

GET CUSTOM-LOOK MOLDINGS AT DIY PRICES P. 84

THE
ULTIMATE
GUY'S
HANGOUT
P. 93

This Old House

MARCH 2007

SECRETS OF

smart remodeling

- ▶ 33 inspired designs
- ▶ 10 surprising ways to save
- ▶ ...and 8 tips to survive it all

HOW TO:

Hang heavy pictures

Prune shrubs right

Care for wood counters

Create a kitchen office



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one hundred feet of sidewalk
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AUX BELLES DE CANCALE

At 100, 40 is a photographic series by Sasha Wolfson. The French Channel and Atlantic Coast coastline, cluttered with gillnet debris, Wolfson has made a home.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER

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From the outside, this 1880s farmhouse kept a modest profile inside it as a updated space with traditional charm.

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Recreation survival rule #1: Be nice to your friends, family, and neighbors. They feed you.



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Covers by photographer Susan Weiss
Styl by Matthew Martello



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YourSpace.



The eight-passenger Honda Pilot. For those who need more than a home page to feel at home, the Pilot's 244-hp engine, available heated leather seats and DVD Rear Entertainment System will give you a place to truly call your own.

The Pilot 

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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Tempest in a Tile Job

MY WIFE HAS BEEN HAVING ALCHEMIST

Believe me, brother, I'm as shocked as you are. All this time I thought we were partners, inseparable, as one, but no. Her house, alas, it has been under by a name European—a grey marble hemisphere tile. All the while I assumed we both had a dream: with a classic black-and-white basket weave. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Sally, that's the way it goes when you set up house in a house around a remodel jobbed, let's face it, is pretty much my house. You money people agree you start to take each other's notes for granted, you hear, I guess, what you want to know, and before you know it you've been turned into a cuckold by some smooth Italian impostor with a \$40-per-square-foot price tag, not including installation—or again:

Is our relationship strong enough to survive this humiliating development? I think it is, yes. Particularly if I give in. But the better question is, am I strong enough to survive the remodel itself? Living in a money pit, not having money to burn, it's definitely not easy. Of course people do manage. In fact, there's proof in due very time, on page 29 and 76 and 100 and, most significantly, at the house of Chris Dym and Rex Bagley, the area and more whose two-furly home is the just-completed subject of the current season's *The Old House* television program. You'll find the beautiful results—which include all different sorts of mose and tile—on page 112 along with something that I think is more important: eight pages of advice from the ladies on how they themselves survived.

Perhaps you can lend some advice to what they have to say. Edid. Sadly, not enough to give me the courage to climb out of that money pit I'm standing in. But, then, I'm a pessimist. And I know that if I don't live through this, it'll be far cheaper to get it done and let the contractor backfill on top of me than it would be to pay for a funeral. From when I hear, finally, easily, one to much as much as having books, including installation—and with the price tag

Scott O'Connell

SCOTT O'CONNELL
HOST



The above all-time, top-selling
the cost of installation

Am I strong enough to survive
the remodel? Living in a money pit,
not having money to burn,
it's definitely not easy.

75 With Chris and Rex's glass finished, the TGTV crew now moves on to Austin, Texas, to chronicle a family's environmentally friendly remodel. You can check out a preview of the project on page 43 and watch its progress on your local PBS channel this month.

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mail



Wasp Warning

In your column on 10 Uses for Spray Foam (Around the House December), one suggestion was when we built a hive in our wall to spray merchandise through their entry and seal it shut with the spray foam. About eight years ago, we discovered a wasp hive in our wall. My husband, who is very handy and creative, decided to get rid of the hive just the way I grew up in a small town in Illinois (he is from Chicago) and something bothered me about his plan but I could not think why. After he sprayed the hole with waspicide and sealed it with the spray foam, I never heard the problem—thousands of wasps inside! He had them pouring into our 10-year-old house from behind a bath. In fact, the previous owners had installed. Because of this incident, the wasps were dying all over the place. This went on for days, and I found dead ones in the house for months afterward. With three small children, it also became dangerous. I would not wish any one before using this suggestion.

TERESA LEE HUNTINGTON, AL

Oscillating Tool System

For TV host Ken D. Connor's request under "All Work for Christmas" (Ask The Old House December) I wrote "One of our power tools is an oscillating tool. It's a cutting tool. It's just what I need for some of the work on my floor and trim."

How to reach us

USE LETTERS

Write to: The Old House Magazine, 255 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10014. E-mail: letters@oldhouse.com. Please include your full name, address, and daytime address. Please include return address for clarity and length of time. Send to: The Editor, The Old House Magazine, 255 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

When you recommend your favorite product, include the name, the company name, the address, and the phone number.

BACK ISSUES

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What tool is it, and where can you get it? It sounds like something we are looking for! STERLING@EMAIL

The editors reply: The oscillating tool system Ken craved is the Fen MultiMaster by Fen Power Tools. 800-446-9838; fenusa.com

Save This Marriage

Please, leaving subscription to your magazine and give me back my husband! Okay, yes, I know I sound unreasonable, but my husband spends almost every spare minute "brooding." He is never building our relationship on our wedding day, perfection on the day our daughter's wedding is just the kitchen. Memorial Day weekend, built ducts to the furnace this past Thanksgiving Day. Every weekend, every vacation day, even sick days are dedicated to projects.

I have tried to turn him back to the family by helping with projects, by boycotting projects by staying home, by cooking, by making extravagant meals, by boycotting cooking, by Victoria's Secret, by boycotting, by begging, by yelling, by planning family outings, and by explaining that our daughter needs his attention. Nothing works.

I am sure if my husband's heart is made more soft, and I am grateful that he works so hard to make a lovely place for our family. But I'm tired of trying to get him out of the house, and he's not a "project" and not an interruption.

Please advise both me and my husband.

DEBORAH

The editors reply: Perhaps we should throw the envelope at the wisdom of our readers. Share your insights with "Lately in Life" by going to oldhouse.com/letters. ■



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¹ *Agave* in flower, 1991/2002, 100% decline in 'Available' 10 city to 30 highway, 199 and 1995 and 1995. Study focused on drinking water and electricity. (Agave and 1995) is a separate, previously published, analysis of the same data. For more information about the study, contact the author by e-mail.

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around the HOUSE

This month is 1988 marks the first use of daylight saving time, mandated by an act of Congress. This year, spring forward the second Sunday in March.

Park Proud

Trailers are old housing stock, too—and apparently worth preserving

All 200,000 are an absolute gem, and no one here at The Old House had a clue that the 1976 machine house would come to this. Yet the old toolshed did have sympathetic friends in a group of civic-minded architects from the University of Colorado at Boulder. The faculty and a mass of students devised a way to recycle the oxidized ironwork floor plate—and some parts—for a new type of affordable house. Their model may help make-it-yourself homeowners who are unable to leave anything but the nation's borders (for that is no longer for do-it-yourselfers' concerns).

The process, called *Trade Winds*, started with a donated 1965 Fiat car, primarily because it's a type several middle American small towns still own. The crew salvaged its chassis and frame, then, as a rustic lodge budget of \$32,000, wrapped the base in a metal of tinaco on its 10- and 11-ft-long, utility-grade oak frames. Rattling the 7-foot motor and then slapping it as high as 12 ft on one side allowed for maximum rotation, the addition of a chimney, and a hefty interior. A car about half as long as it is now for able to seek diverse events for touring groups thanks to "less linear" and old-chicago houses.

Michael Hughes, former owner of the car, says the car was "a real find" who led the way. The *Trade Winds* is now on the road. With 3,000 mobile homes and a stretched city and the median price for a detached home around half a million, it's becoming clear that what is also a beautiful — leaving their feet



This 1081 boiler was located for the landfill with University of Colorado students working to demonstrate a new experimental type of affordable housing.



SPEAKING OF TRAILER HOMES...



BOAM IF YOU WANT TO
Copeless means Europe as early as the 1960s pioneered the twin-boom model.



REAL HORSEPOWER
Thoroughbred owners around America's four leading racetracks—1870s racetrack centers in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, rosters in Maryland and Kentucky take



HOME AND ON-THE-RANGE
Trailer parks residents seek more often than conventional single-family homeowners, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Is a Green Demo Within Your Means?

THE KEY ON WHETHER HANGPICKING OR THE WRECKING BALL IS THE WAY TO GO

THERE'S PRESERVATIONIST POWER IN DECONSTRUCTION—the process in which you strip the wrecking ball and handpick a house apart millwork, doors, windows, and the kitchen sink, all intact. Last fall, we posed its virtues in a feature New Orleans magazine (October 2006, “Recycling Katrina’s Ruins”), which might’ve left you wondering if the method could also work for you. So here’s the scoop: Yes, it’s environmentally to divert salvagable materials from landfills. Yes, selling or donating these items makes credit hours piling up to cart them to the dump. But the extra time it may take equals money.

Consider your circumstances before going green. Both your schedule and the specific style and age of your house affect the timeline you can expect. For instance, deconstruction can take up to two or three times longer than regular demolition. A family with kids taking down a 3,000-square-foot house to rebuild on the same lot, for example, may not be able to wait very long for a place to stay. “It could demolish it in a day or deconstruct it, which takes about two weeks,” explains Dennis Kozak, senior manager for Dallas Contracting Company in South Plainfield, New Jersey. “If you have time, great. But sometimes you don’t have that luxury.” Time is also a factor in saving savings paid to deconstruction, which always come on the back end of a project in the form of tax credit for donated items or cash back on the sale of salvaged. That’s when the style and age of your abode matter. If there isn’t a strong demand for your salvage, you won’t recoup the costs of stripping it so carefully. Dismantle elements are period-original windows, doors, and moldings, as well as owner up-to-code basics such as storm windows and electrical fixtures.

Ultimately, “if you can only afford deconstructing 7 to 10 percent, and the rest is cash-out-back,” says K. C. Kunkelmeier, owner of Second Chance Deconstruction, “at best, by golly, you’ve saved that 7 to 10 percent.” By golly, we think he’s right. For a more personal analysis, visit deconstructionist.com. —NANCY ROSENZWEIG



DIYER'S QUIZ
The reciprocating saw has closely rivaled. Modern adaptations also through everything from wrecked water to Thanksgiving turkeys. But prior to the first Milwaukee Electric Tool Company power tools, electric Sawzall®—a trade name for hand saws and rock-solid blower in rough through life, steel, and more!
What did the Sawzall cut out the moment competitors?

A 2006 E 2009 C 1992 D 2012

(Don't forget to check out page 102)



10
USES

Dental Floss

Nine out of 10 dentists recommend it. It's everything female strength and the best that it comes in Teflon mean. Floss whisks bits of root canal applications. Literally millions of miles of it are sold annually and not every inch is destined to save those pearly whites. Here's what else you can do with it. —KARL LECHE

Use It To:

1. **Test your flosser.** This Old House general contractor Tom Silva likes to hang jacks with it instead of old chain wire, which can tear and paint.

2. **Save something.** Tie it with both hands. Eagle brand and real Duffin brand floss is made with an eye large enough for the winging it.

3. **Seal connections.** Tom Silva has also used it instead of Teflon tape to block leaky pipe around joints that screw into place. It just winds in length around the fitting's threads half a dozen times before screwing it in.

4. **Roll traps.** Whipping one ends with both is called whipping and stops unweaving.

5. **Protect kids.** Remove the guide and empty spool, and the container itself can make a mother's time too.

6. **The down breaker.** The loops actually hold.

7. **Replace a broken shackle.**

8. **Float tools.** The linked end works best to connect between equipment parts.

9. **Repair wood.** A length of floss stretched tight, rubbed in place, and then coated into light coats like fissures with adhesive.

10. **Hang it all.** It is a clothesline for bedding, towels, and, as TCM reader and dental hygienist Lee Anne learned, and green is an invisible network for natural garlands.

Hum to the tune of recycling.



Even the smallest of electronic devices can be recycled. Recycling is a way to give old electronics a new life. Recycle your old electronics at a recycling center. Check the rechargeable batteries in your cordless power tools, camcorders, cordless and cellular phones, laptop computers, digital cameras and two-way radios. If they no longer hold a charge, recycle them by visiting one of many collection sites nationwide, including those listed below. For a complete list of rechargeable battery drop-off locations, visit www.call2recycle.org or call toll free 877-2-RECYCLE.

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For more information, visit www.hillside.org. #KTH-PROUD

toys, plate-glass storefronts, be torn its gutted old bones, a built when Italian immigrants, and its suppliers—until now. But the town has preserved Illinois Central railroad depot, now a key to the local future—

6

G. 2550 Core increases won't be the only reason the Standard became a toll-free single. That first model could survive a 4-foot drop onto concrete today, specialized blades can also cut clean through it.

