

prop styling, photo art direction, project design & renovation



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LEFT: Homeowner Gayle Schadendorf combined Edison bulbs, lighting wire, and brushed-nickel fixtures to create a custom, industrial-chic light fixture. **OPPOSITE:** The long and slim kitchen had a lean makeover budget to match. "Keep what you can, and then do your research," Gayle says. "The time you spend comparing prices could save you hundreds of dollars."



Room size 90 sq ft

Budget \$4,628

Why we love it
 The vinyl floor tile is an inexpensive way to add pattern.

apartment therapy

A creative designer gives her high-rise kitchen a high-style makeover.

WRITER AND STYLIST HEIDI PEARSON • PHOTOGRAPHER JAY WILDE

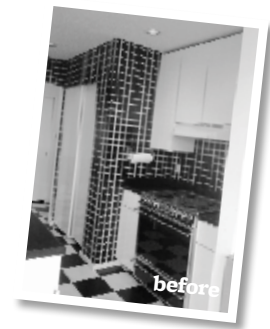


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THIS PHOTO: To extend counter space and create a comfortable eating perch, Gayle topped a breakfast bar with a marble slab she'd repurposed previously around her home. **OPPOSITE:** Gayle applied her eye for detail to every aspect of the kitchen, including the way the curved top of the Amana range mimics the curved glass of the range hood.



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a desire to move up

in the world didn't drive Gayle Schadendorf to relocate two years ago, but she did just that when she traded her blocks-from-the-beach San Diego cottage for a 23rd-floor Minneapolis condo.

"It was the breathtaking views that sold me," she says. What didn't sell Gayle was the 1980s kitchen—complete with a dropped textured ceiling, track lighting, and plaid wallpaper. Armed with keen design skills, the interior and graphic designer set out to give her time-warp kitchen a budget-smart refresh.

First Gayle tackled the ceiling. "I cut a small hole in the drywall and used my phone to take pictures of what I couldn't see—that's how I knew I could tear it down," she says. Doing so revealed 10-foot concrete ceilings, which instantly set the tone for the fresh, industrial-chic vibe Gayle wanted.

The existing clean-lined cabinets were keepers, but they didn't provide enough counter space or storage, so Gayle crafted a peninsula out of a sideboard and a marble slab. She also retrofitted a pantry with custom shelving and sliding doors.

Then came the cosmetic updates. Gayle covered the range wall from counter to ceiling with gray subway tiles, replaced the dated countertop with budget-friendly 24-inch-square granite tiles, installed a stainless-steel apron-front sink, and upgraded to stainless-steel appliances.

Throughout the process, sourcing items on the Internet was Gayle's MO. "I ordered almost all of my materials from big-box retailer websites, since their stores offer just a fraction of what's available online," Gayle says. Her favorite online find—the commercial vinyl tiles she installed over the existing flooring. Extremely durable, they establish the pop of green that reappears in the focal-point wall stencil Gayle designed herself.

"I spent hundreds of hours researching options, comparing prices, and doing as much of the work myself as possible," Gayle says. One look at her kitchen reveals it was time well spent.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 106.





Running standard subway tile in a basket-weave pattern is a simple way to add a custom touch.

budget

Appliances

Dishwasher	500
Range	699
Refrigerator	919
Vent hood	499

Cabinetry

Hardware	57
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Plumbing

Faucet	190
Sink	349

Surfaces

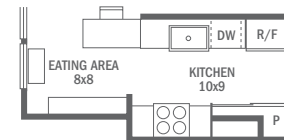
Backsplash tile	212
Countertop materials	210
Floor tile	142
Paint	120

Miscellaneous

Lighting	250
Pantry doors	220
Pantry shelves	112
Peninsula table	149

Total \$4,628

Costs do not include labor unless noted.



Keeping the existing layout in the condo's small galley kitchen allowed for surface upgrades like paint, countertops, flooring, and tile to stay within the tight budget.



OPPOSITE: The homeowner put her DIY skills to use fronting 24-inch-square granite tiles with stainless-steel edging for the countertop. **ABOVE:** Vinyl tiles add durable, easy-to-install style under Gayle's feet for a fraction of what other flooring materials can cost. **LEFT:** Inspired by a 1960s motif from *Mad Men*, the mod stencil converts a plain wall into a focal point that echoes the pop of green on the floor.

