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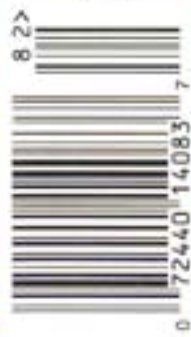
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# Beyond Bookcases

Sleek floor-to-ceiling units embellished to look like a built-in add storage and style to a small bedroom.

words MELEAH MAYNARD photographs TRIA GIOVAN field editor DONNA TALLEY



**LONG AND NARROW ROOMS** can be trouble. Spencer and Christi Tacy learned that while trying to arrange bedroom furniture in their upstate New York home. But what made things even more difficult were the big windows on two of their walls and a door on a third wall. "We had to put the head of the bed on the wall without a window so it cut across the narrow part of the room," Christi says. "That really broke up the space and made it feel small."

To remedy the situation, the couple drew plans for floor-to-ceiling bookcases connected by a backboard that covered one of the windows, allowing them to orient the bed on one of the short walls. Knowing that

they might one day add on to the house, Spencer constructed it in three easy-to-disassemble pieces.

To boost the built-in look, Spencer used molding of different widths to trim the tops of both bookcases and the slight overhang that connects them. Behind the overhang, three recessed lights on dimmer switches offer both reading and accent light.

Christi changes the items displayed on the bookshelves frequently, filling pitchers with seasonal flowers and creating small vignettes with treasures such as glass candlesticks and small paintings and photos. "Someday we'll replace the carpet in here with hardwood," she says. "But this is a good start for now."

## Clever Shelves

**INSTEAD OF** using expensive solid wood, Spencer Tacy saved money by using cabinet-grade plywood for the wide backboard that connects the bookcases. "It has a nice grain to it that you can see even when it's painted," he says.



## Great Find!

**A VINTAGE** headboard Christi Tacy thinks was once part of a twin bed serves as a gently curving focal point above the couple's bed. "Our neighbor was throwing it out. I just love it," she says.



## Take Note:

### Learn from Experience

**1. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** Molding can be hard to cut correctly. Getting corners to fit snugly is tough, so beginners should buy a little extra wood to practice before starting the project.

**2. SLEIGHT OF HAND** Because the backboard and bookcases are all separate pieces, Spencer Tacy designed a system of hooks and brackets on the back of the bookcases to hold the backboard in place. "My father was always handy and I grew up watching him do projects," Spencer says. "But I learn a lot from trial and error, too."

**OPPOSITE:** Christi and Spencer Tacy's original design for the bookcases that flank their bed included cabinets above the bed for additional storage. "But we took those out because it made the look too messy," Christi says.