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Mix and Mingle

Ann Blum in her Kinzie Park closet designed by Tom Riker (left) and James Dolenc (right) of jamesthomas

► **Ann Blum**

Looking inside Ann Blum's Kinzie Park closet, one thing is apparent: This licensed esthetician has an enviable flair for fashion and design. On the third floor of her family's "eclectic contemporary" townhome nestled along the Chicago River, the 100-square-foot closet is functional yet doubles as a stylized personal retreat with a desk and a television. The inspiration for the space came from design firm jamesthomas (jtliving.com), whom she hired to "freshen up" several rooms last year. "My base requirements included extended floor-to-ceiling storage for long skirts and other irregular items, an office and multimedia capability," says Blum, who let the interior designers push her taste when it came to decorative touches



"I shop with Syla Li in Via C at Nordstrom," admits Ann Blum. "She is my go-to girl. She lays everything out for me."



like glass-beaded wallpaper and a Murano glass chandelier. The result? A light and airy haven that pays homage to Blum's Thai heritage and her understated fashion style. "I like punctuating neutral outfits with splashes of color and fanciful accessories that I usually find at offbeat, local shops like Primitive and Veruca Salt," shares Blum. "And I find it hard not to shop at MaxMara when given the opportunity." ■