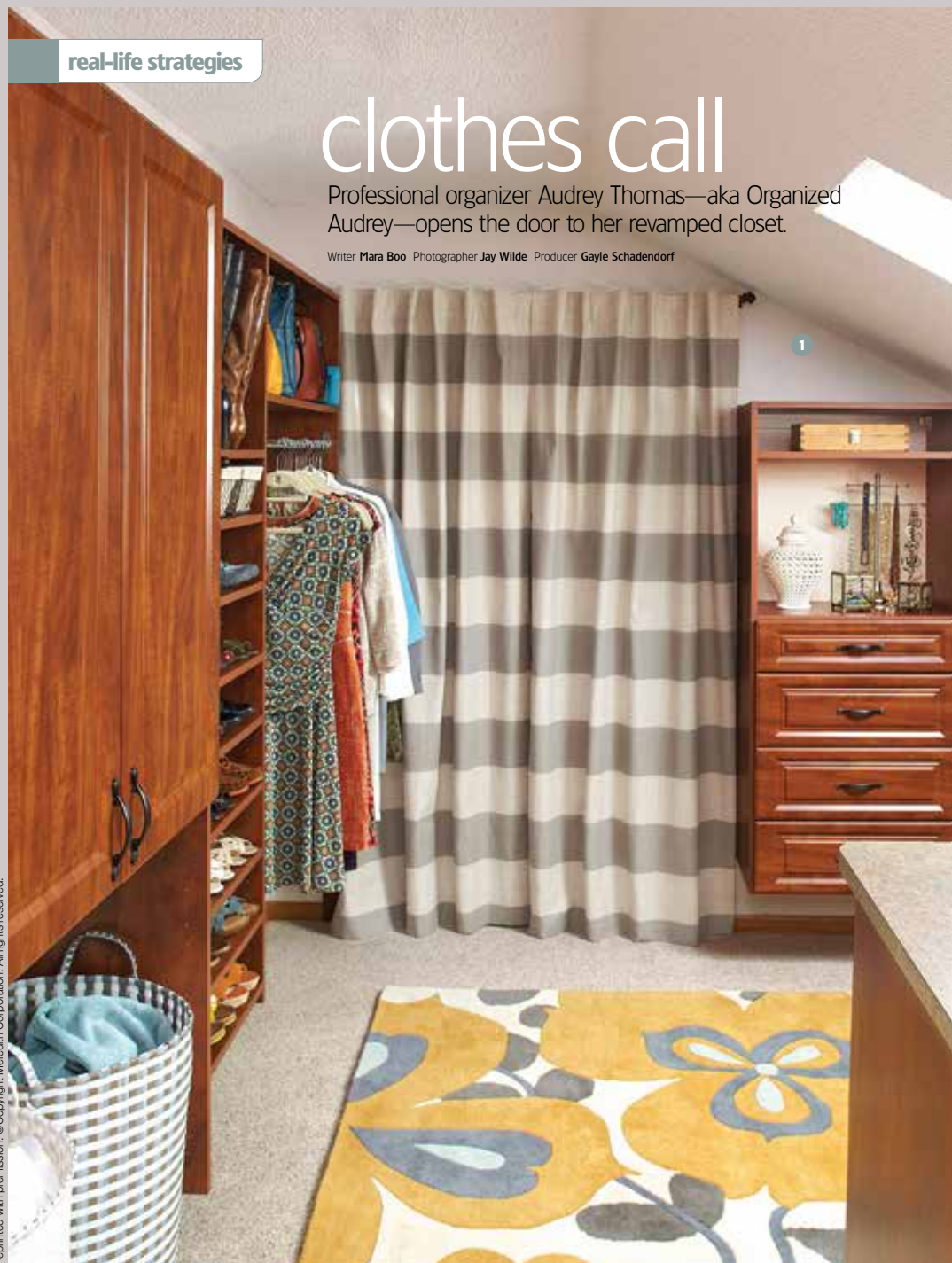
PROJECT SPONSOR

Amana refrigerator, range, range hood, dishwasher. amana.com

clothes call

Professional organizer Audrey Thomas—aka Organized Audrey—opens the door to her revamped closet.

Writer **Mara Boo** Photographer **Jay Wilde** Producer **Gayle Schadendorf**



1

As an efficiency expert and professional organizer, Audrey Thomas thought she understood everything about closet organization. Yet even she learned some new tricks while transforming the windowless space she once used as her home office into a new master closet to share with her husband, Tony.

What surprised you most about planning your closet? How hard it was to finalize its design! I was overwhelmed by the decision-making process.

Did working with a closet company make it easier? Absolutely! I interviewed three potential closet organizers. The one I ultimately chose asked a lot of questions about our habits, like where we unpack from our travels, where we put our shoes on, and where our dirty laundry goes. They made me think of things I never would have considered on my own, and then incorporated those things into the final design.

