

HOME DINING RECREATION TRAVEL COMMUNITY HEALTH SHOPPING

805

LIVING

APRIL 2007



Home and Garden

FRESH START

Spring is a great time to get organized and give your home a fresh new look; two local companies make it their business.

File Under Style

Office supplies such as file folders are so much a staple that when they're gone, some people run out to stock up at ... well, Staples. And then there are the Holly Bohns of the world; people who believe that the staples of any office—file folders, paper clips, letter trays and more—should look just as beautiful as the vase of flowers on their desk.

We first encountered Bohn, the founder and CEO of See Jane Work, when we profiled her Web-based company and the women behind it for our October 2005 edition. And now, See Jane Work, a company totally devoted to supplying office products that successfully merge practicality and high-style aesthetics, recently opened its flagship store on Thousand Oaks Boulevard. The reason for the brick-and-mortar opening? So many local customers were stopping by their Newbury Park warehouse to shop, the logical next step was to open a store.

Subscribing to what she calls the European approach, Bohn insists every item must meet three criteria. 1) Is it necessary? 2) Is it useful? and 3) Is it beautiful? Anything, she insists, that doesn't fit those criteria doesn't belong in her shop or in your home.

What does belong? Deliciously color-coordinated collections of office products, such as Russell+Hazel binders, file folders from Caspari, colorful notepads with coordinating desk trays from Jonathan Adler, Kate Spade organizers, and much more.

WE LOVE: The See Jane Work introduction of their own line. With the sleek, uncluttered look of Office Basics and the graphically appealing Greg Paprocki designing for the See Jane Work line, the company is set to organize the 805. Look for their project and financial organizers, two must-haves complete with pockets for receipts and a nifty rubber-band closure to keep things neat and tidy.

DETAILS:

SEE JANE WORK
2993 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Thousand Oaks
805-778-1676 or
www.seejanework.com

YOU'LL LOVE: Besides having everything you need to turn your chaotic office into a serene and stylish workspace, the store is pet and kid friendly too! You'll find the store stocked with jars of rubbery toys, dog biscuits, and stickers and toys for the kids. Plus

there's a cozy niche tucked beneath an arch with a chalkboard surface. You can shop for just the right desk set for your office—home or otherwise—while your little one plays “work.”



De-Clutter Queen

If the thought of friends unexpectedly dropping by finds you frantic, scrambling to organize your surroundings—moving stacks of bills, magazines, and school flyers off the dining room table—a call to Teine (pronounced Dana) Kenney might just be your number one priority. Kenney is the founder of the Thousand Oaks-based Organize This, a company designed to take your messy home office, cramped clothes closet, or overstuffed garage and make it into a clean, lean, working machine. Kenney says our “affluenza”—our addiction to buying more and more stuff—is the core culprit when it comes to the chaos in our closets and our lives. That, and our inability to make decisions. “Every piece of clutter is a delayed decision,” says Kenney.

The cure? Keep things simple. Kenney’s Web site details fifty great organizing ideas to help you keep that clutter under control.

YOU’LL LOVE: When the Organize This staff pulls up in their clean, white, compartmentalized truck—neatly labeled bins hold everything from stud finders to mallets, drill bits, and shelving fixtures. And since everyone has their own organizational aesthetics, you’ll find ample storage options from practical see-thru plastic tubs from Home Depot to decorator-perfect baskets or linen-clad boxes from Bed, Bath & Beyond. No matter what your style, Kenney has it, or gets it for you without charging a markup. That cool container you saw at Ikea for \$24.99? That’s exactly what you’ll pay.

WE LOVE: Kenney’s passion for carving calm from chaos is grounded by a very compassionate nature. “Disorganization is not a character flaw” asserts Kenney, who without judgment and with the help of a detailed eight-page form, sensitively assesses the job

and presents her menu of creative solutions. The \$100 consultation fee is deducted from the total bill. Kenney—who has been in kitchens so cluttered that the stove has become the only usable surface for unloading the groceries—belongs

DETAILS:
ORGANIZE THIS
805-480-9818
www.organizethishome.com

to the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization, and understands the turmoil disorganization can create. “People stop inviting friends over; they don’t want them to see what’s behind closed doors.” Once Kenney and crew have finished (an average room can take three days beginning at about \$135 an hour for a two-person crew) the feeling is intense satisfaction. Which may account for the Ikea study that notes 31 percent of their customers feel more satisfied after cleaning out their closets than they do after sex!

Closet organizers, anyone? ■