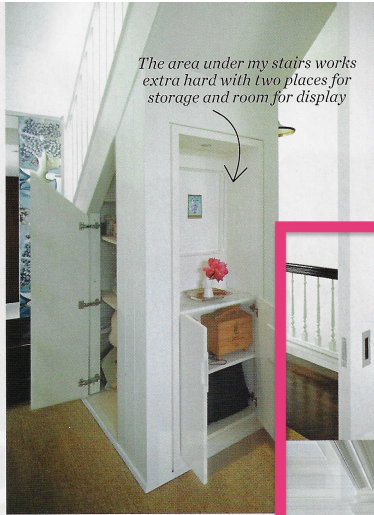


EDITOR'S PAGE



LEFT: My new under-the-stairs storage space has deep shelves for bedding (left) and shallower ones for

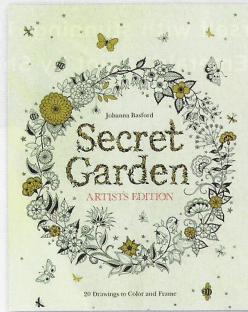


BELOW: We featured designer Betty Theodoropoulos's panelled family room in our Nov. 2014 issue and later learned there's shelving behind the panelling. The tell-tale door opening and hinges follow the lines of the moulding!

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Like most kids, I was obsessed with the idea of secret rooms when I was young. Influenced by timeless books like *The Secret Garden* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, my sister and I often searched the house in vain for a hidden door or passageway. We imagined magical worlds beyond the panelling in the second-floor cedar closet, or through the low storage areas tucked under the attic eaves. When we found a long corridor that ran beyond all the bedroom closets at our friend's house, we truly believed we'd discovered the entrance to Narnia!

Maybe this is why I've always been attracted to cleverly concealed storage — because it ultimately turns something mundane into something intriguing. And who doesn't love the idea of using every nook and cranny of your home? After all, solving a storage dilemma can change how we function at home for the better. For instance, one of the best things I did during our bedroom renovation was include a linen closet (*top right*) under the adjacent staircase to store the bedding for our new king-size bed. I never mix up the king and queen sheets anymore! And with a touch-latch door hidden in the panelling, it's just the kind of thing that would have encouraged my younger self to imagine adventures beyond the house walls. I hope the hardworking family homes in this issue inspire some magical memories for you, too.



ABOVE: Proof positive that we all need a little more magic (and a little less stress) in our lives is the sudden popularity of adult colouring books. Of course, my favourite is *Secret Garden* by Johanna Basford. **Books, Indigo.**

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