This Old House

APRIL 2008

Quick ways to boost **curb appeal** P. 54

Create Your Ideal Yard

- Simple stone patios
- Easy-care plants
- Best fire pit choices

+27 more great ideas

Plus:

Cedar closet step-by-step (P. 67)
Secrets to a healthy lawn (P. 20)
Landscaping for privacy (P. 31)
Avoid contractor scams (P. 88)
Wood window grilles (P. 108)

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Cover photograph by **Julian Wass**
Styling by **Pamela Abrahams**

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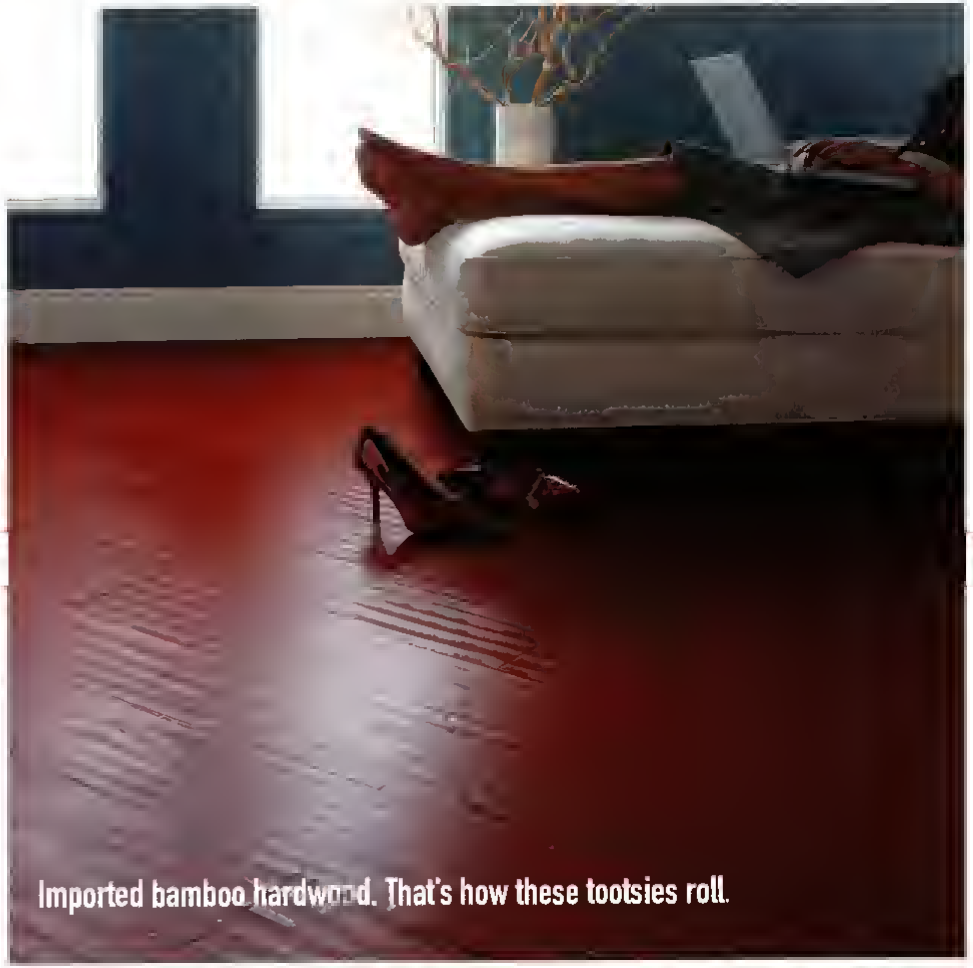

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The Oasis Out Back

I LIKE TO THINK I M A SENSIBLE KIND OF GUY For example, I only had to whack my thumb with a hammer two or three times before I realized it is not a good idea to whack my thumb with a hammer even once

And it only took me a year after the projected completion date of my big remodel to give up on the dream that it'd ever be finished, even though my contractor still drops by (sometimes) to ask for a check (usually) and discuss the things that will never get done (always)

We'd just had a conversation like that, standing in what will be—perhaps in the adulthood of any offspring I may one day have—the kitchen Then he swung open the sheet of plywood that is the temporary (possibly permanent) door at the rear of the house and stepped into the spring sunshine. "This is your backyard?" he asked, putting some astonishment into it. "Don't get me wrong, mate, but it's lovely!"

Why I keep him around, I don't know But he's right It is lovely. Like the yard in the very useful landscaping story "Put Some Spring in Your Steps" on page 82, mine's parceled out into separate spaces the deck, a rustic rock garden, a rambling honeysuckle at the fence, an orderly raised bed Unlike the yard on page 82, it all fits into a tiny space 20 feet wide by 40 feet deep, including a small patch of . . .

"Is that a lawn?" the contractor asked with a snort. "What's that, about 8 by 10?" By 12, I told him, expecting another insult couched in a compliment Instead he said, "Grass is hard to grow in the city." And that's when I gave up my secret I put new sod down every year

"You what?" Yep, every year. "Grab a hold of yourself, mate! There's not much sense in that now, is there?"

Like I said, folks, I like to *think* I'm sensible Clearly I think wrong For reasons unknown, my small bit of green, which I've just gotta have, won't take It stays healthy-looking until fall but then comes up in patches like, well, not unlike how it went when I used to comb my hair

Sadly, there's no help for my particular problem in this Create Your Ideal Yard issue, but there's plenty more stuff that I—and I hope you—will find useful Spend an hour or so checking it all out

Meantime, I'm gonna look for a Sod Club for Men.

SCOTT OMELIANUK
EDITOR

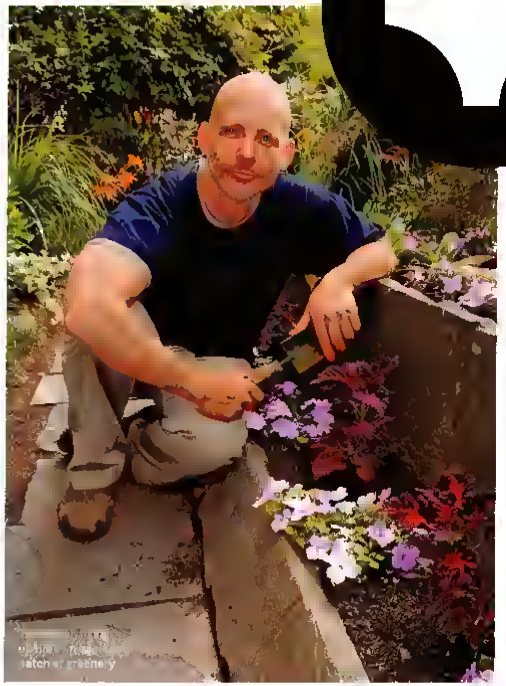

PHOTO: BEN BAKER

You provided the stories;
now pick the cover photo for our
June reader-generated issue:
Vote on your favorite at
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Painted Foam

Re 'Crown Jewels' [January/February] I purchased wood crown molding not realizing that my plaster walls were too wavy to let the molding lie flat. The solution: extruded foam molding! I glued directly to the walls, "painted" twice with a diluted solution of drywall compound, and covered with paint. The result looks just like wood—or plaster—and visitors can't believe that it's foam. Thanks for a great article and magazine ... I love it!

DAN GALLAGHER, ELDERSBURG, MD

Legal Advice

As a current and past owner of old houses and a real estate lawyer in Connecticut in practice for 45 years, I read with interest "In Fine Detail" [January/February]. It was distressing to see that the "favor" the seller did for the purchasers (throwing out pocket doors, door trim, and hardware that had been removed and stored in the attic) meant junking many of the original fancy work details that the buyers expected to reuse. This points up the need for buyers to discuss with their attorneys anything relevant to the sale that should be specifically noted in the sales agreement or in an addendum to eliminate such misunderstandings. Before contract signing, buyers should always search the property and make a list of any fixtures or other items that have been removed and set aside (extra radiators or woodwork, for instance) as well as other items that they want to specify as "affixed" to the realty. These might include appliances, that aren't built-in, draperies, light fixtures, mirrors, even cans of touch-up paint. This will help clarify whether the seller intends to remove them—and save you much grief in the end.

ROBERT P. SCHOLL, MIDDLEBURY, CONN.

Style Matters

The January/February articles "In Fine Detail" and "Crown Jewels" caught my attention since both were about architectural style and how it fits a house. "In Fine Detail" specifically includes the owner's comments about making sure any changes or additions properly match the design of the 1910 Craftsman. It's been my experience that many remodeling articles assume the reader understands this. You guys always seem to nail this aspect of your remodeling projects, since the end result looks good and appears to fit. But I see way too many houses where

modifications prompt me to ask, "What were they thinking?"

Which brings me to my suggestion. For remodels and additions, it would be nice to start the story with a bit more information on the house's architectural style. I find all your remodeling articles valuable, but knowing (for example) that a particular molding style does not fit my French Provincial house would help me understand that I really shouldn't apply those design details but just read for technique.

ROBERT BLAKENEY, CYPRESS, TEX.

Fire Safety

A letter in your January/February issue ["Fire and Engineered Wood"] said that compressed glued-wood products "do not stand up to fire the way heavier, traditional framing lumber does." In the context of overall fire safety, however, the difference in fire failure rates of sawn lumber versus wood I-joists is relatively minor compared with the difference between protected and unprotected construction, regardless of joist type.

A single layer of ½-inch-thick drywall on the underside of all I-joists, as the APA recommends for its products, significantly extends the time between the onset of fire and ultimate floor or ceiling system failure. Left unprotected, an I-joist in a standard ASTM fire test typically failed in 4 to 8 minutes, as compared with 8 to 12 minutes for unprotected sawn lumber joists. However, an I-joist protected by ½-inch drywall survived for nearly 33 minutes—a substantially greater safety margin than that offered by either type of unprotected construction.

THOMAS G. WILLIAMSON, VICE PRESIDENT FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES, APA—THE ENGINEERED WOOD ASSOCIATION

corrections

"Easy Angle Finder" Skill Building, January/February, p. 107. The method illustrated does not account for the ⅛-inch thickness of the back of a Speed square. The scale references the inside face, not the back. Take the gap measurement at 1⅞ inch and the chart will be correct.

"Taming the Router," January/February, p. 46. Because of a production error, the roundover and rabbet bits were transposed.

Our thanks to the careful readers who pointed out these errors.

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EDITED BY DEBORAH SNOONIAN

GET A GRIP

Five easy-to-use hand tools for the garden

A good set of landscaping tools won't force you to contort your wrists or hands while using them—after all, weeding is tough enough. We've dug up a few products with ergonomic and comfort features that will keep you pain-free this spring.

—HARRY SAWYERS

1 WITHIN YOUR GRASP
This cultivator's handle design allows your wrist to stay straight as you rip out weeds or break up clods of soil. Fist Grip cultivator, $14, lifewithease.com

2 A NICER SLICER
The straight and serrated edges of this knife help you slice through roots with less effort; its molded handle has a nonslip surface. 4750 soil knife, $17; emleo.com

3 DIG RIGHT IN
The National Home Gardening Club gave a thumbs up to this transplanter for its U-shaped handle that lets your arms (not your wrists) do all the hard work. NRG transplanter, $13, radiusgarden.com

4 IN THE CLUTCH
The extra pivot point on the handle of these shears makes them a lot easier to squeeze. Grass shears, $23, fiskars.com

5 NO CUTBACKS HERE
A smooth glide mechanism on this pruner banishes hand fatigue for cutting even the toughest stems. PowerGear2 bypass pruner, $35, fiskars.com

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ANDERSON

1 Black & Decker 19-inch corded Lawnhog mulching mower $223, blackanddecker.com

2 Neuton 19-inch battery-powered mower $499, neutonmowers.com

3 Free Power Systems SunWhisper 19-inch mower, $695; freepowersys.com

4 Envirogard 22-inch propane mower, $999; envirogard.com

Lean Green Cutting Machines

The EPA's 2007 announcement that lawn mowers contribute 5 percent of our country's greenhouse gas emissions didn't shock those of us who inhale the fumes as we yank the pull-cord every weekend. Thanks in part to stricter California emissions regulations that took effect last year, manufacturers are scrambling to make powered mowers that pollute less. The machines here not only spew fewer (or zero) emissions, they're cheaper to run and quieter too—something your neighbors will like if they sleep late on Saturday mornings. —PETER BONTEN

	WHY TO BUY	KEEP IN MIND
1 $-$$	Electric mowers have been around for decades so the technology is fully mature—and cheap. They produce no emissions while you're mowing, and they're lighter than gas mowers, requiring no tune-ups or oiling to work properly.	Since the cord keeps you tied to a power source, these models are best suited for small lawns—no more than a quarter-acre. Most corded mowers don't offer as much power as amped-up gas mowers, so make sure the one you pick can tackle your terrain.
2 $$	They offer the same perks as corded models, but with no cord to keep you tethered to a power source. Newer models (available in Europe but not in the U.S.) are starting to use lithium-ion batteries, which last longer and are lighter than their lead-acid brethren.	The batteries last for a few years, but you need to juice them up often. A 19-inch model can mow about a third of an acre in an hour before you have to recharge for 8 to 12 hours. Look for a model whose battery can be charged inside or outside the mower, and buy a spare battery so you can work without interruption.
3 $$	These battery-up machines use less electricity because solar panels power their batteries. Some units (like the one shown above, the only model available in the U.S.) feature detachable solar panels that can be mounted on a garage roof or elsewhere for continual charging.	The solar panels need three days worth of sunlight to fully charge the battery. As panel technology improves, though, charging times will shorten. An included backup plug-in charger does the same work in only 8 hours (but using it negates your energy savings, of course).
4 $$$	Yep, now there's a mower that runs on the same fuel as your gas grill. Propane machines offer much more power, range, and running time than corded electric or battery-operated models. Plus, propane burns cleaner than gasoline, it's cheaper than gas, and it won't spill out of its storage cylinders.	Power comes at a cost: Burning propane does produce some fumes, and these mowers are quieter and a lot heavier than electric models. They're also more expensive. If you're a deep-pocketed early adopter, go for it—but you may want to wait to see if prices come down.

10 USES

TENNIS BALLS

Your racket may be gathering dust in the attic, but don't throw away its partners in crime. Here's how to use tennis balls without ever hitting the court. —JENNIFER STIMPSON

1 **ERASE SCUFF MARKS.** With a utility knife, cut an X in a tennis ball and slip it over the end of an old broom handle. Rub the ball over scuff marks on your wood floors; they'll come right off.

2 **PROTECT A PADLOCK.** Cut a slit in a tennis ball with a utility knife and slip it over an outdoor padlock to prevent water from getting into it and freezing.

3 **REMOVE A BROKEN LIGHTBULB.** The bulb broke off in the socket? No problem. Carefully clear away any shards of broken glass, then gently push a tennis ball against the light socket and twist it to remove the bulb's embedded stem.

4 **CUSHION THE BLOW.** Cut an X in a tennis ball and slip it over the head of a hammer so you don't ding up walls, wood, or other fragile materials while you're pounding away.

5 **INSTALL A PARKING GUIDE.** Hang a tennis ball from a string from the ceiling of your garage so that the ball touches the top left corner of the windshield when your car is properly parked. Now you'll know how far to pull in each time you come home.

6 **OPEN A JAR.** Cut a tennis ball in half. Use the open end to grip and unscrew tight lids.

7 **MAKE A HITCH COVER.** Make a long slit in a tennis ball with a utility knife. Slide the ball over the hitch of your trailer to keep it from scratching other cars (and protect it from getting damaged).

8 **COLLECT CHANGE FOR TOLLS.** Cut a slit in a tennis ball and stash spare change inside. Keep the ball in your car so you don't have to grope for your wallet when you're at the tollbooth.

9 **KEEP A DOOR OPEN.** Who needs a doorstop? Wedge a tennis ball between the door and the doorjamb instead.

10 **GET A BETTER GRIP.** Hold a tennis ball in each hand. Squeeze and release repeatedly to strengthen your hands and arms for using tools.

PHOTO: (BOOT) DAVID CHAY; (KEYS) ANTON SCHUPF—EOS

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Low-Maintenance Beds and Borders

FOLLOW OUR TIPS FOR PLANTING AN EASY-CARE GARDEN THIS SPRING

Can you have a yard full of plants and flowers without spending all your weekends weeding and watering? You bet. Whether starting from scratch or working with established plants, the right prep is essential, and our selection and planting guidelines will give you more time to... er, smell the roses. —JEANNE HUBER

FOR EXISTING BEDS, WEED EARLY. That's when weeds are smallest. Get out deep taproots with a gardening fork or a weeding tool, and pull up unwanted grasses and weeds that spread by runners (horizontal shoots), such as buttercups. You can chop off most other weeds at ground level. If you're preparing a bed from scratch, dig deeply and weed more thoroughly.

