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Former magazine editor reflects on Ideas of Order



AT HOME WITH Marni Jameson

"Home is a box you keep your life in — people and pets and plants and history and dreams. A biosphere, a sanctuary, your place, your space. ... Your private address in a crowded universe. The place you belong."

So opens the latest issue of Ideas of Order, a magazine I just discovered, that California Closets publishes once a year. Reading it, I felt my knees get wobbly, and not just because I'm still actively mending a broken kneecap. (Do not step over your lazy dog while walking barefoot on a slippery, wet floor.)

I crushed on this magazine because it marries two of my obsessions: good writing and good living.

Following that introductory essay are also smartly written profiles of stylishly outfitted homes and those who live in and love them. The magazine closes with a three-paragraph essay titled "Love Story," by Sarah Rutledge, who has a hard rule against dogs in bed. That decree gets toppled by Molly, a Doodle, who wriggles her way in, right where she belongs.

After that read, I am pretty much done for the day. However, I do some investigating and get under the cover of this curious magazine. Editor Carrie Tuhy has worked for 30 years in magazine journalism, holding various editing roles for such publications as Real Simple, Life, Money, and InStyle. (At this revelation, I digress and harness her fashion acumen to help me assemble an outfit for a concert I am going to that night.)

In developing content for Ideas of Order, Tuhy tapped her stable of top writers, who also write for People and The New Yorker.

"So, the good writing isn't an

accident," I say.

"Oh no," she says, "I am very particular."

She's also particular about living a well-edited life, as the publication conveys. As usual, I had questions.

Marni: Why is a company known for closet design producing a magazine of this caliber that isn't about closets?

Carrie: Organizing is simply the subtext. The magazine's narrative drive is not how to do your home right, but rather how to do you right. When California Closets came on the scene nearly 30 years ago, the idea was if you could organize your closet, you were halfway there. Now every room in the house has organizing systems including the garage. We're helping consumers make space for what matters.

Marni: How did your years at Real Simple influence Ideas of Order?

Carrie: When I took over as editor of Real Simple in 2001, the

magazine was just a few months old. I had a vision. At the time, I was a separated mother of two girls, working full time, and I thought, if someone could just help me realize the mundane things, I could make a difference.

I wanted to help women clear the clutter and create a launch pad for their passions, help them live up to their talents, skills, and what they believed in. That was

SEE MARNI, 4H



Good Rural Land Fisher property – 285+/- acres, 1946 Stringtown Road, Looneyville, Roane County, West Virginia Smithfield Tax District Map 15 / 27 & 28 Map 20 / 6, 7, 17 & 19

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 Time: 1:35 p.m. Held at the front entrance of the Roane County Courthouse

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Traditional brick 2 story in Charleston's East End – Oak floors under carpet, original Arts & Crafts tile fireplace, enclosed sunporch & rear patio, rear courtyard, on-alley 2 car garage, main floor bedroom, finished walkup attic and finished full basement. Ready for your updates or full restoration–large home loaded with possibility & potential.

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Did you know?

Despite global financial uncertainty, many people are still planning to spend on travel in 2023.

A recent survey from Booking. com found that 73 percent of respondents were more optimistic about travel than they were in 2022. The survey also studied why people are looking to travel, and the most popular type of vacation was a nostalgic getaway, which 88 percent of travelers planned to take in 2023.

That's likely due to people looking back to the days before the COVID-19 pandemic with a strong sense of appreciation. Individuals also seem to see travel through a somewhat therapeutic lens, as 42 percent of survey respondents indicated they want a break that focuses on their mental and physical health.



112 E Ridge Rd, Charleston \$699,000 2:00-4:00 PM

Spacious traditional brick home in one of South Hills most desired neighborhoods. Open kitchen, casual dining space & separate formal dining room. Formal living area & a family, office/den, & bedroom w/ bath on main level. 4 large bedrooms on 2nd level & 5th bedroom w/ full bath on 3rd level. Lower level offers a finished Rec Room w/ wet bar & tons of storage. Situated on a large, wooded lot, this home offers amazing views from the huge 3-tier decking system, with hot tub & sun room!



