

Design: What's In and Out We asked 200 in-the-know décor pros D7

FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR







Saturday/Sunday, January 5 - 6, 2019 | D1

A Case For Less Clothing

For men with overstuffed closets, now's the ideal time to purge those garish impulse buys and pointless discount pants—and learn to shop smarter. Here's how

By JACOB GALLAGHER

F ANY MAN reading this wants a down jacket, email me: I have four. I discovered this when I found a forgotten L.L. Bean puffer smushed in the nether regions of my closet. Why, you might ask, did I buy a jacket I didn't need? The eternal reason: because it was on sale. Last February, I'd wandered into an L.L. Bean in suburban Maryland to kill some time before dinner with zero intention to buy anything. Then I stumbled on a deal that felt too good to pass up and, just like that, I was down \$75 and pointlessly up a down coat.

Thanks to other similarly discounted missteps, along with my enthusiasm for buying secondhand, my closet is impossibly bloated with stuff. More white shirts than I could wear in a week. More suits than I need for the handful of formal events I attend each year. So, please, help me out: Take this puffer off my hands so I can relieve my closet of at least one coat.

Your closet, however, is likely as overstuffed as mine. "There seems to be more clothing for men than before," said Ayako Homma, a senior consultant at market research provider Euromonitor International. According to Euromonitor, the global men's fashion market has grown 38% between 2008 and 2017, ballooning to a \$419.4 billion dollar industry, up from \$303.5 billion in 2008. We're collectively buying more, yet are continually confronted with the dilemma of what to wear, because these teeming closets often lack organization. The solution: Winnow down our existing wardrobes and then



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SHOULD IT STAY OR SHOULD IT GO? Follow our flow chart to decide which pieces from your closet to keep as you bravely stride into 2019 less burdened by circa-'90s chinos.

Inside



needn't be Parisian to pull it off (or put it on) **D3**





SURF BORED? To revive your love of the waves, abandon the board and bodysurf...in Rio D5



EASY ON THE RIB-EYE A quick, simple recipe for steak with an herby green-bean sauce **D6**

buy less, and with more clarity.

Though challenging, the winnowing part of this strategy is hardly a radical move these days. As clothing consumption has ramped up, so has an equal and opposite movement toward austerity, or at least moderation. John Peabody, a 37year-old Brooklyn creative strategist, used to leaf through his hangers and marvel at how much he spent on clothes he didn't wear. He eventually came to his senses and pared his closet down to a mostly-blue uniform. As Mr. Peabody found, life with less clothing and greater strategy can be liberating.

This widespread urge to edit can be traced in part to Japanese author Marie Kondo's best-seller, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing," which popularized a less-is-more mentality when it arrived in the U.S. in 2014. "We have collectively realized that more does not equal better," Ms. Kondo, whose new Netflix show, "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo," debuts this week, wrote over email. With the internet shopping boom and discount stores that sell cheap goods, Ms. Kondo believes many people have just "finally grown weary of it all." Her fellow evangelists, internet broadcasters Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus, known as Please turn to page D2



THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON RED WINE Lettie Teague addresses the common complaint of vinous headaches D6

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Saturday/Sunday, January 5 - 6, 2019 | D7

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DESIGN & DECORATING

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PRAISING CANE The pros behind this Sag Harbor living room, Babcock-Peffer Design, are loving wicker for its earthy chicness.

What's Hot, What's Shot in 2019

We asked over 200 design professionals to identify the next big decorating trends—and the ones that have bottomed out

OUT

If you've ever felt aged by harsh illumination, you'll be happy to hear harsh illumination isn't aging well itself. Of unfiltered, direct brightness, New York designer Thomas Jayne said, "I see us moving away from game-show lighting." Fellow New Yorker Libby Langdon agrees. "The past few years, we've been bombarded with glass-globe fixtures with bulbs exposed inside," she said. "That trend has officially peaked." Miami architect Jacqueline Gonzalez Touzet includes cold. unnatural LEDs in the category of fading lights.

Naked Light

Soft Shine

"Subtle, indirect fixtures, like table lamps, sconces and under-cabinet lighting, create ambience without taking over," said San Francisco designer Justin Colombik. Ms. Langdon forecasts a shift to softer, diffused light-through a lampshade or opaque glass—that provides a mellow, comforting glow, as does the Lutyens Lozenge Lantern at right. Ms. Gonzalez Touzet has installed perforated ceiling panels that create a naturalistic dappled light. Said Mr. Jayne, 'We use uplights occasionally to add pockets of

IN

light and highlight architectural interest."

