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Pop Cultured.

An organized home doesn't have to be devoid of personality. This designer's colorful fantasyland proves you can have both.

BY KAREN WILHELMSEN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVI ABELER





The living room and library were achieved in this room by

breaking up one large space into two separate, functional areas. In the library, Jeanie's collection of various globes found at flea markets tie right into her photo collection and lunchboxes. Jeanie's vintage soda bottles from the '40s and '50s on the painted leopard-print dining table display the colorful graphics she is drawn to. Behind them, shipwreck bottles sit on a shelf, and the collection of lunchboxes creates a fun look.

With a lifestyle fueled by "cartoons and candy," it's no surprise that

interior designer and professional organizer Jeanie Engelbach's home is brimming with flea-market finds indicative of her eclectic yet chic sense of style.

Jeanie says everything in her New York apartment is "exploding of color" with her vibrant collections of vintage lunchboxes, Pez dispensers, bobble heads, Barbie dolls and animal chalkware—just to name a few—greeting you at every turn.

While she has many collections, organization and accessibility are at the core of Jeanie's design aesthetic.

"I have a lot of stuff, but it's concise and curated," she explains. She also keeps to a theme when collecting and groups similar items together to create one-of-a-kind displays. "The key is keeping things simple, but not devoid of personality."

Jeanie has been organizing as long as she can remember, and has always loved helping friends create orderly and streamlined looks.

"It comes naturally," she says. Working with clients for her home-organization service, ApartmentJeanie, also means she can get "ruthless" when her drill-sergeant-like alter ego comes out. But the results are beautiful, livable spaces that are well worth the effort.

Here are some of Jeanie's organization tips you can use at home.

16 Tips to Tidy Your Nest

Professional organizer Jeanie Engelbach shares her ideas to declutter your spaces.

- 1. Make every inch count.** Utilize your home's layout by moving your furniture around to maximize floor space and use each room efficiently.
- 2. Take your time.** Don't tackle reorganizing your home all in one day. Start with one area of the house first. "It will create a domino effect," Jeanie says.
- 3. Pare down.** If you don't use it, then lose it. For example, Jeanie says that she wouldn't use a melon baller, so why have one that just takes up space? "Be meticulous in self-editing," she says. Editing your wardrobe is also a good way to get started. "Someone can always use a donation."
- 4. Have fun.** If organizing is something you enjoy doing rather than looking at it as a dreaded chore, you'll be more likely to do it. For example, Jeanie suggests sitting down and watching TV while you reorganize and fold your t-shirts.
- 5. Visibility is key.** "When you hide things, you forget they exist," Jeanie says. Once a lid goes on a box or ottoman and the contents aren't visible, you won't look there. It also "doesn't force you to deal with the mess in the box," she says.
- 6. Put it on display.** In your bedroom, create a jewelry wall or handbag wall by hanging items on hooks to utilize empty wall space. It also allows you to see what would have been tucked away in the closet, which means you'll get more use out of your accessories.
- 7. Corral belongings on a tray.** Place a tray by the front door. Empty the contents of your bag or pockets when you walk inside your home to create a "landing space." That way, if you decide to use another bag in the morning, it's easy to switch purses—and you'll never lose your keys.
- 8. Create a place for everything.** There's truth to the adage "a place for everything, and everything in its place." Knowing where everything is and having a designated place to put it will help you cut out the unnecessary.
- 9. Make practical items accessible.** If you are always grabbing a marker, have a big cup of Sharpies on your desk so they're in easy reach.
- 10. Start a routine.** Repeat your new routine so it becomes an act of muscle memory, Jeanie says. "I've never lost my keys because I always put them in the same place." You also won't have to waste time looking for lost objects.
- 11. Under the bed isn't the solution.** In a small space, don't put things under the bed, Jeanie suggests. It's another way of hiding things without ever dealing with the problem.
- 12. Maximize vertical space.** Add shelves that go all the way to the ceiling in your closet. Then, store your shoes in clear boxes. Make use of the sides of the your closet by hanging hooks for belts or scarves.
- 13. Keep pairs together.** Hang sets of gloves using binder clips so that they stay together and are easily accessible when needed.
- 14. Balance style and function.** Less on the floor means your home will look more spacious. Displaying collections on shelves will also show them off.
- 15. Collect double-duty pieces.** Jeanie has a vintage Coke crate with individual compartments for the bottles that she stores rolled-up magazines in. Vintage soda bottles also serve as vases.
- 16. Rethink your wardrobe.** Twice a year, take inventory of what you have and if you want to change out some of your clothing.



"The key is keeping things simple, but not devoid of personality."



Above: Jeanie's love of organization extends to her collections of photos. She also runs a photo archival service called Photojeanie.

Jeanie Engelbach is a photo archivist, organizer and interior designer. For more her services through Photojeanie, Apartmentjeanie and Partyjeanie, visit photojeanie.com.

