

inspire

ESSENTIAL IDEAS FOR GORGEOUS ROOMS

1 Choose storage that's easy on the eye. Think outside the box and explore auctions and antique shops; wine boxes can be wall-mounted as bookshelves, industrial trolleys used as bathroom storage, and medicine cabinets reused to store your favourite trinkets. **Stephanie Powell, NB style editor**



Restored apothecary cabinet, \$6995, Le Forge Painted 'No. 18 Classic' embossed chair, \$391.50, Thonet. For more details, see page 198

101 storage ideas

A host of experts share their tips for creating relaxed and clutter-free areas, with style in mind

COMPILED BY JANE PARBURY STYLING STEPHANIE POWELL PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS COURT

living

2 Fabric ottomans can be used as coffee tables or seats, and fitted with hinged lids to store magazines and books. **Tahn Soon, stylist**

3 Colour-coordinate the spines of your books and stack them on a coffee table to create visual interest. They add height and provide a stage for a flower arrangement or frame. **Victoria Waters, interior designer**

4 Invest in a few large wicker trunks to store everything from out-of-season blankets to paperwork. They look wonderful in any room in the house. **Jane Parbury, NB features editor**

5 Store shoes or children's toys in an old pine box with a lift-up lid. Paint it white, top it with gorgeous cushions, and place it under a window to double as a seat. **Victoria Waters**

7 Make use of baskets that come with flat lids – not only can you store away items neatly, they can double as a side table. **Tim Leveson, interior designer**

8 Shelving to the ceiling creates more storage space and cuts down on cleaning – no more dusting the cupboard tops! **Mara Lee, NB acting editor**

9 Ikea's 'Ekedal' shelving unit can be used as a bench seat when laid horizontally, with objects stored in baskets below. **Victoria Waters**

10 If you have the ceiling height available, building a mezzanine level is a great idea. You can use the space for an office nook, or as extra storage space. **Tim Leveson**

6 Store magazines by stacking them at the end of a hallway or using them as a side table.

Helena Blazina-Elms, stylist, Shack



On sofa: Patchwork cushions, \$75 each, The Country Trader; East Hampton 3-seater sofa, \$5045, Coo Republic; 'Parchment' desk lamp, \$640, Orson & Blake. Opposite, on cabinet: 'Cool' stool, \$99.95, Fiona Kate; Vases, from \$75 each, Orson & Blake; Shelf lamp with French books, \$1902, The Country Trader. On sofa: Floral wrap, \$279, Megan Park; Patchwork cushions, as before; Velvet cushion cover, \$150, No Chintz; Sofa, as before. On coffee table: 'Celeber' jar (used as vase), \$499, Ikea; 'Tamago Egg' teapot, \$200, Megholla Blue; cups and saucers, \$54/set, all T2; 'Abner Box A' box (underneath), \$60, 'Atelier' coffee table, \$675, both Sounds Like Home; 'Coral Cut' rug, \$3240 (2m x 3m), Designer Pugs. On wall: Bluebirds (and Bluebirds II) framed artworks by David Kurzydlo, \$750 each, Kaleidoscope Gallery Stockists, page 156

11

When buying furniture, choose pieces with *built-in storage* like coffee tables with space for board games or newspapers underneath.

Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue



12

Scale is important.
Always measure furniture for storage before you purchase it or rearrange your space.

Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser

Cupboard, \$1600,
The Country
Trader. Painted
berwood stools,
\$95 each. Doug
Up On Bourke.
Painted No. 18
Classic embossed
chairs, \$299.50
each. Thonet.
Oak dining table,
\$2995. La Forge.
Wire five-light
pendant, \$649.95.
Domayne.
For more details,
see page 198



dining

13 Purpose-built cabinetry makes the most of awkward or compact spaces. Build in under stairs, install shelving in dining room alcoves, and create storage seats in bay windows.
Jane Parbury, HB features editor

14 Integrating open-plan kitchens and dining areas with the same cabinet style provides immaculate additional storage.
Alicia Draper, Blum

15 Invest in a cabinet. It's the perfect place for oft-used crockery and cutlery, and has the extra benefit of freeing up space in the dining area.

Jane Parbury, HB features editor

16 Don't forget vertical space. Adding hooks, racks and rails to any room in the house lifts frequently used items up off your flat surfaces. You can still see what you have, but it doesn't get in the way.
Tanya Lewis

17 Look for clever pieces with built-in storage – like Laura Ashley's 'Bramley' dining table, which features a discreet drawer to store napkins, cutlery and table runners.
Stephanie Powell, HB style editor

18 Tall crockery cupboards screened with handle-free doors can be painted in a contrasting shade to act as a feature wall.
Mara Lee, HB acting editor

19 Don't have a separate dining room? Opt for cupboards on both sides of the kitchen's island bench: even a narrow one should be able to accommodate shallow shelving for items such as glassware.
Jane Parbury

20 Don't forget the best storage tip of all – get rid of anything you don't use or need. The less you have to put away, the better!
Tahn Scoon, stylist



home office

21

Shelves are a must. Separate them into zones so that you can find what you're looking for quickly and easily.

Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue

22 Hang cabinets and shelves on the wall to keep the floor free and the room feeling spacious.
Jane Parbury, HB features editor

23 Give a plain filing cabinet a facelift by covering it in wallpaper (see page 54 for inspiration).
Sami Simper, acting HB art director

24 Have A4-sized boxes near your desk to store a supply of paper and envelopes.
Helen Butler

25 Cover a corkboard in colourful fabric. It creates an artwork and doubles as an effective space to pin your notes, invitations or mail.
Victoria Waters, interior designer

26 Use small containers in your office drawers to store and separate smaller items, such as paperclips and USBs.
Helen Butler

27 A moveable cupboard, shelf unit or trolley can extend your workspace when you're busy. Choose one that can fit under the desk when not in use.
Mara Lee, HB acting editor

28 Baskets or tubs are great for items you don't use regularly.
Helen Butler

29 Fit a window seat or deep storage ottoman with rails to accommodate hanging files.
Jane Parbury

30 Use office rubbish bins to store large rolls of wrapping paper.
Helen Butler

31 Invest in a coordinated set of files and storage boxes to allow bulky paperwork to become part of a handsome display.
Mara Lee



On wall: Deborah Bowness 'Books' wallpaper drop, \$425/drop, Le Forge; 'Safari' ribbon, from \$1/m, Vendoros Fine Packaging; Muuto stacked shelving cubes, from \$59 each, Forest For The Trees; Indigo patchwork cushion, \$25, The Country Trader; Opposite: 'Georgia' bench seat with white cushion, \$630, Town & Country Style; Seat cushion, stylist's own; Muuto 'Restore' baskets, \$49 each, Forest For The Trees. For more details, see page 198



entrance

32 A poster grid (right) is a great way to display favourite greeting cards and photos, and a chic way to keep bills and take-away menus close at hand. **Stephanie Powell, HB style editor**

33 Purchase a beautiful bowl and place on a table near the front door to store discarded coins, phones and wallets. **Victoria Waters**

34 Use your entrance as a 'clutter trap'. Install a couple of shoe racks, hooks for your keys, a coat rack and last but not least, drawers or hooks for your bags. **Cathy Player, Howards Storage World**

35 An entrance is a great place to leave baskets for 'returns' - such as dry cleaning - anything that must go out of the house.

Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser



kitchen

37 A walk-in pantry can house all the kitchenware and dry goods you need, and allows you to shut the door on mess. **Jane Parbury, HB features editor**

38 Store frequently used products in handy-to-reach places - around waist to shoulder height - and for rarely used items, use high or low cupboards. **Mai Corboy, interior designer and Hettich ambassador**

39 Lazy Susans work wonders in those high or hard-to-reach corners for sauces and bottled goods. **Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue**

40 Install internal drawers inside deeper drawers. It creates another level of otherwise wasted storage space. **Alicia Draper, Blum**

41 Use adjustable in-drawer dividers where possible to allow you to organise everything from cutlery to clothes pegs. **Mara Lee, HB acting editor**

42 If you need corner cupboards in your kitchen design, use corner drawers or systems that create ease of access. **Helen Butler**

43 Position a storage drawer with pull-out trays, like the Hettich 'Cargo IQ', next to the stove for access to cooking oils and spices. **Mai Corboy**

44 A well-designed kitchen will let you use every centimetre of space. Bunnings Warehouse sell in-fill base cabinets or wine racks as narrow as 15cm. **Jane Parbury**

45 Choose pull-out drawers over traditional cupboards. They can hold around 50kg and are great for accessing crockery and saucepans. **Helen Butler**

46 Locate a narrow, pull-out storage drawer immediately next to the oven, as an effective home for cake racks and baking trays. **Mai Corboy**

47 Create order with small baskets in the pantry for smaller food products such as baby food, sauces in sachets and spices. **Helen Butler**

48 Make your island bench a feature with recessed shelves on the side to display attractive items, such as cookbooks or serving dishes. **Mara Lee**

49 Paint cabinet doors the same colour as the walls so they visually recede and create a sense of space. **Stephanie Powell, HB style editor**

50 Design your kitchen around your needs. For example, if you recycle a lot, make sure you have enough recycling bins installed. **Helen Butler**

36
When designing your kitchen, make your kickboards 120mm high and put in touch-push drawers - perfect for storing small items.
Shayna Blaze, interior designer