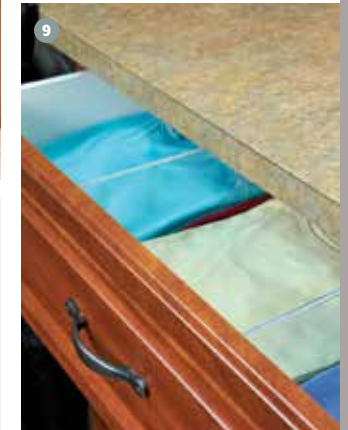
What topped your wish list? I wanted the island to be dead center in the closet, I wanted a custom laundry bin, and I wanted separate his-and-her zones.

Did you change your mind about any of those things? The closet pro convinced me an off-center island, rather than one right in the middle of the closet, made more sense so we wouldn't have to walk around it all the time. He said making the closet symmetrical wouldn't make it functional, and that really got my attention because I'm all about function. He was so right!

I also realized I didn't want a custom laundry bin after all because the sorters I already had worked so well. We sort our clothes by lights, darks, and cold-water brights as we go, so doing laundry takes less time. I'm constantly telling people to choose functionality over beauty, so I took my own advice and stuck with what already worked. As for separate his-and-hers zones, yes, I did keep that idea!



1. Professional organizer Audrey Thomas carefully combined cupboards, drawers, shelves, and hanging rods in her master closet. **2.** Audrey's boots and shoes are neatly arrayed on sized-to-fit shelves; she assembles and accessorizes outfits for the next day on a pullout rod. **3.** All of Audrey and husband Tony's travel necessities—such as luggage and sample-size toiletries—are gathered in one easy-access space behind a striped curtain. **4.** Pullout hooks store belts with tangle-free simplicity. "They work just as well for necklaces, too," Audrey says.



5. Off the floor and easy to reach, Tony's shoes and accessories are displayed alongside wardrobe items. Double-hung rods—taller for shirts; shorter for pants—make the most of precious wall space. **6.** A vented wire basket stows shirts waiting to be dropped off at the dry cleaner. **7.** Frequent business travelers, Audrey and Tony appreciate their new closet's conveniences. **8.** Audrey opted for a laminate counter atop the island, where she and Tony place suitcases for packing. **9.** The island boasts eight drawers, four each for Audrey and Tony to stash folded clothing. Acrylic dividers maintain perfect stacks. **10.** A divided, velvet-lined jewelry drawer ensures bracelets, rings, and earrings remain scratch-free.

new item that comes into the closet, two have to go out. It's not difficult for me to release things, but my husband likes to keep things "just in case." He must have had 10 pairs of shoe trees and never used any of them. They were in a pile collecting dust. So we compromised. He kept two pairs in case he ever needs them and got rid of the rest—but not without a little discussion!

What's your advice for anyone contemplating a closet redo? Take time to think about your habits. I prefer to fold my T-shirts; my husband likes to hang his. I like to stand when I put on my shoes; my husband prefers to sit. All those things factored into the design of our closet so it works perfectly for both of us.

Why did you want a zone approach? It just made the most sense. Remember, I'm an efficiency expert. I know that streamlining processes encourages efficiency, so why not apply that theory to getting ready in the morning or packing for a business trip? Zones make it easy to spot things, easy to put them away, and easy to do an inventory check. Everything is grouped by item—shoes, dresses, T-shirts, pants, pajamas, you name it.

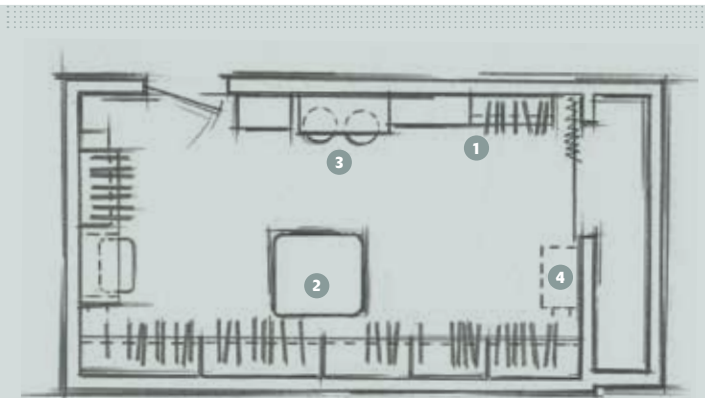
How do you maintain order in your closet? Since everything has its place, it's easy to keep the closet neat and tidy. I also try to follow this rule: For every one

Any other tips? Take inventory of what you own. Count your shoes. Count your dresses. Know how many purses you have, because if you're like me, you're going to be surprised by how much space they fill. And don't tackle this job while planning your daughter's wedding. I did, and I don't recommend it to anyone!