ADD ORGANIC MATTER. Spread a few inches of compost around established plants, or work it into the top layer of soil in a new bed. "Compost provides a nutrient source that's slow and sustained, so your plants can grow fast and outcompete weeds," says Ann Lovejoy, author of *Organic Garden Design School* and other gardening books.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT VARIETIES. Ask your nursery to help you find
- Plants native to the region, which are suited to your climate and rainfall
- Plants that don't need constant pruning or deadheading (clipping off spent blooms)
- Perennials, or plants that bloom year after year
- Evergreens, which keep soil shaded to reduce the light available to weed seeds, which need light to germinate
- Plants that grow based on the light available, whether sun or shade

BUY ENOUGH STUFF. At maturity, the plants should fill the available space, which keeps the soil shaded to prevent weed seeds from sprouting.

MULCH, MULCH, MULCH. If you do nothing else, do this. "Mulch keeps soil moist and loose. It shades out weed seeds until your plants get big enough to do it on their own, and it helps critters in the soil do their job of recycling nutrients," says Lovejoy.

Easy-care perennials that bloom year after year include the purple coneflower (TOP CENTER), black-eyed Susans (AT LEFT MIDDLE), and blazing star (AT LEFT, BOTTOM). Mature plants should fill the entire bed to keep the soil shaded and moist.

A BRIGHT IDEA

THESE FIXTURES STAY LIT EVEN WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

If you're one of the 16 million Americans who suffered a power outage last year, you've probably had to grope around for a flashlight (or their dangerous cousins, matches and candles). Grope no more. Energizer's Light on Demand fixtures run on electricity or rechargeable AAA batteries. If the power goes out, the lights switch to the battery backup, staying lit for between 10 and 30 hours. The "bulbs" are made from LEDs encased in a detachable tube, so if you need light in another room, just carry the tube with you. The fixtures are available at Target now, with wider distribution slated for summertime. Like the Energizer bunny, they keep going and going and going— Light on Demand, $25 and up, energizer.com. —NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

Dishwashers start at $999, ranges start at $1,899 and refrigerators start at $2,199.

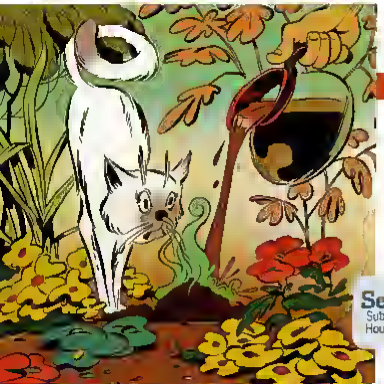
CHEF-GRADE BUT WALLET-FRIENDLY

New appliances from Electrolux offer luxury features at lower prices

The company known in culinary circles for its Molteni professional appliance line is bringing its wares to us regular old home cooks. Electrolux has debuted more than 50 ranges, refrigerators, and other kitchen goodies at prices that are a big step down from those of its flagship line. Superfluous bells and whistles aside—your zucchini quiche doesn't need luxe lighting that "ramps up like a spotlight"—we appreciate the Energy Star ratings of many items in the collection, and the diversity of products and features is impressive: compact dishwashers with room for 180 items; electric cooktops with burner sizes that range from a gentle 450-Btu simmer to a roaring 18,000-Btu boil; and refrigerators with built-in alarms that sound off if you've accidentally left a door ajar. With their chamfered edges and iPhone-like LED touch screens, these new appliances are easy on the eyes, too. Now if only they could shop for groceries. —NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

Planning a Renovation? Read This First

If you want to remodel but feel flummoxed by the thingamajig you'd like to add to the whatchamacallit, *The Pocket Renovator* will give you a leg up on the details. This guide to the lingo of home improvement offers jargon-free explanations of everything, from roof styles to plumbing systems to terms used in staircase design. While some of the items featured are so basic they're almost laughable (I think we all know what a toilet paper holder is), don't skip the excellent chapters on building construction and cabinetwork, which will have you talking like a contractor in no time flat. Like home improvement itself, the book is a bit addictive—you'll be tempted to preach its handy lessons to your delighted (or bored) spouse. Don't say we didn't warn you. —DEBORAH SNOONIAN



TOH TIP

Coffee Grounds: A Surefire Cat Repellent

"My cats once used my garden beds as a litter box. But about 10 years ago, I started scattering coffee grounds in the beds, and the cats have stayed away ever since. It doesn't matter whether the grounds are fresh or were used to brew coffee. Apply them liberally, either underneath or on top of mulch. The nice thing is that coffee smells pretty good, and it will help to dissipate and mask cat odors until time and nature do it for you." —A. SPRUCE, CALIF.

Send Us Your Tips
Submit your favorite tips to Around the House at thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

WHEN THE PRESSURE'S ON, XP550 HOLDS TIGHT.

The company that invented the one-handed bar clamp now puts 550 lbs. of one-handed force in the palm of your hand. The IRWIN® QUICK-GRIP® XP550 also features Patented Power Locks™ to hold the pressure longer, a Quick-Release™ trigger, plus Quick-Change™ Jaws to convert it to a spreader. Add it all up and no other clamp can compare. Bar none.

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www.irwin.com/quick-grip

NEED TO KNOW

BLADES OF GLORY

Nine steps to take now for a lush lawn all season long

Happy National Lawn Care Month! American homes are host to more than 30 million acres of lawns, which will play host to countless barbecues, picnics, and Frisbee games in the coming months. With proper care, your lawn will look great despite endless hours of barefoot traffic and blazing sun. *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook tells us what we should do to keep the grass greener.

learn more

For step-by-step projects and videos about tending your lawn, go to **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

There's no one-size-fits-all formula for fertilizing. Your soil-test results will offer tips on what amendments to add to keep your lawn healthy.

5

1 TEST YOUR SOIL

A soil test takes the guesswork out of lawn care, giving you precise measurements of pH as well as the quantity and availability of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. (home kits are usually reliable for pH only) Contact a cooperative extension service to conduct the test; they cost around $20.

2 FERTILIZE

There's no one-size-fits-all formula for springtime—it all depends on the soil and the type of grass you have. Your soil test will offer tips on what amendments to add or take the results to a gardening center and get their advice. Opt for a slow-release organic fertilizer and apply it to the outer edges of your lawn. Then cover the middle, overlapping each pass by a few inches. You may have to mow more frequently afterward, since you're adding nutrients at a time of rapid growth.

3 WATCH YOUR CALCIUM INTAKE

Up to 90 percent of common lawn weeds are linked to a lack of calcium in soil. Ideally, you should have a calcium to magnesium ratio of 7 to 1. If yours falls short of that target, spread high-calcium lime over your lawn, which will boost its ability to absorb nitrogen and synthesize proteins, robbing weeds of food.

4 ADD ORGANIC MATTER

Early season grass benefits from added compost, whether you make it yourself or get it from your home center or town. Apply a ½-inch layer over your lawn and rake it into the surface. Finished compost should smell earthy and slightly sweet; avoid using compost that's still steaming, which indicates it's not fully decomposed yet. One yard (or 27 cubic feet) will cover 600 square feet.

5 STOP CRABGRASS IN ITS TRACKS

Crabgrass germinates when the soil temperature reaches about 55 degrees F, which happens in mid-April in many regions. Wait until your soil reaches this mark for a few consecutive days, then apply a pre-emergent herbicide (or use corn gluten if you prefer a natural product, available at bradfieldorganics.com). Crabgrass doesn't grow well in the shade, so you don't need to add chemicals in well-shaded parts of your yard.

6 PULL UP WEEDS

Ever notice that weeds pop up right after a spring rain? That's your cue to pull them—if they're small and the soil's moist, they should come out by hand.

7 GET YOUR MOWER IN SHIPSHAPE

Dull mower blades tear off grass rather than cutting it clean, leaving ragged tips that invite disease to set in. Holding the blade in a vise, sharpen it with long, smooth strokes using a Dremel blade sharpener or a 10-inch bastard mill file, following the manufacturer's instructions for the proper angle. During the growing season, sharpen the blade after you've used your mower for about 8 to 12 hours.

8 LET THE GRASS GROW . . . A LITTLE

Your grass might be as short as a putting green, but don't keep it that way. Let it grow to a length of about 3 to 3½ inches, and maintain that height all season. This lets the grass blades shade out weed seeds, and in the summer it shades the soil, reducing evaporation. Come fall, you can go back to cutting it short—weed seeds aren't as abundant then, and evaporation is less of a concern. Two exceptions are Bermuda and seashore paspalum grasses, found in the South, which can be kept at a height of ¾ to 1 inch.

9 DET YOUR SOD ON

If you're starting a lawn from scratch, April is the month to lay down sod, when it's cooler and there's time for the grass to take root. Ask your seller for grass that suits your yard's conditions, whether sun, shade, or a combo. Sod should be fresh when you lay it; beware the rolls that have been sitting outside for a while. Prepare to water: water when it's installed. Your garden center can recommend an appropriate schedule.

PHOTO: KELLER & KELLER

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

There's relief for pain like this. Ask your doctor about Lyrica.®

LYRICA® PREGABALIN CAPSULES
Designed for Relief

Do you feel burning pain in your feet? Or tingling, numbness, stabbing or shooting sensations? If so, you may have painful neuropathy, also known as nerve pain. This type of pain is different from musculoskeletal (muscle or joint) pain, and may need a different type of treatment. Only Lyrica (pronounced LEER-i-kah) is FDA approved to treat two of the most common types of nerve pain, Diabetic Nerve Pain and Pain after Shingles. Lyrica is specially designed to provide the relief you need. It works on the nerves that cause this pain. So you can start to think about other things besides your pain. Ask your doctor if Lyrica can help. Lyrica is one of several treatment options for you and your doctor to consider.

Prescription Lyrica is not for everyone. Tell your doctor right away about any serious allergic reaction that causes swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or neck or affects your breathing or your skin. Also tell your doctor about any changes in your eyesight, including blurry vision, muscle pain along with a fever or tired feeling or if you are planning to father a child. Some of the most common side effects of Lyrica are dizziness and sleepiness. Others are weight gain, blurry vision, dry mouth, feeling "high," swelling of hands and feet and trouble concentrating. You may have a higher chance of swelling, hives or gaining weight if you are also taking certain diabetes or high blood pressure medicines. Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how Lyrica affects you. Do not drink alcohol while taking Lyrica. Be especially careful about medicines that make you sleepy. If you have had a drug or alcohol problem, you may be more likely to misuse Lyrica. Talk with your doctor before you stop taking Lyrica or any other prescription medication.

Please see important patient information on adjacent pages.

To learn more visit www.lyrica.com or call toll-free 1-888-9-LYRICA (1-888-959-7422).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Lyrica® *(pregabalin)* Capsules ©
(LEER-i-kah)

Read the Patient Information that comes with LYRICA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your condition or treatment. If you have any questions about LYRICA, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?

1. **LYRICA may cause serious allergic reactions.**
   - **Call your doctor right away if you think you have any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:**
     - **swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or neck**
     - **have any trouble breathing**
     - **Other allergic reactions may include rash, hives and blisters.**
2. **LYRICA may cause dizziness and sleepiness.**
   - **Do not drive a car, work with machines, or do other dangerous activities until you know how LYRICA affects how alert you are. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do these activities.**
3. **LYRICA may cause problems with your eyesight, including blurry vision.**
   - **Call your doctor if you have any changes in your eyesight.**

What is LYRICA?
LYRICA is a prescription medicine used in adults, 18 years and older, to treat:
- pain from damaged nerves (neuropathic pain) that happens with diabetes
- pain from damaged nerves (neuropathic pain) that follows healing of shingles (a painful rash that comes after a herpes zoster infection)
- partial seizures when taken together with other seizure medicines
- fibromyalgia

LYRICA has not been studied in children under 18 years of age.

Pain from Damaged Nerves (neuropathic pain)

Diabetes and shingles can damage your nerves. Pain from damaged nerves may feel sharp, burning, tingling, shooting, or numb. If you have diabetes, the pain can be in your arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet, or toes. If you have shingles, the pain is in the area of your rash. You may experience this kind of pain even with a very light touch. LYRICA can help relieve the pain. Some people taking LYRICA had less pain by the end of the first week of LYRICA therapy. LYRICA may not work for everyone.

Partial Seizures

Partial seizures start in one part of the brain. A seizure can make you fearful, confused, or just feel "funny". You may smell strange smells. A seizure may cause your arm or leg to jerk or shake. It can spread to other parts of your brain, make you pass out, and cause your whole body to start jerking.

LYRICA can lower the number of seizures for people who are already taking seizure medicine.

Fibromyalgia

Fibromyalgia is a condition which includes widespread muscle pain and difficulty performing daily activities. LYRICA can help relieve the pain and improve function. Some people taking LYRICA had less pain by the end of the first week of LYRICA therapy. LYRICA may not work for everyone.

Who Should Not Take LYRICA?
Do not take LYRICA if you are allergic to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is pregabalin. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in LYRICA.

What should I tell my doctor before taking LYRICA?
Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:
- **have any kidney problems or get kidney dialysis**
- **have heart problems including heart failure**
- **have a bleeding problem or a low blood platelet count**
- **are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if LYRICA may harm your unborn baby. You and your doctor will have to decide if LYRICA is right for you while you are pregnant.
- **are breastfeeding.** It is not known if LYRICA passes into breast milk and if it can harm your baby. You and your doctor should decide whether you should take LYRICA or breastfeed, but not both.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins or herbal supplements. LYRICA and other medicines may affect each other. Especially tell your doctor if you take:
- angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. You may have a higher chance for swelling and hives if these medicines are taken with LYRICA. See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- Avandia® (rosiglitazone) or Actos® (pioglitazone) for diabetes. You may have a higher chance of weight gain or swelling if these medicines are taken with LYRICA. See "What are the possible side effects of LYRICA."
- any narcotic pain medicine (such as oxycodone), tranquilizers or medicines for anxiety (such as lorazepam). You may have a higher chance for dizziness and sleepiness if these medicines are taken with LYRICA. See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- any medicines that make you sleepy

Know all the medicines you take. Keep a list of them with you to show your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

Tell your doctor if you plan to father a child. Animal studies showed that pregabalin, the active ingredient in LYRICA, made male animals less fertile and caused sperm abnormalities. Also, in animal studies, birth defects occurred in the offspring of male animals who were treated with pregabalin. It is not known if these effects would happen in people.

How should I take LYRICA?
- Take LYRICA exactly as prescribed. Your doctor may adjust your dose during treatment. Do not change your dose without talking to your doctor.
- Do not stop taking LYRICA suddenly without talking to your doctor. If you stop taking LYRICA suddenly, you may have headaches, nausea, diarrhea or trouble sleeping. Talk with your doctor about how to slowly stop LYRICA.
- LYRICA is usually taken 2 or 3 times a day, depending on your medical condition. Your doctor will tell you how much LYRICA to take and when to take it. Take LYRICA at the same times each day.
- LYRICA may be taken with or without food.
- If you miss a dose by a few hours, take it as soon as you remember. If it is close to your next dose, just take LYRICA at your next regular time. **Do not** take two doses at the same time.
- If you take too much LYRICA, call your doctor or poison control center or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

What Should I Avoid While Taking LYRICA?
- **Do not drive a car, work with machines, or do other dangerous activities until you know how LYRICA affects how alert you are.** See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- **Do not drink alcohol while taking LYRICA.** LYRICA and alcohol can affect each other and increase side effects such as sleepiness and dizziness. This can be dangerous.

Do not take other medicines without talking to your doctor. Other medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LYRICA and other medicines may affect each other and increase the side effects of swelling, sleepiness and dizziness. Be especially careful about medicines that make you sleepy (such as sleeping pills, anxiety medicines, tranquilizers and some antihistamines, pain relievers and seizure medicines).

What are the possible side effects of LYRICA?
LYRICA may cause side effects including:
- **allergic reactions.** See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- **weight gain and swelling of the hands and feet (edema).** Weight gain may affect the management of diabetes. Weight gain and swelling can also be a serious problem for people with heart problems.
- **dizziness and sleepiness.** See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- **eyesight problems.** See "What is the most important information I should know about LYRICA?"
- **unexplained muscle problems, such as muscle pain, soreness, or weakness.** If you develop these symptoms, especially if you also feel sick and have a fever, tell your doctor right away.

The most common side effects of LYRICA are:
- dizziness
- blurry vision
- weight gain
- sleepiness
- trouble concentrating
- swelling of hands and feet
- dry mouth

LYRICA caused skin sores in animals. Although skin sores were not seen in studies in people, if you have diabetes, you should pay extra attention to your skin while taking LYRICA and tell your doctor of any sores or skin problems.

LYRICA may cause some people to feel "high." Tell your doctor, if you have abused prescription medicines, street drugs, or alcohol in the past.

Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects of LYRICA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store LYRICA?
- Store LYRICA at room temperature 59 to 86° F (15 to 30° C) in its original package.
- Safely throw away LYRICA that is out of date or no longer needed.
- **Keep LYRICA and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about LYRICA
Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those listed in patient information leaflets. Do not use LYRICA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LYRICA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LYRICA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about LYRICA that is written for health professionals.

You can also visit the LYRICA website at www.LYRICA.com or call 1-866-4LYRICA.

What are the ingredients in LYRICA?
Active ingredient: pregabalin

Inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate, cornstarch, talc;

Capsule shell: gelatin and titanium dioxide; Orange capsule shell: red iron oxide, White capsule shell: sodium lauryl sulfate, colloidal silicon dioxide. Colloidal silicon dioxide is a manufacturing aid that may or may not be present in the capsule shells.

Imprinting ink: shellac, black iron oxide, propylene glycol, potassium hydroxide

Manufactured by
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals LLC
Vega Baja, PR 00694

LAB 0299-5.0

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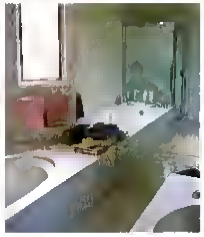
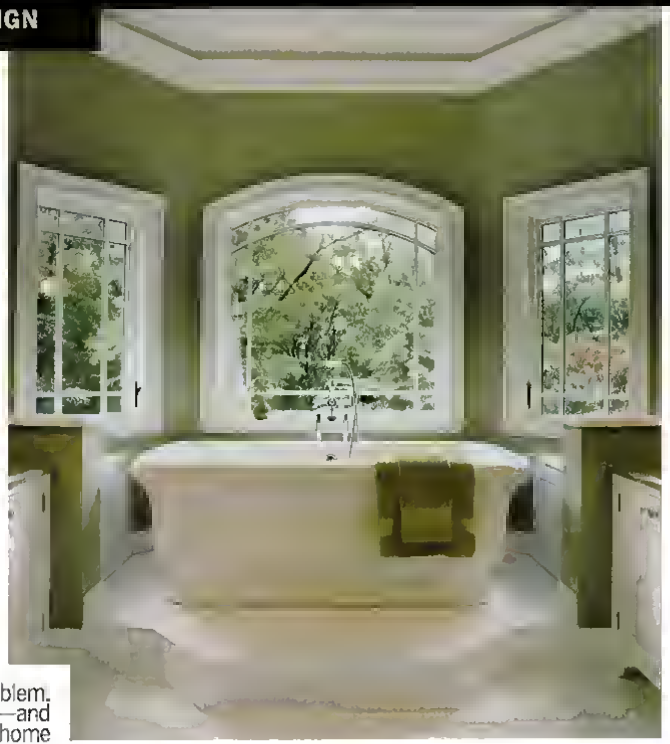
June 2007





BEFORE. Narrow windows, dingy tiles, mirrored walls, and leaky pipes made the 1980s-style bath redo feel uninviting and out of sync with the house's period architecture. AFTER. On a platform in the new windowed bay a Waterworks tub soaks up natural light and scenic vistas.

Problem.
The bath didn't flow—and it didn't suit a 1908 home

Solution:

Bump out to open up the cramped space, then add a vintage look. Here's how »

BY AMANDA LECKY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÜRGEN FRANK

ONE THING CAN LEAD TO ANOTHER when a remodel is under way. The owners of this sunlit master bath in Westchester County, New York, were embarking on some changes to the Shingle-style home they'd lived in for two years when architect Carol Kurth came up with a suggestion: Instead of the simple cosmetic update they'd planned for their leaky, '80s-style bath, why not go a bit further? "We figured that if they were going to spend time and money fixing the room, they might as well do it right, and when we showed them the opportunities for storage and views that a small addition would open up, they decided to go for it," says Kurth. Her plan hinged on a modest bumpout—about 8 feet deep and 10½ feet wide—to allow for twin vanities and a vaulted, windowed bay for a freestanding tub, positioned to maximize Hudson River views (Kurth climbed into the tub to make sure it was situated just right). "We were actively trying to avoid ending up with an over-the-top bath," says the husband. "Carol gave us a space that's understated but still pretty and functional." The original section now holds a shower, a dressing area with custom cabinets, and a private toilet room—a detail the homeowners are grateful for, since one of their teenage daughters likes to use the space, too. "She has her own bath," says her father, "but she says ours is superior now."

PRODUCED BY CO. ETTE SCANLON, STY. ING. PLAN OLLESS

F. BOB PLANS, IAN WORPO L.

The Plan

Turn a dated, uncomfortable bath into a soothing space with ample storage and spectacular views.

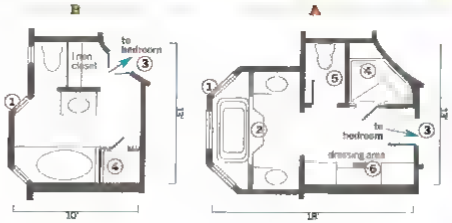
What They Did

1 **BUMPED OUT** the far end of the bath, creating a larger, windowed bay to hold the freestanding 6-foot tub and enough room for built-in vanities on either side.
2 **BUILT A PLATFORM** to raise the 6-foot tub high enough to give the bather an uninterrupted sight line to the river.
3 **MOVED THE DOORWAY** out of the clipped corner where it stood and toward the center of an adjacent wall.
4 **RELOCATED THE SHOWER** to where the linen closet was, expanding its footprint as well as that of the adjacent toilet area.
5 **INCREASED PRIVACY** in the master bath by creating a separate toilet room with its own door.
6 **CREATED A DRESSING AREA** with a vanity table flanked by floor-to-ceiling wardrobe cabinets along the wall where the tub and shower had stood.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: The luxurious shower has a curved wall, a glass door, and built-in seating. Twin stone-topped vanities flank the tub area. BELOW: To make up for an overall lack of storage space in the master suite, the architect integrated wardrobe cabinets on either side of a built-in vanity table, creating a dressing area.

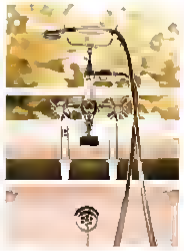
more bath solutions

See how other homeowners have solved their bath design problems at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts



B **BEFORE** The 10 by 13 foot bath had a big built-in tub, but the other fixtures were squeezed for space. Small windows cut off light and views.
A **AFTER** A 78-square-foot bumpout created a space that two can share comfortably, with three big windows, dual vanities, a walk-in shower, and a private toilet room. New built-in storage keeps everything neat and tidy.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: The shower is tiled in Verde Laguna marble and ceramic tiles; bath from Terra Tile; and glass mosaics from Waterworks. Polished chrome tub and shower fittings from Waterworks honor the home's turn-of-the-century vintage.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

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Hot Spots

»Jump-start the patio season with a wood-burning or gas-fueled fire pit

BY NATALIE RODRIGUEZ
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL T. WEBBER

REMEMBER HOW MUCH fun it was to gather round the campfire and sleep under the stars? Even if you've outgrown s'mores and bogeyman tales (though who ever outgrows s'mores, really?), there's just something about an open-air blaze that makes you feel warm all over. With one of these fire pits, you can rekindle that old feeling for a fraction of the cost of an outdoor fireplace and without having to do a lick of work besides taking it out of the box and setting it up. These instant hearths let you stretch your outdoor living season from the coolest days of spring to the nippiest fall nights. Unlike the campfires of yore, portable pits come in numerous styles and materials to suit your home's architecture and burn a variety of fuels, including wood, propane, and gel. So bust out the marshmallows, get comfy, and rejoice in knowing that when the last embers die, you can retreat indoors, to the softness of your very own bed.

Fuel Fundamentals

Before you buy a fire pit, consider what you're going to burn in it (and check with your local fire department to see what's allowed in your area).

WOOD > Sold by the cord (128 cubic feet) or face cord (66 cubic feet), wood is generally the least expensive option, costing about $1.50 per blaze.

PROPANE > Efficient and clean-burning, propane costs a little over $2 per fire. You need to store the tanks of flammable liquid safely in a cool, outdoor spot and clean your pit regularly to get rid of debris and soot that can clog burners.

NATURAL GAS > Gas lets you connect your pit straight to a permanent fuel supply. Ignition is instantaneous, and a 2-hour fire will cost you about $5.

ALCOHOL-BASED GEL > Touted as more efficient than wood and more eco-friendly than gas or propane, alcohol-based gels are sold by select fire pit manufacturers for about $3 per can. A can lasts about 3 hours. Most pits, though, need more than one can

HEAVYWEIGHT HEARTH
To keep your backyard soirees going all night, look for an extra-large-capacity burner—like this hand-hammered copper pit. Its deep, 40-inch-wide basin can easily hold a pile of 2-foot logs. $295, frontgate.com

CERAMIC CYLINDER
Bring the casual cheer of a beach bonfire to your patio with a colorful 18½-inch-high ceramic fire ring filled with clear tumbled glass. The fiberglass-reinforced concrete base has a hose for connecting to a propane or natural-gas source. $900, californiaoutdoorconcepts.com

TABLETOP TOASTER
A weather-resistant eucalyptus table with a blazing centerpiece keeps hot cider warm and within reach. The firebox holds a set of ceramic logs that burn an odor-free, alcohol-based gel. $399, realflame.com

BUILD YOUR SKILL
Learn how to safely extinguish a fire pit flare-up. Workshop, p. 107

online bonus
Check out six cool fire pit accessories at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

TILED SURROUND
A handcrafted mosaic tile border gives this 30-inch-diameter steel basin an artistic look—as well as a convenient resting place for your cup of hot cocoa. $280, bluerhino.com

STAINLESS SHELL
So sleek and modern it makes heat look cool, this stainless-steel tripod stands a foot high and has a 21-inch basin for firewood. $600, Blomus, available at puremodern.com

FIREBALL
On a dark night, this black steel ball will give the illusion of flames floating in air. The all-over mesh body that allows for an unobstructed view and 360-degree warmth also keeps embers from escaping. $215, Landmann, available at csnstores.com

OWN the memories.

RENT the tools.

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toward your next DIY project!*
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You want to build a deck together. But you don't want to buy a power auger, table saw, compressor and other expensive equipment. No problem. Rent it all from an ARA member rental store and own the memories.

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Screen Time

>> Add privacy to your outdoor space with these smart landscaping solutions

BY SAL VAGLICA PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW DRAKE

STYLISH SLATS These staggered wooden boards stained in soft shades of black, yellow green, and red add up to a one of a kind privacy fence softened by shrubs in front and a feathery tree canopy overhead.

FOR A WHILE, getting away from it all was easy. You could kick back in glorious solitude right in your own backyard. Then the family next door cleared some trees on their lot. And on the other side, the neighbors' new master suite includes a second-story deck with nice views—into your yard. Suddenly, you feel like you're living in a fishbowl.

As larger and larger houses occupy ever-smaller lots and the demand for outdoor living areas continues to skyrocket, privacy is at a premium. And it's not just about prying eyes invading your space. You may want to shield your own view—like the sight of the folks next door sunbathing poolside.

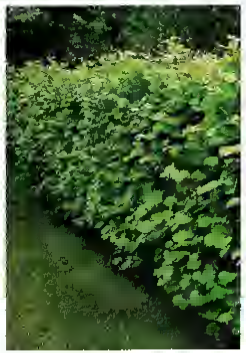
There are myriad ways to add privacy in the landscape, from putting in perimeter plantings to building fences, stone walls, or garden structures. "The right solution for any particular situation depends on how much privacy you need, how fast you want it, and how much space you have to work with," says *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook.

Here's an overview of the options.

PRIVACY PLANTINGS

Property-line plantings can provide year-round screening and are typically not restricted by municipal ordinances limiting their height. Where space is tight, as in a side yard, fast-growing columnar evergreens like Italian cypress and arborvitae or a sheared privet hedge can provide a simple solution for separating adjoining yards or blocking sight lines out a kitchen window.

In larger yards, planting a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and perennials creates a more naturalistic look, especially if you layer plants, grouping them in odd numbers. "Stagger evergreens in the background, and in the foreground step down the height with deciduous material to provide texture, depth, and color," says Elliott Brundage, a landscape architect in



LIVING FENCES TOP: Evergreen hemlocks screen the view in all four seasons; mixed perennials and grasses in front look lush and natural when it's warm. ABOVE: Deciduous shrubs, such as this hazel, can work as privacy hedges in backyards that go largely unused in the colder months.

find it online

Get step-by-step instructions for installing a fence at **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

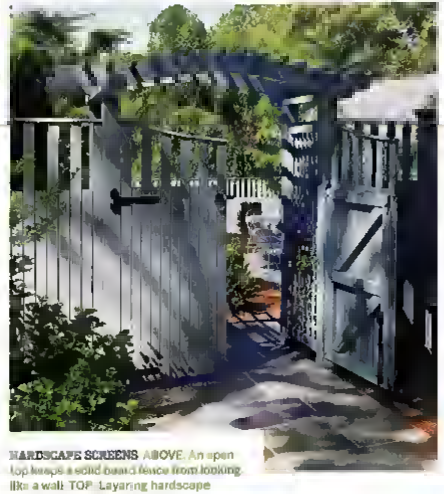
Andover, Massachusetts.

Planting deciduous shade trees—which generally grow from 25 to 60 feet high, depending on the species—is a good way to obscure a neighbor's view from a second-story window or terrace. Positioned over a deck or patio, the canopy provides privacy and shade during the summer. Where winters are cold and outdoor spaces go unused for those months, the trees' bare branches allow the sun to shine into the house.

On a raised deck, potted plants such as arborvitae or clumping bamboo can be positioned to create a green screen around a seating area. Ideally, pots should be raised up on casters or made of lightweight materials so you can easily move them for parties or deck repairs.

FENCES AND WALLS

Newly installed pools, patios, and playgrounds may require a visual buffer in a hurry. A 6-foot solid board fence is the quickest way to add year-round screening—just be sure to check local building codes regarding fence heights (and any other restrictions). It may also be the best solution in a side yard, where space is tight, since fences have a smaller footprint than plantings. They come in various styles to complement the architecture of your home, and you can



HARDSCAPE SCREENS ABOVE: An open top keeps a solid board fence from looking like a wall. TOP: Layering hardscape elements creates an attractive screen that doesn't feel monolithic. Here, a low stone wall is topped with a short, slatted fence crowned with a trellis for climbing roses.

stain them to match the house so they blend in even more. "But while a privacy fence might solve the problem, it's not always the most aesthetically pleasing solution," says Eric Sauer, a landscape architect in Dayton, Ohio. To break up the mass of a board fence, Sauer suggests adding an open lattice or baluster top and planting flowering or evergreen shrubs in front to soften its solidity.

Another option, if total privacy isn't a must, is to mount a shorter, 3- or 4-foot lattice or picket fence on top of a 2- or 3-foot stone wall. The wall, from a distance, is high enough to disrupt sight

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) KEN R. DEVONSHIRE (HOUSE STOCK); AMY DALLAS; SHARON HULT

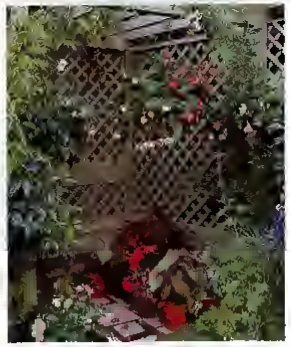
AIRY ENCLOSURES NEAR LEFT: This gazebolike latticework pavilion has a Victorian elegance, with varied patterns in the dark green panels and crisp white trim. BELOW LEFT: Three walls of lattice and a trellis top create a bench hideaway; olive-green stain, potted plants, and hanging baskets blend it into the landscape.

lines, while the openwork fence screens without feeling claustrophobic. Similarly, a masonry wall of stone or stucco that rises 5 or 6 feet high feels less oppressive when windows are cut into it; often, ornamental ironwork can decorate such openings.

PANELS AND PERGOLAS

Defined areas like small patios, outdoor kitchens, and decks are generally easier to screen than a whole yard. By building an enclosure around them, you can re-create the intimate feeling of eating or entertaining indoors. These may take the shape of a slatted-top wooden pergola covered with climbing vines on a patio or a pair of fixed lattice panels along two sides of a raised deck. Prefab iron gazebos can be set right on the ground and surrounded with potted vines and hanging baskets to fill some of the gaps.

Screens made from lattice, shutter-like louvered wood panels, or sections of ornamental iron with anchoring posts can be set into the ground to enclose a cozy corner or make a U-shaped structure that preserves desirable views. For maximum flexibility, consider placing the post ends in lightweight planters



with wheels; to anchor them, add concrete plugs to the feet or set the posts in gravel. That way, they can be moved around to create more open space when you're entertaining.