[illegible]

What do you want your floor to be?

Shaw

William David Young, *Author*

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ADV-AIR

How to use ADV-AIR to make your home more energy efficient

What is the ADV-AIR program and how does it work?
ADV-AIR is a free, voluntary program that allows homeowners to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes. ADV-AIR is a free, voluntary program that allows homeowners to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

What are the ADV-AIR program goals?
The ADV-AIR program has three main goals: to help homeowners reduce their energy bills, to improve the comfort of their homes, and to reduce their carbon footprint. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

How does the ADV-AIR program work?
The ADV-AIR program works by providing homeowners with a list of energy-efficient improvements that they can make to their homes. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

What are the ADV-AIR program benefits?
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How can I participate in the ADV-AIR program?
To participate in the ADV-AIR program, homeowners need to contact their local ADV-AIR office. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

What are the ADV-AIR program requirements?
The ADV-AIR program has several requirements for homeowners. They must be the owner of the home, and the home must be a single-family residence. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

What are the ADV-AIR program restrictions?
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What are the ADV-AIR program incentives?
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What are the ADV-AIR program contact information?
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What are the ADV-AIR program terms and conditions?
The ADV-AIR program has several terms and conditions that homeowners must agree to. They must agree to the program's goals, requirements, and restrictions. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

What are the ADV-AIR program disclaimers?
The ADV-AIR program is not responsible for any damages or injuries that may occur as a result of participating in the program. The program is designed to help homeowners reduce their energy bills and improve the comfort of their homes.

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What are the ADV-AIR program contact information?
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KITCHEN DESIGN



BEFORE: The old kitchen's Southwest look was not quite 1980s-era. The white subway tile backsplash hid the wall's uneven look-up and down space along the ceiling wall. After the renovation, the new space features the wall by 2 feet, added for the extra storage cabinets hanging it.



PROBLEM:
A serious cook's kitchen needed more storage, sizzle, and style for hosting frequent dinners

SOLUTION:
Add pantry space, lots of burners, and a timeless design. Here's how»

WHEN COOKING IS MORE LOVE THAN LABOR, the kitchen often becomes party central. That was the case for the St. Louis couple who remodeled this space—twice—to give the husband a suitable place to build his culinary skills. The first redo yielded a workable 11-by-30-foot galley. But now that he had plenty of prep space, the amateur chef decided the look of stock counter tops, cabinets, and appliances was out of step with the four-course dinners he routinely prepares for his gourmet eating club. More storage space, a pro-grade range, and a handsome environment for both cooking and entertaining were all on the shopping list—plus another space: reconfiguring remodeled wood. Luckily, kitchen designer Gregory Evans knew just how to boost storage while keeping the basic layout intact. He doubled the size of the pantry by breaking through an adjacent broom closet to create a 3-by-10-foot walk-in pantry. He placed custom cherry cabinets along the walls and installed two pot racks with Arts and Crafts-style cherry arms, all custom-made with adjustable shelves of varying depths. After narrowing the over-the-range vent opening, he wrapped it with even more cherry. The chef's reaction to the overhaul? Dinner guests can't visit often enough.

BY SALLIE BRADY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALICE D. BROWN

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The architecture may be from the 1930s at the new *The Old House* television project in Austin, Texas, but the energy source will be very 21st century. BP is proud to have provided solar panels to the renovation, helping to make it the program's first green house ever. The move to clean, renewable solar energy is growing. In fact, we recently announced a \$70 million expansion of our manufacturing capacity at our solar plant in Maryland. So don't be surprised to see your neighbors turn green. It's a start.



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LUXURIES



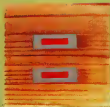
Pull Yourself Together

» Add new life to cabinets with handle-style pulls that won't put the squeeze on your fingers or your pocketbook

BY KELLY BEAMAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MERTIS DA COSTA

STYLUS PERLIN CAN PULL UP old cabinets and lend a custom look to new ones. They're still the easy way to transform a room without drawing a wallbuck. So what are you waiting for? Perhaps a shopping list of the latest options. Well, here it is.

The newest designs include candy-colored handles that imitate dish lemons, oil-rubbed finishes that downplay wood's knots and flaws, and updated rivets on stainless steel and nickel that screen hardware even though they're not all the hardware's face. Now go out and pull that New York kitchen into the 21st century. OK, maybe midway down the aisle. But you might even swoon at your first close road cabinet while you score up a little more for the big kids.



SASSY UP Needs, that's a genuine leather to the rescue. Vintage cabinet handles and pulls. The combination of color and texture can give the profile an eye-popping effect. Prices as low as \$10 each for stainless steel. www.sassysdesign.com

SLATE OVER Recycled granite, oil-finished lacquer actually make new cabinets. \$24.90 each. www.slate.com



SWITCHED TO FASHION The lovely cabinet look is recycled glass, which the maker is proud for the environment but not saved for the kitchen. When it comes to saved up to kitchen closets. Clear up your home office with these instead. Prices from \$49-\$75 each. www.splendid.com



2 | Heights and Clearances

Tobes and I like one standard height, around 35 inches. But most bathtubs these days are available as a "comfort" version, about 18 inches to the top of the seat, which many people find easier to use. If you have multiple bathtubs, it's a good idea to have at least one tub at each height. In new construction, you can opt for a wall-hung model, which lets you choose the height that's right for you.

Don't waste space for clear space around the tubs—a maximum of 30 inches is fine on one side of the fixture. That's one clearance I like to typically allow. When I often do a plan a furniture piece for the tub area, which can serve as storage for now and be easily removed if you need the maximizing space later. It's also a good idea to add reinforcement in the form of standard blocking as, better yet, it's built plywood behind the wallboard in the tub area, that way, you can install grab bars when and where you wish.

Speaking of planning ahead, you may also want to include an electrical outlet in this area. Toilet bars get a lot more sophisticated, with heated seats, self-cleaning mechanisms, and personal hygiene systems that can be integrated into the fixture. You may not choose these features now, but if you include an outlet in the vicinity of the toilet, you'll have the option of adding them later.

3 | Vanities and Lighting

Many of today's rural-style sinks lend themselves to designs that incorporate open-lace space below, as an aesthetically pleasing choice now that may become a necessity as we age. In a master suite with two separate vanities, I often vary the heights, which creates options for stand or standing use. Make sure you include sufficient storage and work surface around the vanity, including multiple outlets for the variety of appliances, like heated towel racks, hair dryers, and curlers with drying pens. Lighting in this area is critical. Reflectance given by shower fixtures that control or diffuse the light source, and place them so that the mirror is evenly lit, ideally with fixtures on either side of the head.

4 | Tub and Shower Areas

There's often a battle for space between the tub and shower areas, and you should make every effort to separate the two. To anyone infirm, particularly during transfer into and out of the tub or shower, start with a place to sit. I recommend an extended deck around the tub and a seat in the shower that is at least 15 inches deep and 24 inches wide, with a standard seat height of 18 inches. A hand-held spray wand and showering stool, and a separate control valve eliminate the risk of burns from scalding water.

Water flows always pose a slipping hazard, and while no flooring is "slip-proof," there are some things you can do to reduce the risk. Use maximum slip resistance, choose non-slip or memory foam mats over high-gloss, and install rails either on the larger, or the great can help make the floor more secure. Above all, make sure there are supports or grab bars where you need them, or at least extra reinforcement so you can install them later on. A word on grab bars. They aren't high-replacement. Many of our clients have had bad falls and injuries, like Ginger and I had, an amazing grab bar to reinforce with their feet, so you don't have to sacrifice style for safety. ■



VANITY AREA
Open lower space under the sink allows room for someone in a wheelchair. Ample storage within reach assures that as time is very for someone it's needed.

SHOWERSTALL
The shower like a hand held spray wand to seat and it's typically placed grab bars make this shower stall more convenient for anyone, not just those with mobility issues.



GOT A QUESTION FOR AN ARCHITECT?

Each month either column or architect will answer a reader's question. Designers, please email your questions to askthearchitect@nkb.org or write to the Architectural Institute of the National Kitchen & Bath Association, 2700 River Street, Suite 1000, New York, NY 10006. If your question is selected, the answer will appear in upcoming issue. Don't forget to email askthearchitect@nkb.org for more information.

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GREEN HOUSE



Homeowners Michelle Gresham and Michael Kludt with Minnesota sons, Clark and Sam. In front of the new *This Old House* TV project, a green remodel in Austin, Texas.

FROM THE FOX TV JOB SITE

Planning a Green Remodel

» Tackling any redo is difficult, but making it an eco-friendly one adds to the challenge. Here are some lessons learned from FOX TV's newest project

BY KEITH FRANKOLT PHOTOGRAPH BY KERRY ORSON

NEWSPEDS MICHELLE GRESHAM AND MICHAEL KLUDT's first priority in planning the renovation of Michelle's two-bedroom, one-bath house was to create enough room for themselves and Michael's two sons to live together comfortably. But creating a close second was determining how to make it a green project, taking into account healthy living, sustainable architecture, and responsible use of materials.

Lucky for them, there are few better places to go green than Austin, Texas, the location of their 1920s Craftsman bungalow, which is also *This Old House* TV's current project house. The city has the oldest green building program in the country, so green architects and contractors are plentiful. Plus, there are lots of incentives from the local utility company, an abundance of green building supplies, and a free car-pooling system to help boost taxpayers' net goals.

Of course, not every homeowner wanting to get a green renovation off the ground will have such a rich support system. Still, Michelle and Michael's experience offers many remodelers needs to deal with. Here are five things to keep in mind when planning yours.



1 Think realistically about square footages. Consider how much space you really need, not just how much you want. After all, truly eco-friendly means using as few new materials, and creating as little waste, as possible. "A lot of people think their house has to be big enough for a Super Bowl party, even if they'll never use the space except for their own eyes," says Michele. To add just two small bedrooms, a second bathroom, and a modest study/library, she and Michael chose to bump up the size, raising the roof by a mere 6 feet and leaving the house's footprint intact.

Adding unnecessary square footage doesn't just result in the excessive use and disposal of building materials—you also have to factor in the extra heating, air-conditioning, electricity, and furniture you'll need to service the living space. If you can't give up certain amenities, let rooms do double duty—a laundry area that's a bio-pantry, say, or a home office that converts to a guest room.

2 Search out like-minded pros. Since residential green architecture and building is a fairly new concept, finding you who walk the walk can be a challenge. From green-savvy Michele and Michael followed an indirect route while assembling their team: "The couple had already met with several architects when Michael called David Webber, who had designed Michael's office building, as a role for referrals. Turned out Webber himself had loads of residential experience and was a member of the local green building program. He met with the couple and won them over by sketching exactly what they wanted in 30 seconds. "Every other architect just

ABOVE LEFT: Austin Texas general contractor Timmons and KCM master carpenter Warren Moore take a break from fitting British sheetrock into a house. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Michele and Michael meet with architect David Webber (center) to choose window treatments for their new master bedroom.

pointed to the green jobs they'd done," says Michele, "but this showed us he had a vision in line with our thinking."

If you don't live in a place brimming with green pros, you can find architects and builders accredited in Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that certifies green buildings, usgbc.org. Also, websites such as green.com and moderngreenliving.com provide extensive directories of green builders, designers, and contractors, including their credentials and a bioresume.

Michael had the right instinct—referrals are always a good way to find building pros. But you can also try contacting the closest green building organization, even if it's far away, to see if they know of someone in your area. Or find a green house tour in your region, where the pros are often on hand. It was during one such tour that Michele met Bill Moore, a general contractor who is a veritable rock star in the Austin green community. "Getting Bill was the defining moment, because he has a reputation for high-quality work and design sensitivity," says Michele. "While Moore has decades of green building experience, you might end up with someone who's eager to learn and get a green project under his belt—or who's at least open to new ideas."

3 Do your research. It's important to approach green projects armed with as much knowledge about your team and materials as possible. If your pros are seasoned

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LANDSCAPING



Hedging Your Best

A shrub border can enhance your property—if you keep it in top shape. Here, expert advice on maintaining a living fence

—JENNIFER KALLIS

TIP

When shearing or pruning, try to cut a hedge to the same height as the last time you sheared it. If you're not sure, ask a professional for advice. Or try to cut the hedge to the same height as the last time you sheared it. If you're not sure, ask a professional for advice.