Vertical Texture

Designers are turning to more tactile walls

clad in suede, linen and silk for a "rich envi-

ronment with layers of character," said Susan

Clark, founder of online design retailer Radnor.

Nashville's Jonathan Savage suggested plas-

ter on canvas or woven grass-cloth to add depth and dimension to a room. "Residentially,

gallery-white is going away as people crave livable luxury," explained New York designer

Michael Tavano. He uses drapery or beaded

wallpaper, like the Perles Wallpaper from Éli-

tis at right, even behind framed art.

Variegated Glazes

Ms. Davis uses solid-colored tiles with variation

in glaze, which she said have a beautiful but

subtler effect than patterns. "People are mov-

ing toward tiles that are special but not so

loud," said San Francisco designer Kristen Peña,

who's liking neutrals, ochers and greens, such

as the Sea Foam tiles from Fireclay at right.

And though inlaid Moroccan versions have

fallen from favor, unpatterned zellige tiles still

hold appeal. Raleigh, N.C., designers Zandy

Gammons and Liles Dunnigan, meanwhile, fa-

vor tiles with a sophisticated antique patina.







Lacquer Lust

"It seems just about everyone has done a lacquered study or dressing room," San Francisco designer Heather Hilliard observed. She recommended restricting paint with a high-gloss finish to features such as statement walls and built-ins, juxtaposed unexpectedly with textured walls. Brigitte Coleman, design director of New York interior decorating firm Pembrooke and Ives, also suggested mixing highpolish paint with earthy materials such as wood, or stone that has been leathered (that is, given an irregular finish).

Hectic Ceramics

"Patterned tiles can come off as trendy and really dominate a space," cautioned Nest Studio founder Jessica Davis. Long Island interior designer Allison Babcock specified that busy Moroccan tiles in particular "can't stand the test of time in your kitchen the way a classic stone or ceramic subway tile can." Los Angeles designer Nell Alano suggested using décor details (a stool, a lamp) with a Moroccan feel that are easy to change out in lieu of tile, "which is a big expense and production to replace."

Not-So-Heavy Metal

"Wire chairs are very specific to one particular style and feel too trendy-they box themselves in," said Jessica McCarthy, creative director of Decorist. Also saying goodbye to that seat: Los Angeles designer Matthew Rosenberg. "The mass-produced wire-framed chair surged in popularity because of its modern, clean aesthetic," he said, "but people are looking for more inviting, natural materials now." Past their

prime, too, are any vintage classics, like Saarinen and Eames pieces, said Mr. Colombik, unless you have originals. "Skip the reproductions."

Refreshing Rattan

New York designer Laurence Carr predicts a return of wicker used unexpectedly-"not just on your grandmother's front porch in the summertime"-from accents to light fixtures to seating like this Butterfly Rattan Armchair, right, from 1stdibs. Mr. Rosenberg champions cane: "It's a more organic option, providing the same geometric features that wire-frame chairs do but without the cold stiffness." Ms. McCarthy likes cane's versatility: "Natural-colored cane has a traditional feel while a bright blue painted rattan can feel very modern."

Frayed Knots "Nostalgic, boho macramé wall accents and

oversize tie-dyed tapestries of the '60s and

'70s saw a quick and tremendous revival," Los

Angeles designer Laura Muller said, "but they hit a saturation point in 2018." Contorted

rope, as it turns out, is once again passé. "I love celebrating artisans and their work, but

having a hand-knotted wall hanging in one's

home feels very dated," agreed Houston de-

signer Brooke McGuyer Hutson. "Try hand-

painted, framed Chinoiserie panels or an an-

tique European hand-woven tapestry instead."

Big, Cheap Art

Fine art might be fetching record prices, but impressively scaled photos, prints and original pieces are more attainable than ever. The Jen Garrido giclée print, at right, from One Kings Lane, runs \$399 for a framed 3-feet-by-4-feet version. Portland designer Max Humphrey finds sizable works at Minted, Society6 and Eventide Collective. New York designer Caleb Anderson cites West Elm, CB2, website Saatchi Art, and scores student art on Etsy. He recommends custom frames to elevate the art. "Even inexpensive ones are better than store-bought."