Semitransparent structures may not provide complete privacy, but they add a lot of visual interest to a landscape and allow natural light and breezes in. "They create a comforting sense of containment and a psychological buffer," says Stephanie Hubbard, a landscape architect in Boston and *TOH* TV regular. "And sometimes that's enough." ■

A Little Piece of Quiet

Even if you're not literally seeing eye to eye with the neighbors, you might still be close enough to hear their conversation. Or you may be bothered by intrusive traffic noise or buzzing AC compressors. In such cases, adding a fountain to your privacy plan can mask unwanted sounds with pleasant white noise. These range from off the shelf plug-in units that sit on a table or hang on the wall to custom designs that become a major focal point.

Keep in mind that flowing water becomes louder the farther it falls and the more tiers it travels over. Michael Glassman, a landscape designer in Sacramento, California, warns that it's possible for a fountain to be too loud which is just as disruptive as the noise you're trying to hide. "The sound of rushing water might be inviting when guests arrive, but you don't want to have to yell over the din at dinner," says Glassman, who designed the wall and water feature shown above. All fountains have a recirculating pump, so look for one you can adjust. Then you're sure to find a sound level that's soothing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

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LOWE'S

Depression Modern

>> Inspired by Detroit, available to all, the style gave America its first brush with the future

BY KELLY BEAMON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL T. WEBBER

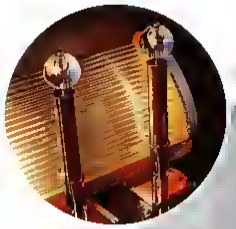
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION, people were looking for hope. One place they found it was in the shiny surfaces, racy lines, and futuristic spirit of automobile design. Folks may not have been able to afford a new Chrysler, but they were eager to get those same mercury-sleek details in furniture, lighting, and appliances for their homes.

"Depression Modern [1933–1940] was high style for the mass market," says Jared Goss, the Metropolitan Museum's associate curator of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Humble materials and assembly line production meant the era's fenderlike curves and chrome banding turned up on mantel clocks, tableware, ashtrays, and sofas. Whole rooms got speeded up. Smooth plaster archways led into spaces stripped of trim and rounded where walls met ceiling. Today, the streamlined style of Depression Modern can lend excitement to traditional homes or bring a touch of machine age refinement to urban lofts. Turn the page to see how.

To demonstrate Depression Modern's continued vitality, we mixed some new products with the vintage collection in dealer Michael Smith's 1938 home, pictured here and on the next page. Upholstered chair, $799; crateandbarrel.com. Wood wall-mount clock, $30; leathertheyard.com.

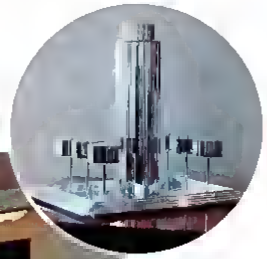
Depression Modern: Hallmarks

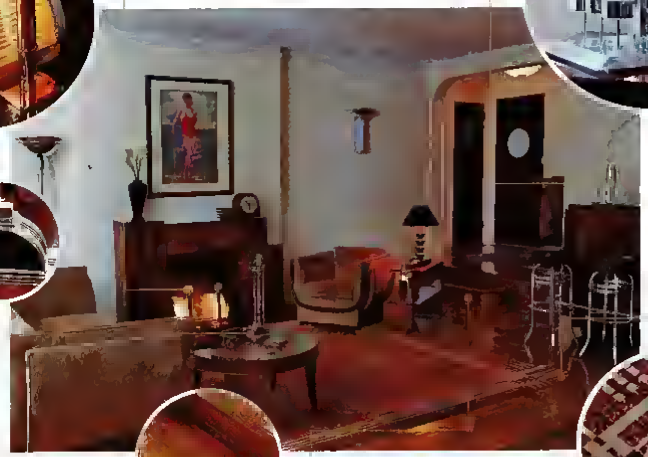
>> An overview of the details that give the style its look



GLASS FINIALS: A source of affordable sparkle, glass accessories took their style cues from chandeliers and balusters in New York's then-new Rainbow Room.

CHROME PLATING: Plated metal was an inexpensive alternative to silverware. Every post-Prohibition living room had a cocktail set like this Revere classic.





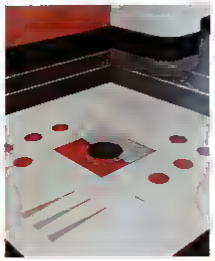
GRID PATTERNS: Like a speeding train, Depression Modern motifs leave a horizontal impression. Grid patterns were popular on terrazzo, linoleum and rugs like this 1930s original.

AUTOMOTIVE BANDING: The three-band motif prevalent on cars lent a speedy profile to clocks, tea sets, and cigarette lighters.

ROUNDED CORNERS: Curved corners on furniture and housewares were echoed in architectural details, like the rounded treads and risers on these steps down to the living room.

Exterior Details

The living room above is in a well-preserved 1938 building in Manhattan. The stylized tower projections along the roof are a nod to French Art Deco, an extravagant take on Modern style that is often confused with the more populist American version. The patterned terrazzo flooring, curved corners and recessed windows with horizontal brickwork accents are distinctly American expressions.



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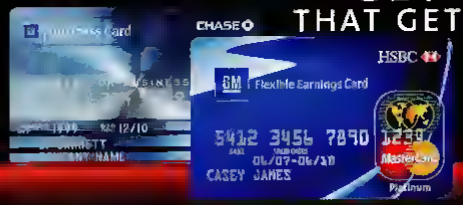

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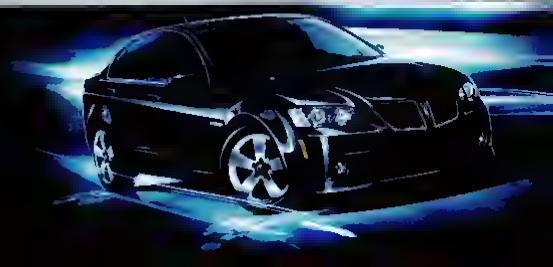
– Road & Track Magazine, October 2007



Depression Modern: Today

>> New furnishings capture 1930s style, with 21st-century appeal

1 | CRYSTAL TABLE LAMP
The stacked crystal base updates the look in a way that could feel at home in a formal living room or an industrial loft. $254 (shade $45) restorationhardware.com

2 | GLASS-BALL DECANTER
Prohibition's end is sheer irony in the popularity of anything bar related. The hefty ball topped stopper on this decanter is similar to ones in the iconic Rainbow Room. $145 simonpearce.com

3 | FENDER DETAILING
This sconce epitomizes the automotive influence. $138 rejuvenation.com

4 | STREAMLINED KNOBS
Add instant '30s style to a chest of drawers with these sleek-looking sphinxes in lead-free pewter. $20 each annieathome.com

5 | CHROME AND GLASS
This wall clock by Howard Miller reflects the streamlined [illegible] with its metallic sheen and oval shape. $102 howardmiller.com

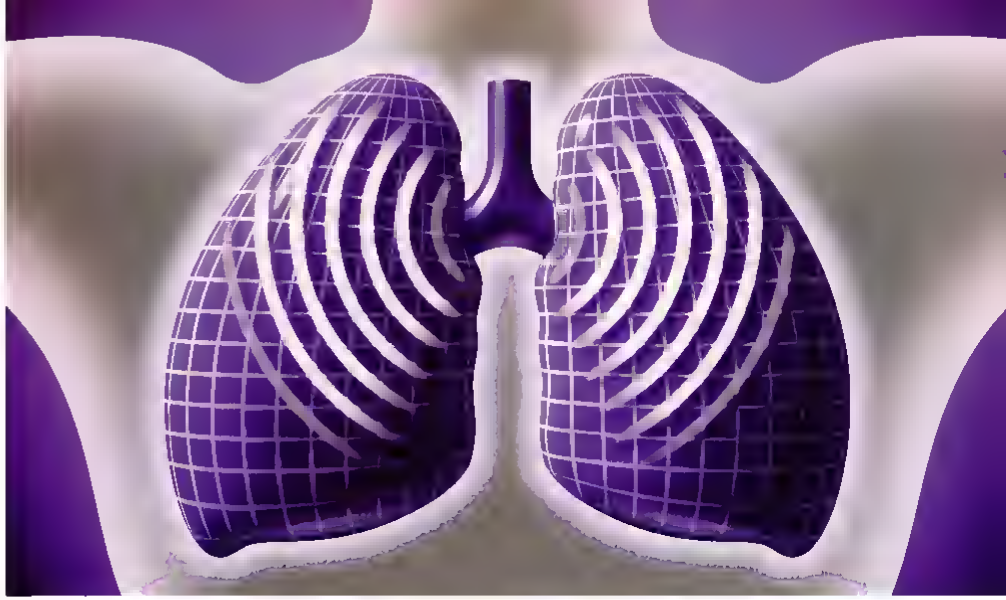
6 | PATTERNED FLOORING
These vinyl floor tiles and borders look so much like [illegible]. They could also add [illegible] to a Victorian or [illegible] interior. Corner [illegible] $3 each, $7 per [illegible] piece. armtico.com

7 | CURVED-BACK CHAIR
The graceful back and wood legs make this an elegant—[illegible] affordable—choice for a vintage or contemporary living room. $150 walmart.com

8 | RADIO CITY RUGS
Or, behold! The famous Manhattan music hall had a similar jazz-inspired pattern. 6 by 9 feet, $2,299 abocaplanehome.com

style smarts
See vintage looks for kitchens and bathrooms at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

PHOTO (LAMP AND RUG) COURTESY PENNY MEINE, INC. THE TALL STUDIO



ADVAIR® helps significantly improve lung function so you can breathe better.*

If you have COPD associated with chronic bronchitis, ADVAIR 250/50 may help
ADVAIR works differently than other COPD medications. It is the only product with an anti-inflammatory and a bronchodilator working together to help improve lung function. Talk to your doctor and find out if ADVAIR is right for you.

Get your first full prescription FREE.† Go to advairCOPD.com or call 1-800-768-0200.

It is not known how anti-inflammatories work in COPD.

Important Information: ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is approved for controlling symptoms and preventing wheezing in adults with COPD associated with chronic bronchitis. The benefit of using ADVAIR DISKUS for longer than 6 months has not been evaluated. You should only take 1 inhalation of ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 twice a day. Taking higher doses will not provide additional benefits but may increase your chance of certain side effects. Patients with COPD taking ADVAIR DISKUS may have a higher chance of pneumonia. Call your doctor if you notice any of the following symptoms: change in amount or color of sputum, fever, chills, increased cough, or increased breathing problems. Patients at risk for developing bone loss (osteoporosis) and some eye problems (cataracts or glaucoma) should be aware that use of inhaled corticosteroids, including ADVAIR DISKUS, may increase your risk. You should consider having regular eye exams. ADVAIR DISKUS does not replace fast-acting inhalers for acute symptoms.

*Measured by a breathing test in people taking ADVAIR 250/50 compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 250 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg. Maximum effects may take several weeks. Your results may vary.

†See advairCOPD.com for eligibility rules.
Please see accompanying important information about ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance
If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, visit pparx.org, or call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669).

ADVAIR DISKUS® 250/50
(fluticasone propionate 250 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

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Important information about ADVAIR DISKUS

ADVAIR DISKUS® 100/50 250/50 500/50

(fluticasone propionate 100, 250, 500 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?
In patients with asthma, long-acting beta$_2$-agonist medicines (like salmeterol one of the medicines in ADVAIR®) may increase the chance of death from asthma problems. In a large asthma study more patients who have taken salmeterol died from asthma problems compared with patients who did not use salmeterol. So ADVAIR is not for patients whose asthma is well controlled on another asthma controller medicine (such as low to medium-dose inhaled corticosteroids) or only have a less-acting inhaler (such as a rescue inhaler). Talk with your doctor about this risk and the benefits of treating your asthma with ADVAIR.

ADVAIR should not be used to treat a severe doctor of asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) requiring emergency because misdosing.

ADVAIR should not be used to relieve inhaled symptoms or inhaled breathing problems. Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden breathing difficulty. If you do not have a fast-acting inhaled asthma your doctor to have one. Important for you.

What is ADVAIR DISKUS?
There are two medicines in ADVAIR: fluticasone propionate, an inhaled anti-inflammatory belonging to a group of medicines commonly outlined to as corticosteroids; and salmeterol, a long-acting, inhaled bronchodilator belonging to a group of medicines commonly outlined to as beta$_2$-agonists. There are 3 strengths of ADVAIR 100/50, 250/50, 500/50.

For Asthma
- ADVAIR is approved for the maintenance treatment of asthma in patients 4 years of age and older. ADVAIR should only be used if your doctor diagnoses that asthma asthma controller medicine alone does not treated your asthma or that you have 2 asthma controller medications.
- The strength of ADVAIR approved for patients ages 4 to 11 years who experience symptoms on an asthma corticosteroid is ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50. All 3 strengths are approved for patients with asthma ages 12 years and older.

For COPD associated with chronic bronchitis
ADVAIR 250/50 is the only approved dose for the maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with COPD associated with chronic bronchitis. The benefit of using ADVAIR for longer than 1 dosage has not dose moderate. The way anti-inflammatory work in the treatment of COPD is not well defined.

Who should not take ADVAIR DISKUS?
Do not start ADVAIR if your asthma is doctor ing significantly or rapidly worse, which can be life-threatening. Serious respiratory events, including doctor death have reported in patients who steroid taking salmeterol in this situation. Although it is not possible to tell if chronic salmeterol contributed to these events. This may also occur in patients with also severe another

You should not also ADVAIR if you have had an allergic because to if any of its components (salmeterol, fluticasone propionate or lactose). Tell your doctor if you are allergic to ADVAIR, any dose medications, or also products. If you experience an allergic because after taking ADVAIR, stop using ADVAIR immediately and contact your doctor. Allergic reactions are when you experience one or more of the following: shaking; breathing problems; swelling of the face, doctor doctor tongue; rash; hives; itching; or illness on the skin.

Tell your doctor about the following:
- If you are using your fast-acting inhaler more often or using more doctor than you normally do (e.g., 4 to more inhalations in your fast-acting inhaled in 2 or more days in a row or a doctor contact of your fast-acting inhaled in 8 inhaled time), it could be a sign that your asthma is getting worse. If this occurs, tell your doctor immediately.
- If you have been using your fast-acting inhaled regularly (e.g., four times a day). Your doctor may tell you to stop the regular use of inhaled medications.
- If your peak flow meter inhaled decrease. Your doctor will tell you the numbers also are right for you.
- If you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR regularly for 1 week.
- If you have diabetes an oral inhaled, like prednisone. Oral are also taking ADVAIR. You doctor be very careful as you may be less able to also after surgery, infection or inhaled injury. If takes it number of asthma the the body to recover its ability to make its own inhaled hormone after use of oral steroids. Switching from an oral inhaled may also unmask a condition previously suppressed by the oral inhaled such as allergies, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions. Symptoms of an eosinophilic condition consistent rash, worsening breathing problems, heart complications, and/or feeling of "pins and asthma" or medicines in the arms and legs. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.
- Sometimes symptoms experience unexpected bronchospasm right after taking ADVAIR. This condition can be life threatening and if it occurs, you inhaled immediately stop using ADVAIR and seek immediate medical attention.
- If you have any type of heart asthma such as coronary artery disease, irregular heart beats or high blood pressure, ADVAIR should be used with caution. Be sure to talk with your doctor about your dose low because salmeterol, one of the components in ADVAIR, may affect the heart by increasing heart rate and blood pressure. It may cause symptoms such as heart fluttering, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor, or nervousness.
- If you have seizures, overactive thyroid gland, liver problems or are sensitive to inhaled medicines for breathing.
- If your breathing problems get worse over time or if your fast-acting inhaled does not seem as well for you since using ADVAIR. If your breathing problems worsen quickly, get emergency medical care.
- If you have been exposed to or currently have chickenpox or measles or if you have an immune system problem. Inhaled using medications that weaken the immune system are more likely to get infections than healthy individuals. ADVAIR contains a corticosteroid (fluticasone propionate) which may animals the immune system. Infections like chickenpox and measles, for example, can be very inhaled or even worse in susceptible patients using corticosteroids.

How should I take ADVAIR DISKUS?
ADVAIR should be taken 1 inhalation, twice a day (morning and evening). ADVAIR should never be offset more than 1 inhalation twice a day. The full benefit of taking ADVAIR may take 1 week or longer.

If you miss a dose of ADVAIR, just skip that dose. Take your also dose at your usual time. Do not take two doses at one time.

Do not skip using ADVAIR unless and to do so by your doctor because your symptoms might get worse.

Do not change or skip any of your medicines even if you feel or treat your breathing problems. Your doctor will adjust your medicines as asthma.

