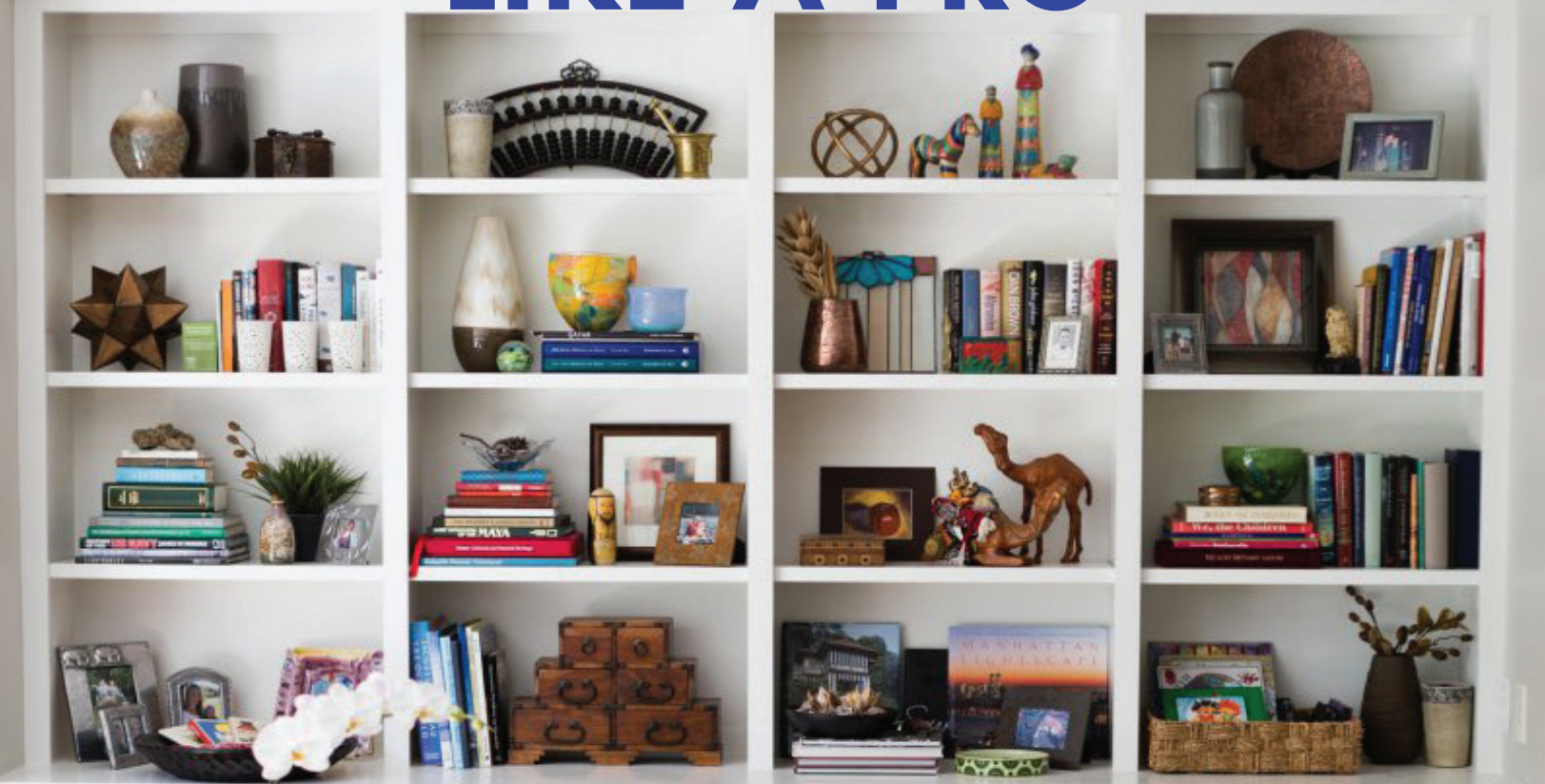


# Style Your Bookcases

SPECIAL EDITION

## LIKE A PRO



### 5 TIPS TO MAKE THEM

- STYLISH
- ORGANIZED
- ARTISTIC
- TEXTURAL



DESIGN  
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...AND INSTAGRAM READY!

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Build a great foundation in your bookshelves so that you can add to it as time goes on. Use these tips to layer in personality and style that reflect you.