LEDGY WOODY SCRAMBLY SPINDLY yellowish, unkept, and unsightly. No, it's not still call for the cut of some doozy person fairy story. If you're like most people, it's the perfect description for that sad-looking hedge bordering your yard.

Rows of badly planted shrubs can be a headache way to define borders and boundary lines, keep children and pets on your side, and give birds shelter and even food. But like all shrubs, hedges need regular watering, feeding, and pruning to look their best. Though folks may forget to give such a good shrub the weather or gardening it needs, a good hedge is a good hedge. The last area is where most of us really live. "A lot of people are intimidated by pruning, but it's a natural expense and maintenance," says Tim O'Brien, landscape contractor Roger Cook. "You just have to learn a few tricks."

Here are some expert tips for common mistakes when it comes to hedge planting:

MISTAKE 1 | Shearing hedges without hand-pruning them

Using shears—whether hand-held pruners with long scissors blades or a power trimmer—to take off branch tips keeps hedges neat and tidy, and also removes bad production near the plant's edges. But as buds multiply, a hedge can get so thick that sunlight can't penetrate it, preventing canopy growth. The result is a hedge that gets larger each year and looks like a wall of dead wood. Proper pruning allows some sunlight to get in and use the you-to-cut back shrubs so they don't get too big.

To do each shearing, be sure to use bypass hand pruners to create some space in the hedge for light and air. Every few feet, reach inside and clip a branch or two at a 45-degree angle, just above a where leaflet don't grow in a direction you want to encourage.

If a hedge is old and seriously overgrown, you'll need to do some rejuvenation pruning using

MISTAKE 1 | Want to trim the tips of a hedge? While pine will keep ever in its overall size, **RIGHT** Roger Cook uses a grower's technique to narrow this hedge's V shape (photo: Roger Cook)



the three-year rule. Remove up to one-third of the thickest stems down at the base of the plant, stimulating new growth, says the next year and the year after. This will keep you with a bush that shrinks then's natural size.

MISTAKE 2 | Pruning at the wrong time

Mostly, hedges should be pruned in late winter, when plants are dormant and haven't produced buds—particularly if you're cutting back drastically. "The ideal time to trim hedges is before you grow because you want the plant's energy to go toward producing new growth where you want it," says Roger. "If you trim off a plant's buds, you're cutting off your energy, so it will take longer for the hedge to fill out."

Evergreens, in particular, require pruning early in the season, because they're generally slower-growing, they're likely to be bare (where color can have been made), and off-color at the tips (too yellow) as new growth starts to show, will also in the summer. Fast-growing deciduous hedge plants such as privet, spirea, and viburnum are more forgiving. With flowering shrubs, the golden rule of pruning is to wait until the day after bloom has begun—that way the plant will have time to set buds for next year, whether it blooms on the current season's wood or the next.

MISTAKE 3 | Not shaping a hedge so the top is narrower than the bottom

Left alone, most hedges will start to widen at the top, where they receive the most sunlight



The result is a V shape that shades out lower branches so they produce less and less foliage. "You want to turn that V upside down," says Roger. A sheared hedge should always be wider at the bottom and narrower at the top, whether that top is flat, pointed, or rounded. When shearing, start at the bottom and working toward the top. For shearing precision cutting, you do a diagonal, a strong line between either to narrow or even line along the top, but Roger prefers to rely on his eye for correct natural look.

Remember that once you have cut the top of a plant, it is more prone to some damage (broken branches) because it won't stand now as readily. Tall hedges benefit from being cut up for winter—just be sure to use rope or chain lock (plastic tree girdling material) rather than bare-corded wire, which can gnaw the trunk if left on too long.

Prune hedges to be narrower at the top



and wider at the base

MISTAKE 4 | Trying to maintain shrubs that are too tall or too wide for their space

If you're starting from scratch, choose plants that lend themselves to making a hedge, meaning they naturally grow upright and tight—the words "columnar" or "formal" in the name indicate that kind of growing habit. For formal hedges, these shrubs will also need to be sheared and frequent pruning, like privet, and boxwood. Generally, a hedge needs a minimum of 3 feet in width. When it comes to height, keeping your

hedge at about eye level will make maintenance easier; otherwise, be prepared to climb a ladder to get at the upper reaches.

The best choice is to figure out how high you want your hedge to be before you plant. "Research the habit of any plant you want in hedges," says Roger. "Then choose a variety that won't overgrow your space. Otherwise you'll be fighting an uphill battle trying to cut the hedge down to size."

Good choices for hedges, more narrowly shaped evergreen hedges that require minimal pruning include yew, arbutus, camellia, and cedar, juniper, cypress, holly, hawthorn, white pine, and some varieties of holly. While four-season foliage isn't needed, you might consider seasonal hedges of flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac, hydrangea, rose of Sharon, crape myrtle, or magnolia.

MISTAKE 5 | Growing a hedge when you really need a screen planting

Don't expect a hedge to provide a lot of privacy or to block an unwanted view. Hedges are generally maintained at 6 to 8 feet high, privacy plantings can reach 30 feet. In general, screen plantings are much wider, made up of a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, and perennials for a natural look. "Let a hedge be a hedge—an attractive shrub border that underpins your yard and softens the landscape," says Roger. "If privacy's what you're after, start looking at big trees." ■

Looking to landscape for privacy? Find out how to turn your yard into a natural screen. <http://www.thespruce.com/landscaping>



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- Prepare your car for different seasons and changes in the weather. Take a look at our Experts' Checklist of Seasonal Maintenance Practices for your high-mileage vehicle, available on our website.
- Check your fluids regularly. It's dangerous for your high-mileage car to get dehydrated. Perform a quick visual check, using the dipstick to check the oil level. A quick glance at the coolant reservoir will let you know if you need more cooling fluid.



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You've Bought the House, Now Read the Book

» 10 must-own tomes for any serious homeowner

BY MARK COHEN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY POLLY RIGBY



LIKE A WELL-USED TOOL, a good book should show signs of wear. That's especially true of books that tend to the joys of home ownership. Dog-eared chapters flagged with Post-its are dead giveaways that a volume has earned its place on the worktable (or at least the bedside table). Of the hundreds of books for and about improving, repairing, finishing, maintaining, outfitting, and surviving a house, the following are 10 every homeowner really should own. So hit the bookstore and start creating your own home reference library. Then start making a list.

1 RENOVATING OLD HOUSES BY GORDON HADZICHAKIS

For the in-depth nitty-gritty of home restoration, nothing compares to this newly revised 1993 favorite. Written by a veteran restoration contractor and educator with a refreshingly liberal attitude toward historical purity (trash replacement windows are okay), it covers the gamut from engineering a roof to lifting the ridge beam. The result: A highly evolved form of DIY literature that will keep you engaged for hours, almost without you'd notice on a more challenging fast-upper.

Most surprising fact: The crude, wood-scented texture of "authentic" early colonial and European plasterwork was likely the result of 17th- and 18th-century decorators who couldn't afford to pay a professional to do it right, i.e., smoothly.

2 THE NEW COLOR BOOK (CHRONICLE BOOKS)

Think of this as a flip book for grown-ups: The pages are color-coordinated into three strips—showing photographs of floors, walls, and ceilings—that allow you to flip back and forth and try out different color combos in living rooms and bedrooms. Offering a contemporary and traditional finishing options for

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Clever new tools take on a familiar task: the turn of the screw.

BY HARRY SAWYERS PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN

SCREWDRIVERS ARE SAWYERS. Unlike their box-carriage ancestors by the superior screw-driving forces of power tools, they're adapted and evolved into one of the most common tools in the toolbox. Close are the days when you needed a dozen drivers for a job now all your best friends of different sizes fit on (and drive into) within a single, slender handle. Reaching any screw needs all leverage, leverage. Even traditional one-piece screwdrivers, designed to opening paint cans or chiseling one nail, have evolved into sleeker tools, with machined steel tips and easily ergonomic grips. Yet they still have the promise to tighten delicate, delicate or screws and the power to kill your soul when you're using these screws to hold two hands in a way that will not hold until the fingers are sufficiently crushed. There's no more, no need, and no chance the fingers will die. Come to think of it, there's no chance the screwdriver ever will either.



This little parking, auto-steering, no-mindset wonder fits in-between a motorcycle's outboard gas and engine and a car's engine. Extending the handle's fixed RJ edge, the device folds within an error and to engage the handle to lead it. It pushes the bike with unmatched speed, letting you quickly take on streets with no vehicle class and chaos. It's in a striking specialized screen: removes the driver's clear plastic screen (and it's in easily changed and fits. [330.com/tech.com](http://www.330.com/tech.com))

Get this driver to "Speed Mode" and instant gains in the hit/kill times for every turn of the handle. The 43 resolution rate is the low-boost turning the recharging drive also looks like a standard 121 mode for when you need to hear them. A two-level magnetic in the handle looks right into the head easily pop in and out of the magnetic tip 121-121.com

[illegible]

This 4 1/2-inch effort driver is able to reach screws in close quarters, thanks to a magnetized bit holder that's not perpendicular to the handle. (Think of it: screw 90 degrees both ways and includes 10 bits, which come in a separate magazine. Chisels.com.)

There's a guide to movies, many
books, records, and tapes.
There's literature, a complete directory

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LEVITRA 1.2

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine used to treat erectile dysfunction (ED) in men. It is used to help men get and keep an erection firm enough to have sex. It is not a cure for ED. It is not a hormone therapy. It is not a treatment for prostate cancer or other prostate problems. It is not a treatment for heart disease or other heart problems. It is not a treatment for high blood pressure or other blood pressure problems. It is not a treatment for diabetes or other diabetes problems. It is not a treatment for kidney disease or other kidney problems. It is not a treatment for liver disease or other liver problems. It is not a treatment for lung disease or other lung problems. It is not a treatment for stomach disease or other stomach problems. It is not a treatment for intestines disease or other intestines problems. It is not a treatment for bladder disease or other bladder problems. It is not a treatment for urinary tract disease or other urinary tract problems. It is not a treatment for reproductive system disease or other reproductive system problems. It is not a treatment for any other disease or condition.

Important information about LEVITRA and other medicines:
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are taking nitrates (heart medicines) or have taken nitrates in the last 24 hours. This combination can cause a sudden drop in blood pressure, which can be fatal.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are taking alpha-blockers (used to treat high blood pressure or prostate problems) or have taken alpha-blockers in the last 24 hours. This combination can cause dizziness or fainting.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are taking antifungal medicines (used to treat fungal infections) or have taken antifungal medicines in the last 24 hours. This combination can cause liver problems.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are taking blood thinning medicines (used to prevent blood clots) or have taken blood thinning medicines in the last 24 hours. This combination can cause bleeding.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are taking grapefruit juice or have taken grapefruit juice in the last 24 hours. This combination can increase the effects of LEVITRA.

How to take LEVITRA:
 • Take LEVITRA as directed by your doctor. Do not take more than one tablet at a time.
 • Take LEVITRA with or without food.
 • Do not take LEVITRA more often than every 24 hours.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are allergic to vardenafil or any of the ingredients in LEVITRA.
 • Do not take LEVITRA if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Side effects of LEVITRA:
 • Common side effects include headache, flushing, indigestion, dizziness, and nasal congestion.
 • Serious side effects include sudden vision loss, sudden hearing loss, and priapism (a painful erection that lasts more than 4 hours).
 • Tell your doctor if you experience any side effects.

Warnings:
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A Humane Society Starts with You



LEVITRA 1.2
 (vardenafil hydrochloride) (cimetidine HCl) Tablets

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This Old House blueprint

Advertiser Events, Promotions, Product News, Etc.

This Old House East Boston Project, Fall 2005



From left: Tom Sullivan, President of Levitt's Levitts, and other staff members. Tom Sullivan, President of Levitt's Levitts, and other staff members. Tom Sullivan, President of Levitt's Levitts, and other staff members.



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HOMEOWNER'S
HANDBOOK
WEEKEND
PROJECT SERIES

Installing a Medicine Cabinet

BY HARRY SANDERS PHOTOGRAPHY BY KOLIN SMITH



THE TOOTH BRUSHES ON the sides, the hand brush in the soap dish, and every bottle cleaning the puddles around the sink has a little medicine-cabinet marking on top. Your morning ritual would feel so much less chaotic if all those talismans and bottles were lined up neatly in rows on the shelves of a medicine cabinet. Better yet, make it a recessed model, which tucks securely and discreetly into the wall cavity, and you won't even hit your head when you lean over to splash your face on a sleepy morning.

