

## FASHION & CLOSETS

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“THE 2018 TREND IN LUXURY ORGANIZATION AND storage solutions parallels fashion trends; luxurious fabrics and lots of colors. Women’s silk shoe stuffers and custom handbag inserts in everything from silk to Ultrasuede. Color is everywhere from custom hangers to purple drawer dividers. And as in all 2018 interior designs the “shine” is back. Gold and silver, trims and cabinets even ceilings—everyone wants to listen,” says Linda London.

Styling your person and designing your home really aren't so different in essence. Both are deeply personal, have creative and visual qualities, yet require functionality. Comfort and individual taste matter as much as practicality; both are opportunities for individual expression, and endless creativity.

We all know how wonderful we feel when we are dressed to the nines; our homes should feel the same way. How we hope to appear to the world, how we wish to present ourselves—our closets are vessels for these aspirations. Ultimately, there's a place in our wardrobes and our homes for pieces that are beautiful, functional, timeless and personal.

Fashion and interior design have a complex, symbiotic relationship. Both reflect the zeitgeist of the time during which they originated. Fashion is in a constant state of flux; the ‘hobble skirts’ designed by Paul Poiret at the turn of the century were usurped by the mini skirts popularized in 1960s London. Mini, midi and full-length hemlines (and every length in between) vacillate with the decades. Therefore, closet rods must be adjustable and easily moved to accommodate changing fashions (and the cabinetry must be spacious enough to accommodate alterations).







LINDA LONDON DESIGN



Likewise, space is priceless when it comes to shoes. In the words of Brian Atwood, ‘Life is short, your heels shouldn’t be.’ From the sky-high platform heels punctuating the lavish looks of the 70s, to Chanel’s translucent plastic thigh-grazing boots worn on the runway for their Spring/Summer collection of 2018, shoes are essential accessories. It is a travesty when your Louboutin’s or Jimmy Choo’s are relegated to the floor of your closet.

Shoe shelves now hold a prominent position—present your stilettos, your espadrilles, your pumps, and your heels in stunning, full-height glass and mirror cabinets with great lighting. Creating elegance, style, grace, and taste is our ultimate goal. I design homes to place all possessions away in style.



**COMPOSITION IS KEY.** Whether it is on a body or in a room, the shape, detail and size of things matters. For example, a petite person may feel like she can't pull off a floor length duster confidently because she feels like she's drowning in it. Similarly, a canopy bed in a tiny room just doesn't make sense, or a dressing room that is bigger than the bedroom. Not having enough space for a client's entire inventory is often common at the outset, so you need to be creative and discuss hidden spaces with the architect and contractor. You need to find hidden space in walls—go high (ladders are quite stylish in today's design world), go deep, go low. Perhaps eliminate an unnecessary door or window, a superfluous decorative display or collection, move assemblages around to find new space for shoes, handbags, accessories and clothing.

For example, handbags are no longer mere utilitarian objects but style statements. We follow the lead of fashion icon Grace Kelly—a handbag is not to be thrown over your shoulder but draped on your arm, like a lady. Many evening bags are bejeweled and precious; they should be protected, preserved, covered in a drawer. Yet, presentation plays an enormous role in closet design today; therefore, closed glass and locked cabinets are the solution and a big change in design. With some handbags now up to 20" high and 18" deep closet shelving must be thought out; we must accommodate a coterie of accessories large and small.

Finally, color is very important. The trend this year is far from scaled back; everyone from Tom Ford to Carolina Herrera seems to be saturated in color. NYFW was replete with brilliant hues with shades running the gamut from highlighter yellow to neon pink to atomic tangerine. Closet interiors are designed to provide a lovely backdrop for your wardrobe in all of its magnificent color, texture and splendor. For this neutrals work best. Today the backdrop of a closet is great wood tones, dark chocolates and pure whites. We tie it all together with fabulous lighting, mirrors and glass. Counters and surfaces are lighted as well. Lots of marble!

In many ways, our closets and our homes are a reflection of who we are. One of my favorite designers once said "I don't do fashion. *I am fashion.*" Like identity and fashion, our closets and our personal style are inextricably entwined.■

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