

Nooks and Crannies (con't)

Dear Homekeeper,

Hey! To finish up last week's column on clearing up, and discovering unused nooks and crannies, in the most frequented areas which leads me to my other hub of my home.

Beyond the kitchen is my multi-functional "to-do" room (9'x16'), originally the house's kitchen converted into a laundry room . The entryway to this room is situated at the intersection of the kitchen and dining room. My historical home's design is not an open-concept design of modern houses, so I've improvised by removing doors to get visual openness.

Do you have a room designated for a single purpose (a dining room or living room) with space be transformed for more? My to-do room acts as a food pantry, laundry area, corner office space, back entry, basement access, and a storage closet for winter clothes and decorations. It is truly the busiest room of the house, in more ways than one.

Cabinets line the walls on each side of the room. Family snapshots and children's art from a bygone time hang on the inside of the cabinet doors . Some of these doors are removed showing coordinated displays of vases, candlesticks holders, and baskets. A blue and a red tea set adorn installed shelves above the washer and drier.

Though laundry is now a twice-weekly task for me, I still have a laundry basket that fills up with dirty clothes/sheets. I still lose my socks. A round table sits in the center of the to-do room where a narrow centerpiece shoots up vertically. This table serves as a folding (not

to be confused with holding) clothes station. My main working desk, nestled on one side of the room, serves as a zoned office area with essential tech. The desk is glass-topped without drawers. It juts out into the room (not flush against the wall); positioned between two windows. It is visible to interior rooms encourages tidiness. A tall but petite hall tree (placed catty-cornered) with a mirror reflects light from the back door's windows located on the opposite side of the room. I do deskwork daily about half my time and love having the visibility of the inside of the house (seeing people as they enter those rms) plus the view of outdoor seasonal trees simultaneously.

In need of extra freezer space (my frig is old school but works great!), I utilized the landing at of the basement stairs, where the small freezer now sits. Hidden out of sight, I write an inventory of the contents on its door. Additional shelving is above the freezer, and I added some shelving along the stairwell to store seasonal decorations and lightweight flowers. A whimsical line of paper lanterns hangs from the ceiling above the heads of those making a trip downstairs. It makes it more inviting to get down to the basement during tornado alerts! This nook and cranny has a creative feel for me with all the visual colors. If you are short on closet or storage space, the basement stairwell is a great place to use (hooks hung for seasonal coats?).

The basement door (behind my desk chair) has two vertical windows on it. On the basement landing is a window with evening sun. I hang wire racks for plants in front of and on the window and its ledge. Plants (like herbs) are happy there. What I like is I can see the plant area through the door's windows expanding the depth of the room. Plants are a great

filler in rooms contributing to indoor air quality helping your health and well-being. Given the age of my home, it can become musty when closed up. Plants play a vital role in maintaining freshness. Smelling basil, mint, thyme, and rosemary when I open the basement door is a bonus.

Feel free to share how you enhance your home life within your unique style. Please email me, subject line “ Homekeeper.”

Until next time, warmest regards. Cathenry.ch@gmail.com

P.S. “Having a simplified, uncluttered home is a form of self-care.”