



My Beautiful Laundrette

No longer the black sheep of the home, the laundry room is getting dressed up in high style

t one time, laundry rooms were mostly viewed as utilitarian work horses—unworthy of style, thought or embellishment—and relegated to the hidden-away recesses of the home. Well, move over butler's pantry and wet bar; the once-lowly laundry room is fast becoming the new "it" space as homeowners and designers alike are taking the time to plan them for greater functionality and show-off looks. Some are now doing double and even triple duty, serving not solely as places to wash and dry one's duds, but also as home offices, craft rooms, storage areas and pet "pads" replete with kitty and doggie doors. Doing the laundry may be routine, but the room in which it's done no longer has to be.



Above: To achieve the same rustic aesthetic that pervades the rest of this Arizona home, interior designer Lissa Lee Hickman incorporated knotty reclaimed oak-plank flooring, natural quartzite countertops and custom-painted and glazed alder cabinetry with a heavily distressed finish. Offering Old World charm is a brick-veneer backsplash. Storage is abundant in the form of open shelves housing an array of baskets and towels, as well as closed cabinets. A large furniture-style island makes prepping and folding laundry a breeze.

Right: Richly appointed, this laundry room in Whitney and