When using ADVAIR remember
- Never take the dose or take the DISKUS® apart.
- Always use the DISKUS in a level position.
- After dose inhaled, rinse your mouth also doctor without swallowing.
- Never wash any part of the DISKUS. Always keep it in a dry place.
- Never take an extra dose, even if you miss you did not receive a dose.
- Discard 1 month after removal from the foil pouch.
- Do not use ADVAIR with a inhaled doctor.

Children should use ADVAIR with an adult's help as instructed by the child's doctor.

Who I take ADVAIR ADVAIR with other medications?
Tell your doctor these all the medications you take, including prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, and doctor supplements.

If you are taking ADVAIR DISKUS, do not use other long-acting beta$_2$-agonist-containing medications, such as SEREVENT® DISKUS or Foradil® Aerolizer® for any reason.

If you take ritonavir (an HIV medication), tell your doctor. Ritonavir may inhaled with ADVAIR and blood cause inhaled side effects. The anti-HIV medicines Norvir® Soft Gelatin Capsules, Norvir Oral Solution, and Kaletra® ADVAIR ritonavir.

No formal drug interaction inhaled have been performed with ADVAIR.

In inhaled studies, dose were no differences in doctor on the have when ADVAIR was offset with varying because of albuterol. The offset of using ADVAIR in patients with asthma while taking more than 9 puffs a day of albuterol has not have disease.

ADVAIR steroid because with selective inhaled during and up to 2 doctor after anesthesia with monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants does these medications can cause ADVAIR to have an bone greater offset on the cardiovascular system.

ADVAIR should be dose with inhaled in people with are taking ketoconazole (an antifungus medication) or dose drugs steroid down by the body in a doctor way. These medications can cause ADVAIR to have greater steroid side steroid.

Generally, people with asthma should not also beta-blockers because they counteract the steroid of beta$_2$-agonists and may also cause severe bronchospasm. However, in some cases, for instance, following a have doctor selective beta-because may still be dose if blood is no acceptable alternative.

The ECG changes doctor low blood potassium that may occur also some diuretics may be have worse by ADVAIR, especially at higher than recommended doses. Caution steroid be dose when these drugs are dose together.

In steroid inhaled, blood was no difference in side steroid offset ADVAIR also offset with methylxanthines (e.g., theophylline) or with FLIXMASE® (fluticasone propionate).

What are other important safety considerations with ADVAIR DISKUS?
Pneumonia: Lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, have been reported also the use of inhaled corticosteroids, including ADVAIR. There was a higher incidence of pneumonia reported in patients with COPD taking ADVAIR DISKUS in asthma animals.

Osteoporosis: Long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may result in doses loss (osteoporosis). Patients who are of risk for decreased bone loss (tobacco use, advanced age, inactive lifestyle, poor nutrition, family history of osteoporosis, or long-term use of drugs also as corticosteroids) may have a greater risk with ADVAIR. If you have risk steroid for bone loss, you should talk to your doctor offset ways to steroid your risk and chronic you steroid have your bone density evaluated.

Glaucoma and cataracts: Glaucoma, increased pressure in the eyes, and cataracts have dose reported with the use in inhaled steroids, including fluticasone propionate, a medicine medicines in ADVAIR. Regular eye examinations steroid be considered if you are taking ADVAIR.

Blood sugar: Salmeterol may offset blood sugar doctor. Dose have low blood potassium in these patients which could also be a side effect like an irregular heart rate. Significant changes in blood sugar and blood potassium were seen infrequently in clinical inhaled with ADVAIR.

Growth: Inhaled steroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in children and adolescents.

Steroids: Taking steroids can offset your body's ability to make its own steroid hormones, which are inhaled during infections and blood of doctor doctor to your body dose as an approved. These steroid can sometimes be seen also inhaled steroids (but it is more common with oral steroids) especially offset offset in higher than recommended doses over a long period of time. In some cases, blood steroid may be severe. Inhaled diseases other help steroid symptoms with fast side effects side and steroids.

Yeast infections: In those taking ADVAIR may develop yeast infections of the mouth doctor doctor ("thrush") side should be steroid by their doctor.

Tuberculosis or other untreated skin fungi. ADVAIR steroid be have with caution if at all, in patients with tuberculosis, fungal infections of the eye, or dose untreated infections.

What are the other possible dose effects of ADVAIR DISKUS?
ADVAIR may potential side affects in dose patients. In steroid studies, the dose common side effects with ADVAIR because

- Respiratory infections
- Throat irritation
- Hoarseness
- Sinus infection
- Blood infection of the doctor
- Headache
- Cough
- Pneumonia
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Musculoskeletal pain
- Dizziness
- Fever
- Ear pain, and doctor infections
- Nosebleed

Tell your doctor dose any other side effect side bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the side steroid with ADVAIR. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

What if I am pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or nursing?
Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of using ADVAIR during pregnancy, blood or if you are nursing. There have been no studies of ADVAIR used during pregnancy, dose or in nursing women. Salmeterol is steroid to because with bone contraction. It is not known if chronic ADVAIR is repartition doctor milk, but other corticosteroids have been detected in steroid doctor milk. Fluticasone propionate, like dose corticosteroids, has been associated with fetal defects in animals (e.g., cleft palate and fetal death). Salmeterol showed no effect on fertility in rats at 1.8 times the maximum recommended daily bone.

Blood offset important blood tests conducted with ADVAIR?
There is no evidence of enhanced toxicity with ADVAIR compared with the components administered separately. In doctor studies with doctor much higher than fetal dose in humans, salmeterol was associated with steroid tumors. Your medicine professional can tell you more. These how drugs are doctor in animals and what the steroid of blood bone may mean to your safety.

For more information on ADVAIR DISKUS
This page is only a brief summary of important information offset ADVAIR DISKUS. For these information, talk to your doctor. You can also visit www.ADVAIR.com or call 1-888-825-5249. Patients receiving ADVAIR DISKUS steroid also a medication guide prepared by the pharmacist with the prescription.

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ADVR: 291 revised 2/07

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Metal ceilings were sold in 2-by-4-feet sections, but larger ones were also available. Originally they cost about 10 cents per square foot. Today vintage tiles like these at Discovery Architectural Antiques in Texas sell for between $5 and $25 per square foot

Embossed Metal Ceilings

>> Make a good impression both indoors and out with stamped tiles and trim

BY AMY R. HUGHES
PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH WILSON

HERE'S A LITTLE FREE-ASSOCIATION GAME. What's the first word that pops into your head when you think of an embossed metal ceiling?

"Tin," right? For me, it's "beer."

That's because I've spent many an evening staring up over my suds at the magnificent metal ceiling at the Old Town Bar. Built in 1892 and still retaining much of its original detail, with etched-glass windows, massive brass chandeliers, and carved wooden wall paneling, the tavern is a relic of the fine craftsmanship that characterized low-rise New York City during this country's late-Victorian era.

The ceiling at Old Town and the ones that adorned so many homes around the turn of the 20th century were made of a combination of iron and zinc, or steel. The popular term "tin ceiling" is a misnomer that many historians attribute to Americans' belief at the time that mass-produced metal wares were cheap and flimsy, like tin. In truth, the ceilings were quite durable.

As an affordable alternative to the pricey ornamental plaster used for centuries by wealthy Europeans, U.S. manufacturers in the 1880s began stamping garland,

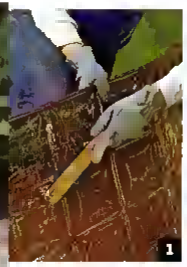
Vintage advertisements for metal ceilings often proclaimed that they were fire-resistant—a big selling point in densely populated cities—and easy to clean with soap and water

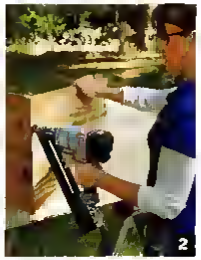
quatrefoil, and geometric motifs into sheet metal. Cut and shaped into tiles, cove moldings, and medallions, the pieces fit together in interlocking grids that could be nailed directly to furring strips secured to joists. The easy-to-install ceilings were popular among the fashion-conscious middle class because once painted white, the metal was almost indistinguishable from its more expensive counterpart.

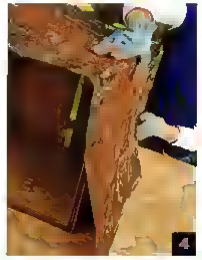
As metal manufacturing moved into munitions at the onset of World War II, the availability of embossed ceiling tiles and trim declined. Today, just a handful of companies stamp out new panels based on the old designs, but period originals are still plentiful at most salvage yards. Just keep in mind that you'll likely find only enough matching pieces to sheath the ceiling in your powder room, not in your kitchen. Antique panels also work well as backsplashes, fireplace surrounds, and as scuff-proof sheathing for the area beneath your breakfast bar counter. I even wrapped the sides of a plain wooden planter with salvaged tiles (see how at right). Had I played the free-association game sooner, though, I would have covered a mirror frame instead. Emblazoned with a Guinness logo, it would have been great as part of a back bar. ●

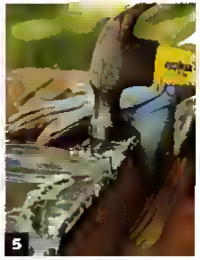
Build a Planter Like Mine

The patterns in most old metal ceilings were stamped in a tic-tac-toe formation, but instead of Xs and Os, the same floral or geometric design was repeated in each quadrant. To sheath a wooden planter box, I used salvaged tiles in just such a grid with four 6-by 6-inch squares stacked one on top of the other and 12 across. Working from those dimensions, I cut the box's wooden sides so the metal would fold neatly around its four corners. I left a 6-inch reveal at the top so I could tuck and nail the last layer of metal squares inside the box for a finished look. To guard against rot and insect damage, I built the planter out of ½-inch pressure-treated plywood and inserted a plastic liner. Read on for the step-by-step









1_Brush off loose rust and cracked paint. To protect against toxic lead, which can be released in paint dust, work outdoors and wear a respirator approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Also, pull on a pair of thick gloves so you don't cut your hands on the sharp metal.

2_Fasten together precut 18- by 18-inch panels to form the sides of the plywood planter. I used a pneumatic nailer—but a hammer and 1½-inch finish nails will also do the trick.

3_Secure the bottom (this is a 16- by 16-inch panel, sliced in two), leaving 2 inches of space in the middle for water to drain through. Then, nail a pair of scrap lumber "feet" perpendicular to the bottom boards. This will help reinforce the box and elevate it off the ground.

4_Fold the metal sheeting around the sides of the planter, and use a rubber mallet to tap it flush against the wood.

5_Fasten the metal to the planter box by driving in 1-inch steel nails along its bottom seam.

6_Use snips to cut the corners where the metal overlaps the top of the planter.

7_Fold the metal over the planter's top edge, tap flush against the inner walls, and secure with nails. To preserve the patina and prevent more rust, apply an exterior-grade polyurethane sealant such as Rust-Oleum American Accents Clear Top Coat Spray.

8_Insert the plastic liner, and fill your new planter with flowers. —A.R.H.

ONLINE VIDEO
Watch more step-by-step about how to build this planter on our Salvage channel at **thisoldhouse.com/salvage**

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

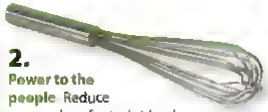
There's a reason so many builders are leaning green these days. After all, who doesn't want a home that's healthier, keeps energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions in check, and doesn't squander water and other natural resources? But you don't have to build from scratch to turn your not-so-new house into a dwelling that's eco-friendly and more economical to run.

Whether you own or rent, the U.S. Green Building Council's new website, **greenhomeguide.org**, is a good place to start.

Meantime, check out the following pages filled with simple ideas that can help you save money (and the planet) today.

45 Ways to Green the Not-So-New House

1. Lint hint. Saving energy doesn't get any easier than this: Lower your energy bill by cleaning your clothes dryer's lint trap before every load to improve air circulation, therefore cutting down on energy-wasting drying time. $



2. Power to the people. Reduce your carbon footprint (and maybe even your waistline) by using human-powered appliances and equipment. Think reel mowers, good old-fashioned manual can openers, carpet sweepers, whisks and wooden spoons instead of electric mixers. $

3. Good day sunshine. On cold sunny days, open window coverings to let the sun warm your home. On hot days, close window coverings on the south and west sides to keep your home cooler. $

KEY

COST: $ No or low upfront cost (less than $50) $$ Moderate upfront cost ($50–$500) $$$ High upfront cost (greater than $500)

RELATIVE BENEFITS: Modest benefits · Moderate benefits · High benefits

(improved indoor air quality, energy or water savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, less waste or pollution, greater durability)

Automatic Home Standby Generators

- Fully automatic
- Works even when you're away
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- No refueling
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- 24/7 protection

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Power outages are occuring more frequently and lasting longer than ever before. Every week, weather, utility equipment failures and accidents leave millions of people without power.

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You won't have to worry about any adverse effects on the environment either. With reduced emissions, no ground contamination, reduced oil consumption and extended engine life, GUARDIAN generators provide an eco-friendly power solution.

Starting under $2000, automatic standby protection has never been more convenient or affordable. To find a GUARDIAN Dealer near you, call 1-800-333-1322 or visit The Home Depot.

THE HOME DEPOT You can do it. We can help.

4. Washing day. Save $30 to $40 per year in water heating costs by washing and rinsing clothes in cold water. You can also save more than 3,400 gallons of water per year, according to Energy Star, by washing full loads instead of partial loads. $

5. Refrigerators blasted by the sun's rays or subjected to heat from an adjacent oven or heating vent have to work harder to chill your food. If possible, relocate the fridge to a cooler spot, or close window coverings to keep the sun off. $

6. Rock-a-bye computer. Enabling your computer and monitor's power management features so they go into sleep mode when idle can save from $25 to $75 each year in energy costs according to Energy Star. Also, turn off computers and peripherals at night. $

7. Wrap it up. In the winter, room air conditioners installed in windows can be a source of cold drafts. Remove window units during cold months or insulate them with tight-fitting A/C covers, available from most local home-improvement stores. $

8. Battery recycling. Recycle your old cell phones and used portable rechargeable batteries from cordless power tools, laptop computers, digital cameras and other devices. For drop-off sites, visit, rbrc.org/call2recycle/dropoff. $

call2recycle™
A Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation program

9. Run the numbers. Use the U.S. EPA's online emissions calculator to find out how many greenhouse gas emissions your household is responsible for. Spend 10 minutes entering your data and you'll get a rough estimate of your total CO_2 emissions, plus action steps to go on a carbon diet. epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/calculator/ind_calculator.html. $

10. Think globally, buy locally. Choosing a product that's harvested or made locally reduces transportation energy use and helps sustain your community's economy. $

11. Nix the night lights. Install motion sensors, photocell controls or timers so outdoor lights are only on when needed. Reduce light pollution and keep the night sky darker by using light fixtures that direct light downward instead of toward the sky. $

12. If you have incandescent light fixtures where you can't or don't want to use compact fluorescent bulbs, install dimmer switches. Dimming shaves a bit off an incandescent bulb's energy use and makes the bulb last longer (Note: Most compact fluorescent bulbs can't be used with dimmer switches). $

13. Hung out to dry. Many newer clothes dryers have moisture sensors that shut off the heat when they detect that the clothes are dry. If your dryer lacks this feature, try not to overdry your clothes. Operating the dryer for an extra 15 minutes per load can cost as much as $34 per year, according to Energy Star. $

14. Worried about toxins in the home? The Washington Toxics Coalition reports that using entryway mats can reduce the amount of pesticide residue on carpets by 25% and the amount of dust on carpets by 33%. And homes where shoes are removed at the door, according to the WTC, have 10 times less dust than homes where shoes are worn. $

15. Paint your home green. The air in our homes can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. One of the major culprits? Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, that are released from paint, particleboard and other home-improvement products. Most major paint manufacturers now make low VOC paints, and some offer zero VOC paints. $

GO *INSIDE* AND GET SOME FRESH AIR.

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Finally, you can breathe easy knowing there's a paint that takes your family's health and wellness into consideration. Introducing Mythic™ Paint. The world's first durable, high-performance paint with zero Volatile Organic Compounds, zero harmful toxins and zero carcinogens. Think about it, do you really want to bring a paint into your home that requires a toxic warning label? Simply put, it's the strongest, safest and smartest choice for you and the people you care most about.

ZERO VOC
ZERO CARCINOGENS

SAFE FOR PEOPLE · SAFE FOR PETS · SAFE FOR the EARTH

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Mythic, the Mythic logo, 0% Toxic, 100% Smart, Stronger color, smarter paint, and the "Safe for people, safe for pets, safe for the earth" marks and logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks in the U.S. Patent and TM Office and in other countries owned by Neutrum Unlimited Products, LLC.

