

BOUTIQUE BOUDOIR

Tune up your closet for Fall



CHERYL CHENAULT

NO ROOM IN THE HOUSE EXPRESSES PERSONALITY AND STYLE like your clothes closet.

For some, it's the only area they can call their own, and it can be a source of daily inspiration or despair depending on the state of affairs found in it. If your closet doesn't excite you, it's time for a tune-up or a maybe complete makeover. Here are some design ideas worth considering.

While a place to sit or drape clothes when dressing is a luxury, a full length mirror is a must. You can also add mirror to the back wall of shelving to reflect light and make the closet feel larger. Lighting and ventilation are also key elements to think about.

Do you like to charge or store gadgets overnight? Consider an electrical outlet above a chest of drawers to create a countertop charging station. Space to display handbags, scarves, belts and to organize your shoes is also important. If dust is a concern, add glass doors or include decorative storage bins to protect things. A center island is great for folding and can hide a suitcase or seasonal clothing underneath.

Group like clothing items and then sort by color from light to dark. A slide out valet hook works well to display

what your wearing next, and drawers with a keyed lock provide peace of mind for jewelry and passports. An area to keep everything in one place — clothing tags, receipts and extra buttons — is a real bonus. Finally, consider keeping intimate items and lingerie in the bathroom for easy access and to free up space in the closet.

Your closet doesn't need to be large, it just needs to be organized. It's your closet. Take charge and find that favorite blouse that went missing awhile back. **RM**



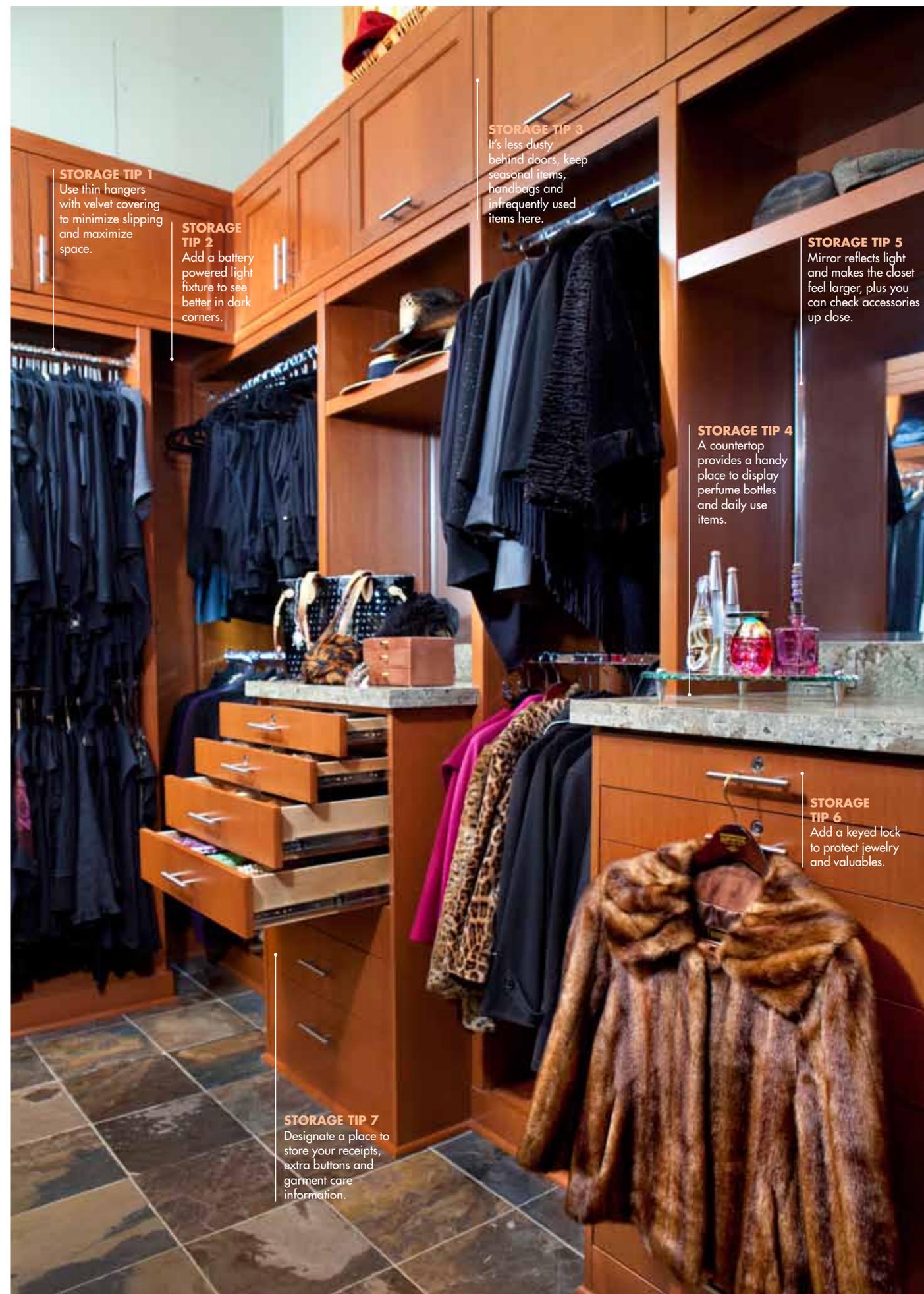
HEADER

Top, a place for everything and everything in its place. Drawers with dividers and a lock keep valuables organized and safe; Left, a white backdrop provides contrast to see each pair of shoes.

Special thanks to Betsy Miller for sharing her fabulous closet.

Closet design by Betsy Miller and construction by John Brink Construction Inc.

Cheryl Chenault is a ASID Registered Interior Designer.



STORAGE TIP 1
Use thin hangers with velvet covering to minimize slipping and maximize space.

STORAGE TIP 2
Add a battery powered light fixture to see better in dark corners.

STORAGE TIP 3
It's less dusty behind doors, keep seasonal items, handbags and infrequently used items here.

STORAGE TIP 5
Mirror reflects light and makes the closet feel larger, plus you can check accessories up close.

STORAGE TIP 4
A countertop provides a handy place to display perfume bottles and daily use items.

STORAGE TIP 6
Add a keyed lock to protect jewelry and valuables.

STORAGE TIP 7
Designate a place to store your receipts, extra buttons and garment care information.