231 Steve Circle, Hurricane \$415,000.00 2:00-4:00 PM

Hurricane home with new construction, gorgeous single family attached home is conveniently located in Teays valley beside sleepy hollow country club golf course. House has 4 bed/3.5 baths, open concept home that's perfect for entertaining. Quality built home with custom kitchen, stainless steel appliances, ample storage throughout, unfinished bonus room & a 10-year builders' warranty provided.





4 Willow Court, Saint Albans \$113,500 2:00-4:00 PM

Move In-Ready Home. Many Updates include: New Carpet, Refrigerator & Dishwasher just 1 week ago. Furnace & HW Tank are 4 years Old. 16x13 Family Room. Full Basement for storage & Storage Building, Flat Lot. Front Porch & Rear Patio. Nice quiet dead-end street.

DIRECTIONS: McCorkle Ave West from South Charleston, just past Uhaul and past A-Z Surplus turn Right onto Willow Court. Home will be on the Right just before the cul-de-sac.





811 Walnut Road, Charleston \$399,900 2:00-4:00 PM

Stunning South Hills all brick home offers 3 beds & 2 full baths on the upper with large primary and on-suite bath, main floor offers an updated kitchen, large dining room, living room, office, 1/2 bath and Den w/ wood burning fireplace. The lower level has a huge family room with a fireplace and a wet bar, 4th bedroom, laundry, and more. Outside you have a stunning yard with tons of room to entertain, a patio, 1 car garage, a whole house generator, and more!

CENTRAL



79 Bexley Dr. Scott Depo

\$274.900

2:00-4:00 PM

Nice! 3 bedroom 2.5 bath townhouse centrally located

in Teays Valley, Devonshire. Primary bedroom w/private

bath & large custom walk-in closet! Granite kitchen

tops, stainless appliances & beautiful hardwoods! 3

bedrooms upstairs along w/laundry area. Lower level

family room. Lots of natural light flows thru main level

Open-concept living area. Double car garage. Pool

clubhouse, basketball. Tennis, dog parks, and more

Resort-style living at its finest! Blue ribbon school district!

Sutphin, Jerem

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Looking for a classic East End Historical home that's retained it's 1920s charm while updating conveniences for today? Then you do not want to miss this gorgeous brick home, w/its wide welcoming front porch leading you into a home offering abundant natural light & high ceilings, gleaming original hardwood floors, tin ceiling, renovated bathrooms, custom built-ins, new HVAC & hot water tank, freshly painted, updated electrical, private back deck & back vard, and so much more.





Open Houses Sunday, May 7, 2023

1343 Saddle Creek Way, Milton \$760,000 2:00-4:00 PM

Custom built, one owner home; Gated community, country setting, less than 5 miles from I-64, on flat 2 acre corner lot. Open floor plan, solid maple floors, crown molding, built-ins, stone fireplace, stainless steel appliances, gas range, quartz counter tops. 5 bedrooms all /full bath, walk in closets; finished walk out basement. DIRECTIONS: I-64 Milton Exit, W bound turn left, E bound turn right to Johns Creek approx 4.5 miles, left to Saddle Creek Planation subdivision, house on left.





MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

the basis anyway. The reality was I wasn't living the Real Simple life. I was still working crazy hard and raising kids.

But the premise remains. After I left Real Simple, I realized the goal was not to attain some idealized version of an organized life, but to create the life that works for you. Your idea of order is not mine. I have been chasing that ever since.

Marni: Since you began editing magazines about organizing, what are the biggest changes you've seen in the field?

Carrie: The level of customization has increased tremendously, and there's no end. We have also witnessed a boom in the consumerization of organizing. We now have an array of tools at various price points for every space you can think of. We have kitchen organizers, office organizers, and even racks to hold our underwear. (Marni: We do?) Real Simple was part of that, so was California Closets as well as the Container Store.

Marni: What advances have been made in home-organizing systems and products?

