set for comfort

We’re finally going to get organized this year! But don’t we really mean we just want our rooms to be less cluttered, more comfortable? Let’s resolve to do that—together. It’ll be a lot more fun.

JANUARY
As in other parts of her house, Janina Lufkin sacrificed a little floor space in the living room for efficient storage in a wall of bookshelves. “We are big readers, and we never get rid of books,” she says.
Order in the House

WITH A KEEN ORGANIZING SENSE, STYLIST JANNA LUFKIN MAKES ROOM FOR FAMILY, PETS, AND PLENTY OF STUFF IN HER SMALL HOME.

BY PAIGE PORTER
PHOTOS JOHN GRANEN
STYLING JANNA LUFKIN
Janna Lufkin has a sixth sense. “You could say I’ve got a knack for creating space where it doesn’t exist,” she says.

It’s a skill that came in handy when she, husband Kent, daughter Kate, and their many collections moved into an 1,800-square-foot cottage in Redmond, Washington.

“I had to make room for all our things and visually expand the house so it wouldn’t feel cluttered,” says Janna, a photo stylist and designer. She and Kent embarked on a remodel aimed at making the most of the house without adding on. She removed anything that made rooms feel smaller than they were—bulky cabinetry in the kitchen and baths, heavy drapes in the living and dining rooms, and enormous brass light fixtures. She lightened the dark-colored rooms with fresh coats of paint, new millwork, and lots of open shelving.

And then she set about carefully organizing their things. “When we did the remodel, it forced me to go through everything I owned and figure out what to keep and what to let go of,” Janna says.

She held onto all her favorite farmhouse-style pieces and put them to use. Bar essentials, for example, are gathered in an old pine chest at the base of the stairs, creating a landing spot for the entry and a functional entertaining hub. Dishware, glasses, and silverware are tucked into a glass-front armoire in the dining room.

“I really do consider it a thrill—to make storage function as display, to keep things in order so that everything in the house actually gets used instead of lost,” she says. “And that’s my secret—create order, and you create space.”
**Dining room** “The room is not very big, but I think I’ve managed to create little nooks for everything without crowding it too much,” says Janna. The black dining table echoes the newly painted floors. A worn bench provides efficient seating on one side, and a small drop-leaf table set into the bay window serves as a buffet.

**Stairwell** An old pine chest is an entry table and bar. “We didn’t really have a foyer, so we tried to create one alongside the stairwell,” says Janna, who also turned the stair wall into a gallery of favorite photographs and mementos. Plate rails provide extra display space atop the tongue-and-groove wainscot. Janna uses a bit of tacky wax or candle adhesive to keep leaning frames from shifting or falling.

**Dining cabinet** A glass-front armoire houses everything needed for entertaining. Baskets hold folded linens, and trays contain items such as salt and pepper shakers and napkin rings. Small pitchers lined up in a wooden box organize silverware.
“Open shelving is a way to show off your favorite things and create beautiful displays, but it’s also a way to force you to stay organized. It’s all out there for everyone to see, so there better be some order.”  

Janna Ufkin
**Kitchen** “The kitchen is small, but it’s super functional,” says Janna, who chose the most narrow, shallow refrigerator she could find in order to gain more counter and shelf space beside it. White cabinetry, honed black granite countertops, and a deep stainless-steel sink give the room a tailored look.

**Open shelves** Upper cabinetry was replaced by shelves, which give Janna a chance to turn her everyday white dishes into artful displays.

**Movable island** A stainless-steel cart can be quickly rolled in or out of the space.

**Tough rugs** Indoor/outdoor sisal rugs add practical warmth to the painted brick floor. “It’s great—you just take them outside and hose them off,” Janna says. “There’s nothing better for spaces that get a lot of traffic from humans and pets.”

**Back door** A glass door between the kitchen and laundry room/entry pulls extra light into the kitchen.

**Peninsula** Built-in shelves do double duty as wine rack and recipe/cookbook storage on the back side of the peninsula.

**Breakfast table** Janna attached a galvanized metal top from a fishmonger’s table to the base of an old school table. Also on casters, the improvised piece can be moved around.