

# DESIGN FILE

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DESIGN INSPIRATION:  
**COVETABLE CLOSETS**

IS A LUXURIOUS WALK-IN ROBE ON YOUR LUST LIST? OUR EXPERTS SHOW YOU HOW TO CREATE A SHOW-STOPPING SPACE THAT BOTH YOU – AND YOUR CLOTHES – WILL LOVE

Words **KYLIE JACKES**



Ever since Carrie Bradshaw stepped into her *Sex And The City* wardrobe, walk-in robes have found a permanent place on many must-have lists. More than just storage, spacious wardrobes have become lavish rooms in themselves – a place to spend time, express your personality and indulge in a little luxury. Whether you want to curate the display of your garments and accessories or keep them under wraps behind sleek joinery, we share the design secrets behind six of the best.

*opulent retreat*

Elaborate joinery elevates this incredible walk-in robe to hotel-like status (right). To re-create this look, interior stylist Michelle Bingham of The Home Stylers suggests using mirror-fronted joinery. “The beauty of full-length mirrors is that they reflect light, creating a sense of grandeur,” she says. The white scheme allows a mix of door and drawer hardware to shine, while a chandelier is the epitome of luxury.

**STYLE TIP:** An island with drawers is very practical, suggests Michelle. “Glass makes a beautiful reflective top where you can display jewellery or fresh flowers,” she adds.

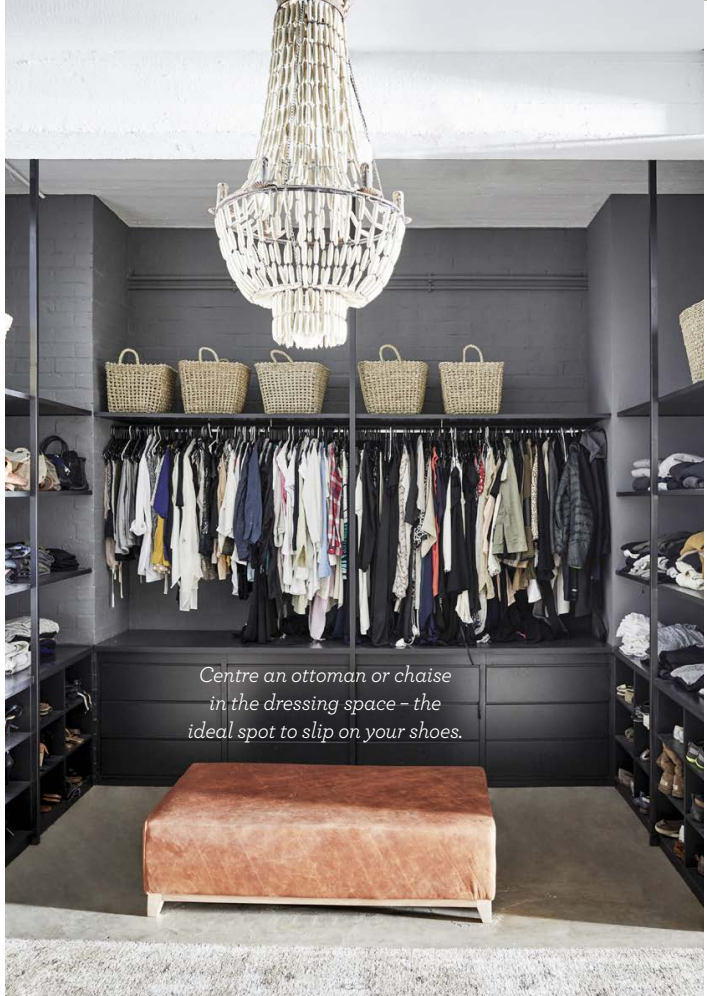
*east coast chic*

Fashion lover and homeowner Violeta designed her wardrobe (opposite) as her retreat. “The home has a timeless Hamptons feel, so I carried the same classic lines and colours through to the wardrobe,” she says. “Cupboard doors were a must – it always looks organised and beautiful.” The central island by Blades Joinery includes slimline drawers to house her extensive jewellery collection, meanwhile a signed Megan Hess ‘Hermes Birkin’ artwork references Violeta’s love of French high fashion.

