

STORE AND ORDER

SMART SOLUTIONS TO KEEP SPACES NEAT, TIDY AND CHIC

IN FULL VIEW

Not everything needs to be hidden away when it comes to storage – in fact decorative solutions can make a huge difference to your look and feel. A cluster of simple floating shelves work particularly well in a kitchen, where there may be a fair amount of closed cabinetry taking up space along the walls. They add an element of interest that draws the eye, all while helping to keep countertops clear. It's best to mount open shelving just above eye level and within easy reach if you intend for the shelves to hold day-to-day items, such as plates and mugs. For a stylised look, stack collections of your favourite crockery, line up fresh herbs and incorporate small pieces of art along a run of open shelving.

FEATURE (VYETTE MURRELL PHOTOGRAPHS (IN FULL VIEW) MATTHEW WILLIAMS; (OPEN SOCK) PAUL MASSEY



OPEN BOOK

Creating your very own library in a living room or home office with a built-in wall-to-wall design works in both classic and contemporary homes alike. By combining open shelving and closed cupboards, you can have a display of books and objets d'art while also hiding away heavier items down below. Alcoves are an obvious place to add floor-to-ceiling storage, even if your room is small as bespoke solutions can utilise the full height of the space. 'Although this may not sound like it will make much of a difference the reality is that a bespoke design will offer, on average, 40% more space,' says Rachal Hutcheson, national retail manager at Sharps. Finish off with a block colour and let the books provide the detail. →



“OF COURSE, THE REAL WAY TO EFFECTIVE STORAGE IS TO REDUCE THE VOLUME WITH A REGULAR AND RUTHLESS EDIT AND DECLUTTER”

SUZY HOODLESS, interior designer, suzyhoodless.com

EXPERT SYSTEMS

Practising what she preaches, interior designer Suzy Hoodless has adopted smart yet stylish storage in her kitchen. ‘The secret to clutter-free surfaces is that everything has to have its place, which makes for a neater and ultimately easier-to-clean kitchen,’ she explains.

