

Dream Closets

High-end wardrobes focus on lifestyle, luxury, and details

BY TRACY KALER



Kobi Karp Architecture & Interior Design

Walk-in closets began trending in the 1990s, and by the new millennium, some closets had expanded to surpass the size of small bedrooms. But the ultimate closet, as we imagine it, is about much more than square footage in which to hang clothing and store footwear.

These days, experts are devoting their time to all facets of custom closet design—personalizing layouts that reflect the client’s wardrobe; accentuating architecture, lighting, and decoration; and fine-tuning details to complement other rooms in the home.

Focus on Your Needs

“When creating a luxury closet, don’t rush the design process,” says Minneapolis-based, Marie Kondo-certified organizer Michele Vig, owner of Neat Little Nest, and author of the new book, *The Holistic Guide to Decluttering*. “It’s imperative to dig into the details.” Ms. Vig recommends taking inventory of all personal items to determine how much space one requires for each garment in the closet: “Know exactly how much long-hanging, short-hanging, shelves for shoes, shelves for display, et cetera, you will need.”

That personalized approach ensures a functional yet good-looking closet space—a room that a homeowner will cherish as much as his or her belongings. Wyckoff, New Jersey-based interior designer Terri Fiori recently converted a bedroom into a luxury closet for an empty-nester client, who “knew exactly what she wanted for her growing collection of new and vintage handbags and shoes.” Ms. Fiori specified floor-to-ceiling cabinetry and added doors and drawers to the room. “Our goal was to utilize every inch of space,” she says.

Adding That Extra Oomph

Organization reigns supreme for any well-designed closet, but for ultra-high-end residences, decor closely follows. For instance, Ms. Fiori used a UV film on the windows to prevent sun from fading delicate fabrics, then installed Roman shades fabricated from Hermès’ “Equateur Imprime,” a luxe print that hints at the closet’s couture collection. The designer featured the same fabric on the inside of cabinet doors.

Some luxury closets even showcase art. In this project, Ms. Fiori asked her client to select several of her favorite handbags, then commissioned an



artist to create watercolors of each. In addition, a glass box atop an island allows her client to display a handful of swoon-worthy items, rotating designer footwear and purses with the seasons. Meanwhile, a graceful chandelier dangles from a midnight-blue ceiling.

A classically luxe closet by Kobi Karp, opposite page. This page: A wardrobe by West Chin, top; a Kobi Karp-designed wardrobe, below.