



JULY 2009

House Beautiful

SMALL SPACES

HOW TO MAKE
ANY SIZE
ROOM WORK
BETTER

The
**ONE-DAY
MAKEOVER**
*Use what you
have!*

THE LAST WORDS

What's **A GREAT PLACE TO STORE THINGS** that nobody ever thinks of? Nine experts tell you where to find space you never even knew you had.

Interviews by
MIMI READ

"Up is where you'll most often find space. I saw a high-ceilinged room where the fellow put shelves all the way up, and bought a library ladder on rollers from eBay so he could get to everything in a stylish way. And one that had a high platform bed with built-in storage below. I know people who have vintage chairs and they hang the ones they're not using on the wall, Shaker-style, on hooks or a peg rail—very sculptural and beautiful."

MAXWELL GILLINGHAM-RYAN
INTERIOR DESIGNER, COFOUNDER
OF APARTMENTTHERAPY.COM

"I once lived in a loft that didn't have any closets, so I made a freestanding closet out of a steel frame covered in natural canvas, like a very chic tent. I had this huge sculpture, and inside the hollow pedestal I put hidden shelves behind a touch-latch door. My business partner, Frank Webb, has a house where he keeps a small washer and dryer in that hollow space under the stairs. It's hidden by a sliding mirrored door. You'd never know it was there."

MATTHEW WHITE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"At Bed Bath & Beyond, you can buy these risers that jack up your bed seven inches. Instantly, you've got storage under the bed. You could put in slide-out drawers or boxes and store guest-room linens, bulky sweaters, extra blankets—things that take up a lot of room in the closet, which is prime real estate. Prime real estate should be only for things you use constantly."

JESSICA DUQUETTE, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER AND FOUNDER OF IMPERFECTORDER.COM

"I've lived in small apartments, condominiums, and houses my whole life, including the 800-square-foot house I live in now. But I really enjoy entertaining, which entails having a lot of things. One storage place that goes overlooked is the oven—and I don't mean it in a Carrie Bradshaw store-your-cashmere-sweaters-and-Manolos sort of way. I mean it's a great place to store pots, pans, and large serving platters. If you're like me, you use your range a lot more than your oven. And in those instances where you do use the oven to cook, you're probably going to be using some of those pots and platters anyway."

CHAD EISNER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"I designed a house with a floor hatch that lets you open up the stair landing and store things in that hollow space inside. I used nautical hardware, meaning flush bull rings in brass, so it looks quite nice. I've also made bookcases that swing open to a hidden shelf or closet installed in the wall cavity: murder mystery material! You can stash your valuables in there."

BOBBY McALPINE, ARCHITECT

"Furniture can double as storage, like antique trunks used as tables and Ikea's slipcovered white benches with hinged lids. Plate racks are wonderful. I have one that's 4 by 5 feet, and all my plates are on it—flat, high up, and out of the way."

MYRA HOEFER
INTERIOR DESIGNER

"Every closet door is a storage opportunity. You can build rows of narrow shelves inside the door of a linen closet. You can put rows of hooks inside a bedroom closet door and hang handbags there. Because purses have different-length handles and are different sizes, you should lay out all of them on the floor and figure out how you want to hang them, like a jigsaw puzzle—then install staggered individual hooks low and high. Another unbelievable gold mine of storage exists on the walls on either side of a staircase leading down to a basement. Hang brooms, mops, and dustpans there and line it with narrow shelves for all your cleaning supplies."

JULIE MORGENSTERN
ORGANIZING GURU AND AUTHOR
OF *SHED YOUR STUFF, CHANGE
YOUR LIFE*

"My house is 89 square feet—literally—and I also design small houses for others. I've designed couches with drawers in the bottom. I've put drawers inside steps, so that as you climb the stairs you pull the drawer out of the risers. I put narrow shelves on any extra wall space—I don't like to dig deep for stuff."

JAY SHAFER, FOUNDER OF
TUMBLEWEED TINY HOUSE CO.

"One place that's almost always underutilized: high kitchen cabinets, particularly the ones on top of the fridge. They usually have so much stuff blocking them! But they're great for vases, candlesticks, and wedding presents—things you don't need all the time. And if you've got space between the top cabinets and the ceiling, you can line up nice-looking storage boxes there."

LISA ZASLOW, FOUNDER OF
GOTHAM ORGANIZERS