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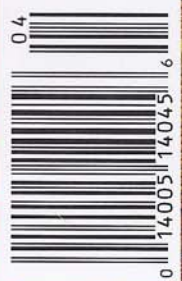
Get Organized Once and for All

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the ultimate GREAT-ROOM

Custom shelving and built-ins contain the clutter that comes with family life

The great-room, with its open living room, dining area, and kitchen, is the epitome of casual modern life. But the absence of walls is not without its challenges. To manage the messes that arise in multifunctional spaces, this family incorporated cabinetry, open shelving, and a multipurpose desk and office area, all designed to their specifications as part of extensive remodeling plans.

The far wall of the great-room combines open display areas for showing off framed kids' art, family photographs, treasured books, and other mementos. Shelves conveniently placed at kid height are scaled to hold baskets where toys and stuffed animals can be stowed. Every inch of wall space is used, including the area under the window seat, where drawers keep blankets, throws, and pillows at the ready for family movie nights and closed cabinets provide a place for puzzles and

board games when not in use.

At the core of the expansive space is the homeowner's command central, a thoughtfully conceived workstation that encompasses a desk for computing and ample drawer and cabinet space to accommodate both school and office supply needs. A nearby cabinet features slotted compartments for sorting mail and stationery, a bulletin board for important reminders, and a small television behind sliding doors.

Separating the kitchen and dining area from the living area is an antique cabinet large enough to house a television and components. Selected for its good looks, the cabinet is a reminder that even in family gathering spaces, style counts.

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Writer/Field editor **Mindy Pantiel** Photographer **Emily Minton-Redfield**

THIS PHOTO: Custom built-ins, featuring open shelving and closed cabinets, fill one wall in the great-room and offer both display and storage possibilities. OPPOSITE: Games and puzzles can be quickly stashed in lower cabinets.





By planning a room's storage with family needs and growing kids in mind, you can achieve functionality without sacrificing good looks.



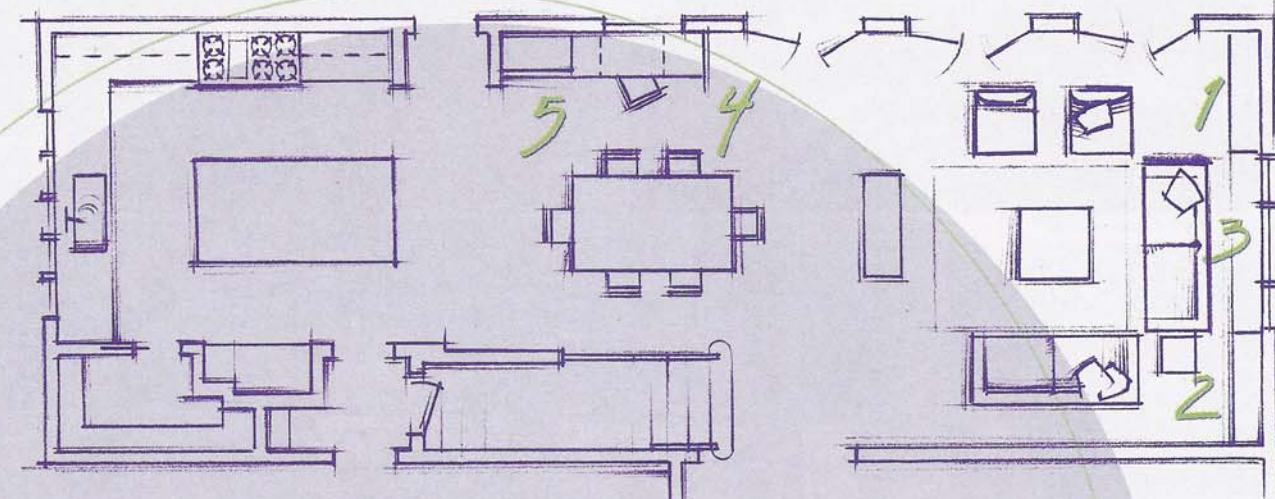
- **An oversize antique cabinet**, far left, houses a flat-screen television, DVD player, and other entertainment components. The piece also serves as a partial room divider.
- **Window seat drawers**, above left, are handy spots to keep blankets and throws.
- **Shallow plastic containers** with cute graphics, above, easily handle small items such as card games.
- **Tall, handled baskets**, left, offer a convenient and good-looking solution for fast toy cleanup. The baskets are also useful for whisking away magazines and other reading materials.
- **Open, adjustable shelving**, below, serves multiple functions including book storage, art display, and holding containers such as a lidded basket of favorite CDs.





• **A run of built-ins, opposite,** is situated between the kitchen and family room, where kids and parents have access to the computer, files, and supplies. • **Open slots, left,** sort mail, a cabinet door slides back to reveal a small television, and an inset piece of corkboard showcases photos and important reminders. • **A drawer equipped for hanging folders, above,** keeps school

documents, medical records, and other pertinent family info at hand. • **Plastic drawer dividers, above,** turn a junk drawer into an organized grid of school and office necessities.



IN THE ZONE

This casually elegant great-room organizes a family's gear with ease.

1 hide

Handled baskets make for quick cleanup, while low cabinets in the wall unit get items off the floor and behind closed doors.

2 display

Lots of open shelving affords plenty of space for showing off treasured family photos, collections, artwork, and mementos.

3 stow

Three drawers under the window seat extend storage capabilities by providing space for bulky items such as blankets and throws.

4 organize

Cabinet and drawer inserts corral the entire family's art and office supplies. Two file drawers host vital papers for work and personal purposes.

5 share

Cubbies at the front of the tall unit give each family member a drop-off spot. Corkboard inset on the side functions as a bulletin board.