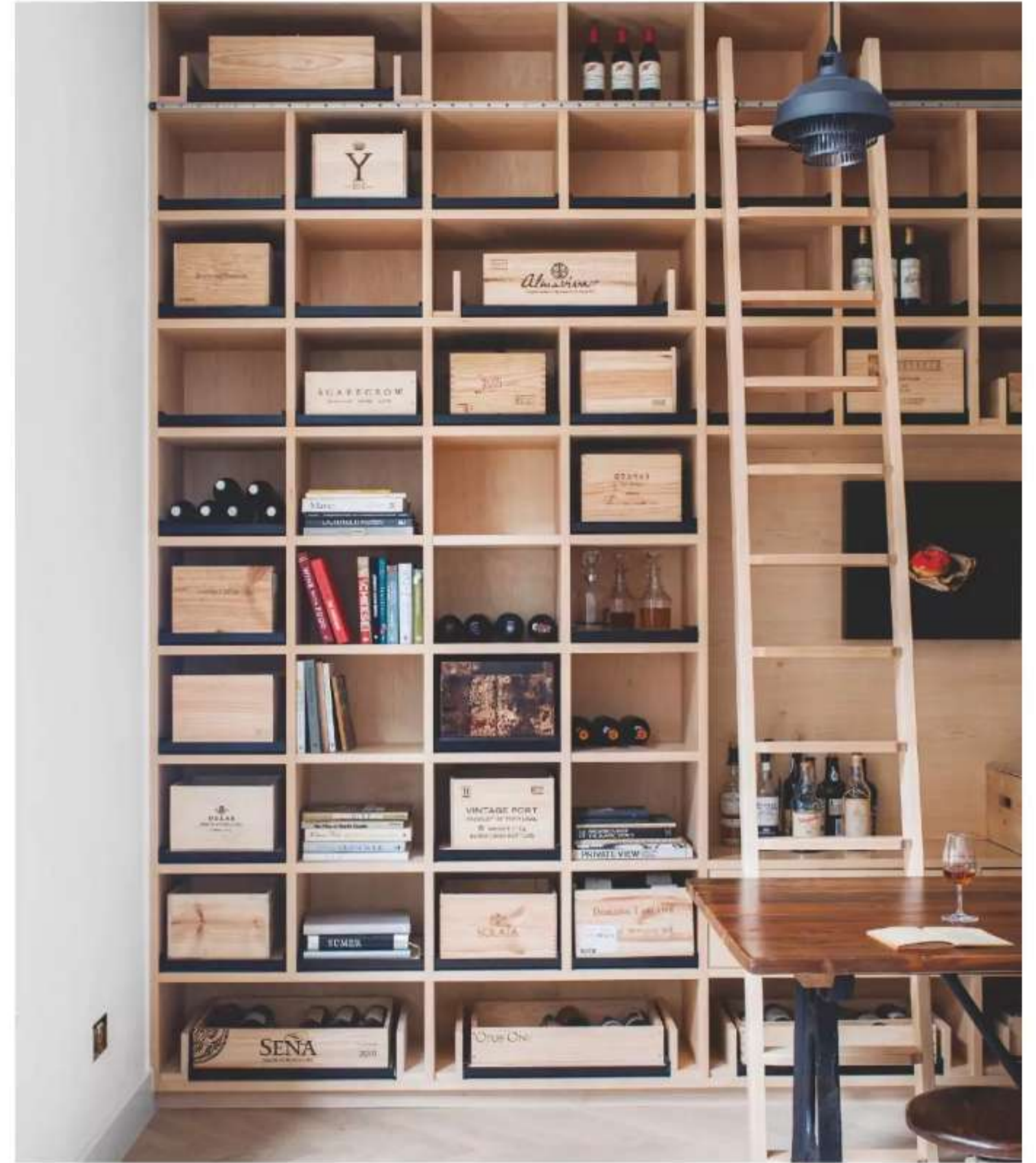
CLEVER CORNER

Try thinking outside the box, as shown here in this up-and-over bespoke storage unit. Hallways and landings are perfect places to maximise. These spaces can have a dedicated function, but keep the look understated to ensure a cohesive link between each room.

CUPBOARD LOVE

Free-standing storage furniture, such as this dresser with glazed door fronts is characterful and useful for everyday tableware. While it has a plain white exterior, the interior is lined with a decorative blue linen fabric to match the coastal theme of the rest of the space.

PHOTOGRAPHS (EXPERT SYSTEMS, CLEVER CORNER) PAUL MASSEY; (CUPBOARD LOVE) EMMA LEE; (NEW HEIGHTS) RUSY GARDINER



NEW HEIGHTS

Bringing vintage or reclaimed pieces into a new interior scheme can be one of the most exciting parts of decorating your home. They instantly add character, especially when you have a personal attachment. Here, wooden wine cases take centre stage in wall-to-ceiling shelving complete with ladder for ease of access. ‘Within every project we look to maximise storage by finding clever and innovative solutions, without sacrificing spaciousness,’ explains Amos Goldreich of Amos Goldreich Architecture. ‘Crucially, you have to really explore your property and find any forgotten spaces that you can exploit to maximise your storage opportunities. Within smaller properties, sometimes you have to think laterally – or vertically.’ →



MATERIAL MATTERS

'Creating a walk-through wardrobe is a good approach to separating your bedroom from your clothes storage, and is a good way to have a more serene sleeping space,' says Lucy Barlow, founder and director of architectural interior design studio Barlow & Barlow. 'Especially if you don't have the space to create a designated dressing room,' she adds. In this project the design team decided to lacquer the wardrobes in a rich emerald green colour, to make a luxurious statement entrance to the bedroom. Lacquer finishes are not only a useful alternative to paint when it comes to incorporating colour into furniture, but are a practical option too, as the coating sets into a hard, durable finish.



"THERE IS A PERENNIAL CALL FOR STORAGE IN BATHROOMS, BUT BUILT-IN JOINERY CAN SOMETIMES FEEL COLD. ADDING A VINTAGE PIECE LENDS WARMTH AND CHARACTER"

NICOLA HARDING, interior designer,
nicolaharding.com



PHOTOGRAPHS (VANITY FAIR) JAMES MERRILL (BEHIND CLOSED DOORS) PAUL MASSEY

VANITY FAIR

When it comes to the bathroom, you need to consider the size of your storage as Kirsten Wain, designer at West One Bathrooms explains. 'If you have tall bottles, shallow drawers will be useless. Likewise, if you have lots of small cosmetics, a deep drawer will be too vast.'