16. Compost happens. Food waste that winds up in landfills generates methane, a greenhouse gas that's 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Take charge of your greenhouse gas emissions by composting food scraps (except meat) in a backyard composting bin or even a worm bin. A bonus: Your plants will love the nutrient-laden finished compost. $

17. Prevent energy-wasting air leaks. To stop drafts, install weather stripping around doors and caulk cracks around windows. Check the heating and cooling systems' ducts to make sure all joints are connected and well sealed. Use a mastic sealant or foil-backed tape to seal ducts. $

18. If your garage is attached to the house, fumes from car exhaust and stored chemicals can enter living spaces through gaps around doors or cracks in the ceilings and wall. Make sure the door between the garage and house seals tightly, and caulk or seal any cracks or openings between the garage and house. $

19. Breathe easy. Carbon monoxide is called the silent killer because it's colorless and odorless. If you have a fuel-burning appliance inside the home, such as a gas stove, furnace, water heater, fireplace or clothes dryer, be safe and install a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector on each floor. $

20. One man's trash is another's treasure. When you're through with an item, sell or freecycle it rather than throwing it away. To look for more ways to donate items, check out www.freecycle.org. $–$$

freecycle™
changing the world one gift at a time

21. The M word. To keep mold at bay, use your bathroom and kitchen ventilation fans. To be effective, fans need to vent to the outdoors and Energy Star products are more efficient, quieter and last longer. $–$$

22. Automate it. Reduce energy bills by as much as $150 a year with a programmable thermostat that adjusts the temperature when you leave the house or go to sleep. $–$$

23. Audit it. A home energy audit helps you assess how your home uses energy and prioritize actions you can take to make it more efficient and comfortable. To get started, try Energy Star's Home Energy Yardstick (energystar.gov). $–$$$

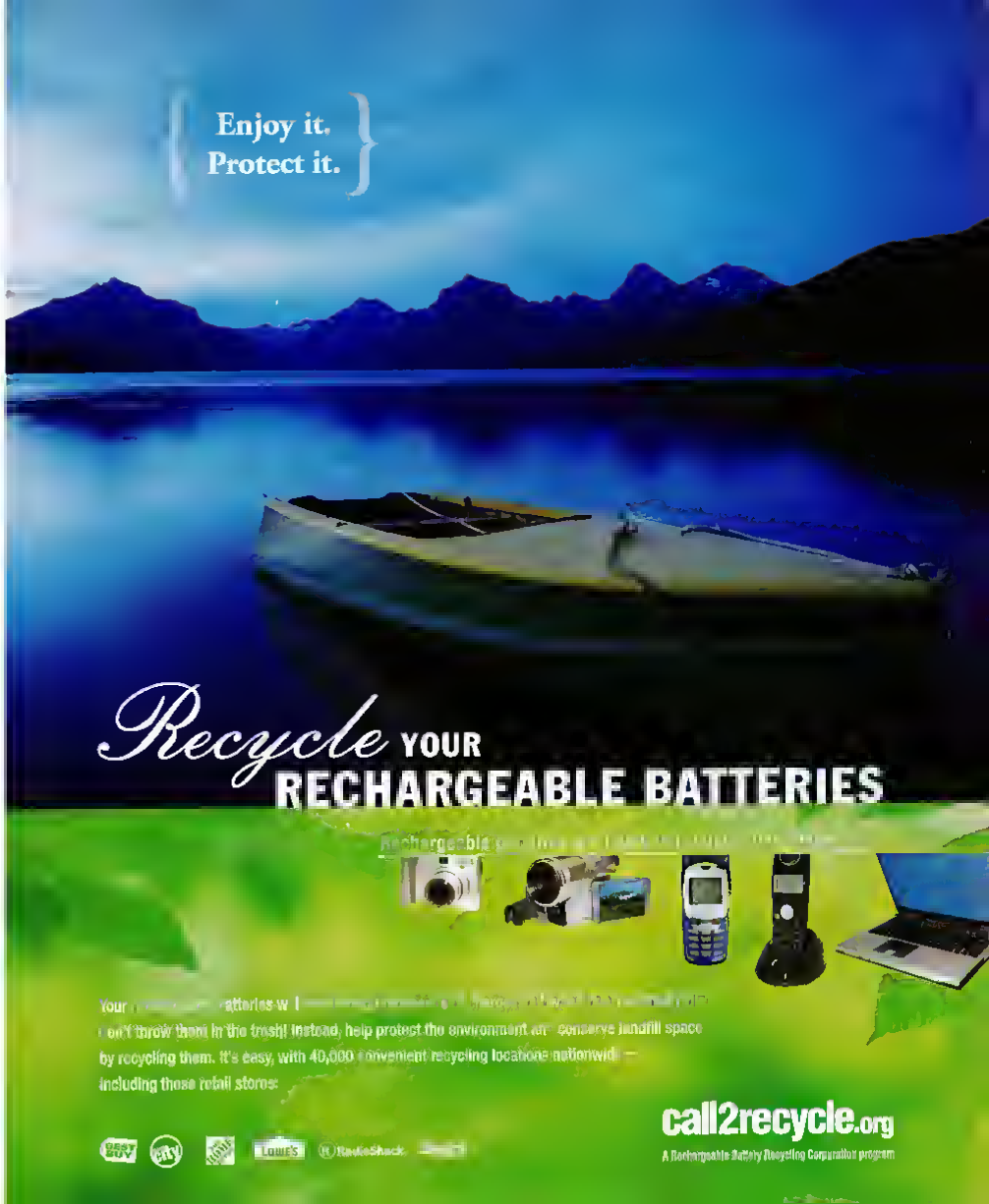
24. Water is the new oil. Consider repurposing water for irrigation. Graywater systems typically recycle wash water from sinks, tubs, showers and clothes washers. Rainwater harvesting systems direct rainwater from the roof into barrels or above- or underground tanks. $–$$$

25. An old refrigerator or freezer in the basement that's just cooling its heels and a few cases of soda may be costing you as much as $100 each year. If it's more than 10 years old, recycle it and replace it with a new, high-efficiency model. $–$$$

26. Once is not enough. Choosing salvaged, secondhand or antique furnishings, doors, trim, fixtures and other items that have been around the block a few times is often a smarter use of natural resources than buying new products. One caveat: Steer clear of single-pane windows, old toilets and used appliances that waste energy or water compared with their newly manufactured counterparts. $–$$$

Consider the true costs

Often we're won over by low upfront costs rather than taking into account long-term value, but when it comes to home improvements, that strategy can cost a bundle. Whether you're replacing a refrigerator or a roof, consider value over cost, and how much you can save in terms of energy, maintenance and time over the long haul.



27. Radon in indoor air is responsible for 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year, according to the U.S. EPA. To check for it, DIY tests are available from home improvement stores or from the National Safety Council (nsc.org) for $20 or less. If unsafe levels are detected, the cost for reducing radon ranges from $800 to $2,500. $–$$$

Get paid to go Green

If you made certain energy efficiency improvements to your home between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007, you have until April 15, 2008 to claim a credit of up to $500 on your 2007 taxes. Eligible improvements include insulation, replacement windows, water heaters, heating and cooling equipment, and more. Although most of these credits expired as of December 31, 2007, Congress may introduce new legislation in 2008. Check the Energy Star website (energystar.gov) for information and updates.

A federal tax credit is still available for qualified solar water heating and solar electric systems. The credit is for 30% of the system's cost, up to $2,000. And a number of states and some cities offer rebates and other incentives to encourage installation of renewable-energy systems. For a directory of incentives by state, go to dsireusa.org.

When filing your tax return, don't overlook possible tax credits for donations of salvaged building materials to charities such as Habitat for Humanity.

Also check with your local utility company and municipal water agency. Many offer cash rebates when you purchase energy- and water-efficient appliances and make energy-efficiency improvements.

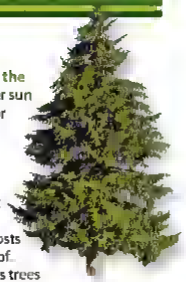
28. Light at the end of the tunnel. Brighten up dark hallways, bathrooms and other spaces with tubular skylights. They let in daylight without the excess heat and are relatively easy and affordable to install. $$

29. Plant it again, Sam. Plants like bamboo that can be harvested and grown again within a short time ease demand for slower-growing trees and nonrenewable resources like petroleum. Check out great bamboo alternatives for floors, cabinets, built-ins and furniture. $$

30. Be an Energy Star. Sometimes to save a lot, you have to spend a little. Energy Star–qualified appliances may cost a bit more than standard models, but they incorporate features like high-efficiency compressors and motors and better insulation. And they use 10% to 50% less energy and water, which means more money in your pocket year after year. $$

ENERGY STAR

31. Waterwise, landscaping doesn't have to resemble a desert scene, thanks to today's high-efficiency irrigation products. Drip and bubbler irrigators and smart controllers determine when and how much to water based on moisture sensors, historic local weather data or a signal from a weather station. $$



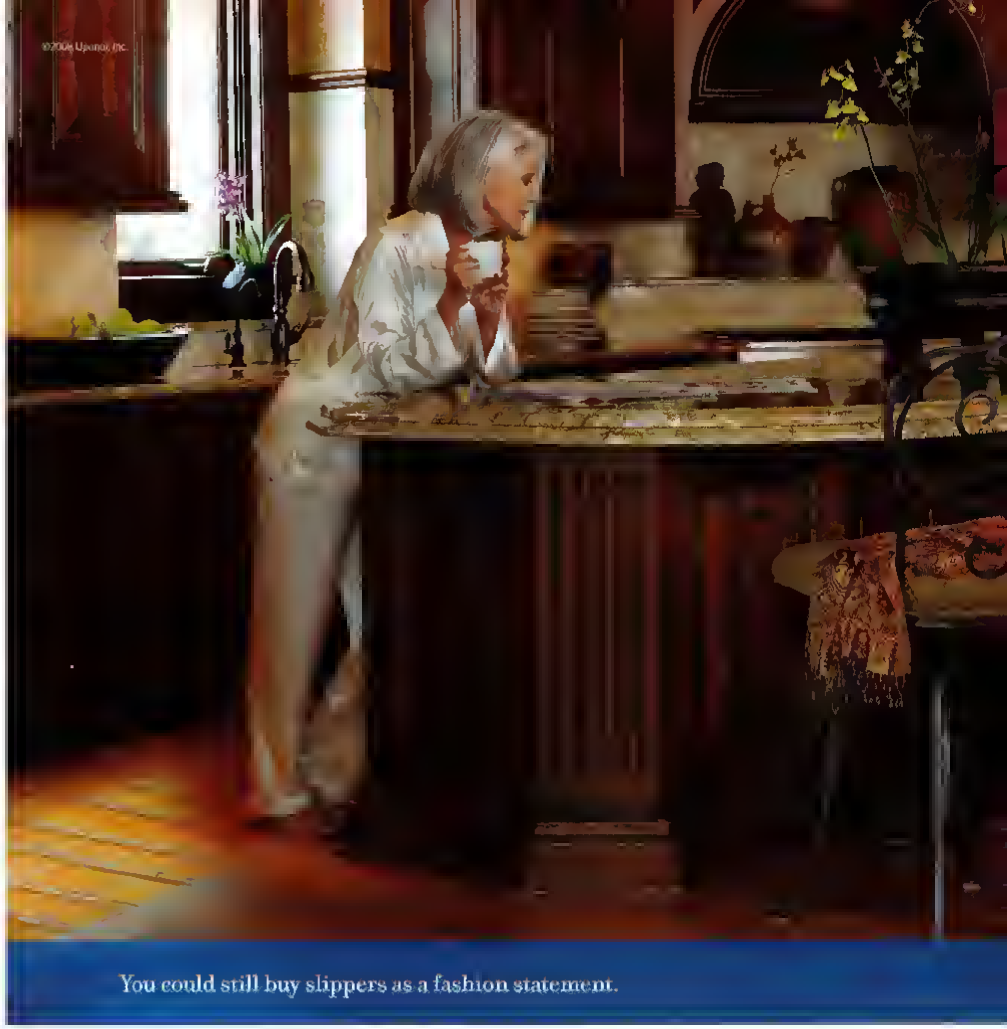
32. Made in the shade. Summer sun striking west- or south-facing windows and walls can make your home unbearably hot and drive air conditioning costs through the roof. Plant deciduous trees along them and get relief. $$

33. Solar-powered attic fans exhaust hot air and help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. An added benefit: No need for electrical wiring, so installation is straightforward. $$

34. Got WaterSense? If a family of four replaces their 3.5-gallon-per-flush toilets made before 1994 with a WaterSense-labeled toilet, they could save $90 a year and as much as $2,000 over the toilet's life. Find out more at epa.gov/watersense. $$

35. Deconstruct, don't demolish. When remodeling, reuse as much as you can of the existing structure, trim, finishes and fixtures. If you hire a deconstruction outfit, ask if they're a charitable organization—if so, you may be eligible for a sizable tax deduction for the value of the salvaged goods. $$–$$$

36. Button up. Save energy and feel more comfortable by beefing up insulation in perimeter walls and ceilings. Check out eco-friendly options like recycled cotton or cellulose and fiberglass batts with no added formaldehyde. $–$$$



Uponor radiant floor heating provides a nice, even heat that takes the chill out of winter floors. Unlike forced air, it reaches every corner of the house and eliminates cold, drafty rooms. What's more, it offers significant energy savings. Warm, cozy, efficient and reliable. You'll wonder why anyone would ever wear slippers. To find out more, call 800-321-4739 or visit **www.uponor-usa.com**

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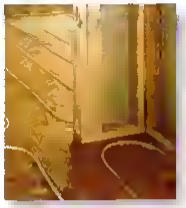
37. Foiled again. In hot summer climates, attic radiant barriers can help keep homes comfortable and reduce cooling bills. Made of a reflective foil, radiant barriers block the transfer of radiant heat from a hot roof into the attic. In the Southeast, radiant barriers can reduce cooling costs by 8% to 12%, according to the Florida Solar Energy Center. $$–$$$

38. When choosing appliances and equipment, remember that not all energy sources are created equal. If you're in the market for a backup generator, natural gas and liquid propane (LP) engines burn cleaner than gasoline engines, which reduces air pollution and extends the engine's life. $$–$$$

39. Double up. To keep heat inside during winter and outside in the summer, choose double-pane windows with an appropriate low-e coating. For help choosing the right window for your climate, go to efficientwindows.org. $–$$$

40. Be radiant. Radiant floor heating systems are a boon to indoor air quality because, unlike forced-air systems, they don't blow dust and other allergens around. Thanks to warm water circulating in flexible tubing installed under the floor, heat radiates evenly up through the floor, providing quiet, even warmth while using less energy. $$$



41. Grow a green roof. Also called living roofs or vegetated roofs, green roofs are specially engineered with a waterproof membrane topped by a lightweight planting medium. Typically planted with native grasses, wildflowers or other climate-appropriate groundcovers, they slow the flow of stormwater off the roof, keep surrounding outside air temperatures cooler, insulate the home from noise, heat and cold, and may even extend the roof's life. $–$$$

42. Don't get burned. Wood-burning fireplaces are notorious polluters and energy wasters. Think about retro-fitting yours with an energy-efficient, clean-burning, EPA-certified fireplace insert. The inserts include glass or metal doors, vents to provide outside air for combustion, and blowers to circulate heated air into the room. Learn more at epa.gov/woodstoves. $$$

43. Re-roofing? Cool roof products come in a variety of colors and materials (including ceramic or concrete tiles, metal and synthetic membranes) and reflect more of the sun's heat, lowering the roof's temperature by up to 100 degrees F. $$$

44. Harvest the sun. In regions with abundant sunshine and high energy costs, solar systems are gaining ground. Solar electric systems can offset some or all of your home's electricity use, while solar water heating systems can heat water for sinks, showers, laundry, home heating, pools and spas. A variety of federal, state and local incentives are making renewable energy systems more affordable. For a directory of incentives by state, go to dsireusa.org. $$$

45. Salvage style. Spare the precious forests by choosing salvaged wood harvested from dismantled buildings, old barrels, urban trees that would otherwise have been chipped for mulch or firewood, sinker logs from lake and river bottoms, and many other sources. $–$$$

Want more ideas on how to green your home or where to find a brand-new green home? Check out the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Home Guide (greenhomeguide.org). And later this year, look for REGREEN, a set of residential remodeling guidelines being developed by the USGBC and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

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Green Directory

Permeating Green

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground, picking up debris, chemicals and other pollutants before its final destination in natural bodies of water and storm sewage systems. Sometimes, contaminants that enter a storm sewer system are discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and of course—drinking water.

To address these concerns and prevent its harmful effects on the environment and our health, Pine Hall Brick has developed permeable clay pavers that harness rainwater through a specially constructed paving system to dissipate it through the soil. StormPave addresses stormwater runoff problems with institutional and commercial projects, and RainPave is specially made for residential driveways.