Carrie: We've seen many innovations in merchandise: laundry basket with dividers, so you can separate clothes into lights and darks, and don't have to sort them later; storage containers that divide and protect your Christmas ornaments. And, because organizing and saving space are close cousins, we now see merchandise designed to use less space, such as cups that stack. We continue to see more furniture doing double duty by providing storage, such as ottomans where the top comes off and window seats with drawers. The space-saving Murphy bed has come a long way and is on the rise, especially since COVID.

Marni: What do people today typically want in a home organiz-ing system?

Carrie: Flexibility. Because the workplace is changing, and many of us are not going into the office, our wardrobes are changing. They're simpler. Look what's happened to our dry-cleaning bills. (Marni: Silent cheer!) Tech guys put an end to suits in favor of jeans, sneakers, and hoodies. Culture shapes our wardrobes, and

our closets should evolve, too.

Oh, and more outlets. Consumers want to plug in everywhere, whether in the closet or at the dining room table.

Marni: So, what is the secret to living a beautiful, organized life?

Carrie: Organizing is not the secret. Maintenance is. Living a beautiful life requires an investment every day. As in every area of success, you need consistency, discipline, and commitment. Don't coast. Stay on top of it. That pretty much works for everything, doesn't it?

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want," "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go," and "Downsizing



The cover of current issue of Ideas of Order, a magazine published annually by California Closets.

the Blended Home – When Two Households Become One." She can be contacted at www.marnijameson.com.



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Must-have items for summer entertaining in the backyard

Summer entertaining season provides ample opportunities to soak up some sun and have some fun with family and friends. Backyard barbecues and other get-togethers at home are even more fun when hosts ensure they have certain must-have items for summer soirees.

• *Fire features:* The days when summer hosts only needed a few extra lawn chairs and some burgers and hot dogs on the grill for a backyard barbecue are long gone. Though those items still have a place at backyard barbecues, summer parties have taken a step up. Fire features, whether it's a standalone fire pit, one built into a patio or a gas-powered fire table, are now wildly popular. Fire features provide a welcome place to relax and converse with guests after the sun goes down. And much to kids' delight, a fire feature also paves the way for some post-meal s'mores.

• Insulated wine cooler: Coolers are great places to store water, soda, beer, seltzers, and other popular beverages. But what about wine? An insulated wine cooler ensures wine stays properly cooled but doesn't get too cold, which can happen when wine is stored in a more traditional cooler filled with ice. Bottles are simply placed in the insulated cooler (much like canned beverages slide easily into can koozies), and the bottle can be kept on the table much like you would for formal dinners indoors. Hosts can go the extra mile by pairing insulated wine tumblers with their wine cooler.

Games: Summer entertaining season might be all about relaxation, but games can up the fun factor at backyard gatherings.
Cornhole is a wildly popular game, and customized cornhole boards can help hosts come across as party professionals.
Ladder toss, bocce and wiffle ball are some additional games that can make the festivities more fun.
Hosts who don't have a pool also can invest in an inflatable pool big enough to fit all the kids who will be coming to the party.

• Outdoor storage cabinet: Hosts can save themselves the stress and effort of walking in and out for dinnerware and other table accessories by investing in a sturdy outdoor storage cabinet. As meal time draws near, hosts will appreciate that all the plates, napkins, utensils, and placemats are already outside. The top of the storage cabinet can double as a small but convenient buffet station for sides that aren't being cooked over an open flame.

• *Projector and screen*: A projector and screen can really up the ante on summer entertaining, turning a backyard barbecue into a great place to watch a game or cuddle up after dinner for a movie night under the stars. Projectors and screens won't bust the budget, but those who have more to spend may want to consider an outdoor television. Outdoor televisions are built to handle the glare of the summer sun, but a retractable awning may be a good safety net for hosts who plan to spend many a weekend afternoon outside watching games or movies with family and friends.

These are just a handful of items that can up the ante on traditional backyard barbecues. Homeowners should know that there's no limit to the number of items that can make summer entertaining season more special.