On benchtop: Enamel, Flour tin, \$65, wooden tea box, \$15, both Doug Up On Bourke. Magnolia, \$18.50, bunch, Tulipanna. On island bench: Flying Bird saapot, \$34.95, Hart & Heim. Yeacups (part of Cashmere dinner set), \$49.95/20-piece set, Maxwell & Williams. Painted bentwood stools, \$95 each, Doug Up On Bourke. On floor: Wire bottle crate, \$65, wine crate, \$45, both Doug Up On Bourke. Other accessories, stylist's own. Stockists, page 196

51 Most cupboards are made with adjustable shelves - think about what you are going to put on the shelves and adjust accordingly.
Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser



52 A double row of hanging rails in half your wardrobe accommodates twice as many shirts, skirts and pants.

Jane Parbury, HB features editor

On bed: Megan Park 'Circle Sequin' cushion cover, \$18, No Chintz 'Vue Bianco' European pillowcase sham, \$34.95, Myer 'Maise' pillowcases, \$29.95/pair, quilt cover, \$19.95/queen, both Bed Bath N' Table. Sally Campbell patchwork quilt, \$630. No Chintz. On table: Conrad desk lamp, \$220, Exhibit Interiors 'Newspaper' alarm clock, \$29.95, Hart & Heim Kartell 'Ghost Buster' table, \$505, Space. On floor: Joditee bag, \$159, Milk Bar Fashion 'Velour' rug, \$2940/3m x 3m, Designer Rugs. In wardrobe: Clothing, all Milk Bar Fashion. Opposite: Suitcases, from \$55 each, all Doug Up On Bourke. Paper tags, \$12.95/pack of 12, made with stamp set, \$49.95, both Paper2. 'Newgate' clock, \$320, Orson & Blake. Cane mannequin floor lamp, \$1600, The Country Trader. Other accessories, stylist's own. Stockists, page 196

bedroom

65

Store seasonal items, like blankets, in vintage leather suitcases - a small stack makes an on-trend feature at the foot of a bed.

Stephanie Powell, *HB* style editor

53 Save space in the wardrobe by hanging business shirts on multi-bar hangers. **Helan Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue**

54 The Elfa system from Howards Storage World allows you to customise storage to your needs, and rearrange the components later - so the walk-in wardrobe of today can turn into a pantry tomorrow! **Cathy Player, Howards Storage World**

55 Use shoe boxes to separate different types of underwear and socks in drawers. **Helan Butler**

56 Transform a photo frame by removing the glass and backing plate, and nailing fine mesh to the inside. Use it to store earrings by hooking them onto the mesh. **Victoria Waters, interior designer**

57 In small wardrobes, make the most of the back of the door with over-the-door hangers to hang scarves and handbags. **Helan Butler**

58 Use a bare branch weighed down with pebbles in a pot or basket to hang jewellery or peg photographs. **Helena Mazina-Elms, stylist, Shack**

59 Keep shoes in their original box, and attach a photo of them to the front for reference. **Helan Butler**

60 In kids' rooms, hang hooks on the wall and display a few of their favourite outfits as artwork. **Victoria Waters**

61 See-through baskets or containers allow you to see what's inside for easy access. **Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser**

62 In children's rooms, use under-bed storage for everything, from shoes to school artwork. **Helan Butler**

63 Unconventional items make great storage solutions. Doll houses and old soda crates make quirky bookshelves. **Helena Mazina-Elms**

64 The dressing table is a style classic - where else to store fiddly bits, such as jewellery and make-up? **Mara Lee, *HB* acting editor**



bathroom

66

Open shelving creates a sense of order in a pamper zone - try displaying cosmetics on a beautiful shelf or rolled towels in a storage cube.

Stephanie Powell, *HB* style editor



Dragonfly ladder, \$195, Shack. Glass apothecary jar, \$75, Note to Self. 'Circle' shelf, \$396, 3-tier, Bride & Wolfe. Miuoto storage cube, \$259 (large), Forest For The Trees. Opposite: Metal glove mould, \$350, The Country Trader. Raffia baskets, \$59 (set of 3), Jess & Lauren. 'Return to Tiffany Heart Tag' pendant necklace, \$155, Tiffany & Co. Other necklace, styled own. For more details, see page 198

67

When storing jewellery, necklaces are best hung up to avoid them tangling. Keep everything else in trinket boxes - a large box for bangles, medium for rings and small for earrings.