As *The Old House* technical editor Mark Flowers shows on the following pages, you can install your own cabinet in no time—no. Most cases, presumably, you just cut a hole in the wall and create a second frame into which the cabinet slides. Then you'll upgrade with a beautiful new mirror and storage space—while keeping a healthy separation between toothbrush and toilet.

COST

About \$200 to \$400, depending on style

TIME

4 hours

DIFFICULTY

Medium: If you can accurately cut drywall and cover wall repairs, you can knock out the job in an afternoon

Close Recessed Medicine Cabinet, from Pottery Barn, \$229; potterybarn.com

TOOLS FOR THIS PROJECT

STAP PAPER UTILITY KNIFE
Scissors

KEYHOLE Saw to cut, straight to wall
FLASHLIGHT

WIRELESS DRILL to cut drywall screws
PAPERKNIFE to cut studs
8-32x1-1/2 In. lag bolt
drywall-screws 1/2 In.
DRI/DRIVE

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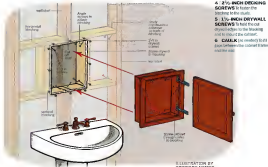
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1

Inspect



4

Install the blocking

Measure and cut the blocking. Slide a horizontal section of 2x4 into the opening. Hold it level with its end against the new stud wall inside the wall. Mark where it meets the cut stud. Saw it to fit length. Cut the three more pieces of blocking in this manner, install around the cut stud, top and bottom.

To attach a piece of blocking, put construction adhesive on both ends and place it so it fits between the studs. Push with the edge of the opening. Hold in place by fastening the cut edges of the wallboard to the drywall screws. Then drive decking screws at an angle through the blocking and into the studs in both ends (LEFT). Install the other three pieces of horizontal blocking in the same manner.

Cut two more pieces of blocking to fit along the vertical edges of the opening. Place the two pieces between the horizontal blocking, and attach them with angled decking screws.

TIP To screw at an angle, start the screw off straight for a few turns. Then tilt the drill driver and screw and slowly spin driving it in.

5

Mount the cabinet

Fill the cabinet inside the blocking and press all the edges of it into the new fastened wall. Drive three wall screws through the holes in the side of the cabinet and into the blocking (RIGHT).

Necessary work around the edge of the cabinet to hide irregularities in the wall.



Assemble the rest of the cabinet

Reattach the cabinet door making sure not to bend the hinge (LEFT). Adjust any hardware. Install the shelves, and place the cabinet.



buying guide

Medicine cabinets appeared around the same time as plumbing, and some wood styles haven't changed much since then. Others, with vibrant colors and waterproof finishes, fit nicely in a modern bath. Here are a few fetching options that span the range of styles.



PICTURE FRAME
Silver Frame Cabinet, from
Rustic: \$250/rustic.com



OLD FASHION RESEARCH
Beach Glass, from
Restoration Hardware: \$235,
restorationhardware.com



BOXING
Cabinet Blue part of the Color
collection, from Rustic
Pewee: \$335/rustic.com



CLASSIC DESIGN
Carlingford, from Restoration
Hardware: \$225,
restorationhardware.com



SIMPLE OVAL
Leighlin, from Rustic: from
Rustic: \$150/rustic.com



VIDEO ACCENTS
Framed Mirrors in Cherry,
from Rustic: \$325,
rustic.com

The housewife and her daughter eat and cook, though at the endogenously topped kitchen island. The robust room blends with the antique chairs, dark, even a wall hanging. Shaker style, cabinets with round knobs, and vintage glass jars stand on perfect lamps.

< small >

Wonder

They had big plans for the little place, determined to enhance its antique charm. Here's how they made an 1880s farmhouse work for their modern family

By Jax Conners

Photography by Julie Weil | Styling by Marissa Morrison

The first impression of a place is often the most lasting.

When Lake and Allison Ebbcock recently opened Sag Harbor, New York, it was for summer vacation. They loved the unique charm of the 19th-century houses clustered around the historic seaside village and the casual, coast-influenced lifestyle. "Over time, when they decided to check out living and take up full-time residence in the town, they wanted the 1850s cottage they bought and renovated to have

a breezy, summer-house feeling year-round. Today the remodeled kitchen and screened-in porch they added—which is where they spend the majority of their time with daughters Stefania, now 5, and Lily, 3—exemplifies feeling completely "We love fresh air, and we love having our kitchen open to a porch so that it feels like one big room," says Allison, who runs her own interior design business. Though all true, the open-air greenhouse is entirely in keeping with the simple aesthetics of the original farmhouse—from the porch's beadboard ceiling to the kitchen's unique pine floor and flat-panel cabinetry. But in terms of livability, the space is a far cry from the quaint but cramped living quarters in the original 1,200-square-foot home.

The couple had looked for more than a year for the right house before they found this one. "At first I refused to look at the house because it was so small," says Allison of the three bedrooms, two-bath Victorian-era farm-

house with a tucked-in, one-story kitchen wing. "We love old houses, and we had passed up lots of bigger houses that were never listed up going to see the place on a clear, cold April day, when there was a gorgeous sunset in the sky. Once I went inside, I started to see the possibilities."

The house had many original details, including its old pine floors, moldings, and doors. And it sat on a corner lot that runs across nearly a quarter acre—large for the historic village. But with two young daughters, they needed more living space. So they called on local architect Anthony Vitantonio to help them expand and update the house while maintaining its character.

Vitantonio's plan called for a two-room-deep, two-story addition along one side of the house for a new living room and screened-in porch, with a master suite and extra bedrooms above. He also recommended demolishing the kitchen wing, replacing it with a new kitchen in the same footprint, and adding a fourth bedroom above it. The original front entry and staircase would be relocated from the side of the house to the center of the new plan, improving circulation between the new and old parts of the house. On their second go-round—the initial plan was deemed too large in size—the Ebbcocks gained approval from the village's architectural review board to begin the transformation.

The first step was the most dramatic of all: raising the entire house so a new foundation could be poured. "The original house had a mixed brick-and-stone foundation with no footings, typical of old houses in the area," says local contractor Jim Koscik. "I've always assumed when those houses haven't sunk completely into the ground, but this structure was solid." To pour the new foundation, the old house was jacked up about 5 feet above existing grade for three weeks.

Not only did the new foundation provide the requisite support for any additions, it allowed them to excavate for a full basement, with new storage, laundry, office, and playroom space—while maintaining the low profile of the house from the street. Other major undertakings included all new heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical systems, and new fireplaces in the main living areas for four-season comfort. "When you see today's basically 60 percent a new house," says Koscik, whose crew took most of the rooms down to the studs and rebuilt the kitchen



floor plans

While the remodeled basement is a new profile, the screen did preserve the space's charm. A side wing holds a living room and screened porch on the first floor; a master suite and two extra bedrooms upstairs. Another bathroom sits over the outdoor kitchen, and the new basement allows laundry, office, and play space.

< basement >



< first floor >



< second floor >



ABOVE: A "tilt and slide" mechanism allows the four French doors to double up, then disappear into wall pockets on either side of the 9-foot-wide opening, creating a seamless transition between the interior and screened porch, terrace. The porch/floorline in the family room now reads: Screened porch is changed out for glass windows in cold weather. The new French doors in the entry wing design the connection the screen of radiant heat pan into the room is dropped with an antique leather screen.



above The new entrance holds a living room with several possibilities. Along the front is a 6-foot drop porch and entry, or a wide wrap-around entrance living space in the open-plan master suite.

addition with a second story. "To weather the 10-month renovation, the Babencks used another house as a gem."

With the master plan for more space taking shape, the homeowners named the situation as ensuring that the new and moved rooms would retain their old-house warmth. Their first stop: the Antique Lumber Company in nearby West Mil, New York, for salvaged lumber to use on the floors and walls. "We used reclaimed poplar for the walls of the new mudroom and powder room, and far more scoring in the master bathroom to give the rooms character and the appearance of age," says Altman. They also covered a first-floor bedroom with a cozy daisy by covering the walls with 12-inch hand-painted planks. They used reclaimed poplar for the floors of the new living room, kitchen, hallway, and stairs and then had new pine floors in the upstairs bedrooms finished to match the old ones.

Throughout the project, they endeavored to use as many of the same materials in the new rooms as were in the original house. Karsell's crew moved old doors around during the early phases and then purchased additional salvaged doors and stripped them. "The doors became one of the big challenges of the project," says Karsell, who learned the hard way that "with some unique doors, the only thing holding them together is the paint."

Altman sought out other salvaged elements. The relocated and rebuilt stairway is anchored with a vintage metal post the couple admits, there she had built stairs and a second-floor



landing post ended to match it. She now hangs capris in a ship window and had repairs made using reclaimed pine floorboards and doors, installing them in new corners of the living room. The living room's wood panel is a circa 1920 find brightened with blue milk paint that she bought from a Philadelphia antique shop. "No old record as a quick way

above The bedrooms (one formerly a bathroom) still have original pine floors. During the remodel, it will finish back to its true material. Intentionally is pending. A vintage record post and reclaimed pine woodwork on the staircase in the new master bedroom. The dining room, which had been the living room, some of the first spaces to completely gutted during the renovation. The homeowners had custom cupboards built from salvaged pine to match the old but glass-fronted cupboards.





ABOVE An antique mantel over the new Standard fireplace and restored Essex and dovetail make the living room addition look as though it has always been there.

to add a go to a new room," says Allison.

Upstairs, the original master bedroom has the kind of steeply pitched ceiling and dormer owners that identify it as a "old house." The master bed's new tile, floors, and lighting have a clean vintage look that gracefully bridges the eras.

But it is the kitchen and porch that are the heart and soul of the remodeled house. The porch is outfitted with two sets of custom

porch—screens for warm weather, glass for cold months—to ensure the room remains a sense of the outdoors wherever the weather is. Built on the same level as the kitchen, the porch functions as a great room in large part because of the custom mahogany-and-glass pocket doors that fill the 3-foot-wide opening between the rooms. Built in four sections, each pair of doors doubles up before gliding into wall pockets, maintaining the openness

between the rooms, patented G-U hardware allows the screens to slide to left and slide open to the center two doors, then all four slide into the walls with just a gentle touch. "I saw them at a client's house a few years ago and knew they were the answer here," says Allison.

The kitchen was so important to the couple that Allison developed a one-page list of requirements for it and interviewed several kitchen designers. She found the right team at South River Kitchens, headed by kitchen designer Scott W. Smith. "I gave Scott my list and he knew exactly how to make it work," says Allison. With the room's footprint already established, including window placement, the layout took form: an L-shaped arrangement with wall oven and sink along the window wall, range and refrigerator along the adjacent wall. A center island added workspace and room for casual dining. High performance appliances that had been installed during an earlier remodel were removed and replaced. The traditional look of the kitchen comes from double-crown molding and the choice of flat Shaker-style cabinets with feet that give the look of breasted furniture. Flat panels were added to the wall cabinets flanking the window and to the island base. "For a cost of about \$100 per panel," says Smith, "it really gives a finished look."

The poplar cabinetry was shipped to the site prepped and then was finished with fresh coats of paint to match the house-colored appliances. Mahogany countertops, treated with waterproof marine varnish, rounded the sink and flood grade wall on the prep island, create a visual connection to the sliding wood doors. Smith also designed an office area in a corner of the kitchen, with deep flat drawers as hold newspapers and catalogs for archiving, as well as cubbies in the wall to hold mail and documents. "I didn't want all that clutter ending up on the island, the way it usually does," says Allison. She was guided by the same philosophy when she outfitted the mudroom off the kitchen with a floor-to-ceiling open shelved pantry and a coat closet—both built behind a poplar door.

With their blend of practical and vintage details, the kitchen and porch convey the easygoing, farmhouse look the Barbours envisioned. "We absolutely live in that part of the house," says Allison, who equates porch living with Sag Harbor. "With a lot going and the sliding doors open to the kitchen, it's comfortable out there all year long." ■

BELOW The master bedroom's looker terrace tile floor, pale blue subway tile shower and painted subway tile vanity look as though they're in the newly built 1½-by-1½ four-room addition. The two-story addition's low ceiling and window treatments give the upstairs master bedroom genuine old-house feeling.



Looking for kitchen perks for your remodel? 7 solutions at thisoldhouse.com/Adverts



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MOLDING: A CASE FOR DOORS

Mix and match stock trim to create stylish surrounds

By Kath Pandolfi

Enter the parlor of an 1850s Greek Revival, and you're struck by how the elaborate trimwork around the doors, with its dentil detail and fluted pilasters, dresses up the room. Strall into the den of a 1950s ranch, on the other hand, and you're equally struck by the lack of adornment: white doors surrounded in slinky camshell molding.

