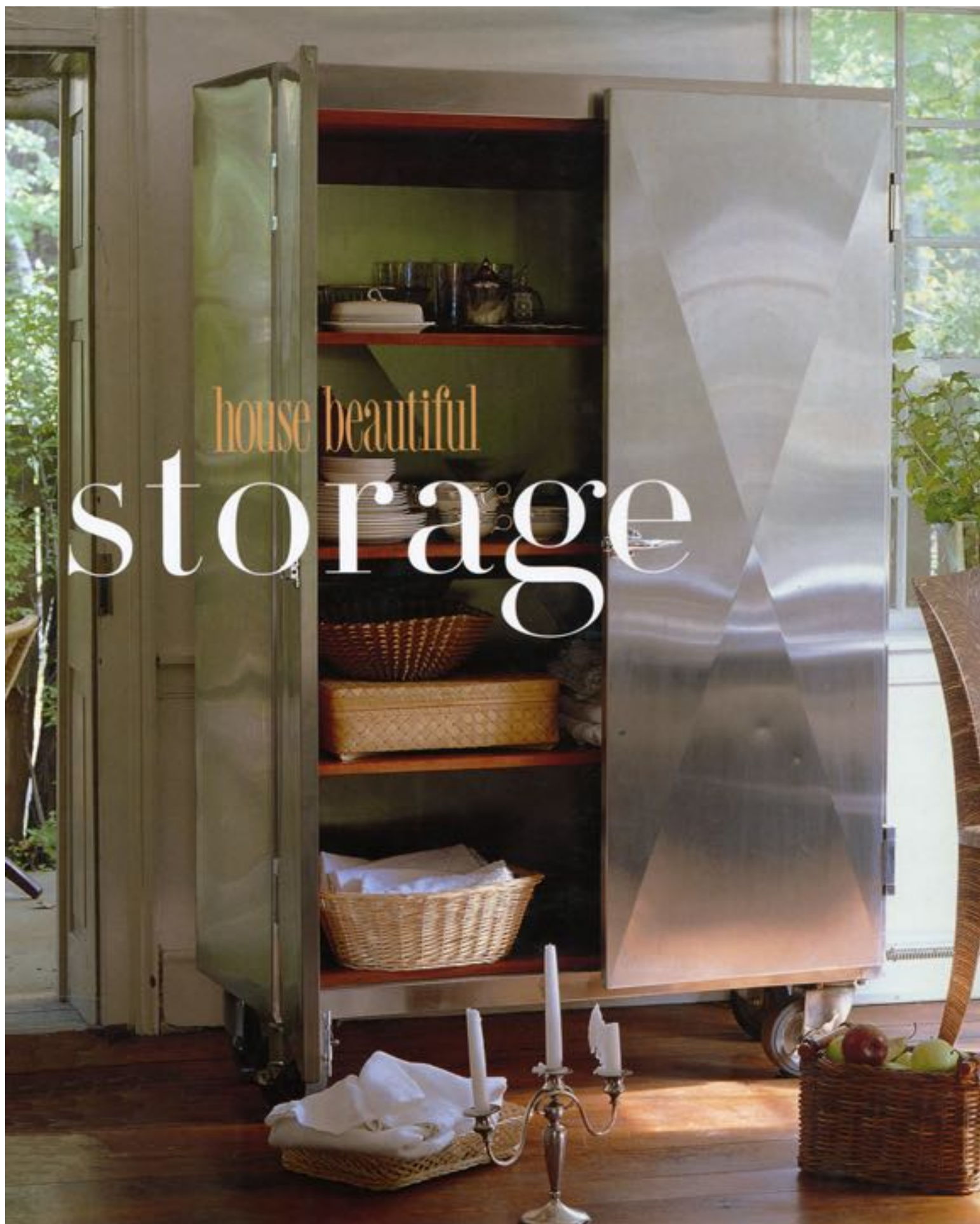




house beautiful
storage



the science of storage

What appears to be wood-sheathed walls in designer Bruce Bierman's Manhattan loft is a bank of cabinets faced in golden textured African anegre wood (opposite). The doors open to reveal a full kitchen (above) that includes a dishwasher and other appliances plus an array of built-in spaces for cooking equipment. Black granite covers the surface of the long serving island.

BRUCE BIERMAN DESIGNED HIS OWN New York loft to embrace the clean, spare architecture he admires. Spare, however, does not mean spartan. Bierman won't do without the "necessities" of life—a Sub-Zero refrigerator/ freezer, a washer and dryer, and a walk-in closet and dressing room. He squeezed them all into the 1100-square-foot living area of the long, narrow loft space that's as deftly conceived, and elegantly outfitted, as a yacht. Consider the kitchen: It does not look like a kitchen at all. "I wanted it," says the designer, "to look like a buffet in a dining room." It does. The island floats on two large steel columns. A wall running parallel to the buffet counter appears to be a series of attractive vertical wood panels: A full kitchen dwells beneath. The panels conceal the refrigerator, washer, and dryer. Deep shelves hold dishes, food, and recycling receptacles. Up high, rectangular panels lift up like the overhead caddies in an airplane, inviting additional storage for less-frequently used kitchenware.



In the combination dressing room and walk-in closet, Bierman fitted the sliver of space with rods, shelves, and hooks in a way that utilizes every inch of storage potential. Rows of shelves present sweaters, shirts, and other folded clothing. Drawers in the vanity slide out to show off their contents, arranged by color, between smooth wood dividers. Mirrors and overhead lighting enhance the atmosphere. If a dressing room can be called svelte, Bierman's is. It could inspire the most careless dresser to reach for a new standard of sartorial organization.



Bruce Bierman planned the storage of his bathroom and adjoining walk-in closet to function as a well-organized dressing room. Adjustable glass shelves for sweaters make narrow closet bays appear airier and more spacious (opposite). The vanity's drawers (left) are thirty-six inches deep, a measurement Bierman frequently uses because it allows more storage than the typical twenty-four inch depth.