Stephanie Powell, *HB* style editor

68 Internal drawer organisers aren't only useful in the kitchen. Odds and ends can be sorted in cutlery trays and internal drawer dividers added in bathroom, bedroom and wardrobe drawers, too. **Alicia Draper Blum**

69 Use a multi-tiered shower caddy in the bathroom - it uses less room than a long shelf and gives you more space for soap and shampoo. **Mara Lee, *HB* acting editor**

70 Just like in the kitchen, QD (in high) keyboards with touch-push drawers in the vanity are ideal for storing extra soap and hand towels. **Shayna Blase, interior designer**

71 Any container that is on view should have some link with the space you want to create, whether it is a rattan basket, recycled baking tins or colour-coded clothes hampers. **Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser**

72 Include drawers in bathroom cabinetry, instead of shelves, for extra levels of storage and easy access to contents. **Alicia Draper**

73 Use the space under the hand basin effectively. Have shelves built in or buy portable shelves. **Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue**

74 Mirrored cabinets are a simple yet effective storage solution. You can recess them into your wall for added space. **Belinda Geels, Reece**

75 Placing towel rails one above the other on the wall can give you more bowls, space and improved drying time. **Danien Cool**

76 Use ready-made storage containers or even a pretty case or mug to store make-up and make-up brushes. **Helen Butler**



77 Glass storage jars can make a beautiful feature. Fill them with pretty soaps, bath salts or cotton wool balls - to make bath time even more of a treat. **Stephanie Powell, *HB* style editor**



78 Coordinating storage jars creates an calming sense of order. Mix vintage jars with cheapies from Ikea for an instant style fit. **Jane Parbury, *HB* features editor**

79 Pull-out baskets on rails can store liquids and powders under the sink, and a U-shaped drawer fitted around the shape of the bowl is handy for plugs and dish cloths. **Shayna Blase, interior designer**

80 Narrow shelves work well in pantries - you can't push things to the back, so out-of-date products won't accumulate. **Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser**

81 It's important to care for the environment. Look for vintage bottle carriers and old wine boxes to store recyclable wares - it will make it a pleasure to take out the garbage! **Stephanie Powell, *HB* style editor**

82 Adding extra shelves to existing cupboards increases your storage capacity. **Tanya Lewis**

83 I love this idea for labeling spice jars (left) - cute-as-pie chalkboard labels! We found these at Fiona Kate. **Jane Parbury**

laundry

84

If you have a *large laundry*, set up a table in the centre of the room for folding. Use baskets underneath for dirty clothes, sorting or ironing.

Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue

85 Use plastic bins as a 'transit' station – things come and go quickly in and out of laundries, so it's essential to minimise the build-up of clutter. Tanya Lewis, professional organiser, Eco Organiser

86 Allocate each member of the family their own basket, to be used to keep clean clothes organised until they are put away. Mai Corboy, interior designer and Hettich ambassador

87 Pull-out drawers at the bottom of laundry cupboards are great for storing ironing or dirty clothes. Helen Butler

88 Transparent baskets remind you that there is washing to be done. If you have the space, opt for several baskets to separate whites and delicates from colours. Tanya Lewis

89 Ensure the ironing board is always put away by installing a narrow cupboard with a drop-down ironing board in the laundry – it folds away without any strain on your back. Mara Lee, HB acting editor



garage & garden

90 Baskets in a row under a bench on the verandah can keep things organised and contain your outdoor game collection for fun and play.

Jamie Durie, HB garden & outdoor living editor

91 Look up. Does your garage ceiling have beams where you can store and by sliding in long pieces of timber, skis, surfboards and such?

Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue

92 Construct a deep storage unit along the whole width of your boundary fence. Mirrored sliding doors will give the illusion of depth and can store bikes, surf boards and garden tools on the back. Andrew Donnola, landscape architect

93 A lot storage space or even an individual unit to each member of the family to encourage things such as outdoor shoes, sports gear and swim toys to be put away. Jane Parbury, HB features editor

94 In the garage, store gardening tools and bottles of plant fertiliser in a bucket, and hang up high on a wall hook, out of reach of children. Helen Butler

95 Build a unit to conceal garbage bins neatly and provide additional storage. It could be made wider to accommodate bikes. Andrew Donnola

96 A rustic ladder near your barbecue would be the perfect place to hang tea towels or saucepans on butcher's hooks. You could even hang a caddy of condiments on one of the rungs. Jamie Durie

97 A pegboard above your garage's workbench is great for organising small tools. Draw around them so you know where to put back each tool after use. Helen Butler

98 Bench seating with a flip lid is good for kids' outdoor toys. Andrew Donnola

99 Use heavy-duty shelving units to create more storage in your garage – their slim profiles are ideal for lining the walls. Mara Lee, HB acting editor

100 We built a big, long, outdoor bench out of wooden decking. Under the bench are two three-metre drawers on wheels that are designed to store surfboards. Tim Leveson

101 Go vertical. Use all the wall space in the garage to store tools, sporting equipment and paint.

Helen Butler, professional organiser, Clutter Rescue

