

dream closets: what the pros know

Chic design and clever amenities for the ultimate organized dressing space



PULLOUT MIRROR

Ginny Snook Scott, California Closets: "A full-length mirror is essential in a closet, but not everyone has the space. This mirror from California Closets pulls out and tilts, so you feel like you're in the dressing room of a fabulous store. When you're not using it, it tucks away beside your hanging clothes." californiaclosets.com.



CLOTHING ISLAND

Jennifer Post, designer: "You don't need a dresser if your closet has an island. I divide an island into his and hers sections, with drawers for underwear, T-shirts, socks, gym clothes, and lingerie. My favorite system is by Poliform. It's top quality, luxuriously minimalist, and they'll customize anything." [Senzafine](http://Senzafine.com), left; poliformusa.com.



WARDROBE/BATH

J. Randall Powers, designer: "A combination dressing room and bathroom is fantastically convenient. Mine has a shower, a Japanese soaking tub, overhead cubbies for luggage, and built-in drawers for everything from jeans to belts. The bench makes it easy to sit and put on shoes or lay out an outfit or suitcase when I'm packing."



LIGHTED CLOTHING RODS

Lisa Adams, LA Closet Design: "There's never enough light in a closet. Lighted rods make it easier to see the difference between black and navy. I fit metal rods with channels to hold LED LiteRibbons protected by Plexiglas covers." LiteRibbons, left; shop.litegear.com. Or try: Lucifer Lighting LED Fusion Closet Rod; luciferlighting.com.



NATURAL LIGHT

Jeffrey Weisman, designer: "My partner, Andrew Fisher, and I incorporate windows in dressing rooms whenever possible. They are essential in a closet, both for natural light and fresh air. We converted a bedroom into our dressing room. Vintage Indian screens in front of the windows provide privacy while letting in dappled, sparkling light."

spotlight on storage

New wardrobe systems and closet-design tools



CLOSET CASE

Wardrobe systems have long been popular in Europe, where bedrooms often lack closets. Jesse's Plurimo wardrobes come in such finishes as high-gloss lacquer, left, and door styles as large as 5 feet wide and 8.5 feet high (jesse.it). The Sliding Door Company's aluminum- and-glass sliding closet doors, including a new track-less system, will carve out

closet space in any room. The glass comes in several opaque options (slidingdoorco.com). Superstar designer Piero Lissoni is artistic director of Lema, an Italian maker of chic wardrobe systems that are available in a range of colors (lema mobili.com). Molteni's new Gliss Quick wardrobe system has sliding doors that are engineered so that they are able to overlap both sliding and hinged doors, even those fitted with large handles (molteni.it).

CUSTOM MADE

Internet sites and apps are giving consumers more control over the design of their own closets. Flou's website (soon to be an iPad app) features a Wardrobe Configurator that lets customers try out their own arrangements of rods, shelves, and cubbies. When the design is complete, the company sends a cost estimate (flou.it). For existing closets, try Elfa Design Your Own Reach-in Closet, a website tool from the Container Store (containerstore.com). Meanwhile, this fall, California Closets' in-home design consultants will use the company's new iPad app to help customers tailor storage to their own space.

dressed for success

Closet design is "an obsession" for decorator Elissa Cullman. Below, her organizing tips.



VALET RODS In every dressing room that I design I include a retractable valet rod. These are great for hanging up tomorrow's outfit or for putting out clothes that might need to go to the dry cleaner. I especially like the pullout garment rods from Paul Decorative Products (pauldecorative.com).

GLASS SHOE SHELVES Slanted ones are inefficient. I use 3/8-inch-thick adjustable glass shelves (above). They're bright and cheerful, easy to clean with Windex, and show at a glance what needs to go to the shoemaker.

A SOFT SPOT In my husband's closet, I had a leather insert made by Michelle Glick-Guarneri for the top of the built-in dresser. He can put his keys and coins on it without scratching the wood (mhgstudio.com).

A SAFE Empire Safe makes safes with dividers and drawers for jewelry. I'll hide one behind a wall panel or put it on a shelf that can take the weight. Try: Empire's Gotham or Professional Series safes; empire-safe.com.

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