Architectural trim is a defining feature in any home, whether the interior is formal or casual. And historically, it was the door casing that set the tone—from the graceful arched profiles in a Georgian to the stocky symmetrical surrounds in a Craftsman.

Today, a variety of period profiles can suit a new home—as long as the scale and proportions are right—and restore original detail that's been lost from an old one. Best of all, almost any style casing can be built from standard stock molding. "Even elaborate profiles are often just a lot of simple, inexpensive shapes pieced together," says Tobi Gil/House master carpenter Norm Abram Reid on today's how



A pair of elegant white moldings help unify eclectic interiors and frame the perspective toward the "end door" in a new home. (Molding by Greenfield; architect, Jay Hansen)

FORMAL ENTABLATURES

Home builders are bringing America's ceilings back to their lofty 19th-century heights. But unfortunately they aren't always including the track-over-the-door trim that once helped accentuate a room's soaring proportions by drawing the eye up. Among the most decorative door entablatures were those in Georgian- and Federal-style houses built around 1800, as well as in later Greek Revivals. These often had pedimented tops patterned after those on ancient temples, as well as stacked moldings with details reminiscent of Greek key, or beaded designs.



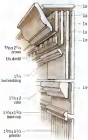
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CONSTRUCT A COMPLEX CORNICE

Pushed above listed plaster's, the top of the door surround shown above follows the three-part order of a classical pediment: flat molding up, molding up, and molding up. The pediment is positioned above the opening, and on the top plaster layer, a flat molding above the door, which is finished out on the outside with an arched and a flat molding. The flat molding is used for bed detail and crown molding up to them to form a sophisticated cornice—the last element of a formal entablature. The built-out ends of the entablature are wrapped with related returns (not shown).



Coordinate Your Casings

To create symmetry in a room, the proportions and profiles of your window casings should match—or at least complement—those on your door surrounds. This is easy enough, considering windows share the same head and casing casings as



doors. The only difference is that windows have a fourth side, a bottom edge consisting of the stool or sill and the apron. The stool is usually a thick chair rail, set into the room and beyond the width of the legs by an inch or so. The stool can be finished in several ways—for instance, with a simple square cut (as on the Arts and Crafts-style casing shown above) or with a rounded edge for a graceful relief. The apron runs directly under the stool and is usually set flush with the leg casings' outer edges.

DRAMATIC ARCHES

The arches, resembling a combback "People [are] putting them into new houses because there's a renewed interest in the richness of detail and sense of permanence that traditional building styles convey," says Arlene Dixon, an architect in Santa Rosa, California. In the late 1970s, classical arches cradled grand Georgian-style houses often surrounding faintly lit piazzas that were post and over square colonnades to soften their severe angles. During the Victorian era, intricately decorative ironwork houses were defined by their tall curved-top doors and arched windows. And in the 1930s, interior arches in Mexican-style mansions echoed the Spanish-influenced barrel-tile roofs and undulating parapets on their exterior.



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why to smile
there are such
with flexible
polymers
making—it is
cheaper than
rubber wood

with standard woodworking tools, in penthouses and plateaus—and won't rot, warp, or crack. Some products, such as First Timber (shown below), are even made to simulate wood's natural grain. Here are 10 big general contractors' rain-slicker picks for buildings with beautiful exteriors.

— **SIZE WHAT YOU NEED** Its steeper than custom wood curves, but Brobb's moldings still cost more than most straight profiles (about \$1.50 compared with \$1.15 a linear foot for a simple pine profile). So ask only where you want bending action.

— **MEASURE TWICE** Compared with their standard 20th-century lead for a calculator, you'll need to create a template of your 20th-century tracing to follow with a digitalizer to make the curve in making leg casting. And the company's condition is similar to the one in the

—**SAFARI 1990®** Flexible molding compound for use. So in addition to polyurethane construction adhesives are plenty of trim screws—at least one every 16 inches.

• **LAY IT ON THIN** Since flexible moldings don't absorb stain like wood, you'll need more coats to get a good match. Instead of brushing it on, Tom suggests using a spray applicator, which helps prevent clumping. Gel stain applied with a rag also works well.

INSTALLA CURVED CASING

In the past, learning to cut an archway meant forcing straight wooden moldings to bend through a series of carefully cut kerf cuts. Today, lists simplify the first process and also include the jumbo bits you can use to turn a square opening into a curved slot. The three-piece kit from CurveMakers (\$500 at www.curve-makers.com) approximates the look of the half-round archway shown above with keyhole on top and fluted pilasters on the sides. The head-and-tail design caps the top arches and the passageway. Assembled templates help you create a curve in your existing square opening.

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regional educational resources, the state could create a network of community colleges providing





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TOH
QUIZ

DO
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TO:



A

Hang out
with your
friends?



B

Listen to
(or sing!)
music?



C

Tinker
around
the house?



D

Or just spend
some quality
time with
yourself?

IF YOU ANSWERED **YES!** TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS.

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FIND OUT HOW
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where he can go to hang out, by himself or with his buddies. Bateman had his secret cave, Superman his remote Fortress of Solitude. Well, you're not going to tunnel underground or fly off to the Arctic for your special sanctuary. But you can create the perfect hideaway within your own home. All it takes is a spare bedroom, a corner of the basement, or even the attic to carve out a manly escape—especially if your idea of escaping is locking yourself in a room to listen to Miles Davis albums at floor-shaking levels, shouting encouragement to your alma mater's football team, or tinkering in the privacy of your workshop.

On these pages, we present three fantasy spaces for the modern man, complete with all the gadgets and gear a guy could want (especially if money were no object). So open the foldout and come on in—just don't give away the secret handshakes.

KEEP OUT A LUGGAT MEN'S DRINK THROUGH THE AGES

[illegible]

The Sports Den

THE QUT If you have a college-age son or daughter, or a dog, or a dog and a kid, you are likely to be obsessive of your football. Whether it's a March Madness or the latest action-movie DVD, we're going to watch it on your big screen. **THE OUTSTAY** It's true, but even if you're a fan, there's no need to be enough to accommodate a crowd, but you don't want to sacrifice anything in the way of sound or video quality. That means a high definition digital projector, 75 inch (or larger) screen, and at least a 3-channel surround sound speaker. For comfort, you need ample plush seating, and for convenience, a built-in bar conveniently with taste for your favorite stuff.

Acoustically diffusers, such as these hardwood strips, improve sound quality while they add visual interest to the room.

Class 1: overhead lighting controls, which let you dim the lights without leaving the car.



Setting It Up Right

Today's flat-panel projectors have reduced "off-axis" viewing, which means you can't keep to be sitting directly in front of the screen to get a sharp image. **Wides Law**, owner of Ambience Systems in Clifton Park, New York, suggests mounting the projector against the back wall or in the wall nearby to avoid the distraction of a machine hanging overhead. An acoustically transparent screen, with thousands of tiny holes that allow sound to pass through, lets you treat the center channel speaker of your surround system behind it, further reducing visual clutter. Law recommends a fixed screen over an retractable one. "I see many that you can spend on other features in the room, and it performs better because it can move around and affect video quality."

Walter R. J. Janssen

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Online Appendix

For the boy inside the grown-up, Nintendo's Wii® test a "whole" to you makes getting a whole-body experience. 3DS®. wi.nintendo.com

Basic Disposition

One side for ice-cold drink, the other for soft drinks and snacks. What could be better? \$4.99. Perfect.com



The Listening Room

THE BEST of your favorite turn more to single-wire double than they used to, and you want a sophisticated space to indulge your passions—wine, jazz, live cups and the occasional game of Texas Hold 'Em with the guys. You're one of the few people you know who still keeps a collection of LPs and a turntable to play them on, the centerpiece of an audio system that got the best of place in this milieu. **THE RESTAURANT** 11 Think Edwards: already updated for the 21st century with built-in storage for turntables, a turntable, a wine rack and well-timed music, and a few less subtle popuplicate control to operate everything from the music to the lighting to the thermostat.

Setting It Up Right

Whether it's in a downstairs den, a converted bedroom or up in the attic, the key to a good listening room is containing the sound. After all, you can't crank up the volume if the dBs are next door trying to listen. The best way to contain sound is with a lot of insulation-based electronics and after AD Systems, it's to build a room without corners, creating an air buffer zone to deaden sound. But if you're not inclined to construct a high-tech listening chamber, you can install sound-buffing materials on the floor, walls, and ceiling. And don't forget to seal the room with weatherstripping, not to a telephone! Below, we say, try to position your sitting area so it creates an equilateral triangle with the speakers, and place the speakers at least a half or two feet from the side and back walls for best sound quality.



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THE AD In Arlington, Texas, a well-attended, lively meeting. Every afternoon, participants at the *Journal* will hang out for several hours on our building and intellectual debate.

THE Thirteenth-century home of the first Grand Lodge in England. Later Freemasons in the colonies adopted George Washington as the first Grand Master of the "Grand Lodge of the United States."

EMCO: The history of yesterday's student, nation's literacy achievement, where upper-crusts prefer for study eg. words and books. (Philly) 200 years later in 2002 the achievement index is still the same.

UNION of Montevideo. Thence, Jefferson ducks, waders, and migratory fish ("salmon") a channel connects the river bed down to a passage below the hotel.

2007 *Eco. Robot. Soc.*—Pineda first built "panda looking" around on groups of legs on a robot (brown) instead of a person like the flying Great Dane in 2000.

2007 is another Wooten's Dry project. "I like the fact of Super Gums. Our first plan [for Wooten's] was to do a bubble gum with Super Gummers."

1942 The debut of the Italian war-surrender-prisoner showpiece on the property of crime-fighter Bruce Wayne had his underworld contacts mysteriously used to transport escaped slaves during the Civil War.

2 The kitchen office has been around for decades

Doesn't the telephone table? But these days, it's more than a place to peruse the Yellow Pages. The modern desk area is a multifunctional, multipurpose hub—a recent survey says 90 percent of homeowners use the kitchen bar table other than cooking. So with all that online bill paying and phone-intensive support organizing going on, a dedicated space is more necessary than luxury. "Every family needs a command center to deal with scheduling the day and running the house," says David Raymond, a designer and builder in Connecticut. And what better place for that HQ than in the kitchen, where everyone's always hanging around anyway?

The goal now is that adding an organizational hub isn't limited to room large enough for a sit-down station. In some cases, it doesn't even require a desk. What is needed is careful planning. The optimal comfort and function, place the office outside the chaos of the work triangle. A 2-by-3-foot writing surface topped by open shelves containing an electrical outlet and telephone jack is sufficient for a simple message center, says Chicago kitchen designer Mark DeGallo. But for a kid's homework desk with a work surface big enough for a parent to share, or for an office that also provides entertainment with a digital audio system and TV, you'll need more square footage. And whatever the function, undercabinet under-sink overhead task lighting is a must.

To cook up your own kitchen office, check out the following six core utilities for all the design ideas, organizing tips, and new high-tech gear that you'll need.



THE CONVERTIBLE

You don't have to install a new built-in or change your counter heights to have a kitchen office. A desk extension at the end of a long run of countertop—close to the prep cooking and clearing station but not too close—works, too. "And since it's counter height, the space can easily end back," says Daniel Edwards, design director for the national Culinary Institute of America. "By using drawers or peg bins here, but you can also use it as a stepping stone for a buffet or to rollout a pie crust." When that cooking action threatens to spill over, office supplies can be stowed in the drawer. Then, the countertop is 36 inches high, allowing a high-backed bar stool to be pulled over from the nearby island for a quick, adjacent lamp-over-headlights the area for writing, quick notes or scoring a recipe. "The right lighting is critical," says Edwards. Whether recessed, hanging, or desk-style, make sure the light is bright enough for reading, and that it's not aimed directly at a computer screen or other reflective surface such as a metal backsplash to prevent glare.

TIP: To retrofit a sit-down desk in your kitchen, remove a seldom-used base cabinet. Then install a new drawer and end panels (shown above) on either side of the knee hole to support the counter and angle the desk a finished look. Heavy stone counters may also require a structural bracket in the middle.

