

Art Department



Matthew Williams

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In Praise of Trays

Trays are handy throughout the house, but our all-time favorite use for them is as a home base for sink-side and stove-side essentials. The appeal ranges from the practical (trays are portable and easy to clean) to the aesthetic (grouped as an ensemble, humble tools on a tray become a Giorgio Morandi-esque still life). Note that there's no need to stop at just one: trays within trays create visual order and make it easy to organize small items.



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STEAL THIS LOOK

The Medicine Cabinet as Vanity

We all long for a bathroom that feels like a spa. Unattainable in a small bath? Not entirely; you can create your own moment of Zen beauty in your medicine cabinet. All you have to do is remove the pileup of unused things and medicine to room bottles (in fact, it's actually better to store medicine at room temperature and away from moisture). Instead, devote the cabinet to your grooming arsenal: makeup, perfume, even jewelry. And whenever you open the cabinet, it will make you happy. Here's why this one works.

- 1 An outlet on the inside of the cabinet is ideal for electric toothbrushes, razors, and hair dryers.
- 2 Shelves organized according to purpose: beauty products on one shelf, skin care items on another, and dental care items on the easiest-to-access bottom tier.
- 3 No excess—and no searching required; what's here is a distillation of favorites.
- 4 A variety of pretty vessels, such as labware-style glass containers and a vintage silver cup, ensure that nothing is loose or untethered.
- 5 A travel clock keeps you on schedule.
- 6 Vetiver root bundles (from Bell'Occhio) offer a surprise hint of fragrance every time you open the cabinet.
- 7 An over-the-door metal rack (by Yamazaki) puts the inside of the mirror to good use as hanging jewelry storage.

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