A self-contained cabinet for housing components, including speakers, is this Italian Provincial model by Furniture Craftsmen, Comstock Park (Grand Rapids), Mich.

supporting system—today come in different sizes, woods, and shapes. Some have molded edges; others are prefitted with pieces at the ends to keep the stray bric-a-brac, books, and whatnot from falling off. Using shelves, one can treat as much of a wall as is desired. Like the audio components themselves, shelves make it possible for you to start with a basic system, which can be enlarged or modified later. And not to be overlooked is the fact that a shelf system lets you mix business with pleasure: you can use different-size shelves as well as the vertical spacing between them to hold components large and small, and to combine with them art works and books.

Placing components on shelves is easy enough, but how will it look? Those who have felt that an amplifier or tuner is unsightly should glance appraisingly at the latest models. For some time now, the audio manufacturers themselves have been setting the pace in interior design by making components attractive enough to sit out in the open. The old feeling that the component skeletons should be hidden in a box or closet is fading rapidly now that they come clad in walnut jackets, or in the sheen of brushed gold armor. Their styling has been helped by the coming of transistors: the components can now be more compact. Industrial designers—quick to take advantage of the aesthetic possibilities of solid-state tuners and amplifiers—have been creating a new look to go with the new technology. Chassis are sleeker, knobs and switches less obtrusive and more stylishly laid out, and even the fillip of colored indicator lights graces some control panels. Despite these appeals, many people still may feel that a component should be hidden, or at least dressed up if it is to sit on a shelf; for such folk there are small cabinets or wrap-arounds into which components can be placed, made to size by some component manufacturers as well as by cabinet-

This eleven-foot-long ensemble, for housing components, speakers, and TV was designed by Jack Beveniste for Barzilay of Gardena, California.

Versatile and attractive, this storage cabinet by Audio Originals has a lift-up top as well as doors hinged to open from the front.