



Photos by G. Nick Lunsikow — The Capital
Patti and John DiMiceli's master bedroom was given extra storage space, at the far end, by attaching together three free-standing shelves and placing a board over one side. The exposed side has been painted to match the other walls. The open shelves on the inside are used for storage of clothes.

The art of organization

By FRANCES JAGUES
Staff Writer

Whether it's because she lived on a boat for six years or the fact that she labels herself a "neatnik," Patti DiMiceli is an organizer.

To test her ideas and organizing skills, she began in the Annapolis home she shares with her husband, John. In only two and a half years, the couple has installed major efficiency techniques along with making structural changes in their 1980s home in the Wilshire community of Eastport.

She's taken her concepts a step further by becoming a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers and starting her own business, Organizing Made Simple.

In most homes, including that of the DiMicelis, the kitchen is the starting point for home organization. In their kitchen, the couple made many improvements starting with new cabinets and counters, taking down walls and changing the location of appliances.

"First off is to utilize storage space," said Mrs. DiMiceli. "Don't overlook the backs of doors. I find you can hang a lot of things on the inside of a cabinet door."

One technique she has used in her corner cabinet is to attach a battery-powered fluorescent light to the door with Velcro. The light can be clicked on to see the items stacked into the far back corner of the cabinet.

She also finds that the backs of doors are good places for hanging small kitchen utensils such as measuring cups and spoons.

Another handy item she made for her kitchen is a hanging spice cabinet. The shelves are cut the width needed to hold a large-size, purchased spice container. She did the carpentry work in assembling the rack.

Actually, she has done much of the carpentry in the house while Mr. DiMiceli, a software consultant, handles the plumbing and electrical chores.

One of the improvements the DiMicelis made was to put in all new windows. They added a sliding glass door off the dining area, which opens to a rear patio, something they also built.

A first-floor room, originally designated as a bedroom, was turned into a double office. Identical long table-top shelves were bought and installed on opposite sides of the room to hold computers and desk-top items for his and her operations.

A space-utilizing feature they used involved installing a line of shelving at the ceiling level for books. Other shelves are set along the walls for holding needed materials for their businesses.

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The living room is decorated simply and with casual furniture to achieve the calm and harmonious look desired by Mrs. DiMiceli.



HOME of
the WEEK

John and Patti DiMiceli



ABOVE, LEFT: The patio is made with 8-by-16-inch pavers with a canopied shelter at one end. Flowers and herbs are put in separate containers and spaced around the patio. LEFT: The kitchen has been redone with new cabinets, counter tops and windows. The couple plans to add a family room off of the kitchen at a later date.