

## MEET THE DESIGN TEAM

*The Review's mini-makeover challenge would not have been possible without the help of our design team. These local professionals donated their time, expertise and even products to help make the project a great success.*

**Jeri Dansky, professional organizer, 726-0456, [jdorganizer@earthlink.net](mailto:jdorganizer@earthlink.net), [www.jdorganizer.com](http://www.jdorganizer.com)**

This was far from the most difficult project for El Granada professional organizer Jeri Dansky. "For a lot of people, their stuff is just too overwhelming," she said. "Kim's wasn't too overwhelming. She was able to go through it on her own. She just used a little coaching."

But for many of her clients, the clutter has been so out of control for so long that they don't know how to begin.

She has most people start by putting like things together — all the vases, all the black slacks, etc. — so it's easier to see how much is there and how much you don't need. "Most of us are space-limited," she said. "You just don't have room for something unless you love it or it's really useful."

Dansky said that her clients don't usually backslide. Once they have one area clean, they are usually able to keep it clean and are energized to tackle another area.

"I love what I do," she said. "I see people making progress right away. Getting organized can be transforming. It makes such a difference in their lives."

**Corinne Mar, owner and decorator, Interiors by Decorating Den, 712-9848, [corinnemar@decoratingden.com](mailto:corinnemar@decoratingden.com), [www.decoratingden.com](http://www.decoratingden.com)**

When Corinne Mar found herself sewing Kim Gagnon's window treatments, it was a little more hands-on than she typically gets with her clients. But in general, the creative mom took the lead, benefiting from Mar's consultation and advice, but doing most of the legwork herself.

All of Gagnon's handiwork helped the room turn out great within her slim budget, but Mar said that most of her clients don't have the time needed to

pull off a project like that.

"Most of my clients are too busy," she said. "They work. They need help putting it all together."

They also rely on Mar's expertise on what things go well together. Mar can do everything — furnishings, lighting, color consultation, bedding and flooring. She brings everything right into the home, making it very convenient for busy working professionals.

Mar's clients also have an added benefit from her services. Using a special computer program, Mar is able to let clients see what their decorating options will look like before they buy.

**Diana O'Keefe, closet designer and Feng Shui consultant, Diana O'Keefe Event and Interior Designs, 504-5690, [dkokeefe@comcast.net](mailto:dkokeefe@comcast.net)**

El Granada designer Diana O'Keefe said the problems Kim Gagnon had with her closet are quite common. "Walk-in closets can be mostly just empty space," she said. "Our systems are designed to maximize every square inch of the closet."

O'Keefe spent time talking to Gagnon about what exactly she wanted to store in the closet so she could pick the most appropriate design.

"The nice thing about our system is that everything is adjustable. You can move bars around, move shelves, even add drawers at a later date. It's very flexible and changes as the needs of our customers change."

O'Keefe doesn't just do closets. She is also a certified Feng Shui consultant and uses her skills to help support families through life's transitions, whether a new marriage, a new baby, an empty nest, or the loss of a loved one. "Whether I'm outfitting a closet or using my knowledge of Feng Shui, I'm reducing unnecessary stress for my clients and making room for them to enjoy each and every day," she said.

*Special thanks to Patrick Quinn, owner of Absolute Flooring ([www.absolutefloors.com](http://www.absolutefloors.com)) in Half Moon Bay for donating the Shaw area rug and to Uke Lorenz, owner of Blue Moon Closet Systems ([www.bluemoon-closets.com](http://www.bluemoon-closets.com)) in Pacifica, for significantly discounting the custom closet installation. ■*