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Mix It Up
The 5 Best Blenders

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Storage Solved

AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

Fluid Design Modern Waterfront Homes

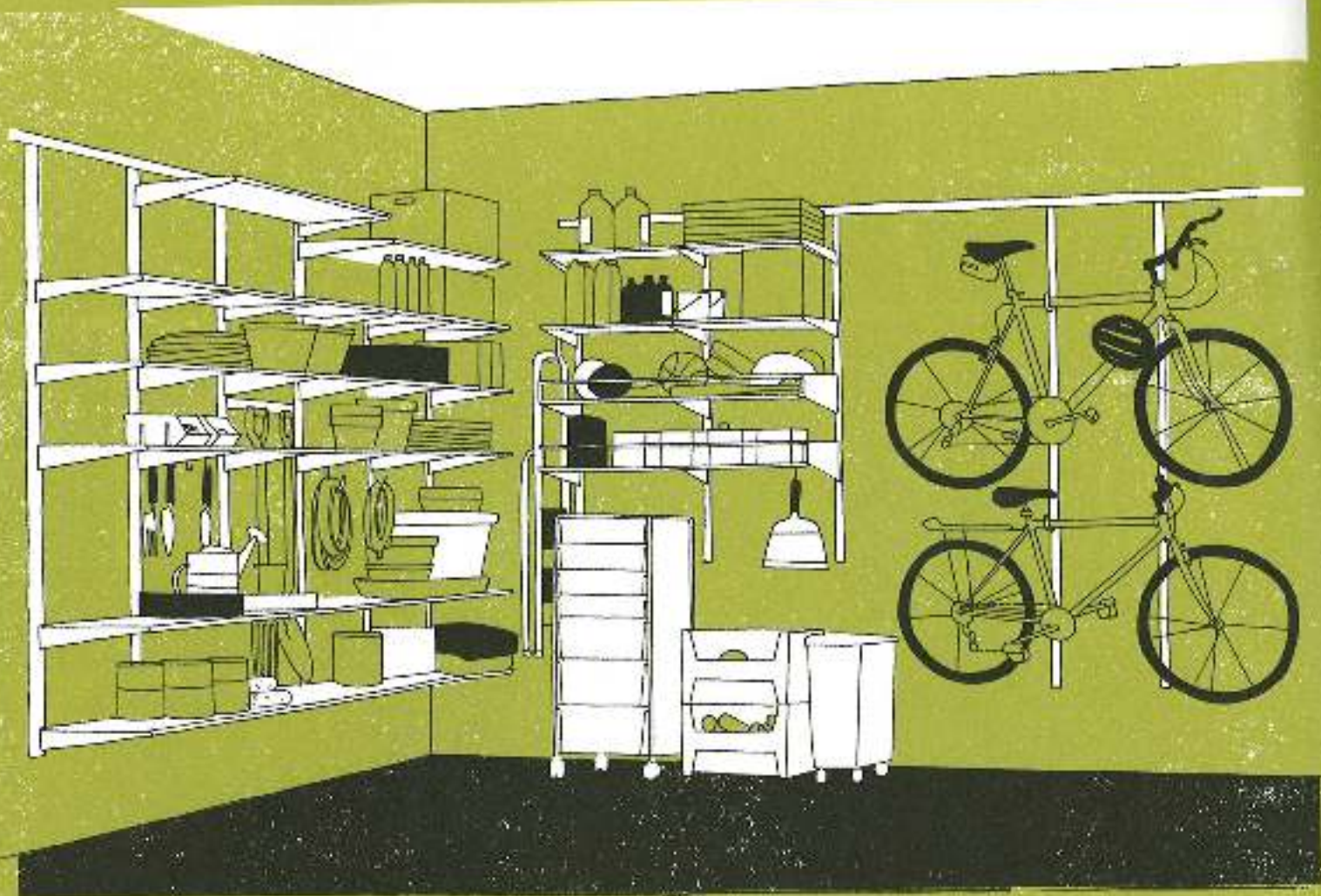


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Design Report:
The Latest from Milan



My Beautiful Garage

John and Susan Conrad can remember a time, not long ago, when they kept everything in their garage. Everything, that is, except their cars. "It looked like a drop-off for Goodwill," John recalls, conjuring a "before" picture of his three-car garage in Chesterfield, Missouri, an upscale suburb west of St. Louis. "There were cans of paint and tents and coolers and folding chairs for the soccer field and boots and balls and bicycles. And somewhere underneath all that was the lawn mower and the snowblower."

The Conrads weren't alone. Dowdy, dirty, and just plain functional, garages often do double duty as a dumping ground for old LPs, camping gear, 12-packs of Sprite, and exercise equipment—things that we don't really need but can't bear to get rid of. There's help, however, in the form of these four garage organization systems.

GarageTek / www.garagetek.com

GarageTek, which evolved out of a company that produced fixtures for department stores, offers a system of slotted wall panels to which various modules, cabinets, racks, and even coolers can be attached. GarageTek employs professional designers who visit with homeowners and use computer-aided design to whip up a rendering on the spot. A typical installation prices out at \$6,000.

PremierGarage / www.premiergarage.com

PremierGarage specializes in polyurethane floor coatings and cabinets made from high-density particleboard. The cabinets, manufactured at the company's own factories in Phoenix and Atlanta, are finished with a low-pressure laminate that prevents peeling or bubbling. Wall-mounted grid panels are used for hanging tools and lawn equipment. They also offer in-house service, and costs run in the \$4,000-\$5,000 range.

GarageGrids / www.garagegrids.com

GarageGrids offers an economical alternative to the competition with a wall-mounted grid system that holds shelves, baskets, and hooks. A starter system, which costs about \$600, can be self-installed by homeowners who are handy with a level, a stud finder, and an impact drill. Otherwise, professional installers are available for hire.

Rubbermaid / www.rubbermaid.com

Rubbermaid makes your trash can, your food storage containers, and your dish rack so why not your garage system? Rubbermaid's FastTrack system involves a rail that is attached to the wall studs. Specialty designed hooks, baskets, and shelving systems snap right into the rail, which can support up to 2,000 pounds. In most cases, FastTrack rail and accessories can be installed along a single wall for under \$300. ■

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