



Transform: From chaos to order

New Year, Neat You

by Emily Liebert

If you're like every other New Yorker, declarations of getting your home organized in January will abound. Here are some local experts who can make this year's resolutions of adding order to your quarters easier to honor.

At **Transform**, co-founders Andreas Messis and Stuart Reisch make it their business to turn chaos into organization—from walk-ins and dressing rooms to offices, libraries, media centers, laundry rooms, and pantries. According to these titans of tidiness, “one of the easiest New Year’s resolutions to accomplish is to organize your clutter.” Easier said than done? The first step, they say, is to “simply remove all clothing, shoes, boots, and accessories that you haven’t worn for a year and give them away. You’ll be amazed at what you really wear.” For those suffering with too many books and papers and not enough work space, their recommendation: Add a customized



Another example of Transform's powers

home office. A spare room, hard to come by in most Manhattan apartments, is not necessary when a corner will do.

Consultations are free of charge.

Perhaps your abode doesn't need a makeover, but just needs a little pick-me-up? Barbara Brock, president of **A Proper Place**, specializes in home-staging and one-day decorating services. "Through the years, we've all purchased or been given great pieces of furniture or art work, but may be overwhelmed by the number of styles and can't seem to marry them," says Brock. "Have you ever thought that a room can be arranged in a hundred different ways? By injecting touches of color and adding, subtracting, or simply reshuffling furniture, your home can take on a whole new appeal." But keep in mind that "space arranging is about the balancing of opposite walls, scale, proportion, color, and light." To optimize comfort and upgrade the "wow" factor of your residence, Brock says, "Give your house the same jolt of fitness you'll give your body."

Of course, Terry Ward, owner of **Get Your Act Together**, will tell you that being buried alive in your stuff can come from a deeper place. Since 1990 she has been assessing, categorizing, and systemizing all of her clients' things. Ward focuses less on mess and more on "why" and "how" disorganization comes to be. "For some people,

there's a need to create a self-protective structure using material objects as building blocks." At an hourly rate of \$75 (consultations are complimentary), Ward works closely with individuals to help them "make sense" of their stuff. "There are a gazillion 'how-to-get-organized' books and yet everybody is still trying to find their way through their possessions." **ml**

Get Organized!

Get Your Act Together

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Transform

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A Proper Place: Add a touch of color and a few key pieces