

Closet Design Tips

1. Understand the Client's Needs

- **Physical Characteristics:** Take note of their height, body size, and dominant hand (Right or left) to design a closet layout that suits them.
- **Clothing Preferences:** Consider the type of clothing they own—do they need more hanging space, shelving, or drawer storage? Ask about their favorite items (e.g., shoes, ties, scarves) to accommodate these in your design.

2. Maximize Hanging Space

- **Long and Short Hangs:** Dedicate areas for both long-hanging clothes (like coats and dresses) and short-hanging items (shirts, jackets). Double-hang, if possible, to make the most of vertical space.
- **Clearances:** Ensure adequate space between hang rods and shelves to avoid overcrowding and allow easy access to clothes.

3. Consider Shoe Storage

- **Shelving:** Allocate enough shelving for shoes and use tilted shoe racks if the client likes to display them.
- **Custom Shelves:** For clients with a large shoe collection, consider adjustable or custom shelves that can fit different shoe types and sizes.

4. Organize with Drawers and Shelves

- **Standard Drawer Configuration:** Typically, 2 drawers for men's side and 3 for women's side work well. Use drawers for smaller items (socks, underwear, accessories).
- **Folding Clothes:** Incorporate shelves for folded items. A 12-inch shelf width is standard but allow more width if necessary.
- **Hidden Shelving:** Consider adding doors or a cabinet system if the client wants a clean, hidden look for some storage.

5. Optimize Closet Layout

- **Walkway Space:** Ensure at least 3 feet of walkway between hanging sections to make it easy to navigate the closet.
- **Hanging vs. Shelving:** Avoid placing hanging rods in front of each other (for easy access). Place hanging sections along walls and use the remaining space for shelves or drawers.

6. Incorporate Accessories

- **Jewelry and Valet Rods:** Add dedicated drawers or inserts for jewelry. Valet rods can help clients organize clothes they plan to wear.
- **Tie, Belt, and Scarf Racks:** Ask if they need specific storage for accessories like ties, belts, or scarves.
- **Hooks:** Install hooks on the back of the closet door or available wall space for hats, bags, or accessories.

7. Use Adjustable Modular Systems

- **Flexibility:** Modular closet systems allow the client to reconfigure the layout as their needs change over time. Consider adjustable shelves, rods, and baskets.

8. Design for Visibility and Access

- **Open Shelving:** For clients who prefer to see everything at a glance, open shelving is ideal for accessories, shoes, and handbags.
- **Lighting:** Ensure adequate lighting, such as LED strips or recessed lights to make the closet easy to navigate and highlight key items.

9. Space-Saving Solutions

- **Corner Solutions:** Use corner shelving or rotating racks to make use of otherwise wasted corner space. Storage on an adjacent wall should start 24-30" from the corner to allow access.
- **Overhead Storage:** If the client has a lot of seasonal items, consider overhead shelves or a pull-down hanging system to keep items out of the way when not in use.

10. Choose the Right Materials

- **Wood and Finishes:** Finish choices should complement the rest of the home's décor.
- **Soft Touches:** Consider adding velvet-lined drawers for delicate items or use fabric liners to protect clothes from dust.

11. Closet Doors

- **Sliding vs. Swinging:** Sliding doors are ideal for narrow spaces as they don't take up additional room when opened. Swinging doors offer easier access but need space to open fully.
- **Mirrors:** Consider adding mirrors to closet doors for added functionality and to make the space feel larger. Another mirror option, add a pull-out mirror, hidden within cabinetry. A pull-out mirror glides out to provide full-length convenience while keeping your space sleek, organized, and clutter-free.

12. Personal Touches

- **Color and Aesthetic:** Choose colors and finishes that match the client's personal style—whether that's neutral tones, bold colors, or textured finishes.
- **Decorative Elements:** Add small personal touches like a bench, decorative hooks, or baskets for a more customized feel.

