

SPECIAL HOME DESIGN ISSUE

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## SPACE PATROL

**Name:** Allison Crane

**Hometown:** Dalton, Mass.

**Age:** 43

**Occupation:** Interior stylist and home stager

**Business:** Places + Spaces, [www.placesspaces.com](http://www.placesspaces.com)

**What did your room look like when you were ten?** "My bedroom was a pale yellow grasscloth-wallpapered room with floral chintz curtains that were very cheery. I had a love of horses, so I had horse posters up everywhere. And I also had a passion for anything miniature, so I had lots of dollhouse-size things, displayed in a curio cabinet."

**What is your main task as a stylist and home stager?** "In working with a homeowner, I can do as much or as little as somebody wants. I've had situations where I'm just picking colors or I'm furnishing a whole house. It really is a natural extension of what I do all the time. This is the way I live. I try to live in a clutter-free environment, because that's how I feel best. I'm about making people feel welcome in their own home. If I can help someone feel their house is a home and feel comfortable in their environment and they're happy, then I have done my job."

**When you go to someone's house, does it make you anxious to see a pile of newspapers on a chair?** "I hold back my urge to want to change their location or straighten them up. It doesn't make me anxious, but I would like to help out in some way, sure."

**How do you help people who are overwhelmed by all their stuff?** "Most people don't start their day with a to-do list that says 'de-clutter the closet.' We're so busy, so it gets pushed off for some other time. My tagline is 'Transforming Rooms for Living.' It doesn't matter if you're putting your house on the market or if you want a refresh of an existing space. We all tend to feel overwhelmed by clutter; it's what to do with it, how to tackle it. The biggie is where to start, and that usually equates to a four-letter word: 'help.' And I'm here to help."

**Do you have a junk drawer?** "I do. And I just cleaned it."—SR

PHOTO BY SCOTT BARROW