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•Wed. May 10th – Lesage – Manufactured Home on 1.2 Acres Near the Ohio River	•Mon. May 8th – Clendenin – 4 Bedroom Brick Home
•Tue. May 16th – Charleston – 2 Bedroom Home with 2 Bedroom Garage Apartment	Overlooking Clendenin •Tue. May 9th – Kanawha Co. – 5 Kanawha Co. Properties Selling to the Highest Bidder
•Wed. May 17th – Saint Albans – Beautiful Move-in Ready Home with Premium Finishings	• Tue. May 9th – Holden – Equipment, Tools, Parts, and More! • Wed. May 10th – Dunbar – 3 Bedroom on Roxalana Road
•Wed. May 17th – Huntington – 7 Huntington Homes	•Thu. May 11th – Huntington – Fully Rented Triplex Next to
•Thu. May 18th – Hurricane – Duplex Currently Configured as Personal Care	St. Mary's Hospital
Home	•Mon. May 15th – Charleston – 3 Bedroom Brick Project Home in Charleston
•Thu. May 18th – Mill Creek – 3 Bedroom Home on 10 Acres	•Mon. May 15th – Poca – Over 2 Acres of Developable Land in
•Tue. May 23rd – Charleston – Charming 3 Bedroom Bungalow	Poca
•Wed. May 24th – Milton – Move-in Ready 3 Bedroom with Workshop	•Tue. May 16th – Huntington – 2 Neighboring Rentals in Huntington
•Wed. May 24th – Charleston – Stone Home Adjacent to Edgewood Country Club	• Tue. May 16th – Charleston – 2 Bedroom in Charleston Selling to the Highest Bidder
•Thu. May 25th – Charleston – Spacious 5 Bedroom in Charleston Selling to the Highest Bidder	•Wed. May 17th – Hurricane – 2.5 Acres Selling to the Highest Bidder
•Thu. May 25th – Charleston – Professional Office Building in Downtown Charleston	•Thu. May 18th – Saint Albans – Fully Rented 6 Unit Apartment Building
•Wed. May 31st – Charleston – 4 Bedroom Home with Detached Apartment	•Tue. May 23rd – Scott Depot – 3 Bedroom House and Mobile Home Selling to the Highest Bidder
•Wed. May 31st – Summersville – 3 Bedroom in Foxfield Farms	•Wed. May 24th – Saint Albans – Two St. Albans Homes
•Thu. June 1st – Hurricane – Commercial Building with Apartment & Mobile Home	•Wed. May 24th – Bob White – 3 Bedroom on River Lot •Wed. May 31st – Ironton, OH – 2 Bedroom Selling to the
•Tue. June 6th – Scott Depot – Move-in Ready 4 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder	 Highest Bidder •Thu. June 1st – Charleston – 3 Bedroom with Garage, Barn, & Shop
•Wed. June 14th – Dunbar – Turn-Key Professional Building in Westmoreland Office Park	•Mon. June 5th – Handley – 2 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder

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8H REAL ESTATE SUNDAY, SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023



NORTHPORT

The Northport I (2088 sq.ft.) is a perfect one-story, ranchstyle home features 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a sunroom, and a two-car garage. As you enter the home, there is an expansive living area with plenty of space to entertain friends and family. The vaulted ceilings enhance this home's natural light and create an open airy-space in the main living area. The spacious kitchen and informal dining area allow greater convenience and ease of access when preparing and eating meals with family. The sunroom is located at the rear of the house and offers immediate access to the backyard.

A luxurious owner's suite contains a roomy walk-in closet and a private bathroom with a soaking tub and separate walk-in shower. Additional bedrooms and full bath are located on the other end of the home for privacy and relaxation. This ranchstyle home is perfect for comfortable and easy living.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

- OPEN FLOOR CONCEPT
- VAULTED CEILING IN THE MAIN LIVING AREA
- SUN ROOM / FLEX AREA
- DROP ZONE AREA NEAR GARAGE
- SINGLE FAMILY HOME



