," wrote Erin Hiemstra of her new backyard office on her blog *Apartment 34*. The freestanding 10-by-10-foot structure's centerpiece is a wraparound black glass desktop set against light wood. To round out the space's sophisticated vibe, this self-described "sucker for leaning art" added an upper shelf with built-in LED lights to display framed prints and ceramics. The minimal layout leaves Hiemstra enough room to roll out her yoga mat for Zoom classes and welcome her French bulldog, Luna, for midday snuggles.

CC design consultant: Corinne Cronin



CESAR GARCÍA
#WFH financial adviser, NYC

An L-shaped desk unit makes efficient use of the open corner in the home office of Cesar García and his wife, Kathy, which marries function with statement-making style. The desk itself includes separate sections for drawers, printer storage, computers, and dedicated his-and-hers seating. Floating shelves above complete the cohesive look of a custom built-in, with discreet puck lighting to spotlight the couple's books and work spaces. The rich wood finish throughout the space pairs with matte aluminum hardware for a clean-lined and classic look.

CC design consultant: Allegra Pennisi



RACHEL MANIATIS
#WFH artist, Carmel, NY

As artist Rachel Maniatis added a standalone studio on the property of her weekend home, she carefully considered every inch for the tools of the trade. The desktop sits at just the right height for sketching and painting, with enough depth for Maniatis to spread out her drawing board and palettes. Every paint tube, brush, pencil, and sheet of paper has a dedicated slot. The combination of white and natural finishes has a calming effect, while two pops of color—a fiery orange-red door and stool—add dimension to the space without overwhelming it.

CC design consultant: Marilena Viscogliosi





ASHLEY SPIRES

#WFH author and illustrator, Vancouver, BC

As the best-selling author and illustrator of children's books like *The Most Magnificent Thing* and the *Binky the Space Cat* series, Ashley Spires knows how to bring her creative vision to life. Case in point: her bright, playful home office, which is filled with organizational details and lots of natural light. With drawers and enclosed shelving for art supplies, a desk surface for her Wacom digital drawing tablet, spots for an extra computer monitor and small TV, and concealed storage for wires and electronics, Spires has a place for everything she needs. The extra-tall open shelves provide room to inject personality and display treasured items like her own published titles and plush toy characters from the series—including Binky.

CC design consultant: Melanie Baudot



CARMIN FRANCISCO #WFH designer, Mableton, GA

CC designer Carmin Francisco's office-guest room is the platonic ideal of a maximized small space. This innovative design (part custom, part modular Everyday System) nestles a desk between a window and a wall bed (Francisco's Aussiedoodle, Opal, approves!). And there's no shortage of clever storage: a drawer conceals office supplies, while an overhead shelf holds other must-haves and mementos.

CC design consultant: Carmin Francisco



NICOLE #WFH professor, Vancouver, BC

This brilliant "cloffice" proves you don't need a spare room to carve out a functional and beautiful work-from-home setup. The built-in wardrobe in professor Nicole's bedroom packs in all her essentials—an area to hang coats, cubbies for scarves and other accessories, drawers with pull-out shoe trays—along one wall, with enough room for her workstation. An ample desktop fits both the monitor and printer, with vented hideaway storage for the computer tower, a retractable keyboard tray, and a file drawer below. Above, bookshelves, lit underneath, make the most of the vertical wall space.

CC design consultant: Emma Beaty





JACLYN JOHNSON
#WFH CEO and founder of Create & Cultivate, Los Angeles

Jaclyn Johnson wanted an energizing yet calming home office to power her through long days running a media company for working women—starting with a wall-to-wall desk beneath two towering windows. “Our house is on a hill, so I see nothing but trees when I look out,” she says. “It feels like a little treehouse.” Smart storage keeps the desktop clutter-free so she can focus and add books and other personal pick-me-ups. There’s a sliding shelf for the printer, drawers to tuck away Johnson’s audio gear for podcasting, and a wall-mounted whiteboard to capture big ideas. A Hem chair and ottoman add a splash of millennial pink, Johnson’s favorite color.

CC design consultant: Cara Carrasco



Kidspace

BY JESSICA SCHUSTER

When toys are prized objects and your kids can choose their clothes, their closets should be primed for growth, change, and accessibility. Turn the page for one mother's solution.



Sarah Ewick, mom of two and partnerships director for MOTHER and In Good Company, had less than 36 square feet of closet space in her San Francisco apartment. She was looking for an organization solution with storage space, flexibility—and plenty of personality.



