

The Wardrobe Chronicles

THEY MAY NOT LEAD TO NARNIA, BUT WARDROBES ARE BACK IN A MOST ENCHANTING WAY. DESIGNERS **WES GORDON** AND **CHIARA DE REGE** SHARE THEIR OWN ARMOIRE STORIES.

INTERVIEW BY SAMANTHA SWENSON

PORTRAIT BY ALARIC S. CAMPBELL

PRODUCED BY LAUREL J. BENEDUM

Wes, have you ever owned an armoire?

WES GORDON: Yes, I had a beautiful little apartment in London when I went to Central Saint Martins,

and since old London flats lack closet space, it came furnished with an armoire. It was very traditional, with a hanging rod inside and a mirror on the door. ▷



SCARAB BY PATRICK E. NAGGAR FOR RALPH PUCCI
43.5" w. x 18" d. x 65" h.; \$90,600.
ralphpucci.net

WES GORDON is a fashion designer and the creative director of Carolina Herrera; he made his runway debut for the luxury house last September.

CHIARA DE REGE is a New York-based interior designer whose projects include the Wing, a collection of women-only co-working clubs with international locations.

TRUTH IN DECORATING

When is an armoire better than a walk-in closet?

CHIARA DE REGE: When it doesn't make sense architecturally to carve into a room to make a closet. For me, they're a go-to in loft areas.

WG: When you don't have a walk-in closet! Otherwise, I think it's a great way to infuse personality and character into a newly built space.

What's your advice for making the most of an armoire, storage-wise?

CDR: I love when an armoire has both a hanging bar and pullout shelves or drawers.

WG: I think there's nothing more horrible than clothes packed too tightly together. It's bad for them, and it's bad energy. If you're using an armoire for storage and you have a lot of clothes, you'll need more than one.

So the solution is just multiple armoires?

WG: Oh, yes. Buy several.

Where's an unexpected place to put an armoire?

CDR: Bathrooms are a great place to add an armoire rather than doing too much millwork and built-ins.

WG: I think one would be amazing in a mudroom. Instead of pegs with messy coats, separate freestanding armoires would be incredible.

In the vein of The Chronicles of Narnia, if an armoire could lead to anywhere, where would you want it to go?

CDR: As a kid, I was obsessed with those books, so I would hide in old armoires in my grandmother's house and hope to find Narnia. Even as an adult, I'd love to go to Narnia.

WG: I think a secret room tucked behind an armoire is magical.

What would be in the secret room?

WG: You know what would be fabulous? A walk-in closet. ■

ED picks the BEST ARMOIRES



HERITAGE BY BOCA DO LOBO

36" w. x 19.5" d. x 71.5" h.;
\$22,149. 1stdibs.com



DENEUVE BY JULIAN CHICHESTER

48" w. x 17" d. x 93" h.;
\$13,239. julianchichester.com



MAH JONG BY IRONIES

35.5" w. x 19" d. x 75" h.; to the trade.
ironies.com



ALTDEUTSCHE BY STUDIO JOB FOR MOOOI

53" w. x 20" d. x 75" h.; \$9,750. moooi.com