

On display

by AMANDA SHIELDS



What does the shelving in your home say about you? Perhaps you're organized, well-travelled or family oriented. Maybe your bookshelves express your love of reading, photography or board games. But beyond the display, the type of shelf can speak volumes as an

architectural feature that is as much a focal point as the items on show.

With a variety of designs and materials to choose from, the aesthetic options are endless and there is something to appeal to every style preference. Of course, we can't ignore the original intent of this household staple – storage. So, whether you're contemplating

custom-built shelves or revamping an existing set, ensure you reserve a place for function and style.

Making a case for custom

When it comes to aesthetic preferences and storage, custom-built shelving offers the perfect blend of beauty and brawn, allowing you to



Photo: Larry Arnaiz



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Photo: Kiely Ramos

tailor the shelving to your lifestyle, your needs and your space. Start by assessing what you need, which items will be displayed and what storage requirements must be met. Consider the depth and height of the shelves to accommodate various items, from books to decorative pieces. Custom shelving is ideal if you have unique storage needs or style preferences, or if your home boasts unusual dimensions, allowing you to maximize every inch rather than trying to find a suitable pre-made option.

The art of display

Open shelves are a stunning, versatile choice, fitting seamlessly into various spaces such as the kitchen, living room or home office. I personally love open shelves, because they provide easy access and also encourage a curated, organized look. Admittedly, they do require a highly organized, simple approach. The key lies in mastering the art of the display. The following are some of my favourite tips for creating a thoughtful arrangement.

1| Embrace organic materials and texture

To add warmth and character to your shelving, incorporate natural wood for a warm and inviting feel or opt for metal accents for an industrial touch. The interplay of textures, such as woven baskets or ceramic vases, adds depth and visual interest to your display. The tactile experience of different materials enhances the overall appeal of your shelves, creating a space that feels lived-in and personal.

2| Tell your story

Shelving is more than just a storage solution; it's an opportunity to tell the story of the people who live in the space. Use your shelves to display personal items, cherished mementos and unique artifacts. Whether it's a collection of travel souvenirs or family heirlooms, integrating personal elements on your shelves creates a narrative that resonates with everyone who enters the room. This not only adds character, but also fosters a sense of connection between you and your living space.

3| Distribution and repetition

Create a cohesive and visually appealing shelf display by distributing and repeating colours strategically. Consider a colour scheme that complements the room's overall palette. To maintain balance, imagine an invisible line connecting the tops of each item on the shelf. Strive for a zig-zag pattern to add visual interest, preventing a monotonous look. By repeating decorative accents and elements, you create a harmonious and uniform appearance from top to bottom, ensuring a polished and stylish display.

Be your 'shelf'

Transforming your shelving from a basic storage solution into a personalized and stylish focal point requires thoughtful planning and a creative eye. It all starts with a great shelf that complements your space, coupled with meaningful and interesting accessories that reflect your style and yourself. The outcome will be as unique as you are. Trust me, don't "shelf" these ideas. Put them front and centre, and you can thank me later.



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