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BY TERRI FEDER

The glamorous, over-the-top closet is the new "it" space of upscale living. Commodious and brimming with style, storage, seating and functionality, closets now are designed to please even the most Type-A fashionistas. In them, LED-lit clothing rods highlight the haberdashery, luminous *étagères* dramatically display purses and shoes, and islands with glass-top drawers artfully house baubles and bangles. With their custom-crafted cabinetry, chic chandeliers and high-end finishes and furnishings, they are fit for royalty. Far from the dark, cramped cubbies of yore, today's closets are more the stuff of opulent boutiques. Lent the same design attention and personalized details as the rest of the home, they elegantly store and show their wares. Many even do double duty as serene sanctuaries. Here we share a sampling of high-end closets by four of the Valley's top designers. Whether you are remodeling, building anew or simply window shopping, you are sure to find inspiration. >>



ANGELICA HENRY Photo by Mark Bonclair



Photo by Alex Stricker

KATHERINE PULLEN



WENDY BLACK ROGERS

Photo by Werner Segarra



MATTHEW BOLAND

Photo by Nick Sargent

AMENITY CLOSET



Photo by Werner Segarra

Opulent elegance describes the closet of designer Wendy Black Rodgers' client in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Decked out to the nines, the his-and-her closet features a formal aesthetic with a few contemporary elements. "We wanted to create a space with display similar to a high-end boutique," says the designer. "The client is very fashionable, and we were aiming for sexy style with a retreat-like feel."

Because the client wanted a lot of room and plenty of storage, Black Rodgers, of Wendy Black Rodgers Interiors, took advantage of the home's remodel to grab space from what were formerly a small bedroom and bathroom. At 522 square-feet, the new closet fits the bill.

Alder cabinets were treated with a seven-part finish, resulting in a rich walnut hue layered with depth. Countertops are clad in marble. "We chose Thassos marble for its pure white and crystal sparkle feel," says the designer. Juxtaposed with the traditional cabinetry are contemporary-style light fixtures. "We designed the lighting to be somewhat whimsical," explains Black Rodgers. Custom upholstered ottomans offer soft seating as well as supplementary storage.

Hidden beneath the beauty is exceptional functionality. "Functionality was critical to the client; thus, we created all enclosed cabinets with glass doors and interior LED lighting so that the lady of the house can see her clothes but not get them dusty," shares the designer. Zoned in areas, the closet has distinct spaces for apparel, shoes and dressing. "Clothing is in the first part with pull-down rods on the upper rack and plenty of hanging space. Then there is a bar/kitchen. The next space is entered through an arch. It includes "her" shoes and a three-way dressing mirror. The final section is for the man of the house," says Rodgers. The icing on the cake are two secret passageways, which lead to other rooms.

Along with amazing organization, the space also features a treasure trove of amenities. "The existing plumbing from the old bedroom and bath allowed us to create a kitchenette and bar, replete with a refrigerator, dishwasher and icemaker," shares Black Rodgers. ::

WENDY BLACK RODGERS

Wendy Black Rodgers Interiors

www.wbrint.com



Photo by Werner Segarra