



Barrington Hills homeowners worked with Closets By Design to turn a fourth bedroom in their home into a clothes closet. A contemporary crown adds elegance. The center drawer unit showcases contrasting tones and a mirrored jewelry storage unit completes the design.

A Peek Inside the Closet

OUT-OF-VIEW SPACES DELIVER MORE VALUE WHEN PROFESSIONALLY REDESIGNED

WE'RE AT THE START of a new decade in 2020, a benchmark moment that tends to inspire homeowners to update and improve their homes, as well as a desire to stay on trend. But add to that the COVID-19 pandemic and you've got unprecedented levels of relocations to the suburbs, a renewed interest in remodeling jobs, and a complete paradigm shift in how homeowners live in their spaces.

To learn more about what kind of projects Barrington area homeowners are doing, we turned to Closets By Design—North Chicago's new owners Jamie Trewartha and Paul Paluch and their stalwart designer, Kathy Cappas, a North Barrington resident and long-time employee of the firm.

We were graciously invited to visit three homeowners to learn about a variety of recent projects the company completed. His and hers walk-in closets original to their homes needed complete redesigns with an emphasis on extra drawer and hanger space. One client needed a his and hers office now that they work from home.

For each, Kathy Cappas began the process with an initial visit to assess the spaces and understand what her clients wanted and needed, as well as how much space was involved. The role of the designer is paramount to a successful project, and Cappas is given high marks for her approach, problem-solving skills, responsiveness, and attention to detail.

Pandemic issues have added new procedures for the Closets By Design team. "We very closely adhere to the CDC guidelines since the onset of COVID-19

has really changed things," Jamie Trewartha said. "All of our designers will wear masks depending on the customer's comfort level, and six-feet social distancing is adhered to. Upon request, we will even conduct a virtual appointment to get a space designed. We will send out someone to remeasure to ensure everything is correct and the production process is the same from there," he said.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

Ready to get started on bringing your vision to life? Call or set up an appointment online with one of the Closets By Design staff designers. Within the week, and sometimes as soon as the next day, a designer will visit your home or office and partner with you to develop your space that fits within your budget. The designer will use best practices to both maximize your space and give you a design worth bragging about to your neighbors!

A design and cost is provided to you during that consultation and once paperwork is signed along with a down payment, an installation date is set about 6-to-8 weeks out and the production process begins with ordering materials, producing the organizational space, and the installation. Most installations take one to two days. After your installation, if you need extra shelves for your closet or garage, stop by the facility anytime during the week and the staff will produce your shelves and deliver them to your car within 20 minutes.

"As people are stuck in their homes for weeks on end, it's really bringing organizational and storage issues to the forefront," Paluch said. "With all this time on their hands, it's been a great time for many to get it done."



Above and right: Barrington homeowners needed to maximize an awkward and tight diamond-shaped space for their “his and hers” walk-in closet. Designer Kathy Cappas listened to the client’s need for more and deeper drawers, a desire to have excess space for hangers, and a way to achieve greater neatness in the space. The chandelier, chosen by the owners, throws light into every corner of the closet.

Below: A Lake Barrington couple had hired Closets By Design 11 years ago when they moved here. They felt their “his and hers” walk-in closets had become outdated. They wanted numerous drawers and the chance to pick out their materials from a wide variety of options. Designer Kathy Cappas met with them, took an initial drawn iteration to CAD, and firmed up the final redesign. The homeowners demolished the existing closet themselves and were happy with a two-day installation by Closets By Design whose staff were neat and worked quietly.






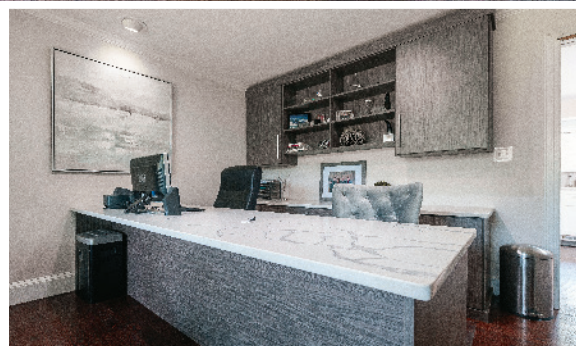
Above and right: A Barrington Hills couple has been busy remodeling their mid-century ranch home and they desired a two-person work-from-home office due to changes driven by the pandemic. With help from Closets By Design, they repurposed a dining room with great natural light into their home office with quiet sliding barn doors for privacy. The office's clean desk and storage units are further enhanced by keeping power cords completely out of view.

WHEN IT COMES TO home projects, it is good to know your providers! Jamie Trewartha and Paul Paluch became the new franchise owners of Closets By Design–North Chicago on March 1, 2020. Designer Kathy Cappas (a Barrington area resident) has been with the company for six years and gets rave reviews from clients for her professionalism and expert problem-solving skills.

Starting a business in the pandemic did not slow these owners down. Instead, they have worked closely with the company's existing 50 employees to rethink and dramatically improve every aspect of their operation, from safety and streamlining communications to reducing waste. Everyone on the project team—designers, installers, and the product team—are employees. Everything they produce is made in Chicagoland in their own facility and their suppliers are local, too.

Closets By Design completes more than 2,000 projects each year—but they are not limited to closets. Any space that needs to be reorganized is fair game. The team says that requests for home offices have increased dramatically with the increase in work-at-home needs. The combined Murphy bed with student center is also in high demand. Other areas they can redesign are garages, media centers, pantries, and laundry and hobby rooms.

Closets By Design–North Chicago is located at 150 S. Church Street, Suite C, in Addison. For more information, visit them online at closetsbydesign.com, or call 630-501-0190. 



Closets By Design team members for the Barrington homes featured is (from left) Kathy Cappas, designer, and Jamie Trewartha and Paul Paluch, franchise owners.