

JANUARY 2009

House Beautiful

A CLEAN SLATE

TOP 10
DECORATING
MISTAKES
TOTALLY
FIXABLE!

IT STARTS WITH
YOUR CLOSET...
SEE PAGE 70



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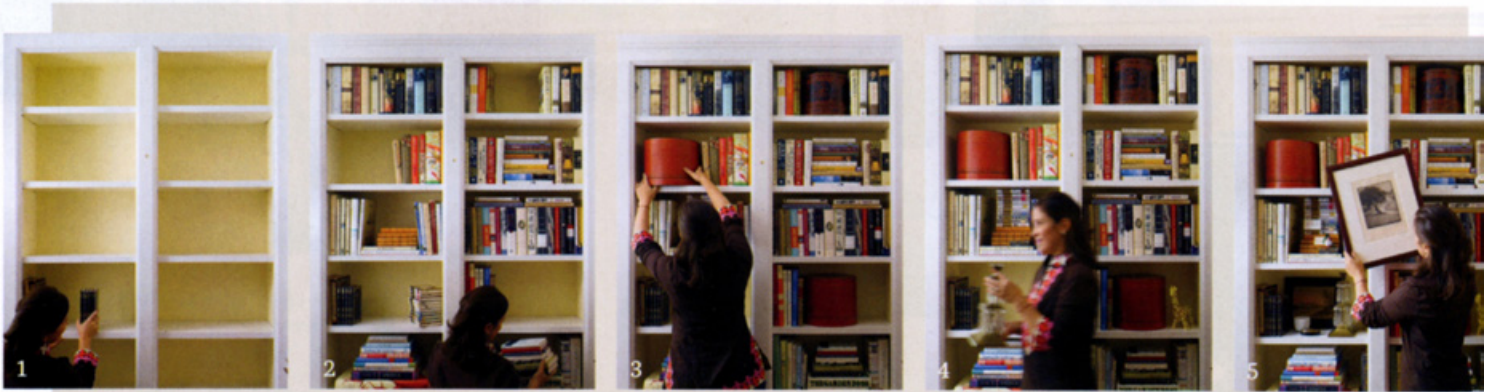
FLIP! FOR DECORATING

The Bookcase

Don't just fill your shelves. Color them, arrange them, decorate them, dress them, personalize them. The books are just the beginning.

By
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Photographs by
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1. Empty your shelves. Back them with colored paper, or paint the backs a contrasting color. This will help make the objects pop.
2. Sort books by size and subject. Remove and discard any ripped dust jackets (unless you think they might have value). Line books, some vertically, some horizontally, in a rhythmic pattern. This will relieve the monotony of rows.
3. Fill unused spaces with attractive boxes. These will help you (neatly) store everything from photos to computer manuals. The blocks of color will break up the rows of books.
4. Add ceramics and other objects. Place family photos or small works of art against the books to bring the shelves to life.
5. Be daring. Hang a framed picture from the bookcase molding.
6. Voilà! The finished bookcase—a much more interesting addition to your room.



WATCH ELIZABETH
on NBC's Today Show.
Her book, *Flip! for Decorating*, will be published this spring by Ballantine.