## **Shopping for Wall-Mounted Shelves**

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Since wall-mounted shelves come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, some can offer as much sculptural appeal as the objects they are intended to hold.

When you need a little extra storage or display space, a weighty bookcase can sometimes be overkill. A wall-mounted shelf might do just as well, if all you want is a place to show off small accessories or stash a few novels — and it won't hog floor space or overwhelm a room.

"Wall-mounted shelves give the impression of lightness and floating in space," said the New York-based interior designer <u>Amy Lau</u>. "They take up less visual space, because they don't have backs."

Where do shelves like this work best? In the bedroom or a home office, to display personal collections, she suggested, or in the kitchen, to hold decorative dishes. In a powder room, you might use them as a place to put candles and perfume.

"You can even use one as a desk," Ms. Lau said, if the shelf is the right size and mounted at the proper height.

And because they come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, she pointed out, some floating shelves offer as much sculptural appeal as the objects they are intended to hold: "Whether it's slim, shiny, powder-coated or chunky, there are so many unique options."

- Will your wall support a loaded shelf? Ensuring that there are studs at the desired points of attachment, or blocking behind the drywall, is critical to preventing shelf sag and collapse, Ms. Lau said.
- How many do you need? "If you're looking at a larger system, consider the depth and height of the shelves," Ms. Lau said, "and whether they can be moved around."
- Are some materials better than others? Not necessarily and sometimes the unexpected is the best choice: "I've seen shelves made out of driftwood, Lucite, thick ceramic and cement," Ms. Lau said.



## Sliced Shelf

Concrete shelf with hidden mounting hardware | From \$99 at Lyon Beton: 011-33-474-079-791 or us.lyon-beton.com

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Climb Shelving System

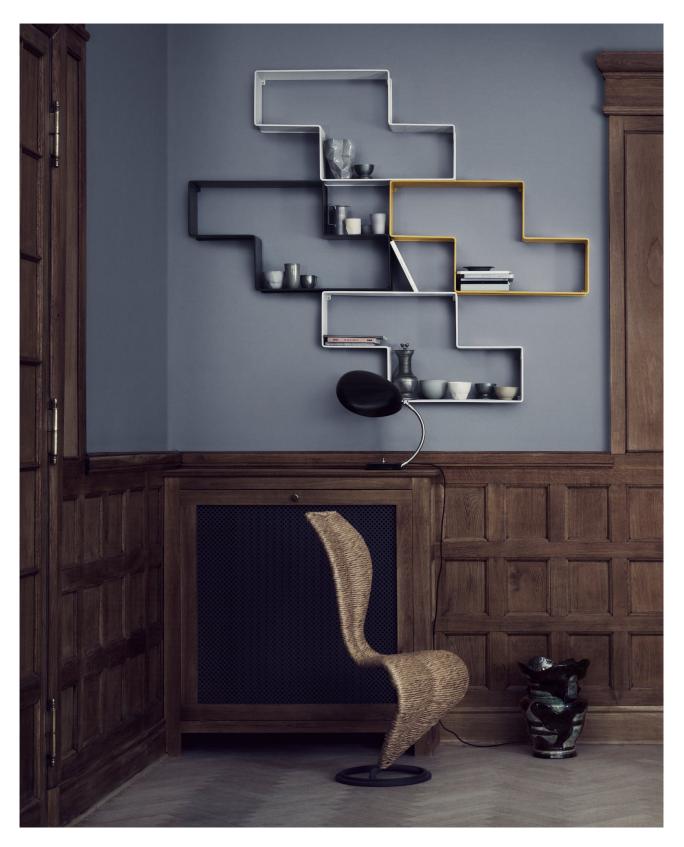
Zigzagging powder-coated wire-and-wood unit by Bashko Trybek for La Chance | From \$985 at A+R: 800-913-0071 or <a href="mailto:aplusrstore.com">aplusrstore.com</a>



## **Cubist Shelf**

Powder-coated metal shelf with beechwood planter by Erika Kovesdi | \$40 at Umbra: 800-387-5122 or <a href="mailto:umbra.com">umbra.com</a>

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**Dedal Bookshelf** 

Perforated metal shelf, for use alone or in multiples, by Mathieu Matégot for Gubi | About \$400 at Horne: 877-404-6763 or <a href="mailto:shophorne.com">shophorne.com</a>

Plastic shelves in various sizes and colors by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec | From \$80 each at Vitra: 212-463-5750 or <u>vitra.com</u>