STAND-UP STATION

Many kitchen office tasks—scribbling in calendar commitments, setting up a lunch date—come in the minutes before you head off to work or in between errands when there's no time to sit. For folks on the run, stand-up message centers like this one may be the answer. With two full-fledged home offices for Mom and Dad located elsewhere in the house, the minimalist kitchen unit is used mostly for family reminders, says its designer and builder David Raymond of Fairfield, Connecticut. Phone messages and event reminders are tacked on the cork backplash, and three ring binders containing calendars, recipes, and to-do menus are slotted in open bookshelves (not shown) recessed in both sides. The three center drawers at graduating depths hold pencils and paper, receipts, and an index cardbox full of important phone numbers. "The drawers also store everything my kids need to get out the door in the morning: hair clips, toothbrush, socks, and money for passes on their nights," says the homeowner. Cell phones and other portable electronics are recharged via outlets built into the backplash.

TIP: Use a squarish top "charging garage" to keep gadgets and cords under wraps. Sold through retailers such as Overstock (overstock.com) and Staples (staples.com), these units have parking spots for cell phones, PDAs, and iPods, and hidden charges to avoid cluttering countertops with built-in outlets.



BONUS BUILT-IN

Chicago designer Mark DeGallo transformed this 2-foot-wide by 2-foot-high message center into a "blend cabinet" at a restaurant bar that would have otherwise been wasted space. "I like to try and let a kitchen work functionally first—where people will cook, eat, and hangout—then cleverly there's that little add space left over where you can come out a corner," says DeGallo. He created this work by cutting a 26-inch cabinet so that the door opens into the bar instead of into the kitchen prep zone (a false door panel on the side helps the unit blend seamlessly with the other cabinets). Due to its close proximity to where food is served, DeGallo placed the electrical outlets and phone jack inside the cabinet to keep electronics safe from spills. Also hidden inside are shelves to hold cookbooks and school dictionaries, as well as baskets to store writing supplies and other odds and ends. The back of the cabinet door is lined with cork sheeting to post lively snapshots, as well as a calendar for jotting down appointments while talking on the phone or reading a mail. Two small drawers in the 36-inch-high base unit contain phone books and newspapers, while a ledge on the bottom is fitted with a new frame for hanging keys.

TIP: If your message area is close to where food is prepared, consider a metal magnetic or a dry-erase board instead of cork. Both are easy to wipe clean.



CORNER COMMAND CENTER

A roll-down desk adjusted to a chair corner of the kitchen offers extra space outside of the hustle and bustle of the work triangle. Located just inside the kitchen and off the busy driveway designed by New York City-based architect Michael Siders is a natural landing spot for frequent mail. It's also where lively the Internet's comfortability of the 30-inch-high counter is due to the Web's available resources and power to play prevalent on the Internet. Designers recently implemented a desk height of 26 to 30 inches and added a hole depth of 25 inches if you plan to sit down for long periods of time. Drop drawers in this major basement—painted mess, green to match the island—are filled with hanging folder boxes. Available 17-foot-long granite counter top is perfect for spreading out. Inland and building systems project. To make it all fit in the upper cabinets, the doors' glass fronts are frosted and appliances are tucked in storage boxes and baskets. With eight electrical outlets, a telephone jack, and a cable port for high-speed Internet access all located above the counter, power up cell phones, laptops, and other gadgets is easy. Taking these cords from creating a tangled mess, Siders suggests securing them with built-in or adding them behind a glass wall.

TIP: Create a simple message center by placing a clockboard on the back of your sofa or on a wall leading to the garage.

By Michael Siders after design ideas.
Michael Siders.com/michael



THE CATCH-ALL

When kids are in the picture, the kitchen office can be part-writing desk, part high-tech desk, part first aid center. That's the case with the multi-layered designed by Greenwald, Connected, and architect Jay Henner. The owner's extensive list of tasks—keeping office supplies, phone books, and family recipes. It's a gathering supplies, including medicines and first aid kit, as well as digital camera and video equipment—for recording all the "firsts" of the homecoming. Inland corner holds up high behind built-in cabinet doors. Mom and Dad get their photos and home movies to their laptop, which is connected via a cable port in the wall to a modem hidden in the basement. "The technology and functionality were important, but the office still had to fit in with the rest of the kitchen's traditional design," says Henner, who accented the white-painted maple desk with the same turned table legs that he used on the nearby island.

TIP: A wood counter is softer than stone, so it's easier on wrists and elbows if you spend lots of time online checking e-mail.

Photo: © Michael Siders after design ideas. Michael Siders.com/michael



THE HANDSOME ASSISTANT

Want a kitchen desk that breaks out of the mold? Use fresh details to make it look like bedroom furniture. Here, New York City kitchen designer Rita Luna Garcia was inspired by an Arts and Crafts-style hutches, creating an office that is as good-looking as it is functional. "Furniture-like pieces are much more inviting than steel and wood cabinets," says Garcia. The hutches, which were constructed of off-white white oak using dovetail joinery, was custom-made by the same company that built the kitchen cabinets. It sits on wooden feet rather than a recessed baseboard and shows off a combination of ornamental beveled and recessed paneling, along with a beveled surface. Decorative brackets adorn either side of a large mail sorting station with a slot for each family member and four small drawers for storing stationery and correspondence. The drop desk drawer on the right side holds hanging files, while a smaller one above it stores pens and pencils. The desk cabinet was designed to hide a computer hard drive or wireless modem.

TIP: If your kitchen office is also a recipe library, place it near the pantry to cut travel time between where ingredients are stored and where you keep up the grocery list and leaf through the cookbooks.

High-Tech Help

With these new electronics, even the smallest kitchen office can be wired for entertaining, info searching, and home monitoring.

Streamline storage: Slip your iPod into the retractable storage compartment of S2R Technology's iMusic360 undercabinet stereo system to recharge the player and crank out tunes while you cook. (\$300; ihomeaudio.com)



Space-saving screen: Search a digital recipe book, check the weather forecast, watch the news, and display vacation photos, all on a high-definition LCD screen built into the door of LG's new iWTV Refrigerator (\$3,800, for cost). If you're legit, your current fridge, consider instead Dacor's Digital Entertainment Series, which has a 12-inch LCD flip-down touch screen that can be installed right under a cabinet. (\$2,499; dacor.com)



Security system: Use your Web-enabled laptop to keep a watchful eye on your yard playing in the snow or on who's ringing the doorbell with Motorola's HomeRight Wireless Easy Start kit, which includes a camera, motion detectors, and a base station for transmitting images in a monitor or cell phone. (\$299; motorola.com)



LOST AND FOUND

Your old house reveals new charms when you uncover the personal possessions—and with them, the stories—of the people who lived there before you

BY JAY HEINRICHS | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOSE PICAZO

STYLING: JENNIFER HARRIS



SIMPLE GLASS BOTTLES like these from a New York City tenement (and one apothecary bottle found in a Cambridge Massachusetts attic), were common backpedal bedrooms and houses. A chemical reaction with the moisture in the ground turns the glass translucent.



Along a historic row of houses on New Hampshire's Canaan Street Lake, renovation contractor Lad Leskovar was reworking one house's dining room when he removed the largest drawer of a set built into the wall. The drawer itself was less than a yard wide and a foot tall, but it opened up into a space that was 6 feet deep and more than 4 feet high. A trap door at the bottom of the tiny

room allowed secret entry into the cellar. "From the basement looking up, you'd never know it was there," Leskovar says.

Back in the 19th century, Canaan Street was on the main road that led from Boston to Montreal, and Leskovar suspects that the secret room may have been used for spirited contraband— illicit goods or perhaps runaway slaves—to Canada. Today the room has no special use or value; the current owner didn't even know about it until Leskovar happened on it. But the excitement of stepping back in history will keep him dining out on the story for years.

That's what a lot of homeowners dream about: not just possessing a piece of history in the form of an old house, but unearthing upon it, left unopened, within the walls. Few finds are as intriguing (or as large) as a hidden room, but even the most mundane objects hold a particular magic. It's as if time has been suspended until that unknown door swings open or that ancient newspaper headline is unfolded from behind a wall or that cast-off bottle surfaces from beneath the dirt in the backyard.

If you gathered all the items split out by old houses, you would soon learn that they fall into one of three categories: the macabre, the mundane, and the just plain mundane. Here are a few tales of discoveries that we've collected over the years from friends, old house enthusiasts, and our own renovations. Many we found delightful, some a little mystifying, and a couple just a bit frightening.

FINDINGS hidden treasures

What tops finding buried treasure in your backyard? The story about buried treasure. For one thing, it's the taking the treasure is often more valuable. Helen and Robert Hinkley had heard rumors when they bought their 38th-century house in Weymouth, Massachusetts (\$5,000) was hidden on the property, said workmen who came to fix up the place. "They used to go around during lunch and bring me" items," says Helen.

A few years later, the Hinkleys' daughter walked in with a jar that she'd found under a stone wall, not 50 feet from the house. Inside was a lace handkerchief wrapped around four \$100 bills and two \$20 bills. Was it the buried \$5,000, inflated through gossip? Maybe. It hardly matters, though, for ranking is better than getting to say that your little girl found treasure in her own backyard.

Except maybe finding diamonds in your attic. Rosemary Henderson was cleaning out her Tampa, Florida, house when a bag of the stones fell out of an old flooring board. "I could tell they were real," Henderson says. The house's previous owner had hidden them years before selling the place all about them. She was "shocked" to get them back, says Henderson. "Shocked—and grateful!"

Not everyone who comes upon treasure goes in search of the story—some find it belonging to the house. During one couple's renovation of their 2800 Queen Anne in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a brick knocked down an old endboard, dragging debris and leaving a gash in the earth. Later, the husband saw a metal paper bag lying in the dirt and opened it out of curiosity. Inside were hundreds of neatly folded bills, tens and twenties totaling \$800. No bill was dated later than 1952.

"That was worth a lot of money back then," says the wife. The couple looked up the currency and found it wasn't worth more than face value. "But it just proves that people really do bury money in their yard," the wife says. "And, no, we didn't dig up the rest of the yard. People always ask us that. We realized it and planted grass."



CHILDRENS' MUSEUM placed inside with apparently good house with good luck. That incident may explain the small hole that The Old House last Rose Henderson found while working on her. "Kinda spooky looking," he says.

FINDINGS 2

Even if a found treasure turns out to have no value, it's still worth something if it connects us to particular people. When an object has played its place in its owner's dropped it or hid it, or set it down and then forgot it, an archeologist's call: "primary context" it's a "secondary context" it, say, a cat picks it up and carries it to a nest.

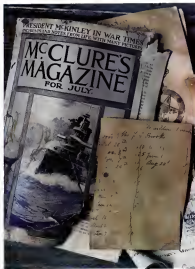
In one attic, the censeis were wrenching up floorboards when they came upon two glittering bits of gold—a set of earrings. Later they found books and magazines from the early 1930s. Most intriguing, though, were floorboards that led to a hidden room: between the joists. At the end of the tunnel was a bottle of oak-moss scum.

Most of these objects are not just historical curiosities or, as archaeologists call them, 'material discards.' They're fragments of a story like the 43 jelly glasses Jim Collins discovered under the floor of his Hillsborough, New Hampshire, farmhouse. When he asked residents of the town what that was all about, one of the 43 gave a name: "Those laid was a drinkin'," he said.

[illegible]

South Jordan finds treasure in the littered waste lands of old New York. He searches defunct piles and attics—filled in with garbage when plumbing was installed—that he finds art and historic maps. He has dug up 18th-century buildings and jewelry for people commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette's 1925 visit to New York area. "After the archaeologists had gone," he says, "I knew that a treasure hunt in the South Street Seaport.

Meekly, though he finds shards and bottles scattered everywhere in people's backyards. After asking permission to dig, he sculps these fragments and paints them; then he offers the art to the home owner. Some of his works sell for hundreds of dollars in England. "I smile enough for myself," he says. Like bits of ancient pottery, these art vases, etchings suddenly have a value far beyond their original purpose, bridging time and connecting the worlds when laid out there.

ONLINE
JOURNAL

Find out how the savings list can
revolutionize your fleet with
this online tool. www.hillcountry.com

ONE ATTK in Cambridge, Massachusetts published among other scientific papers, books on Mammals made a 1900 account describing new bird nests, two weeks, and a *Melospiza* a *Melospiza* from 1901



FINDINGS #3 the weird and mysterious

Some former residents don't just drop historical hints in old houses; they hunt them in. In the 1960s, Kathleen Bone bought a 1736 house in Mendon's Nine Jerrie (it was a beautiful house situated on a nice property, with one disturbing feature). Set in the ground at the edge of the woods was a small, rounded-to-rectangle carved with a simple name. SCOTT.

Bones feared she had stumbled upon a life-giving grove, and the mystery haunted her. She researched her woods in the town library—home, still. She finally located the truth from a neighbor: Sophie, to her relief, was a donkey. A previous owner had kept her on a cart.