TOP LEFT: This modular Everyday System includes space for dresses to hang from a stylish gold hanging rod but also leaves room to store important accessories like bags and shoes.

BOTTOM: With a mix of open and concealed shelves behind a mesh door cabinet, the closet feels open and welcoming, and sisters Nell (4) and Winslow (1) enjoy spending time there.

CC design consultant: Cygridh Rooney



“Nell loves that she has drawers just for her and shelves for her music box and other treasures.”



“We store the toys in bins that pick up the colors in the wallpaper and make it easy to keep the space organized.”

Domino magazine editor in chief Jessica Romm Perez always knew this closet in her New York City apartment would have to act as storage for children's items as well as household towels and linens. Perez chose to keep the closet outfitted with 18-inch-deep adjustable shelving in white, since she knew she'd be going with a bold wallpaper for the rest of the room and it would give her the flexibility to play with a range of colorful bins and baskets.

CC design consultant: Carolyn Musher



BEFORE: After visiting 12 thrift stores to collect white-covered books to fill their home office bookshelf in 2019, designer and content creator Anne Sage (below) and her husband, Ivan Juarez-Mrazek, learned they'd be welcoming a new baby. The couple live in an 800-square-foot, two-bedroom duplex in Los Angeles, so it was already time for the next chapter of their home office space.

“Halo just learned how to point, so when we sit on the floor playing, she looks up at the shelves and points at the toys she wants.”



AFTER: Sage and her husband decided to carve out functional spaces for the baby throughout their apartment that serve a dual purpose as they work from home. They kept the desk intact, including a slide-out cabinet for their printer that hides visual clutter and cords, but they replaced the collection of books with curated baby toys, books, and pom-pom-adorned storage bins to hold smaller items like swaddles for baby Halo (1), who arrived in March 2020.

CC design consultant: Darlene Lillehaugen



“Carter was so proud to work in his ‘office.’ I’m thrilled with how much independence this setup allows.”

With homeschool becoming more necessary in 2020, Erin Hiemstra, founder of *Apartment 34*, needed a closet to do double duty for her son, Carter (5). The Everyday System was the perfect mini makeover Hiemstra needed to ensure the space was designed so her independent kindergartner could handle getting ready on his own but also have easy access to any supplies he needed during the school day. The light, airy system includes hidden adjustable features that allow the shelving and hanging rods to adjust as Carter grows, while maintaining an overall system that is aesthetically pleasing.

CC design consultant: Corinne Cronin



1

Narrow Hallway Bookshelf

Our homes can provide a treasure trove of unexpected spaces. When Sheina Macadam was searching for a place to house her books in her quaint character home in Vancouver, British Columbia, the answer was simple: a reclaimed spot in the hallway. This warm mini library includes shelves that float off the ground and a countertop that is all one piece, so the look is simple, sleek, and seamless—with plenty of room to stretch out.

CC design consultant: Danielle LaPointe

Nooks, Crannies & Rooms With a Mission

Eight savvy solutions to give form to function BY JESSICA SCHUSTER

“Light and bright was the goal for the space, as it was previously quite dark.”



2

Entryway

As you walk into Pamela Coloumbe's Calgary, Alberta, house, built in 1918, you are in the entryway, but you're also in the living room and home office. The original entryway accommodated only coats and boots, but the update has extended living room storage, easy-to-access hanging space, a bench for even more storage, and a full-length mirror.

CC design consultant: Pamela Coloumbe



3

Mudroom

Situated next to their garage and side patio, the Kowals' mudroom in Naperville, Illinois, gets a lot of foot traffic. They wanted to create optimum organization in this well-traveled space, with stacked shoe shelves, open hooks for easy access to coats and bags, and an area designed specifically for the children's stroller.

CC design consultant: Leslie Conneely and LC Interiors



4

Laundry Room

Kelly Sleece's laundry room in East Quogue, New York, had zero storage but plenty of usable space. The blank slate was designed to include a variety of cabinets to house washer and dryer pipes (while keeping them accessible) and an area that's the perfect height for folding freshly laundered clothes.

CC design consultant: Ariane Brabant



5

Pantry

What was once a bathroom that opened into the kitchen is now an open pantry where interior designer Sarah Sherman Samuel and her family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, can easily access anything they need, with nothing hidden behind cupboards or in drawers. They also decided to keep their fridge (shown at left) in the pantry so the space is a “one-stop-shop for all ingredients,” as Samuel says.

