

BEST YEAR EVER!



YOUR COACH OF THE MONTH

# LAURA CATTANO

This personal organizer doesn't just update her clients' apartments—she helps create a whole new mind-set. Streamline your space with her priceless tips on ELLE.com

"I've been very lucky to work for extremely successful small businesses," says Laura Cattano of her previous employers. "I've kept my eyes open with every job I've ever had." Considering that she's now a New York-based organizational designer who recently overhauled Lena Dunham's Brooklyn home (the star's pad now looks less Hannah Horvath and more The Coveteur), the policy has

clearly served her well.

In 1999, Cattano, a Long Island-born environmental science major, moved to New York City and took an entry-level position at the well-respected Vicente Wolf interior-design firm, where she turned heads with her acute attention to detail. Wolf himself was so impressed that he had her organize the office (and his personal photography collection). Bringing the same

dedication to a 2005 position with the Michelin-starred Brooklyn restaurant Saul, Cattano worked a catering job at a multimillion-dollar brownstone and the next day received a call from the host, who was looking for a personal assistant. But Cattano, then 31, had another career path in mind. Employing the fake-it-till-you-make-it tactic, she recalls: "I said, 'Actually, I'm a professional organizer.'" She got the job. Referrals led to more projects, and she was officially in business.

Now, 10 years and some 500 clients later, Cattano has a finely tuned process for achieving organizational bliss while allowing for necessary flexibility. She believes in careful editing and repurposing what her client already owns for the highest aesthetic result (read: fewer trips to The Container Store). Her specialty is life changes, both universal—moving, turning 30—and specific. "Maybe you want to carve out a place to meditate and pray," she says. "Maybe you want to start exercising at home." And she swears that her initial consult, a collaborative process during which she and her client assess the space "to get a sense of the overall vision," is the most important step. She embraces a "living better with less" philosophy, encouraging consuming cleanses (where nothing new is purchased for a month) and shopping with purpose, so that anything brought into the home brings lasting enjoyment rather than just a quick hit of adrenaline at the register.

This month, whip your abode into shape by visiting ELLE.com, where Cattano will be your weekly personal-organization wizard. Get ready to live lighter.

## CLEAN LIVING

Here's what's in store from the reigning queen of aesthetic order:



**JUNE 1**

### Where the Magic Happens

Cattano serves up expert solutions to bedroom decor woes so that you can focus on dreamier pursuits.



**JUNE 8**

### The Top Shelf

These four tips will clear clutter in the bathroom and streamline your time by the sink. Start here: once-a-week face masks up high, everyday cleansers down low.



**JUNE 15**

### Take the Heat

Make kitchen life sweeter. First, don't be afraid of splitting up tools: hang mugs above the coffeemaker and stow water glasses in a cabinet.



**JUNE 22**

### In the Closet

Get your wardrobe Instagram-worthy with Dunham-approved advice.

Jeremy Balderson; Laura Cattano (4)