

Organizing with Creative People
Where Right Meets Left

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The Professional Organizer



Traits of Creative People

- Inventive
- Intuitive
- Individualistic
- Visionary
- Driven
- Playful
- Passionate
- Intelligent
- Rebellious
- Unstructured
- Visual
- Big picture thinker

Strategy

- Make organizing relevant
- Make sense of the project
- Create vision for new reality - include feeling, habits, vision of result
- Find balance between Right Brain creativity and Left Brain order
- Treat project like experiment to adopt or a game

3 Stages of Clutter

- Acquisition
- Usage / Storage
- Dispossession

Acquisition

- Challenge brain by collecting
- Stimulated by invention, beauty, creativity
- Sees the possibilities of what can be

Acquisition Strategies

- Challenge brain by collecting
- Stimulated by invention, beauty, creativity
- Sees the possibilities of what can be
- Set limits - space or numbers
- Understanding want vs. need. Set budget.
- Understand own limitations - space and time

More Tricks

- Cash only purchases for non-necessities
- Budget limit
- War Zones (may not visit sale rack, garage sale, side of road pickup, free stuff)
- Shopping with a list
- One in - one out rule

Usage & Storage

- Assessment
- Determine how space is used
- Determine how objects are used - often not in the traditional way
- Determine work flow and bottle-necks

Challenges

- Many projects in progress
- Too many items saved for "someday" uses
- Need to see everything out to remember
- Aversion to tidying/filing
- Conflicting need to see things out and put things away to have workspace and clarity

Usage / Storage Strategies

- Set up limited project storage
- Limit and eliminate amount of things saved for "someday"
- Use trays, baskets, wire drawers, wall pockets
- Turn cleaning up into a game - mental challenge
- Clear containers - feels in and out at the same time

Dispossession

- Might need it someday
- Sentimentality
- Identity tied to creation or ownership
- See the possibilities
- Lack of routines
- Boring

Dispossession Strategies

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Might need it someday >> | • When will you need it and how many could you use in a year? |
| • Sentimentality >> | • Limit and organize sentimental items. Take photos. |
| • Identity tied to creation or ownership >> | • Accept time and space limits |
| • See the possibilities >> | • Maintenance game plan |
| • Lack of routines >> | • Use music, color, movement |
| • Boring >> | |

More Strategies

- Visual - Use color in an orderly way
- Inventive - use items for uses they were not intended for. Let client invent the system.
- Make zones or centers to contain creativity stuff
- Impose deadlines - have guests over, announce the finish date
- Banish items from castle that don't support dreams and goals.

Even More Strategies

- Make anything a game. Invent your own life gamboard - for tasks and processes.
- Visualize tasks using mind mapping or a time-line
- Worn-but-clean clothes (clirty) hooks/stack

Better Piling Strategies

- Idea files (or notebooks)
- Label piles better with tent cards, Pilesmart™
- Use flat trays and baskets to contain piles
- Use broader categories for fewer choices
- Make an Action pile and Inaction pile
- Treasure Chest of little papers

More info

- Get more creative organizing ideas:
- Color Me Organized Playbook
- <http://www.lulu.com/allisoncarter>
- Get mentored by Allison
- <http://www.organizeru.com>