**STYLE TIP:** “Keep your palette simple and timeless, and accessorise with pieces that are meaningful to you,” says Violeta.



*Enhance the feeling of grandeur with antique-look mirrored doors and a striking chandelier.*



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, FROM TOP): T+MEDIA/CONTENT.COM, WARREN HEATH/BUREAUX (OPPOSITE): JOHN DOWNS

*Centre an ottoman or chaise in the dressing space – the ideal spot to slip on your shoes.*

“A PENDANT LIGHT CAN FORM A STRIKING CENTREPIECE, WITH NATURAL MATERIALS LIKE CLAY BEADS CREATING BEAUTIFUL SOFT SHADOWS”

~ *Petrina Turner, interior designer*

*black magic*

For an inviting walk-in robe that’s full of warmth and drama (left), interior designer Petrina Turner of Petrina Turner Designs suggests layering the space with texture and dressing it like you would any other room in your home. “Consider a beautiful plush carpet or silky rug for a soft, luxurious feel underfoot and furnish the space for comfort and functionality,” she says. “An oversized ottoman in tactile, textural wool bouclé or aged leather is a great option.”

**STYLE TIP:** “Give your joinery added warmth by including rattan, cane or timber storage baskets for easy organisation that looks fabulous,” suggests Petrina. >





*Colour-code your garments on hangers and place prized accessories on show for fashion boutique style status.*

## golden hour

The brief for LA-based interior designer Caitlin Murray of Black Lacquer Design was to convert a plain white walk-in robe into a dramatic space layered with pieces that conjure a Hollywood feel (opposite). “By coating the existing doors with high-gloss black paint and adding oversized, brass Buster + Punch pulls, we elevated the whole space and transformed it into an undeniable show stopper,” says Caitlin. “The dark scheme paired with gold accents creates a striking effect, and the vintage mirror and crimson runner add elegance.”

**STYLE TIP:** “Create a space that makes you feel inspired each day and perhaps a bit pampered,” says Caitlin.

## divine display

Within your walk-in, door-free storage (left) is a functional solution that offers ease of access while also displaying your high-rotation items, says interior designer Angela Marks of Interior Solutions Brisbane. “When planning joinery configuration, group your clothes and accessories as collections to work out the amount of hanging space you’ll need, and the quantity and depth of open shelving and drawers,” she says.

**STYLE TIP:** “Don’t over-clutter open storage shelves,” advises Angela. “Use them to display that prized handbag or those divine shoes from your last overseas shopping spree.”



“I LOVE A MONOCHROME SCHEME, PAIRED WITH SUBTLE DETAILING LIKE SHAKER-STYLE JOINERY AND BLACK ACCENT HARDWARE”

*~ Angela Marks, interior designer*

## all that sparkles

Interior designer Svetlana Tryaskina of Estee Design enhanced the sense of space and functionality in this modest robe, while thoughtful detailing creates interest (right). “A [2.5cm] bevel detail on the mirrored doors was inspired by cushion-cut jewels, which reflects daylight into the room and makes the space feel beautifully bright,” she says. “I also opted for bi-fold doors to allow a larger opening to the closet, which saves space without limiting comfort or access.”

**STYLE TIP:** “Be different and creative with doors and hardware, but don’t forget to make sure you design a comfortable, well-appointed space,” advises Svetlana.



*Put the final touches on your wardrobe scheme with jewel-like door and drawer hardware.*



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) ERON RAUCH/BLACK LACQUER DESIGN (OPPOSITE, FROM TOP) ANNETTE O'BRIEN, ASYA AKHOUNDOVA/AA STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY/ESTEE DESIGN

*Include a sitting space within the footprint of your walk-in robe for absolute elegance.* **HB**