Nonetheless, when taken out the house on the market three years later, the growtowers spooked potential buyers, even when agents told them that the deceased was ahead of his time and not a child. Some eventually moved the slave into the woods, murmuring apologies to Sophie. It worked: the house sold shortly after.

One ghostly presence actually stole Michael Allemen's face: a photograph found behind the curtain of his Greenwich Village apartment, of a young man in the late 20th-century Tripp-Rosewood Avenue eight off because the man in it looks exactly like him. His doppelgänger seems to have played the photo deliberately along with a business card for a Manhattan bar he probably chose, knowing that somebody would find it in the future. But what another person might have seen instead, Allemen decided it was a sign that the soulless man owned the New

People used to do this sort of informal "time-passing" a lot, though not always so artfully. Workmen found a horse skull in an interior wall while remodeling Rocky Foley's 17th house in South Deerfield. Interestingly, Framingham's skull Foley fished out a rolled piece of paper with the names of a militia colonel, his wife, and six children, who lived in the house during the 1840s.

of a dead animal would be a fit way to reimburse his family? It's a mystery, which contributes at least half the skull's value. Or maybe just a prank. If so, it's one that took a century and a half to spring.

Sit, the moment that Foley picked up the skull the cat came to life, and those 15 cables vanished in an instant. And that's the value of finding someone who's passionate in your throat. You're extending that person's exhalation into the present, while striding in your march into the past. It's a beautiful ally, claims two directions. By giving up its secrets, a human proves it has a history and, at the same time, makes us, the owners, feel a little less mortal.

AMONG THE HUNDREDS of ITM (TV) 2004 projects listed at Carle, Massachusetts, were some boys in shoes, and a mysterious accident – the first was the discovery of Chet's broken left leg.

Little Ways to

Save 1g

Sure, cutting back on high-ticket items conserves cash during a remodel. But as TOH TV showed on this project, there are many other creative ways to save—in this case, more than \$70,000!

By Alexandra Easden

Photographs by Anthony Trestle
Styled by Rosalind Martinez

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER when planning a renovation than looking around in that old house and imagining what glorious things we *do*. But all too often, our eyes are bigger than our wallets. Most of us just don't have the cash to execute every amazing detail we think up.

Chris and Lynn and their sister Lu Reilly oversaw this clear-view TV as a recently finished project house, were no exception. When they bought their 1,100-sq-ft family home they had a lot of dreams for the place, crystallized over a lifetime, since it had been in their family from the time it was built. But their combined budget was \$250,000—really not enough to deal with the drive roofing, siding, insulation, and structural issues, not to mention the toilet, kitchen and bathroom malfeasances that both sons needed. Chris and Lu needed to start with every detail.

Some budget-conscious clients went so far as replacing the leaking sink roof with expanded insulation off the home center shelf (elchico cabinets and both rooms fit). But simply choosing the least expensive one (metal) was the only way they saved. With the help of TDA general contractor Vito Silva, they also whittled down their costs in lots of other small ways. A few hand-drawn details here, a couple of thousand there, and soon they had saved a sizable chunk of money—just by doing a few basic rules that would work for any renovation.

THE TOWERS GROUP

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Keywords: *China, corruption, digital technology, digital transformation, digitalization, digital economy, digital innovation, digital business, digital marketing, digital advertising, digital media, digital content, digital services, digital products, digital platforms, digital ecosystems, digital infrastructure, digital governance, digital security, digital privacy, digital rights, digital citizenship, digital identity, digital literacy, digital skills, digital education, digital health, digital agriculture, digital industry, digital commerce, digital finance, digital culture, digital society, digital future.*



1 REPAIR RATHER THAN REPLACE

Route learned it was deeper than the studio siding. From either side, the machine had left giant cracks and goring holes in the masonry surface, making it sure to be like by anything. It was into the cracks, opening a path for water to get behind the cladding. It is simple to replace them, but it would have come at a \$50,000 cost.

Instead, after the dry latex dries, a heavy-duty crimp patch is tied over the rips and the rips are shaved down and left to fill with some fine cracks and voids. Two commercialized the entire surface using gliders fitted with sand wheels. Then patches applied together and the final layer of an elastomeric coating—basically a *Wickes-style* paint—which helps do everything together and give it a smooth finish. The repairs cost \$20,000.

2 ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES: The original band shows off the house (which had been in the basement for decades) with a bit of a surprise for the



3 LIMIT COMPLETION
Remove the main house needed new wiring and insulation on the first floor it was not effective to remove the ceiling plaster ceiling to gain access, but two weeks later the original wood is in place then wallboard over it. The same on later for ceiling the debris, cleaning trap and pulling of the wall work in the porch, and a redwood clamping beam, about 200 lbs. (6000)

4 BOB PETER TO PAY PAUL
 After Tom took down the wall to enlarge the balcony on both apartments, he had to contend with floodwaters from adjoining rooms running in different directions. He said an unusual flooding where the walls had blood. Fortunately, warning by patches would have been very labor intensive and the torn-out insulation had been crushed away, replacing with equivalent insulation had not been thought of by anyone.

Incus's kitchen has not the fleeting air-ship to the middle of the room to echo the cooler cabinets. There he carefully pulled up all the floors to see one of the cut and void themes diagnosed. To salvage some extra flooring he took boards from where the master's dryer sits the white's escape. In Ohio's kitchen he

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5 USE LOCKDOWN SELECTIVELY A glass-tile backsplash in a beautiful detail is my favorite, but installing one throughout could have set it back \$1,500. The place where a backsplash was most necessary however was over the stove: to make cleaning up cooking splatters easier. Tiling only this 2 by 3-foot space cost for a durable \$200.

SEEK OUT THE BEST **\$5,290**

ABOVE RIGHT: Capistrano installers at work by Chris A. Schmitt
 ABOVE: TDM plumbing and heating expert Richard Delfino and TDM landscape architect Roger Oniz checks for roots clogging a street drain. RIGHT: TDM crews at work on the new Sherman Oaks wastewater (WWS) plant master built



For seven months we lived through a renovation—literally as we stayed in one floor while the crew turned up the other two. Our experience taught us a lot about how to make it through a whole-house project with our sanity intact (and our wallets). It's wisdom we'll happily share. —LUCASLEY AND DUBOIS/ENR

1. You're always over budget, so prepare. Set limits on "last minute" travel.
2. Give yourself a cushion you will not lose weight! Especially undesirable! Keep on top of the numbers. Hit the gym often – it will help and keep you fit and stress.
3. There is no escaping the need. Keep your priorities straight and pay as much of your bill as possible. It's better to have a small credit on your bill than a large one. You can't avoid the bill, but you can avoid the bill by paying it on time.
4. If you're not the person who pays the bill, then the daily transaction and interest on the bill is not to be taken very seriously. Ask the members.
5. "What is going on? What is what?"
6. Give yourself the money you need to pay the bill. It's not a good idea to pay the bill with a credit card.
7. Be sure to pay the bill, family and neighbors. They need you.
8. Laugh. Otherwise you'll cry.
9. Finally be generous. You can pay the bill, but you can't pay the bill. It's not a good idea to pay the bill with a credit card.





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6 ADJUST TO YOUR OWN LEVEL OF RISK

CIRCUMSTANCES: Tom isn't a fan of windows in a home's basement, so he puts it "you-have-external-conditions" rule and hauls in the interior "Shades" case of the first and second floor bedrooms he had to choose. There was no way to move the openings and he budgeted new windows and higher square feet with. Reversing them and closing up the faulty ones lowered the \$100 per window. It is difficult to see how



protection for the existing wood work.

By painting them with exterior latex paint and using waterproof PVC which costs the same as wood but won't rot for the windowsills, they've saved a lot. **GO, AUSTIN!**

7 ADD DETAIL WITH PAINT

Chris formal dining room came with nice loggery and butlers on the walls. I never before have needed. The trip was finished in a dark stair and had looked the worst condition on the

white walls. By painting the ceilings white and the spaces in between from a coordinating warm beige—different from the pale-oat-beige on the rail—the before-and-after wall looks more like it's carefully painted. Real wood or even MDF paneling for the room would have cost much at \$4,000. The perches are a mere \$295.

BEFORE ROOM: \$1,300

8 STICK WITH STOCK

• A system can be trustworthy if



lot of money—with custom currency and detailed analysis—for a

9 **BE CREDIT TO CUPON SHELVES**

9 AM 2008 Chris's old attic had some floor joists that had the edge. Tim burned the space into a food pantry, lining it with open shelving and hanging the new cabinets off the floor joists (using \$1,000). He also built the pantry's entry door (a \$100 door). To make the attic walk down



Hand with the rest of the kitchen (be
lined the walls with cardboard)
what you want [\\$1,500](#)

10 **KEITH CRISTINO**

10 MATERIALS Like a kitchen expansion, even the built-in china cabinet lost its surroundings. Meanwhile, Chen's client knew laundry was needed in a pinch, so, rather than tear out an otherwise functional built-in, he opted for a freestanding unit. The laundry room required the least renovation, but the client

and tank had been the outfit in Chris's laundry room. Now cabinet doors and drawers with that kind of detail would have cost upward of \$1,000. The labor to move the old cabinet and give it miles and a tank cost about \$200.
total tank cost: \$1,200

Total Savings:
\$70,145

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TECHNIQUES, TIPS, AND YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



121 Ask This Old House

124 Skill Building

Make a Mill Gate Oak Sawing
Shower Pan
Spruce up wood door hardware

125 Norm's Notebook

Tips on using blow dryers

126 Resource Directory

The workshop
Kerr's tools, used for
cutting wood, are
pioneering design that
makes it possible
to make a variety of
tools. In the workshop,
we find the tools that
make the difference
between a good job
and a great one.

PHOTOGRAPHY
JONATHAN KATZ

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	3/8"x3/4" Schöen American Cherry Engineered Flooring w/30 year warranty (SCHÖNAC) \$2.49 per sq ft.
	Naturally beautiful and ecologically friendly. Bring home the stylishness of Bamboo at an economically welcome price. 5/8"x3/4" Horizontal Carbonized Bamboo Flooring w/15 year warranty (MEMPHIS) \$2.65 per sq ft.
	Bayliner's Pride 3/4"x3/4" #1 H2 Mix Maple w/25 year warranty (BAYLINER) \$3.30 per sq ft.
	Bohlenwood Pro-Finished Hardwood Flooring is a perfect balance between beauty and brown. The bold colors, deep tones and natural strength these solid domestic oak woods bring to your floor are cause for celebration. 3/8"x3/4" Bohlenwood Brazilian Cherry Select Flooring w/50 year warranty (BOHLENDOM) \$3.95 per sq ft.
	3/4"x3/4" Cast de Colours Astor Cherry Flooring w/25 year warranty (CARROLL) \$3.99 per sq ft.
	Schön Engineered Brazilian Redwood



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Windproof Pergola
My husband built a pergola for our patio. But when the grape vines I planted for shade grew in, a strong wind blew it down. What should we do differently for the next one?

PATRICIA BOOBY, COIN

Mark Jacobs replies: Grape vines or not, your structure needs to be extra strong in a location that gets a lot of wind. I'd build the next one like a wooden fence, with moisture and water proofing and anchoring in the corners, and secure them with a metal bolt and a corner brace. Use a strong adhesive. Everything should be fastened with screws; nails can't be trusted for fastening with strong winds.

Also, make sure the support posts are set in holes, at least, and that they are on concrete footings poured deep enough to keep from heaving, probably 4 feet when you live. If you set the posts on the footing and fill and tamp around it all the way up to ground level, no wind could ever up them even.

Removing Silicone Caulk

The silicone caulking between the cultured marble pan and the ceramic tile wall in my shower stall has to be replaced. Is there a special tool for this purpose?

DEBBE KOSOFF, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

Timothy O'Neil replies: The sure shot is, a though I've never had to use one, I've had pretty good luck with a utility knife and a glass scraper with a razor blade. First, cut through one side of the bead with the knife, and pull out what you can by hand. Then, hold the scraper at a shallow angle to avoid scratching the surface, and remove any remaining caulk. Next, scrub the surface with an abrasive pad soaked in mineral spirits to get rid of any silicone residue, which will prevent the new sealant from sticking.

Buy new mildew-resistant caulk that's formulated for use in bathrooms, and only apply it to surfaces that are bone-dry. If there's any wetness, fresh silicone won't adhere properly.

Calling a Tree

I have an old, 35-foot tall Easternred cedar with a visible trunk. I'm afraid an ice storm will eventually break off one of the trunks. Would cabling prevent this?