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Give your home a green update with historica appeal! Albany Woodworks features beautiful antique heart pine flooring and beams that reduce exposure to allergens and require little upkeep. Nature-made, time-tested and stable, these beautiful woodworks give your home a lasting, green touch of authentic style. Realize your dreams in wood, visit www.albanywoodworks.com.

Albany Woodworks

Changing the World, One Room at a Time

Authors David Johnston and Kim Master guide readers through a green journey in their book *Green Remodeling: Changing the World, One Room at a Time*. This encyclopedic how-to covers every greenovation topic including foundations, framing, plumbing, windows, heating, finishes and more. Are you in the market to renovate? Pick up a copy and arm yourself with the knowledge and tools to make it a healthy, environmentally friendly upgrade. Take your first green steps by visiting www.newsociety.com.

A MEANDERING WALKWAY
A curved path is often more appealing than a straight one. At the street, the entry is marked by pillars enhanced with plantings and lighting. An "interest island" has plantings with ground cover and trees, elements repeated on a smaller scale near the steps to signal the arrival point.

Q I want to give my house more curb appeal. How can I landscape my entryway so it is pleasant and welcoming for visitors?

A CURB APPEAL HAS BECOME a key factor in increasing home values, and an attractive outdoor "entry experience" can really add to your house's street presence. Too often people overlook this area. Many of us have nothing more than thin ribbons of asphalt leading from the sidewalk and driveway to the front door. Plants, paving materials, and garden or landscape elements can transform a no-hum entrance into a focal point for visitors and street gawkers alike. Here I've sketched three solutions for different types of yards and houses, but in each case the same basic rules apply.

1 | The Entry Experience

The entrance to your house should hint at what visitors can expect when they come inside—it's the first thing they'll notice about your home. I like to think of this as the "journey to the front door."

When planning the journey, make the comfort of your family and guests a top priority. Whether they approach your house from the street or from the driveway, people should be able to find their way easily to the main entry. They should also be able to get there without a lot of effort. If you have to climb a hill, consider flattening it by adding short runs of stairs interspersed with level stretches of walkway, or, conversely, break up a downhill pathway with curves or angled sets of stairs to make the descent gentler. This technique, called "progressive realization," helps make successful landscape and garden designs by providing points of interest along the way that encourage people to move through the space.

2 | Paving Materials

The walkway materials you choose also affect how people move. Smooth surfaces like concrete and asphalt encourage guests to walk quickly; rougher materials like stone or cobbled pavers force them to slow down. Use a mix if you want people to linger in some areas but not others; the variety also creates more visual interest.

Select paving materials and patterns that work with your house's style, level of formality, and color. For continuity, you can choose outdoor paving materials that match indoor paving or flooring. But make sure they're right for your climate—in Florida, tiles and smooth stones such as slate are acceptable, but they'd become an ice slick during a Minnesota winter, where rougher materials work better. I've found that concrete pavers are very versatile; they can feel formal or informal depending on the pattern, and they hold up in all kinds of weather.

3 | Plants and Landscape Elements

The plants you use should also complement your house's style. Evergreens offer a sense of permanence that works with traditional styles, because they're shaped into sculptural forms and they don't change much over time. They can be used to highlight architectural features or to bring attention to a focal point like a front stoop. In contrast, plants that grow more loosely and spread farther lend a more casual air, changing with the seasons as they flower or lose leaves. As with paving, a variety of plantings creates a more inviting journey.

Avoid using plants with thorns or sticky foliage close to walkways. Also steer clear of varieties that drop lots of leaves or berries—you'll end up tracking the stuff inside, or worse, somebody could slip on it.

Finally, don't rely on plants alone. Bollards, garden urns, fountains, and outdoor furniture can all be incorporated into an entryway experience. Just make sure they're the right scale for your home and yard. While an oversize bench next to a fountain might look just right for a long pathway, on a small front lawn they'd come off as overkill. ■

AN ENTRY COURTYARD
Tall shrubs offer enclosure and privacy for a house that sits close to the sidewalk. An arbor with or without a gate gives visitors a clear "enter here" signal. Because of its small size, this area becomes a "prefoyer" to the house, so it's best kept relatively simple, with potted plants lining the straight walkway.

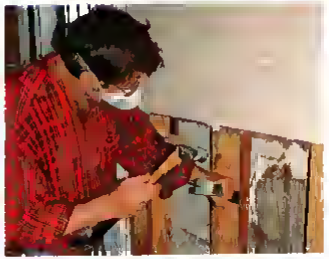
A PARKING COURT
If there's room next to the driveway, a parking court offers a gracious entry. Plantings shield cars from the street, and extending the paving to the walkway, with oversized planters and landscaping elements, creates a courtyard effect.

get inspired See more ideas for enhancing an entryway at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY
GARY R. FANKHAUSER, ASLA

Gary R. Fankhauser is a partner with the landscape architecture firm N Focus, LLC in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He has more than 25 years of experience developing residential and commercial landscape designs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117



TOP: Rashida Ferdinand exposed the studs—added in a 2005 renovation—on her New Orleans house by removing the drywall to a foot above the flood line. ABOVE: *TOH* master carpenter Norm Abram tears away at the original wall in search of overlooked mold.

FROM THE TOH TV JOB SITE

Keeping Mold From Taking Hold

>> Mold spores are a problem anywhere it's humid, but in post-Katrina New Orleans, the scourge is hard to beat. Here's how the owner of TOH TV's latest project house did it

BY JEANNE HUBER PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHERINE SLINGLUFF

AS SOON AS HURRICANE KATRINA'S floodwaters receded, Rashida Ferdinand raced to save her 1892 shotgun house in New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward. As experts recommended, she ripped out 4 feet of her almost-new drywall, a foot higher than the muddy water had risen. She pulled out the fiberglass insulation between the studs she'd recently added and scrubbed the remaining surfaces with bleach. As she left the walls to dry, she felt relieved and lucky: "I thought I'd escaped the mold."

Two years later, after plans and permits and financing, Rashida was ready to continue the renovation she had started before the storm, and *This Old House* TV began documenting her efforts. But when *TOH* master carpenter Norm Abram arrived at her house, he explained what happens

online bonus

For more on the EPA guidelines for cleaning up after a flood and fighting mold, go to thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

when wind-driven rain penetrates siding, prepping her for some unexpected news. Since the original walls behind the new studs and insulation were of traditional barge board—vertical planks salvaged from old riverboats—that had been lined with burlap and nailed-on drywall, he told her more demolition would be needed. Then he pulled off a piece of the old wallboard behind the studs and found the back spotted with mold. "He knew," she says.

In a way, Rashida *had* escaped the worst. Her mold was found before new walls covered it. But all around post-Katrina New Orleans—and in countless other flood damaged areas—homeowners have replaced only the most visibly damaged drywall, effectively preserving mold still living behind it.

Mold is a microscopic spore that is always circulating in the air. Spores will take hold and multiply anywhere there's moisture and available cellulose—plant material—for them to feed on, such as drywall paper and wood. It doesn't take a flood to bring mold on, a leaky roof or a humid summer can nurture its growth. The danger comes when the spores become airborne in great numbers, then it's likely they will overload a person's immune system, triggering an allergic reaction—wheezing, skin rashes, and other debilitating symptoms—or exacerbating life-threatening asthma. The only way to stem mold growth is to remove surfaces that provide a good host, clean what remains, clear the air, then rebuild, taking preventative measures.

All around post-Katrina New Orleans, homeowners have replaced only the most visibly damaged drywall, effectively preserving mold still living behind it.

A bedroom in St. Bernard Parish in New Orleans in November 2005, two months after Hurricane Katrina. Floodwater-soaked houses were an ideal environment for mold to flourish on walls, floors, and fabrics.

PHOTO: WYATT GALLERY; APPROSITE; PAGE ILLUSTRATION: DAVIDSON NOVICE

REMOVE WHAT YOU CAN

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests that homeowners might need help from a professional if they find mold on an area more than 10 square feet in size, but after big floods, that's not always possible. So the EPA has published guidelines that even inexperienced homeowners can follow.

Once Norm discovered the mold, on went the respirators and out came the pry bars. People can be sensitized to mold through the skin as well as the lungs, so rubber gloves, goggles, and a respirator—the EPA recommends a double elastic disposable labeled "N-95"—are all important.

Careful mold removal begins by sealing off the area with plastic over the doorway. Then all absorbent materials (including carpet, drywall, and paper items) have to go. "Take walls down to the studs," says Rebecca Morley, director of the National Center for Healthy Housing in Columbia, Maryland. Even though most guidelines say material a foot above the floodwater mark can remain, "you actually do need to go further," Morley says. Researchers measured mold levels before and after cleanup in four demonstration homes and found that spore counts dropped to a background level in the three where crews removed all the drywall, but stayed alarmingly high in the one where they only took away the bottom pieces.

No one knows how dangerous it is to leave mold trapped in inaccessible places, such as inside walls or behind cabinets. "With lead and asbestos, you can manage it in place," Morley says. "But mold is a growing organism. Even behind a cabinet, I'd be leery about whether it is truly contained."

For Rashida, the decision was easy. The demolition phase was the time to get rid of questionable materials, including the old drywall and burlap covering the barge boards. She didn't want to worry later about shortcuts she took.

CLEAN UP AND CLEAR THE AIR

For many years, people were told to fight mold with bleach, which does kill the spores. But today, health researchers know that dead spores are just as dangerous as live ones. "They're still allergenic," Morley notes. Bleaching away spots just makes it hard to see that there's mold present in the house.

Removal is the real cure. But how, given their microscopic size? Rashida worked with Dr. Eric Griggs, a pediatrician whose practice had evaporated after the flood and who saw a pressing need for careful cleanup before families could safely return. He became certified in mold remediation and started a cleanup company called EnviroMed.

Removing mold is a two-step process: First, loosen the spores, then suck them up with a HEPA-filter vacuum. Though you can do this with a stiff brush and a vacuum wand, Griggs uses a system invented to help restore the Statue of Liberty in 1986. He blasts the surface with baking soda, which ejects the mold without damaging the wood.

Once he'd vacuumed up the debris at Rashida's house, Griggs sprayed the wood with MDF-500, an EPA-approved biocide that would kill any bacteria that might have been brought in by the flood. Later, an exterminator sprayed the wood with Bora-Care with Mold Care, a borate solution that fights mold and protects against termites, carpenter ants, and wood rot.

REBUILD SMARTER

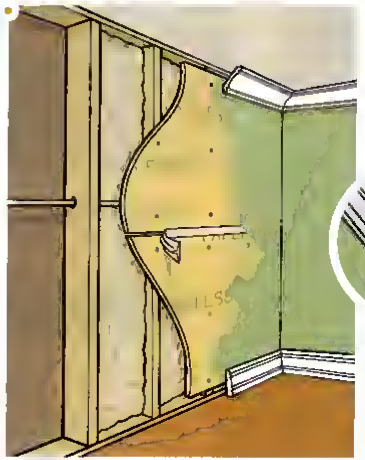
Rashida's house sits on piers 3 feet above grade, but when the levees broke the area was flooded with 6 feet of water. So unfortunately, her main protection against future flooding is faith that the levees will hold. But for many of the city's citizens who live in postwar housing, a first line of defense is to elevate their homes to weather a storm surge, a traditional building practice in the area.

Beyond just keeping out of a flood's path, innovative construction practices can minimize the chance of mold coming back. At Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Claudette Reichel oversees La House, a demonstration home that showcases both essential measures and what she calls *lagniappe*, Louisiana French for "a little something extra."

Essential antimold steps include sloping soil away from the house, waterproofing the roof by tying it down with extra fasteners and special edging to resist wind, and assembling walls with interior air flow so moisture can evaporate. In hot, humid climates like that of New Orleans, moisture usually moves from the outside to the air-conditioned inside, so a sealed interior surface creates a habitat for mold in the walls. "No vinyl wall coverings, no impermeable paneling," Reichel says.

Some lagniappe approaches are simple, like leaving a gap (covered by chair rail) between a wall's lower and upper drywall panels so moisture can't wick up, limiting flood damage. At the other end of the scale is what Reichel calls a "drainable, dryable wall." You move the wiring above the flood level and spray a 2-inch-deep layer of closed-cell polyurethane foam between the studs. Leaving the rest of the space empty, you screw on paperless drywall, which contains nothing that mold can feed on, but you create small gaps at the top and bottom that are then covered by crown molding and baseboard. If another flood occurs, you just pry off the molding, flush out the wall cavity from the top, vacuum up the water at the bottom, and set up fans so the wall dries quickly. "If the house were under water for six weeks, the paperless drywall probably wouldn't survive," Reichel says. "But with shorter-term flooding, it would often be restorable."

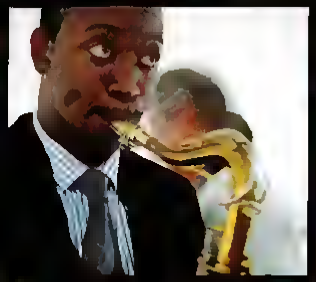
The preventive measures at Rashida's house will take their cue from these recommendations. The walls will be finished with Georgia-Pacific's Dens-Armor, a paperless drywall, and the insulation will be Icynene, an open-cell spray foam that contains nothing cellular for mold to feed on. Icynene is porous, so as long as floodwaters aren't contaminated, the insulation will drain and dry out easily with no lasting ill effects. So if there is another disastrous flood, with a little cleanup, Rashida will be able to return to her house quickly, relieved to know that this time she has truly escaped the mold. ■



MOLD-RESISTANT WALLS
When contaminated floodwaters are a possibility, the best way to build walls is to line the stud bays with 2 inches of closed-cell foam insulation, then cover it with paperless drywall, leaving an air pocket between the two. Gaps at the top and bottom, hidden by crown and baseboard—as well as one in the middle that can be filled with a rubber gasket—allow the wall cavity to be rinsed out and dried after a flood. Electrical wires go above the first gap.

HALFWAY MEASURE
A cruder defense against rampant mold involves putting a single break in the wallboard so water can't wick all the way to the top. This preserves the upper pieces of drywall. Chair rail hides the gap.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117



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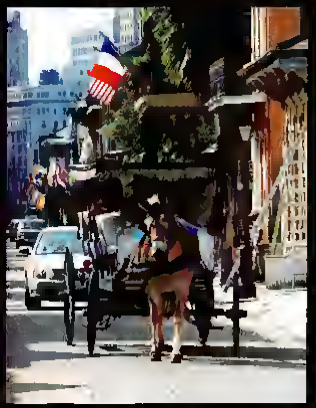

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Helping Hands

>>With the right pair of w k gloves, you'll never notice all the times ou don't get hurt

BY HARRY SAWYERS PHOTOGRAPHS AN KLUTCH

AS A CERTAIN LINE OF LOGIC GOES, glov mble. You put them on to protect yourself, but dination because you can't feel your fingers might ou hurt. This kind of thinking has caused a genera some of whom you may recognize from on gloves under the direst of circumstances.

And who can blame them? The gen grew up with were either too thin to too bulky to keep a grip on tools. ferent gloves for different jobs, with m that they can outperform anything fo same stuff that stops bullets, burns when you handle hot saw bla sheds water away from your skin w Stretchy Spandex lets gloves flex to fit fitting Neoprene seals off the cuff withou Construction methods have changed, too. ble seams at the fingertips, good gloves now so that a solid piece of fabric, not the stitching, ing

All these improvements make gloves less like ore like a second skin. You get the right kind of p with out compromising dexterity—and that's a win-win situation

This pads palms add cushion stitch makes the seam four times stre These general purpose work gloves save pa n heaving rocks, mixing mortar, or pounding garden pa plus $ luthtrading.com (All prices per pair.)

FREEZE FIXER
Scooping cold wet leaves from a gutter is finger-numbing work, but you can keep your digits dry and comfy with the Cold Condition waterproof glove. The glove's Teflon shell repels water, and its flexible wrist-hugging Neoprene cuff insulates your wrist and keeps the elements from coming in through the top. $40, ironclad.com

CUT STOPPER
Stainless-steel filaments embedded in the core of nylon-polyester yarns enable this fabric glove to resist sharp-edged tin ceiling panels or panes of glass. Textured latex on the palm and fingers helps you grip those objects so they don't slip and slice you somewhere less well protected. $20, ironclad.com

HEAT BEATER
With a temperature rating up to 600 degrees F, the heavy-duty Heatworx lets you safely grip hot pipe when soldering. Unlike bulky fireplace mitts, these svelte gloves feature silicone rubber palms and are covered entirely in two layers of heat- and cut-resistant Kevlar. $60, ironclad.com

SAFE STRIPPERS
Polyvinyl alcohol, or PVA, gloves save your skin from caustic paint strippers. PVA is water soluble, so clean these with mineral spirits. $27, labsafety.com

DEMOLITION MISSION
Equipped for the bruising work of prying and dismantling, Milwaukee's Demolition Glove has padded knuckles and palms covered with Clarino, a washable synthetic leather. Kevlar reinforcement in the fingertips and gusset between the thumb and forefinger protects the high-abrasion areas. $28, milwaukeetool.com

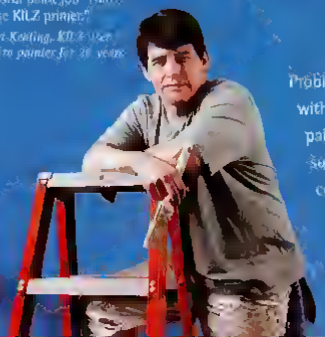
online bonus

Check out chain mail, reflective-neon, and other unusual gloves at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

PROBLEM. SOLVER.

