

FUNCTIONAL FASHIONABLE 6

A Higher Level of Peace and Beauty

Each New Year, millions of people pledge to get organized and, each year, millions fall short of keeping that resolution. Some start out with a bang, tackling a few key areas before surrendering to chaos once again. Others never find the motivation or guidance to even begin.

When done properly, getting truly organized is a lasting proposition. Once you create systems that work for your lifestyle and implement new habits to maintain those systems, being organized becomes a natural part of your daily life. Moreover, being organized reaps positive benefits in every aspect of life.

When we take time to take stock of our belongings, we live more conscientiously and more simply. When we order our spaces in a manner that aligns with our individual needs and priorities, we live more peacefully in an environment that fosters success rather than stifling it.

As a professional organizer, I have helped many clients realign their spaces and habits. Through the organizing process, which is often emotional but always rewarding, many of these clients have made tremendous strides in their personal and professional lives. Some have reevaluated their career choices, taking steps in new directions for a happier professional life. Others have found new ways to balance

their work with their family lives. Several have developed systematic methods for getting out of debt and for living in a financially responsible manner.

In two cases, I worked with clients who faced personal issues related to the loss of a loved one. Through the organizing process, these grieving clients found ways to honor their loved ones by incorporating their memories into their daily lives. One woman with whom I worked for some time was able to finally implement the regimen of diet and exercise that her doctor had been recommending. Not only did she lose weight and improve her health, she also made bold decisions in her social life, cutting out naysayers and surrounding herself with new friends who happily supported her healthy new choices.

Just about anyone can benefit in ways obvious and unforeseen from a comprehensive organization project. The first step toward a better life is just committing to getting started. Once you start, the payoff will be motivation enough to continue.

Working with an organizing expert is the fastest and most rewarding way to begin your project. Professional organizers provide an objective, confidential perspective to guide you toward making healthy decisions about your belongings. We devise creative solutions tailored to meet your needs and our services can save you a lot of money.



Peppercorns



Bullion Cubes



Objective and Confidential

Many people invite a friend or family member to help them get organized. In rare cases, the friend is able to provide the needed assistance. All too often, though, there are problems. Some friends are not as strict with you as they should be, allowing you excuses to hang on to things you don't really need. In some cases, organizing with friends gets distracting. Friends aren't always great at keeping you focused and before you know it, you're taking trips down memory lane instead of taking stock of your clutter.

In other cases, working with friends — and especially family members — can get contentious. Your mother might guilt you into keeping the baby bonnet she knitted for you 40 years ago or, worse yet, take offense when she discovers said bonnet stuffed in the back of a closet somewhere.

Getting organized is a very personal task so it's important to work with someone you trust. But it's best to enlist help from a neutral party who will hold you accountable for your choices. National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) members are skilled and experienced at just that. They are also ethically bound to keep confidential all client information so you can rest assured your organizational journey will remain private.

Solutions Tailored to Your Needs

A good organizer first gets to know you and your unique priorities. She keeps your personal goals in mind throughout the all-important purging process, and designs systems and processes that accommodate your lifestyle. Some of my clients, for example, think in a very linear manner whereas others require visual stimulation. Different clients, therefore, thrive with different storage solutions.

A single professional will have very different organizational needs from a family of five. It's my job to present a system appropriate to my client. Otherwise, no amount of purging or plastic containers will provide a lasting order in his space.

Money-Saving

Much like the do-it-yourself plumber who ends up paying in spades for his attempt at fixing a leak, the layman who sets about organizing on his own often wastes money on pre-fabricated storage solutions that end up adding to the clutter instead of taming it. Professional organizers range in cost — some charge hourly while others will give you a quote for an entire project — but they're usually well worth the expense.

Doing your homework properly before you spend money on storage products often saves a bundle. Additionally, NAPO members sometimes offer to pass on some of the savings they receive from



discounts provided by vendors like The Container Store.

Getting organized also means having a clear view of how you use your resources. The loose cash, unused gift cards and old government bonds might be incentive enough, not to mention the long-term benefits of managing your money more consciously.

Reclaim your space this New Year and start reaping the numerous benefits of organized living in 2013. There's never been a better time to get organized!

To find a local expert, visit Professional Organizers of Augusta on Facebook.



✓ Marin Rose owns and operates Functional, Fashionable, a professional organizing, decorating and home staging business that also provides Masters preparation services. Marin comes to Augusta from Washington, D.C. For more information visit functionalfashionable.com.

Coaches Training will be held on **Saturday, January 26, 2013**
from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, North Augusta

Have questions? Email us at:
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or contact Stephany at (706) 829-9179.

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