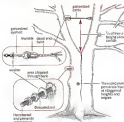
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- 1. Hook to support climbing vines
- 2. Dashboard pencil holder
- 3. Mail-order for extra flooring
- 4. Or...



Ceilings Splitting Trees



Register splits. There's no guarantee that a weak crack won't split, although ceiling will definitely help. But you can stick the odds in your favor by having a certified someone to do the work. That's not a do-it-yourself project.

Once an arborist determines the right height for one or two cables, he'll climb the tree and drill a hole through each main branch and insert a threaded, galvanized eyebolt that is held in place with a large washer and two nuts. The two eyes are connected using steel cable. To keep the trunk from splitting, he may also drill crisscrossing holes through the trunk for dissipated loads.

The wire will eventually grow over and hold the rods, but it can't be allowed to cover the eyebolts, which have to be inspected, and perhaps adjusted, every year or two as the trunk grows. An overgrown cable-eye connection may lose its ability to move with the tree and cause the cable to snap.

Air Flow in Winter

We like the radiant floor heat in our six-year-old home, except for one thing: There's no air movement. In the summer we can open windows or run our central air conditioner. How can we get the air circulating in the winter?

JOAN SCHULTZ, FLOWER MOUND

Edward Telles replies: True, there's very little air movement with radiant heat, but most people consider that to be a plus in the heating season. Moving to make an air cooler, which explains why we like houses in summer and avoid them in winter.

I suspect it's not the air's fault, but that's giving you problems but no solution. A tightly built house traps indoor pollutants from cooking, cleaning, pets, and off-gassing furnishings, and air quality suffers as a result.

In your case, the fix might be as simple as turning on your AC system's fan. Most thermostats have a "fan only" setting, independent of the compressor. Running the fan will circulate air through the ducts, and if your system is equipped with a high-quality electronic or media-type filter, it will also sift out dust, cooking odors, and allergens. You can run the fan all the time if you want. Some people run it only at night when they're sleeping so it won't feel the slight chill of the circulating air.

If the fan doesn't do the trick, you may want to look into installing a heat exchanger, a device that pulls in fresh outside air and exhausts stale indoor air, and uses the latter to warm up the former. It's a lot better than opening the windows in the dead of winter.

Kill the Stains

After removing some glued wallpapering dry husband sanded every inch of the walls to smooth out the glazings. Three we had same ones before the walls before wallpapering the end result was beautiful—and the old glue lines leaked through. Please help!

WIDELEIGHHAM, NEW YORK

John Deere replies: First you'll have to seal the stains with something that really works: a clear, downward chemical such as Zinsser SealCoat. Brush on these coats—three or four can be applied within 30 minutes and you don't have to sand between coats.

Next, apply an exterior oil-based primer/ sealer over the shellacked areas. This reduces



WHAT IS IT?

Electrical cable staker

The set of plastic ties keeps multiple runs of plastic-sheathed electrical cables neatly centered along studs and beams.

the chance of "kinking" or having wires break at joints that show through the final paint layer.

Finally, before you repave, I'd strongly recommend coating all the wall surfaces with an all-purpose silted primer just to make sure none of the ground water will leak.

John Deere is a painting contractor in Concord, Mass. See his rising painting technique at thisoldhouse.com/diynotes

Hanging Heavy Pictures

I'm looking for some advice on how to hang pictures that weigh 30 kilograms or more. Where there are any studs.

NEED TURNER, WERRONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Tom Silva replies: Let's see, 10 kilograms is about 22 pounds. No problem, if you use the Dado picture hangers favored by museum and art galleries. These hangers can be secured to plaster or drywall with one or more nails, which are case-hardened, stainless, and sharp, so they won't damage the wall surface, even rock hard plaster. The largest hangers at this time will hold up to 100 pounds—about 45 kilograms—so you should be able to find one that suits any of your heaviest pictures. ■

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Wood Countertop Care

Take these steps to keep your butcher block or hardwood countertop looking fresh.

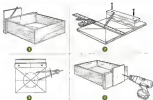
RELATED SKILL: FINISHING WOODWORK

The best way to protect your wood countertop from stains, burns, and scratches is to always put hot pads on it, wipe, cut only on cutting boards, and be quick about wiping up spills. But if the countertop does get damaged, the repair is actually simple. Here's how to fix the most common countertop problems quickly. If the wood is protected by a coat of finish, you'll need to remove it first.

Scratches, cuts, and burns. If the wood's quick sanding with the grain first with 220-grit, then 320-grit paper. When the surface is smooth, pour on warm (50°F) grade food-grade mineral oil and rub it in thoroughly. Let it sit overnight for 20 to 30 minutes, then wipe away the excess with a clean paper towel. Or Denatured alcohol will also remove sand. For additional protection, apply a 1-part linseed oil or paraffin wax to the surface. Mineral oil is absorbed into the bare wood within 24 to 48 to 120 hours.

Discolor. If the woodwork is discolored by food or drink, you can remove it by sanding, try rubbing them with lemon juice. If that still doesn't work, you can use a solution of hydrogen peroxide in a cup of warm water and rub it on the stain for the bleaching effect. Use a wet sandpaper to buff the stain away. If the stain is deep, you can use a wood bleach. If the stain is deep, you can use a wood bleach. If the stain is deep, you can use a wood bleach.

—JENNIFER L. HANCOCK



Drilling Guide for Drawer Pulls

How to get the handles in the same place every time

RELATED SKILL: FINISHING WOODWORK

With this simple drilling guide, the holes for your drawer pulls will always be level and centered. And the work goes faster because there's no trial-and-error measuring. Besides your drill, the only tool you'll need for the guide is a compass and a combination square.

1. Assemble the pieces. First, determine where you want the center of each handle to be. Then mark that center on the top edge of the drawer's inside face. Cut a 1/2-in. piece of 1/4-in. thick hardwood or plywood roughly twice the length of the pull and about 1/4-in. or so wider than the drawer's depth. Line up the bottom edge of the sawing with the bottom edge of the drawer and draw a line on the sawing the top edge of the drawer's inside face. Use a square to mark the line.

2. Position the guide. Place the guide on a workable shelf, side up, and use a combination square to draw lines connecting the opposite corners. Then place the square against the side of the guide, as shown, and draw a straight line through the point where the two diagonal lines intersect. This is the horizontal

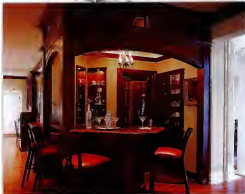
centerline of the guide and the drawer. Now place the square against the bottom edge of the guide, in line with the pencil where the lines first intersect, and butt the end of the rule against the drill. Mark the spot. Remove the square to transfer that center mark to the drawer's face.

3. Locate the holes. Spread the corner legs to match the center-to-center distance between the two resulting holes on the pull. Without changing that spread, place the compass point on the spot where the diagonals intersect. Trace a circle. Now place the compass point on the spot where that circle intersects the centerline. Draw an arc that intersects the circle above and below the centerline. Do the same thing on the other point where the circle intersects the centerline. Use the square to connect the two points where each arc intersects the circle. Then drill a hole where each of these connecting lines crosses the centerline.

4. Drill the drawer. Place the guide against the drawer's face with the point on the top edge of the drawer. Line up the mark on the guide with the mark on the inside of the drawer. Now just drill through the guide's holes while holding the bit horizontal. —TOMMY HANCOCK



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WOODS AWAY

Most wood countertops are vulnerable to staining, which is easier enough to discover the glue holding the pieces of wood together and around the perimeter to cover along the joints. Guard against this by instantly trapping any spill or vapor and by etching the wood as early



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▶ MASTER CARPENTER NORM ABRAHAM'S TECHNIQUE FOR SCREWDRIVERS, FEATURED IN TOOLBOX, P. 52

SCREWDRIVER DOS AND DON'TS

There are some jobs—and some screws—for which I always use a hand screwdriver, never a power drill/driver. Those jobs include hanging cabinet hardware and installing door knobs, and tightening the screws on window and switch plates. Generally, any task where the bit could easily slip and potentially injure a surface. Soft-wood and aluminum screws slip first, better when turned by hand. As do slotted screws of any kind. A slotted bit's edge is infinitely guaranteed to slip off. But when it's a Phillips or square drive screw, and it's long enough to secure a panel hole, I'll go ahead and drive it with a power tool.



It's a good thing the screws for this cabinet's countertop aren't Phillips head because unlike slotted screws, you can turn them with a screwdriver held at a slight angle. Ideally, I always try to hold the screwdriver in line with the screw's shaft. It's the best way to avoid stripping the head.



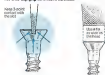
Wrench It Free

When need extra torque to loosen a stubborn screw, I'll tighten an adjustable wrench and a square or hex shaped screwdriver shaft. With the movable jaw positioned on the side of the handle, the handle provides a second handle to provide the screw to move. It's a really slick, by tightening it a quarter turn to break the seal.

Matching the Tip to the Screw

Nothing is as screwy as a screw with a tip that's too small for the slot. If there's any play at all, the tip's hardened edges are likely to tear up the screwhead. My general rule is to start big and work down until the tip fits snugly in the screw's recess. With slotted screws, the width is also critical. A tip that's wider than the slot will end up tearing the surface as you make the first few turns. It's not too difficult to have the right tip on hand. All I ever need is my favorite three sizes of slotted screwdrivers: three sizes of Philips, and a couple of square drives.

For a one-step grip on slotted screws...



TIP

When you're shopping for a screwdriver, pick it up and give the handle a good, hard squeeze to make sure it's comfortable. If the handle digs into your palm, better keep looking. My favorite handles have a triangular shape in cross-section, with rounded corners.



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LINE A FOUR GEORGE Although the cross-hatched style house was never one for long-term relationships, Seckman moved in and out of 1608 East Spring Street during the first 35 years of his life. The lack of commitment was mostly due to the job instability that the surrounding town of New Albany—based in the late 19th century when crucial industries—most notably plate glass production—left for Munich. When the discovery of natural gas made it much easier to do business,

The house finally found someone to settle down with in 1981, when it was purchased by Thomas McCulloch, a partner in a cement contracting business. He and his wife, Anna, would call it home for 48 years, raising three children hereabouts in 12 foot ceilings and sitting a senior around porch with stuffed cushions. Unfortunately, following Mrs. McCulloch's death in 1998, the house was sold upon its apartment and suffered such college-house-apartment-style indignities as teakwood paneling and a double door single sliding

After decades of abuse, it was finally condemned last year. It would have been demolished too, had the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana not purchased it. The group is moving the shingles repeatedly the siding, replaced the roof and added appropriate exterior doors, and gave it a fire proof job. The interior—without original oak paneling—has walnut staircase and iron railings, original glass—still intact—except we're going to come in and break this job. Whoever does so will have to complete the work within an agreed upon time period (about 12 to 15 months). The sale will also include covenants governing any further customer changes.

Luckily the bustling bluegrass metropolis of Louisville, Kentucky, is just a 10-minute drive away—so there should be plenty of jobs to ensure that any new owner and the house can remain connected to each other for years to come.



ARROW. The national retailer of 1960s LSD sound-alike apparel. It was founded by David Gellman—21 at the time—who still remains in business that holds no hands-on experience in the outside world. A key vintage fashion-thefting move with 1960s **BELOW LEFT** is a t-shirt with its original not-colored red **BELOW LEFT** surrounded around nothing in one again, another the house a front panel **BELOW**. The website platform features a substantial new found halcyons, and hand-crafted knits in the storefront.



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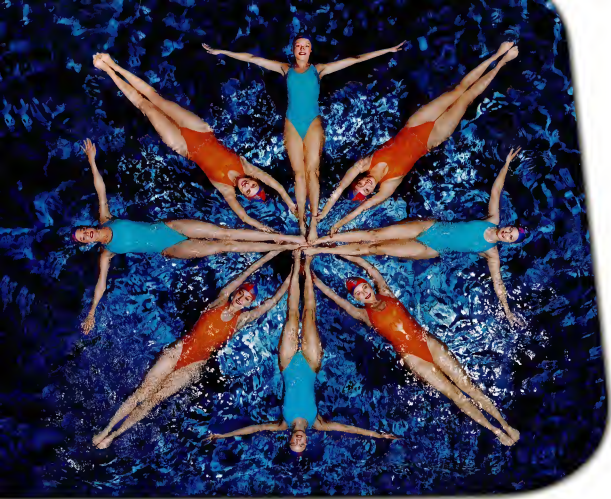


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