

Beth Dadswell, an interior designer in London, says that her clients are focusing on areas that were previously considered private—bathrooms, bedrooms, and dressing rooms. "They don't want these spaces to be purely functional anymore," she says. "They want to decorate them in the same way that the Victorians would have done their sitting rooms." To enjoy them in solitude, yes, but also to show them off.

Adding pizzazz to a closet doesn't require a costly makeover. Washington, D.C., interior designer Jewel Marlowe enlivened some of her own closets by papering the walls and shelves in colorful patterns, while slathering others in paint to harmonize with the decor schemes in those rooms. Every time you open the doors, she says, "it's a fun surprise."

Of course, there will always be people who lead lives of pure domestic transparency and solve storage issues simply by having less stuff. "I believe everyone should live in one big empty space," the artist Andy Warhol was quoted as saying. "But if you can't go all the way and you really feel you need a closet, then your closet should be a totally separate piece of space so you don't use it as a crutch too much. If you live in New York, your closet should be, at the very least, in New Jersey."



Up your closet's style quotient with these game-changers. BY HELENA MADDEN 2. KENNET BY RAMSA Give your cabinets extra oomph with bronze-finish knobs by architect Robert A. M. Stern. \$56. rockymountainhardware.com 3. PARK STORAGE BOX This cool-toned leather crate will add a welcome splash of color. 15" w. x. 14" d. x. 7.5" h.; \$169. shop. californiaclosets.com

