

# MAKEOVER ANNIE SELKE

PART 8

## The Garage

You use it every day, so why not give it a wow factor? Have a blast!



Interview by  
CHRISTINE PITTEL



Before



After



3



4



5

1. The original garage, with a door that opens to a mudroom on the lower level of the house. 2. "Why feel like a cave dweller?" says Annie Selke. "You can have a girly garage." She added stripes and a storage system, including lockers, rolling workbench, and bins, from Gladiator GarageWorks. 3. Gladiator's GearTrack Channels turn a wall into an opportunity. "It almost makes you want to rake, just so you can have the pleasure of putting it back in its proper place," Selke says. 4. Mudroom is painted Benjamin Moore's Sweet Vibrations. KraftMaid cabinets. Dash & Albert indoor/outdoor rug. 5. Home office, with cabinetry by KraftMaid. Aeron chair from Herman Miller. Cork floor by Duro Design.

### A striped garage. Now that's a first.

For me, too, because for so many years I didn't have a garage, and once I got one, I just wanted to go to town. I love stripes. They're so uncomplicated. Stripes are my therapy. They calm me down.

### What prompted that color combination?

It's leftover paint—blue from the bedroom, brown from the exterior, chartreuse from the mudroom, hot pink from the front door. Did you notice that the garage door is pink as well? I actually look forward to coming in here.

### Why go to all this effort?

Because for six months of the year, it's the way I'll enter the house, so I don't have to stomp through the snow. Stripes, color—it's my personal thing and I wanted this to be nice. Friends come over and say, 'Wow. You should

have a dinner party in here.'

### Are you naturally this organized?

No, but the Gladiator GarageWorks system is. As my mother used to say, 'Everything has its place.' They've got just the right containers for all your junk. And you don't have to feel guilty. If you can find a place for it, it's totally okay to hang onto it.

### It makes so much sense to get all that equipment off the floor and up on the wall. How does it work?

You put up these horizontal tracks and then there are all these different bits that fit into it, to hold a ladder, a hose, a rake... you name it, chances are they have a little hoo-ha for it. It gives you a whole new appreciation for engineers: 'You mean that little hook can hold a whole bicycle?' Pretty elegant.

### Do I see golf clubs?

Yes. I used to play golf with

my stepfather, but it takes so long! When I graduated from Farmington he said, 'Give me two years and I'll put you on the pro tour.' Apparently I have a natural swing.

### What's in the big storage lockers?

Twenty-four Champagne glasses. Flowerpots. My weights, which I haven't used in a while. The workbench nearby is on wheels. I have serious fantasies about doing projects. It's also a great gift-wrapping station. One of those huge bins is filled with ribbon. Then there's my car stuff. Weed killer. I can see into the bins, and that's the beauty of it. You know exactly where things are.

### Why chartreuse for the mudroom?

It's so much fun in the garage, so when you walk into the house, it can't be milquetoast. But you're not overwhelmed by green,

since I've got all these coats hanging up and a wall of cabinetry. That's for dog stuff, like leashes and collars and brushes.

### And then you come to your home office. On the lower level, a little more private...

And convenient. I walk in and dump the mail on my desk. I was so phobic about not having enough space, moving from a large house to a small house, that I really paid attention to built-in storage. Including the dreaded file drawers, although as soon as I file something away, I tend to forget it. That's why I like a big bulletin board—for that Amtrak ticket to New York, a recipe for salad dressing from Nobu, a little something from the IRS. This one is magnetic and is a dry-erase board, too, so I can write notes to myself. It makes life easier. ●

## Get It Right

- "Make function fun," Selke says. "I love my hot pink extension cord."
- "When you walk through the space, ask yourself, 'What do I need here? And how can I store it so it requires the least amount of effort to put it back?' Because that's where it falls apart. If it's a hassle, you're not going to do it."
- "Don't plan for your best self," Selke adds. "Plan for who you really are. I'll admit it, I have a whole tote filled with tinsel. But it's part of who I am, and now it has a place."

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