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GALLERY WALLS AREN'T JUST FOR ART

The first project that really made me think about incorporating organization into a design was my [craft space](#). The room is half guest bedroom, half craft room. I didn't want my guests to feel like they were invading my space when they visited, but I also wanted the craft area to feel like me.

I came up with the idea of a gallery wall that blended artwork and storage. The same colors I used in the gallery wall are repeated throughout the room to give both areas one cohesive feel. This concept would also work great in a home office or even a bathroom!

[SEE THE WHOLE CRAFT ROOM](#)



7 tips for using ORGANIZATION IN DECOR

Ever look at photos of gorgeous spaces in magazines and wonder if they could actually be lived in? I'd certainly jump in the volunteer line to find out if I could maintain the perfect look. Knowing myself, it wouldn't last long.

That doesn't mean I'm not striving to create our own beautiful home. Over time, I've figured out that I'm able to keep the house looking great much longer when I've built organization into our decor. Now, when I design a room update, I start off by thinking about how we use the space on a day to day basis.

I've got a few examples to show you what I mean and hopefully they will inspire some ideas for your own home. You can click any of the photos to see more of each space.



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2 MAKE UGLY THINGS PRETTY

One of my craziest organizational ideas was to use a real estate box to create a [wall mounted trash can](#) for the laundry room. We don't have floor space for a traditional trash can, so dryer lint and clothing tags always ended up cluttering the top of the washer and dryer. It would have been totally functional to just put the clear bin on the wall, but I took ten minutes to make it pretty. Now it's a quirky functional art piece and blends into the room.

I used a similar idea to dress up [binders in the office](#). You can buy really cute binders in any color to match your decor, but since I already had basic black binders, it was a great chance to save some money! The plain binders were functional, but adding gold vinyl polka dots and labels flipped the switch from functional to decor.



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One of the walls in our TINY entryway from the garage is also visible from the front door. While coat hooks on the wall would be totally functional, they'd be pretty boring in the summer when all the winter gear is packed away.

A quick trip to the hardware store inspired [this alternative](#) made from metal sheeting. It still looks like decor when all the hooks are removed.

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COHESIVE LABELS ARE KEY

Consistent labeling throughout a room is a great way to elevate a good organizing project into great home decor. Our [pantry](#) has a glass door, so everything inside can be seen from the kitchen. I'm a huge fan of labels because they tend to KEEP things organized long term. I had several different types of containers, but using the same font on each one pulled them all together. They would have been just as functional with all different labels, but consistency turns them into decor.

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Here's a closer look at the labels:



Don't *wish* for it, *work* for it.

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4 PEGBOARD'S ARE AMAZING!

I'm a newish fan of pegboards and I don't know what took me so long to figure out how great they are. They turn a mishmash of almost anything into a pretty displayed collection. And they can be painted any color to match your style!

In front of our treadmill, I turned a blank wall into a [mini-gym](#) with the pegboard pulling everything together.

The [garage](#) is a more traditional space for peg-board, but even out there you can upgrade them for a custom look. Sandwiching ours between two IKEA KALLAX units created a fun wall of storage. Repeating the color orange also adds a bit of extra style.



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POLISHED *Habitat*
BY MELISSA GENTRE



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5 HIDDEN ORGANIZATION KEEPS SURFACES CLEAR

As much as I LOVE a project that keeps our stuff looking great out in the open, some things just need to be hidden. I realized that the more organized the [inside of our cabinets](#) become, the more likely we are to keep the countertops clear. So while this tip doesn't directly affect

our decor, the impact is still huge. Our kitchen looks SO much better when there isn't clutter all over the island! I couldn't live without my mini-hamper for dirty kitchen towels now.

The same principle applies in the [bathroom](#).



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6 THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

This is one of those easier said than done things, but when you are organizing, don't limit yourself your products from the Container Store or the organizing section at Target. Even though I love BOTH of those places, sometimes the best solutions are more creative.

In [the closet](#), I used gorgeous (and inexpensive!) horn drawer pulls from Hobby Lobby to hold all my necklaces. When I saw them, I fell in love, even though I wasn't sure how we'd attach them to the wall. It ended up being as easy as putting anchors in the wall and screwing the pulls right in.



One way to think outside the box is to consider what you'd like to display and work backwards to figure out how to make it happen. I wanted my [purses and clutches](#) to be visible in the closet, so I'd actually use and enjoy them as art. They all have different length handles, so hooks didn't seem like the best option. But I wanted to see them, so bins wouldn't be right either.

The solution was clear acrylic! We bent it with a heat gun to create holders for all the clutches and now they are organized AND a great addition to the decor.

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These are probably my favorite [boxes](#), because I used some gold Rub & Buff on the name plates. They hold all the extra toiletries we pick up on sale - razors, shaving cream, toothpaste & brushes, etc. Not the things we use daily, but all the extras that would normally clutter up a shelf.



[SEE THE FULL PANTRY MAKEOVER](#)

7 PHOTO BOXES AREN'T JUST FOR PHOTOS

Photo boxes are an extremely inexpensive option for versatile organization. Look for them on sale at craft stores, and then stock up on multiples of the same color. I usually pick up a bunch during the 6 for \$10 sale at Michaels - that's only \$1.67 per box!

When they are displayed together uniformly, they are a great

addition to any room or closet. So far, I've used them in the [bathroom](#), office, craft room, [laundry room](#) and [pantry](#)! I'm confident that I'll come up with even more photo box ideas in the coming year.

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Inside the [laundry room](#) cupboard, I used three photo boxes for light bulbs. We have a mix of bulb types, so I separated them into old school (regular incandescent), new school (CFL), and just weird (all the rest).



I divided cookie cutters by holiday and placed them in photos boxes on a very high shelf in [the pantry](#). Since I actually use the cookie cutters 2 or 3 times a year, they are a perfect item to be out of daily reach. But they still look good and I can quickly find the cutters I need. One of the box is also dedicated to sprinkles. Because sprinkles make every cookie look better.