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THE REALITY STAR ON HER NONSTOP LIFE BEYOND TV

THE GOOD LIFE

BEAUTY *in* ORDER

SAY GOODBYE
TO CHAOS WITH
SMART WAYS TO
UNCLUTTER YOUR
HOME AND
KEEP IT PRETTY
AND NEAT.

By Martin Amado



Clutter can creep up on us at any time and it has nothing to do with how much square footage we have: Whether we live in a two-story house or a studio apartment, it seems there is never enough storage in our homes. The secret to decorating a room that is both stylish and functional is first to choose the right furniture and then to incorporate hidden storage solutions to help keep everything organized. Here are some tips to keep in mind.



CUBE BOOKSHELF,
Crate & Barrel,
\$1,599, crateandbarrel.com

FIND A GOOD FIT

The biggest mistake you can make when decorating is buying furniture that is too large and bulky. To avoid this, measure furniture at the store, then make an outline on the floor of your home with painter's tape to visualize the scale. For smaller spaces, look for "apartment-size" furniture and consider modular sofas that will allow you to configure them based on your needs. To make a room appear larger, use glass or reflective tabletops, armless accent chairs, sofas with low backs and arms and furniture with longer legs to elevate items off the floor.



STORAGE BOXES,
The Container Store, \$12 to \$15 each



MAXIMIZE YOUR WALLS

Most people don't look at walls as additional storage real estate, but you can take advantage of their height to help organize your space. Use bookcases and shelves as media systems. You can leave the shelves exposed to display items or add doors, drawers or baskets for a tidy appearance. Great for storing games, DVDs and remote controls, cubbyhole bookcases make great room dividers, too; when used horizontally, they can function as a TV base or table. Use floating shelves as photo ledges to create a beautiful gallery wall. If stacked vertically, these shelves also form a modern bookcase. Place woven baskets, bins and boxes on the shelves to hide small items and to work as objects of display.



TRUNK, Pottery Barn, \$499, potterybarn.com

USE DOUBLE-DUTY PIECES

Multifunctional accent pieces are the best way to keep your family organized. A set of stacked trunks can double as an end table—no one needs to know your used pens, Post-it pads and loose pictures are inside. Upholstered benches with storage space are a great alternative to traditional coffee tables, providing a place to keep toys and magazines and serving as additional seating during get-togethers. The same goes for top-lidded ottoman cubes. Group two in front of the sofa to create a coffee table.

MARTIN AMADO is an interior designer, lifestyle expert and contributing writer on the subject of home décor; he often appears on television.