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 115.

special thanks to

Amy Butler for Chandra, Bed Bath & Beyond, The Container Store, Garnet Hill, T.J. Maxx, Zappos



in the zone

Strategically situated by function, this master closet makes speedy work of getting ready for the day.

- 1 wear**
Clothes are grouped by item and owner for quick dressing. The couple installed a mix of shelves, rods, and drawers to match their wardrobes.
- 2 pack**
A curtain conceals all things travel-related in an odd-shape niche, while the island's height is ideal for filling a suitcase.
- 3 launder**
Sorting laundry in the closet allows Audrey to save time on wash day. Stain sticks and mending supplies are stowed behind double cabinet doors above.
- 4 accessorize**
Jewelry, scarves, socks, and more are corralled in a four-drawer cabinet that also displays decorative and sentimental items.



budget kitchen

WRITER MARA BOO • PHOTOGRAPHER ED GOHLICH • PRODUCER GAYLE SCHADENDORF



RIGHT: Painted cabinetry and colorful accessories infuse Gayle Schadendorf's mostly white kitchen with personality. Pretty dish towels curtain the window above the sink.

green's a go

A once-dreary kitchen sprouts chic style thanks to creative repurposing and a load of green (paint, that is).



“My eyes are green, my clothes are green, my house is green,” Gayle Schadendorf says. “No one who knows me is surprised my kitchen cabinets are green, too.”

The fresh hue was Gayle's pick to revitalize the dingy kitchen in her 80-year-old, tiny rental cottage in Coronado, California. “It needed a lot of TLC, but I can see past anything,” says Gayle, a photo stylist and avid do-it-yourselfer. “Its overall darkness had nothing to do with light quality and everything to do with the brown cabinets and linoleum floor.” Tired beige counters and insufficient storage added to the woes of the 8x11-foot room.

Luckily for Gayle, the appliances were OK. “I had a good foundation to work with,” she says. “All I had to do was cosmetic stuff.”

Gayle rescued laminate flooring from her previous home, a rental slated for demolition, and layered it over the linoleum. She camouflaged dated laminate countertops with ceramic subway tile.



ABOVE: Gayle added a new white hood above the existing range. She painted the vent pipe to make it less obtrusive and hung a shelf above the hood for storage. **LEFT:** Dish towels hung from a curtain rod disguise items in a makeshift pantry Gayle created from an old wall cabinet.

budget kitchen



Print our free butterfly designs and display them in 8x8-inch frames.

She used the same white tile for backsplashes behind the sink and range, crowning the latter with a \$40 hood. To supply much-needed storage, she hung open shelves and fashioned a no-cost, makeshift pantry from a shelving unit she already had. “I put casters on it and added supports to corral everything inside,” she says. “I use it every day. In a space this small, everything is about storage.”

It’s also about white. “There’s nothing like a true, bright white to make rooms feel fresh,” Gayle says, noting the kitchen’s snowy appliances, counters, and freshly painted walls gave her confidence to coat her cabinets green. “Lime-green cabinets are unusual, I know, but they work precisely because everything else is white,” she says.

Almost everything, that is. The kitchen’s focal point—a wallpaper mural she designed herself—was a \$235 splurge worth every penny. “It’s subtle but cheerful,” she says, “and is the ideal complement to the green cabinets.”

No surprise there.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 110.



FREE butterfly art
Get free printable wall art, above and left, by artist Amy Kirkpatrick. Go to BHG.com/butterflyart to download.



OPPOSITE: Gayle designed a white botanical wallpaper mural and had it printed using an online service. For more information, see Resources, page 110. ABOVE: Framed wall art painted by Gayle’s artist friend, Amy Kirkpatrick, carries the butterfly motif throughout the room. A pot rack holds colorful casserole dishes.



Place clear glassware on open shelving to let pretty wallcovering remain the standout feature.

budget kitchen

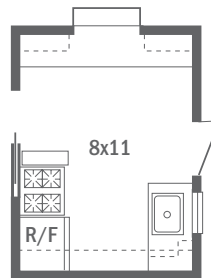


budget

Appliances	
Hood	40
Hood vent pipe	15
Surfaces	
Grout and sealer	35
Paint	60
Tile	150
Wallpaper mural	235
Miscellaneous	
Curtain rods	11
Drawer and cabinet pulls	40
Frames	12
Shelving	250
Tea towels (curtains and cart)	44
Total	\$892

Costs do not include labor unless noted.

A tiny rental kitchen with two doorways presents a challenge. A slender cabinet was added on one side of the range for storage; there was no room to add landing space on the other side of the range. A countertop on one wall provides work space.



ABOVE LEFT: Like functional art, vibrant, vintage-style aprons dress up a small stretch of wall. **ABOVE:** Inexpensive Lucite door hardware gives the painted cabinets a contemporary look.