MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

where you would like to exit, usually on a landing or common area, and work down. Remember you can enter on one side of the elevator and exit out the other side.

For a traditional elevator built into a shaft, two closets stacked on one another is ideal. These shafts can be inside a home or built onto the exterior. A shaftless elevator is easier to fit in most homes.

• Looks matter

The entry to a traditional elevator can truly blend into the woodwork. It can mimic paneling or a closet door, so you don't even know an elevator is there. However, as home elevators become more common and sculptural, many are coming out of the closet.

• Added value

Most realtors agree that a home elevator done well adds value.

"I feel like having an elevator lets you tap into a whole new market," McGee said.

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

Elevated living Today's shaftless elevators offer a sleek, artistic alternative to larger, traditional elevators that require more machinery. "I've just greatly extended the number of years I can live in my house," said Ann McGee, pictured at home with her new pneumatic vacuum elevator. Photo courtesy of Marni Jameson

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