



April 07, 2008

Closet cases



Here's a question for you organizational gurus out there: Where do closets fit into the design process?

Do you plan out your closet first -- banishing clutter in order to allow the rest of your apartment to shine? Or do you do it last, since no one sees it anyway?

The answer may depend on whether you're type B -- the sort who can go unbothered for days by a messy room -- or type A -- the kind who needs the closet door closed even when you're sleeping and no one knows it's open except you.

In any case, you've got to do the closet eventually, and you might as well do it right.

And to really do it right, you'll want to call in the experts.

In this case, that's Melanie Charlton Fascitelli, founder of closet company [Clos-ette](#) -- a closet pro for those who outgrew [The Container Store's](#) elfa system years ago. A former [Style.com](#) editor and publicity director for [Anne Klein](#), Fascitelli founded Clos-ette in 2002. It now has offices in New York and West Palm Beach.

Fascitelli's clients -- including clothes-loving celebs like Liv Tyler and Julianna Margulies -- aren't after just any old storage space. For many of them, over-the-top closets are just one piece in their dream homes -- something to put in along with lavish kitchens and screening rooms. To make it happen, Fascitelli calls in the big guns -- architects, designers and engineers.

Yes, you can call her clients control freaks. They want secure, itemized closets that could hold their own with Fort Knox. Regular requests include:

- Computerized inventory systems to select outfits electronically
- TVs built into closet walls
- High-tech security systems that safe-guard rooms through voice recognition
- Climate-controlled fur storage
- Safe rooms for gem storage covered in tufted silk
- Customized Baccarat wet bars and lounges, all in the closet

Yeah. Kind of makes our closet space seem lacking in imagination, too.

Tuesday, April 8 is the publication date of Fascitelli's first book: [Shop Your Closet: The Ultimate Guide to Organizing Your Closet with Style](#) (HarperCollins; \$19.95) -- a how-to guide that covers everything from paring down your wardrobe to the benefits of good hangers. -- **Jennifer Gould Keil**