

Frequency Can Determine Proximity and Accessibility

I recently worked with a client who was storing everyday kitchen items (her coffee maker and bread maker) in her bedroom because she had no room in the kitchen. Living in a one-bedroom apartment does present significant challenges to “putting things in their place”.

We created a plan based on how often an item was used. This would determine not only where we would store it, but also how easily it would be retrieved.

I asked her to group the frequency of the usage of her items – clothes, stationary, sewing, appliances, pantry food, furniture – into distinct categories. Those used daily would be stored near their areas of usage. Those used annually would be placed in storage units or in the bottom of a stack of other stored items strategically placed in the apartment.

The outcome created space, clarity of purpose and peace of mind for my client. After mounting a spice rack onto the kitchen wall, we cleared out a cabinet where the spices were stored and moved a shelf full of pantry goods into the cabinet. The pantry shelf – located two steps from her kitchen -- then received the appliances that had been stored on her bedroom dresser.

Additionally, we created a walk-in “crafts corner” in one part of her bedroom using two small bookcases containing storage bins. This was set off with an attractive wall divider. We moved the bedroom furniture – dressers closer to the closet and the bed at a 45-degree angle to the wall. The big boxes containing occasionally worn hats were placed in the back of the closet with seldom-used-but-not-yet-ready-to-discard dresses and skirts.

My client now breathes easier and walks safely with additional open space. The air in her apartment circulates better. The apartment has more light. She doesn't have to carry heavy or bulky appliances into a dimly lit and cluttered bedroom. And she'll probably sleep better.