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Fitted wardrobes are one of the most efficient ways of creating storage space in a bedroom or dressing room. Discuss this along with your interior specifications and precise size requirements at the early stages of your planning, to get an accurate quotation.

ROOM TO MANOEUVRE

'Using something that lets you see the floor beneath makes the room feel larger,' says interior designer Nicola Harding. Indeed, storage is a necessity in a bathroom, but as often one of the smallest rooms in the home, pieces with legs can help free up floor space. →



LINE OF SIGHT

As the old saying goes, a tidy room is a tidy mind – so it is important we keep our bedrooms clear in order to feel calm and relaxed. Here, an awkward corner has been transformed into useful space with a boxed-out design. It allows any electrical wires to be hidden away safely while also creating a clever recessed shelf for bedside essentials. This contemporary design is made more effective with varying widths of panelling used throughout the whole room, which when combined create illusions of depth and lengths to help the space feel bigger. The textured wooden finish completes the scheme for a warm and welcoming look. To achieve a similar style, opt for a real oak, pine or walnut wood veneer panelling.

INSIDER INSIGHT

MAXIMISE YOUR STORAGE WITH IDEAS FROM THE PROS

MODERN DAY LIVING 'As we spend more time at home, we become more aware than ever of the need for space,' says Simon Tcherniak, senior furniture designer at Neville Johnson. 'Rooms that were once forgotten are being rejuvenated as tranquil spaces or multifunctional living zones. The home office is where the demand is greatest at the moment. Homeowners are looking for a dynamic space that allows them the time to focus on their daily tasks but also one they can close off in the evening to really benefit from the additional family time we have all been afforded in recent months.'

WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE 'There are a number of tricks that will help you maximise every space in your kitchen. From drawers in drawers for everything from cutlery to condiments, to triple layered larders that will offer a concertina-like shelving system to stow away storecupboard staples,' suggests Nerine Vacher, kitchen designer at Neptune Fulham. 'Don't forget that often overlooked spot under the sink too, adding flexible stacked storage under here will give you the perfect place to put cleaning products and cloths.'

MIX AND MATCH 'Consider pieces that feature both drawers and open shelving,' says Rachel Galbraith, creative director at Ercol. 'This versatility allows for bulkier items to be stowed out of sight, while eye-catching accessories can be styled on surfaces at eye level. If you love to mix up your interiors on a regular basis, free-standing designs are a perfect option and can be moved around the house.'

GO BESPOKE 'Getting the configuration right is what makes or breaks the design and its functionality,' says Rachal Hutcheson, national retail manager at Sharps. 'A sensible place to start is by assessing your storage needs. Think about the volume of clothes and shoes that you have, whether you might need areas for bedding and towels and how much space you might need in the future. For example, if you have a collection of long coats or dresses, double height hanging rails are a practical choice. You can combine this section with pigeonhole storage to maximise the space,' she adds.

THINK ABOUT FUNCTION 'Ultimately in most of our top list of priorities, is an easy clean bathroom – so wall-mounted cabinets and niches in showers mean no dirt traps to clean,' says Kirsten Wain, designer at West One Bathrooms. 'Consider recessed mirror storage in stud walls over basins or wall-mounted toilets – it will give the illusion of mirrors but with additional storage behind.' ■

“STORAGE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ABOUT CLOSING ITEMS AWAY IN CUPBOARDS. BESPOKE JOINERY CAN BE DESIGNED TO DISPLAY PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN THEIR BEST LIGHT”

AMOS GOLDREICH, architect, agarchitecture.net

THE SOURCEBOOK: SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY ROOM

NEVILLE JOHNSON

The brand has over 30 years' experience in creating innovative fitted furniture. Its talented experts design and install bespoke solutions to suit both your style and storage needs – and fit seamlessly within your home. nevillejohnson.co.uk

CHAMBER FURNITURE

A bespoke furniture specialist across kitchens, bedrooms and studies that are tailored to your needs – from initial advice and inspiration right through to design appointments and fitting. chamberfurniture.co.uk

ERCOL

World-renowned for its quality furniture, this British brand has been around for over 100 years. Today, the factory combines time-honoured craftsmanship with modern technology to create free-standing pieces that are built to last. ercol.com

NEPTUNE

With timeless aesthetic, this brand's home design service is available to help you replicate its distinctly elegant look in your own home – whether you are looking for complete kitchen or simply a few key accessories. neptune.com

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW WILLIAMS