CC design consultant: Leslie Conneely



6

Wall Bed

With a newly purchased two-bedroom condo in Toronto, photographer and creative director Alen Palander wanted to make the most of his second bedroom within a strict budget and a specific creative vision. The wall bed system allows him to use the bed only when needed, and the design evokes the industrial, dark, emotive feel he craved.

CC design consultant: Barbara Bolton



7

Media Center

Initially, Christen and Kyle Downie weren't sure what aesthetic they wanted for the media center that would anchor their Vancouver, British Columbia, living space. They started with a dozen ideas, from simple to extremely complex. Through that process, they realized what they really wanted: a system that was relatively simple but could still make a statement.

CC design consultant: Zainub Malik

“Instead of playing with color, we focused on experimenting with lines and shapes of doors.”



8 Bar Closet

Kristen and Eric Lawler love entertaining at home in Long Island, New York, but their wet bar was falling short, forcing bottles into their main pantry, where they took up valuable real estate. They decided to create a cocktail closet with a textured background for dimension, motion-activated puck lighting, recessed ribbon lighting, and glass shelves that work together to create a glamorous storage space.

CC design consultant: Ariane Brabant

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WHEN IS A CLOSET NOT A Closet?*

When it's a bunker for keeping the world at bay—or a stage for your dreams and desires BY ALEX FRANKEL

It was early 2020 and Julie Andrews was in a bit of a bind. The actress could no longer safely go to her studio in Long Island, New York, to record her new podcast, a children's reading and literacy project called *Julie's Library*. She needed a place closer to home to quietly record, and her grandson Sam arrived at her door with a plan. "He built me a recording studio in one of my closets, shoved a table and chair in there, and covered me with throws and blankets and towels," Andrews told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's Julie's sound booth!" Her daughter Emma Walton Hamilton, a partner on the podcast and cowriter of many children's books, dubbed the booth a "pillow fort." Whatever they called it, unbeknownst to them, they were part of a new trend. Soon enough, mother and daughter fast-tracked the launch of the podcast to provide thousands of kids with cheerful storytelling at their fingertips.

Our new relationships with our homes continue to evolve. Sometimes the cherished space we share with our roommates and families can start to feel a bit claustrophobic. Like Andrews' 1950s character Eliza Doolittle from *My Fair Lady*, we fantasize about a place to escape: "All I want is a room somewhere, far away from the cold night air." Doolittle sung on stage and screen, dreaming of a warm place where she could eat chocolate perched in "one enormous chair." For our part, we dreamed of silent refuge from our kids' virtual classrooms, conference-calling spouses, and excessively overlapping lives. Where, oh where, could our quiet room be?

Enter closet, stage left.

Our closets would finally have their moment in the sun, empty vessels ready to provide respite, silence, and space. Astonishingly, closets were not a part of housing design until the turn of the previous century. A rise in household consumer goods and a desire to tidy the living space yielded the closet as a repository for our stuff. Still, the closet receded into the wall, doing its best to disappear.

We began to seek nests within our nests. Our home offices, man caves, and temporarily annexed spaces could only do so much. Pressed into service as never before, our closets stepped in to fill the void. In no time, we flipped our laundry and linen closets into ceramic studios, newborn nurseries, gyms, meditation chambers, knitting nooks, temples, shrines, and reading rooms. Closets, overlooked no more, were now our sanctuary.

It took me a while to fully appreciate the spaceless space of a closet. But as I found myself in the midst of playing hide-and-seek with my 2-year-old son, I finally grasped that non-room-room that is the closet. I treasured hiding quietly for precious minutes inside an underused coat closet. That's when it hit me: I could repurpose that very closet. And so, as I type these very words, I do so from my pocket-size writing studio. It's my own slice of heaven on earth. It may be small, but it's fortified against the entreaties of a pint-size invader—and the rest of the world, for that matter.

*To see more closets that aren't closets, turn to pages 53, 62, and 68.

HOUSEPLANTS GONE



WILD!

If plants were children, you couldn't have a favorite. But plant and interior stylist Hilton Carter says his fiddle-leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*), named Frank (shown above), is unequivocally his. Frank was his first big-plant purchase in 2014; today he has more than 300 plants in his Baltimore, Maryland, home. With an Instagram following of 463,000 and his third book in three years, *Wild Creations*, coming out April 2021, Carter believes, "Without plants in my life, I'm not sure how I'd find a good moment to let down my hair, take it all in, and breathe."



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