

Real stories, real solutions

simplify

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

FALL/WINTER
2007



Unique Solutions for Unique Spaces

An evolution in the concept of the home office space



Under-the-stairs storage unit combines closed cabinets, as well as an open work surface.

California Closets are experts in every space in the home – not just closets. Since the 1990s, California Closets Design Consultants have been using their design expertise to create individual storage spaces throughout the home – expanding their reach from the company's signature closets to home offices, entertainment centers, garages, laundry rooms, and any other space in the home.

"Customers are often very surprised to discover that California Closets can create custom storage for the whole home," said Heather Lederman, a Design Consultant with California Closets in Minneapolis, MN. Heather previously worked with a custom furniture company and has an interior design background. She and her colleagues have been using their design experience to create a variety of unique storage solutions that go far beyond closets.

"People come to us when they need a custom solution for a space where ready-made furniture just won't fit," Heather explained. "Often, mass produced furniture is too large for a home designed on a smaller scale, with unusually shaped spaces."

One creative solution that Heather's colleague at California Closets, Jeff Belleau, recently designed was an under-the-stairs storage unit that combined closed cabinets, as well as an open work surface. "The client came from the design industry, and knew there weren't pre-made furniture pieces to accommodate his space," Heather explained. "He came to us because he knew we could customize something specific to his needs."

The client arrived at the California Closets showroom with a sketch showing what he wanted and worked with Jeff to create the design. "The client wanted a contemporary, clean look – and it became a collaborative process of how to accomplish what he wanted within the confines of the space," Heather continued. "That evolution is indicative of the design process in most of our consultations – it begins with an idea and evolves into a specifically tailored and customized solution."

Heather and her colleagues have received requests for a wide variety of specific storage solutions over the years. "Wall units are the most requested solutions outside of traditional closets, but we also get requests

for everything from wine bars to angled ceiling projects," she said. "We actually get many angled ceiling projects, as there are a lot of older homes in the Minneapolis region."

Heather explained that her own home (built in 1919) has a closet built over the stairway. "The floor is slanted leaving little space," she said. "I have about three feet of actual floor space due to the stairway underneath – then it angles up. So the question arises – when you don't have a straight wall (or floor for that matter), how do you come up with storage? This is a question that comes up frequently with our customers, and one which we are particularly experienced with answering!"

One of the benefits of working with California Closets lies in the years of collaborative knowledge and experience that comes with a company that has been in the business for nearly 30 years. "California Closets has a deep understanding about how storage solutions work," Heather noted. At California Closets, we have the expertise to map out the whole process. We're able to create solutions to fit the client's lifestyle, as well as their space," she continued.

California Closets expertise is spatial design – whether home offices, garages, entertainment centers, closets, or more unusual space systems – as well as their dedication to the customer. "It's really about the client's need and the amount of space they have to work with," said Heather. "With those two pieces of information, the sky is the limit regarding what we can create."

