

10 FABULOUS—AND QUICK—WAYS TO REV UP YOUR LIVING ROOM

# House Beautiful

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THE  
**MAKEOVER**  
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Eliminate Clutter &  
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## Eliminate Clutter

The definition of clutter, says designer Amy Lau, is anything you possess that does not enhance your life on a regular basis. Here are her tips for tidying up your life

**CLIMBING THE WALLS** Think horizontally: Install a grouping of floating shelves over a credenza for photos and books. Maximize volume by using wall space wisely. Think vertically: Install shelving 12 to 18 inches below the ceiling and display an interesting collection.

**HIDE AWAY** Conceal anything without visual appeal. Opt for bookcases with doors and choose end or bedside tables with a closed base. A wall unit with open and closed compartments can cover up audio-visual equipment, and also provide room for decorative displays.



PHOTOGRAPHER: ALEXANDRA ROWLEY



**COLOR-COORDINATE** Harmonize spaces by grouping objects together by color. When buying accessories like leather storage boxes, CD organizers, picture frames, or even a throw, keep a dominant color scheme in mind. The result will look streamlined and ordered.

**LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT** Take stock of the items in your home and be scrupulous about what to keep. Require your objects to defend their purpose—do you adore it? Use it? If either does not apply, lose it. Minimize large goods like furniture, which can make spaces appear cluttered.

**DOUBLE DUTY** Multitasking isn't a chore that should be limited to people. Find furniture that couples flair with multiple functions, like a secretary with drawers and desktop, a coffee table with shelves, or an ottoman or bench with a hidden storage compartment.

**TEAR IT UP** Buy a shredder and dispose of junk mail as soon as it arrives, and file bills and correspondence appropriately. Admit to yourself that you will not read three-week old newspapers and pack them for recycling. A wire or straw basket will keep piles tidy between trash days.

Designer Amy Lau is perched on a vintage credenza from Knoll; matching shelves come from NOJ, as do the storage boxes and picture frames. For more details, see Resources.