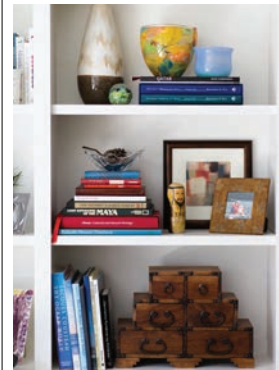
## LAY BOOKS HORIZONTALLY

Laying books horizontally breaks up the monotony of bookshelves and makes the titles stand out more and become easier to read. You can then stack interesting objects on top creating a little pedestal for your finds.



## ADD WOODEN OR NATURAL ITEMS TO CREATE TEXTURE AND WARM UP A WHITE BOOKCASE.

Wooden boxes, bookends, picture frames or natural items like shells or pinecones give a white bookcase a more textural vibe.



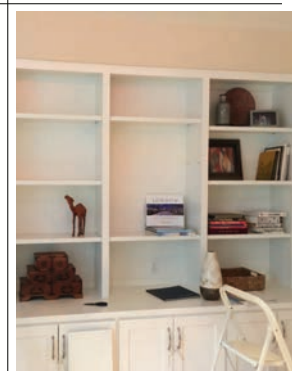
## USE YOUR KIDS' ART!

Using kids' art in small doses personalizes bookshelves and adds color and meaning.



## PROP BEAUTIFUL PICTURE BOOKS UP IN THE BACKS OF CABINETS FOR DISPLAY.

The covers of picture books can be too lovely to wither away shoved deep in a bookcase. Display them, propped up in the backs of cabinets, to show off the book and to add color and interest.



## GET RID OF A SHELF IF THEY ARE ADJUSTABLE!

Sometimes there are just too many bookshelves to fill! Reduce the number by removing a shelf and adjusting the rest, if you have adjustable shelves. Not only can you add taller objects, but items feel like they can now breathe and won't feel so cluttered.

# Shelf Life

There can be nothing more daunting than a wall of bookcases with a hodgepodge of stuff to load in. Read on to see how to attack this job.



For these more modern, floating shelves, laying books on their sides works with the linear style.

Are your bookcases looking rather lackluster? Are they a little messy and cluttered looking? Are they maybe a little cold and impersonal?

Bookcases or display shelves provide a real opportunity for a homeowner to inject some personality into their home. It's almost like creating a shadow box piece of art with depth, color, pattern, shapes, and texture, all mixing together to tell a story. When I start styling bookcases, once I determine whether or not I need fewer bookshelves, I typically start with books. Now that we all read mostly digitally these days, having stacks of beautiful books can be a real luxury! I do think they make a bookshelf feel less cold and impersonal, less like gift shop or home decor store.

If you don't have any books and want to acquire some, try used book stores or Craig's List. You might even try your parent's house! Most baby boomers are downsizing and would love to

hand down favorite books. I think finding a beautiful picture book from each vacation or place you visit on holiday is a nice way to start to build a collection.

Once the books are arranged, they serve as a base for building in the objects, art, and collectibles you'd like to display. Groupings of like objects, such as vases, small picture frames, natural objects, etc. can help a bookcase feel less cluttered if they are grouped together, massed as a whole element.

Propping up large picture books and small art pieces in the backs of shelves adds color and richness to a bookcase. Natural, wood-tone elements can warm things up and add texture and depth. Children's art can lend a touch of whimsy and a personal touch.

**WANT MORE?**

DIG DEEPER WITH MORE  
OF MY BOOKSHELF ARTICLES.  
CLICK THESE TITLES



**5 OF MY BEST BOOKSHELF STYLING TIPS**  
**THE ONE DAY BOOKSHELF REMODEL**

# DESIGNER PICKS

Need some cool shelving to style in your home? Here are some links for those and a round-up of some gorgeous textural items to include in your bookshelves!

- 1 BECKETT HIGH BOOKSHELF
- 2 ETAGERE BOOKCASE WITH X BACK
- 3 BALBOA RATTAN BOOKCASE
- 4 ETAGERE BOOKCASE WITH X SIDE PANELS
- 5 ARCHED DARK METAL BOOKCASE

## Bookshelf Selections



## Natural, textural décor for bookshelves



- 1 METAL GLOBE ON STAND
- 2 TEAK PATTERNED BOX
- 3 KIWI BIRD
- 4 CORAL ON BLACK STAND
- 5 THAI HILL TRIBE VASE
- 6 THREE PIECE BONE BOX SET
- 7 PETRIFIED WOOD BOOKENDS
- 8 HABITAT BOOK
- 9 WOOD AND RESIN SPHERE

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### CARLA ASTON

Interior Designer and Design Blogger; writes about the art and business of interior design, specializing in remodeling and home design and shares tips for the creative DIY enthusiast.