

# 2018 resolution No. 1: Done!



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**O**K, yes, I'm gloating. It's not every mid-January you can say you've accomplished your first goal of the year.

Guess what I did? Went to the gym every day? No. Learned Russian? Nyet. Polar bear dip? Not on your life. I finally got around to dealing with my storage locker.

When you think about it, the business of renting storage lockers, is pretty straightforward. It's a large, enclosed, relatively secure facility where you store stuff you're not using.

It's also one of the most popular entrepreneurial pursuits. There's money in storage. Buy land, build a box, compartmentalize it with doors and drywall, throw up some fluorescent lights in the hallways, forget heat, ventilation or air conditioning, and charge people rent.

Every month. It's a direct result of us living in smaller spaces, with less... but still owning everything.

If I owned a house, I would hide stuff in the basement or garage, or as I like to say, "the place where furniture goes to die". Alas, I live in a one-bedroom condo plus den and my style is decidedly minimalist. So, any "clutter" has to go. That's why I have



As 2017 ended, Jane Lockhart decided it was time to stop paying the extra rent for storage, sort through all her well-loved pieces and donate to the Furniture Bank.

an off-site locker.

There are important pieces from my childhood in the locker, heirlooms that came with family from Scotland to Canada. The solid wood dressing table and chest are beautiful, carved, hand-made pieces I would never consider selling, for sentimental reasons but I haven't used them in years.

In the back of my mind, I tell myself one day I may move into a larger home with a guest room, but it's not a good enough reason to continue to pay ransom, every month.

As 2017 was ending in a deep freeze, my brain, also in a state of numbness concluded it's time to stop paying that extra rent and donate the pieces to the Furniture Bank.

After all, I've been promoting and supporting this non-profit, Canadian organization for years and it was time to put my money (and furniture) where it could do some good. It was time to say goodbye and let a new family treasure the well-loved pieces.

I phoned the Furniture Bank and gave them a list of what was being

donated, making sure the items were needed and acceptable. There are some pieces, like bed frames, they won't take but they're happy to accept desks, chairs, dressing tables, chests and in this case a large armoire.

With the date, time and cost set, I had a deadline to meet. No backing out now, I made the commitment. I enlisted my brother to help keep me organized and on task (he's great at that) and prepared the locker for both the furniture pick up and 1-800-Got-Junk to take away the rest.

The movers arrived on time and very efficiently loaded up my treasures and offered me a choice of payment. They're equipped with the means of taking a credit card.

For the record yes, it costs money to have them pick up the furniture, but the tax receipt more than makes up for the cost and the furniture will get a second chance in another home.

There is another benefit to repurposing your unused stuff. It clears your head, lightens your conscience and makes you feel renewed. Now, on to resolution #2, Russian 101. "Bal'shoje spaseeba! (Thank you very much!)"

— Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer and considered a leading expert in the world of design. Visit [www.janelockhart.com](http://www.janelockhart.com).

## Ask first what your space needs to be



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**A** new year brings forth an almost immediate desire to look back on the events of the past year and a resolve to make changes for the future. January is ever consumed by New Year's resolutions which usually consist of kicking bad habits and adopting healthy ones.

It's this time when you may also be looking at your surroundings, longing for a change to be made but at a loss for where to start.

I have been known to say, half-joking, that spaces "speak" to me. That somehow, each design project we take on tells me through their owners and their architecture what they need, and we just need to get it there.

If we could ask our spaces what they want for the New Year, what would they resolve to be?

**1. Bolder and more colourful.** The absence of colour in spaces throughout past years has led to some seriously sophisticated, drool worthy pins on design boards world-

wide, but lately colour is making a comeback in a big way.

White kitchens for example, are holding up but being met and combined with rich colours like deep greens and rich blues. All black is gaining steam in a real way when you mix with brushed brass fixtures and high contrast palettes.

Pantone's colour of the year for 2018 is Ultra Violet – an enigmatic purple. Para chose Malachite and Glamour which are calming Scandinavian-inspired tones and Sherwin Williams chose a rich deep turquoise in Oceanside, to name a few.

The variety of tones in these colours possess a depth and richness that evokes personality and perhaps offers some fun that we've been missing.

**2. More comfortable.** Tactile luxe velvets, enveloping furniture silhouettes, relaxed natural elements — our spaces are [maybe] craving to be that comfortable safe-haven in a turbulent world. Mix textures, throw blankets and curl up after a long day.

**3. Paired back, and minimal.** For the structured, disciplined, less-is-more types, this trend has had some serious staying power and can showcase your personality without going over the top.

However, even in these tone on tone spaces, we are seeing texture and pattern to the max, so even if your room is done in shades of white, add that "second Life" washed out rug for pattern and layer in textured cushions or tile and some modern art to keep it interesting.

**4. Maxed out.** Maximalists will love this. If paired down décor leaves you feeling less than inspired, on the opposite end is our aesthetic of excess, or more-is-more. Think wild colourful wallpapers and eclectic combinations of patterns that don't necessarily match but all somehow just go together. Contrasting colours and patterns combined in unexpected yet aesthetically pleasing ways allow those more daring types to really put their stamp on their spaces.

If you're space is tired of being the bridesmaid, get inspired by the new year! With a fresh look ahead, lets plunge forward and resolve to make 2018 our most beautiful year yet!

— Cynthia Soda is founder of Soda Popa Design and is known for curating spaces that are visually appealing and highly functional. Visit [www.sodapopdesign.ca](http://www.sodapopdesign.ca).



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