



Interview with Natasha Bigl

Winner of the "Get Organized with Monica Ricci!" Contest

Why did you enter the organizing contest on vickyandjen.com and request your master bedroom to be organized?

I really don't have any extra time for anything since we were blessed with a child who needs very little sleep. My husband and I both feel a bit overwhelmed with our house and making time for our 20 month old. I'll be honest, the house loses. My husband is incredible and really tries to keep up with the house (pretty much single handedly) despite Julia and I making our whirlwinds through the house. I thought if I could make our lives easier in any way, shape, or form this had to be it. I called him and asked him if we could have a professional organizer go through any area of our house what would he pick. He picked the Master Bedroom because it is the root of the chaos.

Describe the look and feel of your bedroom before you entered the contest?

The root of household chaos. Clothes, tissues, baby stuff, jewelry, dust, laundry baskets everywhere. I always kind of heard the music to the wicked witch of Wizard of Oz as I entered-the whole tornado thing. My closet was one of the biggest sins and cause of some of the other mess. Yep, that's it.

Describe the look and feel of it NOW, after Monica Ricci got her hands on it?

AHHHHHHHHH! There is carpet and I do have a usable closet. I have gabled ceilings in my old house that make traditional furniture arranging a headache. Usable space, storage, and furniture has been reclaimed. My husband and I actually spent the first night in our newly organized room and held a real adult conversation.

What did you learn most from Monica?

That we were "time warped". My daughter doesn't sleep much and we hadn't made the adjustments to our space since she has gotten older. I still had her bassinet, bottle warmer, and bottle fridge in our room like she was still co-sleeping in our room.

Keep families of items together. It's not about frequency of use all the time, but about families. Re-purposing is awesome. Monica took an old vanity that was pretty much unused in one room, put our mirror on it, and now not only does it look really neat, but we have more storage.

What was most helpful to you?

Having another set of eyes look at your space and belongings who don't have an attachment to the current space is INVALUABLE. Moving the furniture.

How has your husband (John) and your daughter (Julia) responded to your new room?

I called John after everyone had left and he was dubious. He got home first and said he couldn't believe the change. He had thought our previous room arrangement was the best use of our space. He really likes that he doesn't have the chance of braining himself when he gets up in the night or morning due to the gabled ceilings.

Julia is fascinated by the changes and asks "What's that?". She really likes how her bassinet has become her space in our room. We keep her toys there which allows me a little bit of time to get ready in the morning while she hangs and keeps her busy hands occupied in our bedroom. She also likes the footstools and having access to her own personal seats.

What are some of the major changes Monica made to your bedroom?

Furniture Rearrangement. Moving John's clothes back into our bedroom. His clothes had fled to another room to avoid the chaos, which this created it's own problems. Discussing the laundry situation and how to resolve the disconnect to avoid living in baskets. Moving the Furniture allowed more natural light into the space.

How is your new space working for you?

Fab. I can seriously keep up with everything better. Having a place for all our things with like things together really does make life a little less hectic.

How has this contest made your life more simple?

We can keep up a little better and we feel a lot less overwhelmed. We have found extra storage that we didn't know we had or couldn't use that Monica was able to figure out a room arrangement that let us have our night stands back.

What 2 words would describe your experience working with Monica?

Fun and energizing.

What was it like to have Monica, Vicky and Jen “root” through your bedroom closets and drawers?

Ok, I first emailed Vicky that I was nervous having someone root through all of my "sins" in my house. I like to look to the outside world like I have my act together. I was initially nervous. But actually, it was great. I think for the process to really work you have to let go of your attachments to your space (I put this here and I may fit into those yet) and just be open. A third eye can often see the simple solutions that you can't see because you are so embedded in your space.

What will you do differently now to maintain the new look and feel of your bedroom?

Our laundry system was truly our breakdown. We have worked on that to keep up the look and feel of our new room. Daily maintenance is helpful, but establishing systems that can work in a hectic lifestyle is crucial. I think we have uncovered our time warp and faulty systems to make our life a bit more simple, a lot less overwhelming, and altogether more peaceful.

I wanted to really thank Jen too for tackling my daughter's room. I have reorganized her dressers using Monica's systems and it makes a whole lot more sense. It really motivates you to take your house back. Thank you all soooooo much!