

Remaking an Entrance

A revamped mudroom streamlines takeoffs and arrivals, with plenty of landing space for sports gear, muddy boots, and backpacks.

Dana and Andrew Freeman knew exactly what their

Williston, Vermont, mudroom needed: dirt-busting, efficient storage for work, school, and sports gear. As the home's everyday entry, the 14x14-foot space required attractive clutter control. Designer Shawn Sweeney provided the solution with built-in cabinetry made of maple.

"I love the combination of open and closed-door storage," Dana says. "The open space is easy to keep organized—everyone just hangs up their stuff. And some is hidden so that I don't have to keep everything so neat."

The mudroom is designed to organize the whole family, which includes Flynn, 9, and Callahan, 7. "It makes the mad rush of getting the kids to school easier," Dana says.

Special features also welcome the family home: A radiant heating system under the floor tiles provides cold-weather comfort, while open shelves and hooks (no hangers) make shoes and coats easy to stash.

BY JENNIFER IRSELD JAMES
PHOTOS SUSAN TEARE



OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE

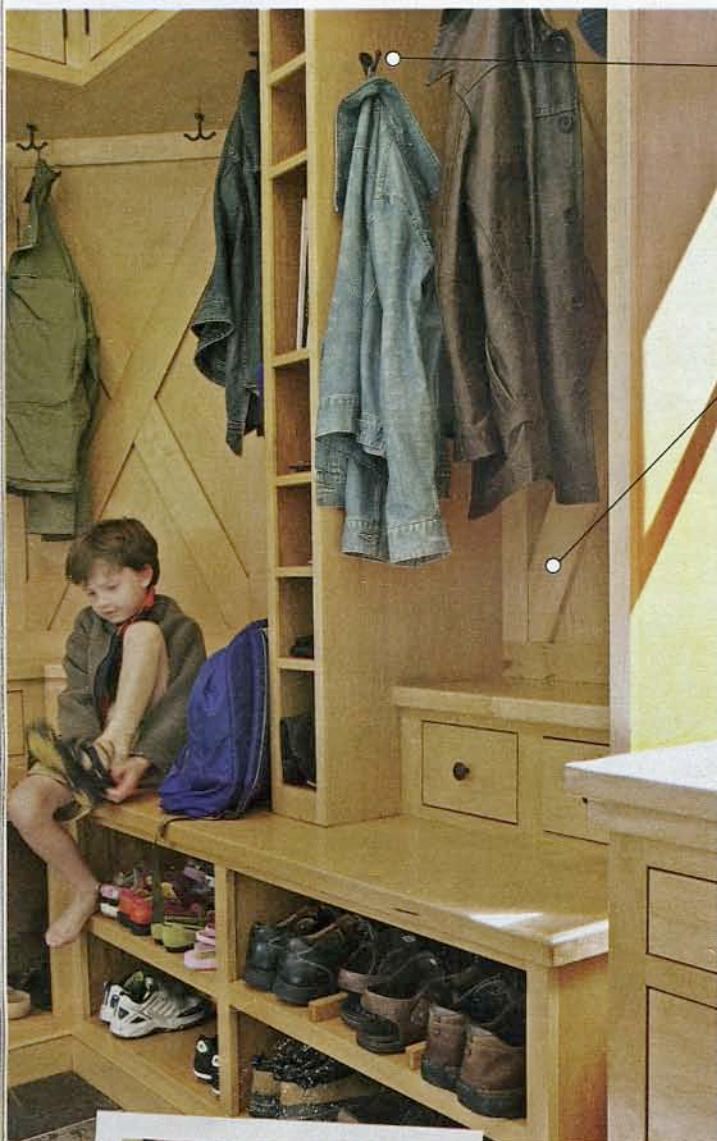
Hugging the 9-foot ceiling, cabinets with doors hide helmets and skates.

EASY ACCESS

Columns of cubbies organize small items; electrical outlets inside accommodate iPod and cell phone chargers.

HIDDEN YET HANDY

Each family member has two drawers for ski socks and other sports accessories.

**LOCKER ROOM**

Hooks in the open lockers handle coats, bags, and hats. The sturdy L-shape bench offers a step up to hard-to-reach spots as well as a useful place to sit.

FINISH LINES

Distinctive detailing plays to the contemporary farmhouse's architecture. The clear, hard finish on the maple cabinetry emphasizes the light shades of the wood. It's also durable, standing up to dirt and wiping clean with water. That's especially important for the lower shelves, which accommodate two rows—about 40 pairs—of shoes.

CREATE YOUR OWN MUDROOM

You can achieve the effect of custom built-ins with ready-made furniture. For safety and style, be sure to secure pieces to each other and to the wall.

■ **“Build” a multiuse unit.**

Top a deep bench with a shallow bookshelf for compact seating and storage.

■ **Maximize wall space.** Mount a cabinet high on the wall, then attach hooks to its bottom.

■ **Go modular.**

Combine a set of easy-to-assemble open-ended cubes. Minimize clutter with baskets or bins in the open spaces.

**LAST LOOK**

A maple-framed mirror creates a checkpoint for Dana and Andrew before leaving the house.

FLOOR SHOW

Stone tiles fool the eye and ease cleanup. “No matter how muddy people are when they come in, when the slate floor dries, it still looks clean,” Dana says. ☺

For buying information see page 286.