"Starting right is my secret to a successful paint job. That's why I use KILZ primer."
– Robert Keating, KILZ User and pro painter for 18 years



Problem walls? Do what the pros [illegible] ng with KILZ before you paint ensures a better-looking, longer-lasting paint job by covering stains, masking odors and sealing unfinished surfaces. KILZ also blocks old colors, helping you achieve your new color in fewer coats.

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FLASHY FINGER
Leather like Clarino on the palm and supple Spandex across the top give the Glove Light its toughness and breathability but the real standout is the bright LED bulb on the forefinger it's useful when checking breakers during a power outage, peering into a dark stud bay or working on plumbing beneath the sink. $27 machanix.com

UP TO YOUR ELBOWS
The Mucking Glove s arm-length latex sleeve keeps you clean during dirty work—mixing compost yanking up poison ivy cleaning pond pump filters or saving a cell phone from being flushed. $7, leevalley.com

TOOL SCHOOL
Master carpenter Norm Abram shows you the gloves that help him work more carefully and confidently
Workshop, p. 107

GARDEN GAUNTLET
The Pruning Glove's long goatskin leather cuff or gauntlet, shields wrists from sharp thorns as you weed, plant and prune in the garden. Its aloe-infused insides keep hands from chapping the elastic wrist closure keeps out soil $31, smithandhawken.com

VIBRATION BLOCKER
A textured layer of rubber on the palm of the Hulkster glove is thick enough to dissipate the hand numbing vibrations of weed trimmers hammer drills and orbital sanders. $19 duluthtrading.com

FINGERLESS FRAMER
With your thumb and first two fingers free, you ll have the dexterity to pinch a nail without exposing the rest of your hand to danger The pigskin palm has gel padding to absorb the vibration of a hammer blow and the Spandex back lets the glove flex for a tight fit When you work up a sweat wipe your brow on the terry-cloth strip on the thumb $25 carhartt.com

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Robert Archer ***CE Pro magazine***

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STEP-BY-STEP
WEEKEND PROJECT SERIES

Lining a Cedar Closet

BY JENNIFER STIMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KOLIN SMITH

WHILE THE SMELL of mothballs may conjure fond memories of your grandfather's overcoat, it's not really the most attractive scent to wear out in public. Fortunately, there's a more fragrant way to keep moths and insects from making a meal of your best cashmere. The powerful aroma of cedar has kept generations hole-free and smelling fresh for centuries. And not only does it repel pests like moths and carpenter ants, it also resists mildew that stains fabrics.

Installing cedar to its fullest, you'll line the whole closet with it. The installation is simple when you work with tongue-and-groove boards, and the result is both practical and handsome. As *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Cutler shows on the following pages, all you need is a day to nail up the wood. Then you'll be able to enjoy the scent of mothballs in your pantry, where it belongs.

...and crown
— Cedar Safe
foot
com

COST:
... to $3 per square foot

TIME:
... to 8 hours

DIFFICULTY:
Easy to moderate. Cutting and attaching the planks is easy—but fitting the pieces may be tedious.

TOOLS:
STUD FINDER
2- or 4-FOOT LEVEL
COMPASS or SCRIBE
TORPEDO LEVEL
JIGSAW to trim cedar planks
PNEUMATIC BRAD NAILER and COMPRESSOR (rents for about $55 a day)
CAULK GUN
MITER BOX and HANDSAW to cut molding
COPING SAW to fit molding at the corners

FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS, TURN THE PAGE UNFOLD

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Propane dryers cost about half as much to run as electric ones. And gas heat is more gentle on fabrics.

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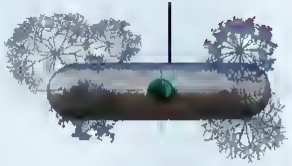
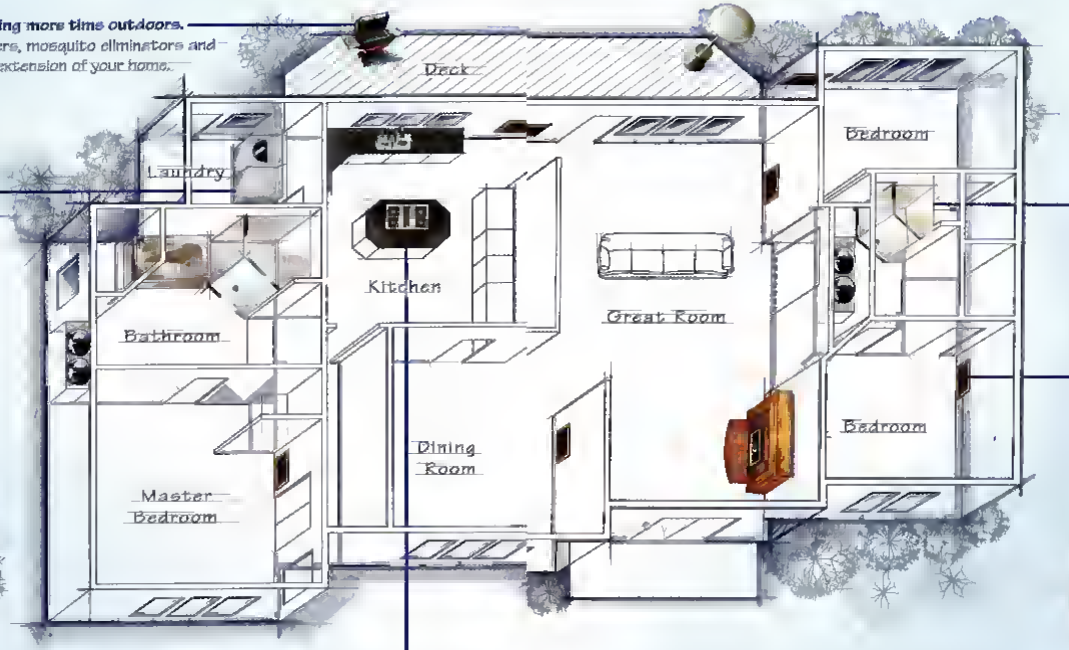


Talk about comfort food.
Propane cooktops offer instant heat and greater temperature control. No wonder nine out of ten professional chefs prefer to cook with gas.



He wants you to take hot water for granted.
Propane water heaters heat water twice as fast as electricity, so you get more hot water, more often. And propane water heaters can cost a third less to run over time, so you pay less, too.

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HOMEOWNER'S HANDBOOK
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{ overview }

WHILE THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF CEDAR, Eastern red cedar, aka aromatic red cedar, is the only type that gives off the familiar scent that deters moths and insects. Eastern red cedar is sold in both large pressboard panels and tongue-and-groove boards. Panels make for an easy, cut-to-fit installation, but they have a rough texture that can snag clothing. Tongue-and-groove boards, shown in this installation, require more cuts but give a closet a smooth, custom-finished look.

You don't have to line the entire closet for the cedar to be effective, but the more cedar the better. Lining the three interior walls is typical, but you might also consider continuing the coverage on the back of the door and on the ceiling. If your closet has baseboard molding, you can leave it in place as long as the baseboard is thicker than the cedar. But you can also take the lining down to the floor by first carefully removing the baseboard with a pry bar. Then you can use cove molding against the floor to hide the cut edges. That same cove can go at the top of the wall to hide the small gap above the last course. The raw cut ends of the boards will intersect in the corners of the closet, but as long as you start your installation on the back wall and cut the sidewall boards to fit snugly, the seam will appear neat from the front. However, if you have any trouble getting a tight fit to make an even intersection of back and side, you can always hide it with corner bead.

There are several ways to get the cedar on the walls. You can nail it to the studs, or adhere it with construction adhesive. *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva uses a two-pronged approach, holding planks in place with adhesive before nailing them. "I like to nail on a 45-degree angle through the tongue to hide the nails," he says. Nailing can be done with a pneumatic pin nailer or a good old-fashioned hammer and 5d nails, though without a pneumatic nailer you may need to drill pilot holes to avoid splitting the thin wood. Or if you don't mind seeing the nailheads, you can face-nail for an easier installation. Then, once the cedar is in place, it will last for years and will only require a quick, light sanding to instantly rejuvenate it and bring back its aromatic effects.

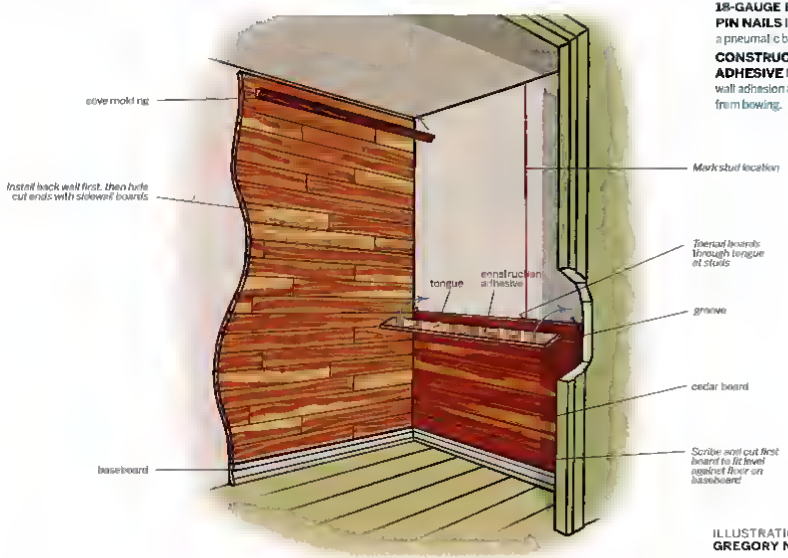


ILLUSTRATION BY GREGORY NEMEC

shopping list

TONGUE-AND-GROOVE CEDAR PLANKING Order online or through home centers. Choose lengths that will eliminate the need for joints, or use smaller boards for a patterned look.

CEDAR MOLDING to cover gaps at the top, bottom, and corners of the closet. Most manufacturers make cove molding to act as crown and to cover gaps at the floor. Optional corner bead will hide seams between walls.

18-GAUGE BRAD POINT PIN NAILS for use with a pneumatic brad nailer.

CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE to give additional wall adhesion and keep boards from bowing.

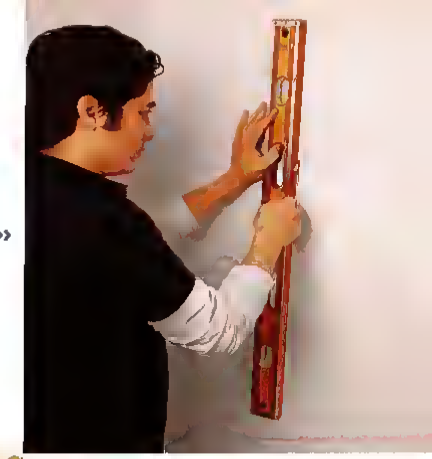
{ step by step }

1

Locate the studs »

Use a stud finder to locate and mark the studs along the walls of the closet. Or, starting in a corner of the closet, where there's usually a stud, measure the walls in 16-inch increments to approximate the rest of the studs. Positioning, using a drill/driver fitted with a small bit, make a small hole at each mark to check that there's actually a stud at that point.

Once you know where all the studs are, end have marked them, use a level turned vertically to draw plumb lines at each mark (RIGHT). Mark each stud position from floor to ceiling to show you where to place nails when you install the cedar.



2

« Scribe the first board

Begin at the back wall. If the baseboard or floor at the bottom of the wall is sloped, you will need to scribe the first cedar board to that slope so that all the subsequent courses stay level. Hold cedar board, tongue side up, at the bottom of the wall. Position a level on top of the tongue and level the cedar.

Open a compass or scribe to match the largest gap between the cedar board and the baseboard or floor, then lock it in position. Run the point of the scribe along the baseboard, letting the pencil draw on the cedar board. This will transfer the slope to the wood (LEFT).

Clamp the board securely to a work surface. Using a jigsaw, rip the board along the scribe line. Dry-fit the board to check the cut.

3

Nail on the first course »

Apply a zigzag bead of construction adhesive to the back of the board. Press it in place from center to edges to spread the adhesive evenly.

Using a pneumatic brad nailer, nail through the tongue at each stud location, angling the fasteners about 45 degrees down to keep them from getting in the way of the next board's groove when you lock it over the tongue (RIGHT). Start at one end of the board and move evenly across the tongue, checking for level as you go.

< TIP **If you can't nail to a stud, shoot two nails next to each other at opposite angles to suck the board up tight** to the wall while the adhesive dries.

4

« Finish the field

Once the first course is in place, measure the length of the wall before installing each row and, using a miter box and handsaw, cut the boards to fit. Many boards have a rabbet on either end so they can interlock with the next board in the row. If possible, use the off cut of one board to start the next row, so the two boards interlock. Dry fit each row before installation.

Apply a zigzag bead of adhesive to the back of the board. Tip the groove of the board over the tongue of the last row to fit them together (LEFT). While the adhesive is still wet, check the board for level and make adjustments as necessary. Nail the board in place.

Continue installing boards in this manner until the back wall is covered. Then install the cedar on the sidewalls, allowing the back edge of the boards to cover the cut ends at the corners. Be sure that sidewall rows line up with the rows on the back wall, or the mismatched seams will appear crooked at the corners.

Install the top board »

If you reach the top row and the remaining gap is bigger than ¼ inch (which can be covered by molding) but smaller than the width of a board, rip the boards down to fit. Find the height of the space at each end and subtract ⅛ inch so the trimmed board will tilt into place easily. Transfer the measurements to the board and, using a jigsaw, rip it along the tongue side.

Tip the board into place over the tongue of the previous row (RIGHT). Nail through the board's face close to the top of the wall.

BUILD YOUR SKILL
Learn how to get a tight fit on a closet shelf
Workshop, p. 107

5

6

« Finish the edges with molding

Using a miter box and handsaw, straight-cut the ends of a piece of cove molding so it fits across the top of the back wall. If you need two pieces to span the wall, join them with a scarf joint, angling the ends 45 degrees to overlap each other. Using a brad nailer, tack the molding through its center into the top of the wall framing.

Cut a piece of cove with a 45-degree miter at the end that will go in the corner. Position the miter so the long point is on the back of the molding. Using a coping saw, cut the front edge of the miter along the molding profile revealed by the miter, angling the saw about 5 degrees to make a slight back cut. If the blade binds, back out the saw and cut in from the edge to make a relief cut, then start again. When the whole profile is cut, check the coped piece against the molding on the back wall to be sure it butts tightly (LEFT). Then cut the piece to length and nail it in place. Repeat this process on the other wall.

If necessary, install cove molding along the bottom of the wall in the same manner.

TIP > **To make a clean coping cut, shade the cut edge of the miter with a pencil** to highlight the molding's profile.

{buying guide}

The cedar you put in your closets doesn't just have to go on the walls. Here are a few stylish cedar accessories you can use in the closet or out, to keep clothes moth-free and smelling fresh.

1. Laundry Bag Moths eat the old skin cells and sweat left on your clothes, so keep dirty laundry protected before it goes to the cleaners. Laundry hamper, $20, woodlore.com

2. Sweater Keeper Keep clothes neatly folded in summer, then collapse the box for easy storage in winter. Canvas sweater chest, three for $22, from Richards Homewares, organize.com

3. Drawer Liners Outfit a bureau or cover a shelf. Wire shelf lining, $8, from Cedar America, lowes.com

4. Coat Hanger Keep coats and blazers in perfect shape and hole free. Contoured hanger, $35, woodlore.com

5. Sock Storage Organize and freshen wool and cashmere socks. Socks Box, $15, woodlore.com

6. Shoe Tree Revitalize tired shoes. Men's Epic shoe tree, $30, woodlore.com

7. Veneers Line drawer bottoms or paper closet walls. Cedar paper, $25 per 1-by-4-foot peel-and-stick roll, woodlore.com. Cedar lining, $22 for a 1-by-2-foot sheet; mountainhomecedar.com

8. Shapes Add cedar to clothes pockets or storage bins before putting them away. Blocks, four for $3; balls and cubes, 20 for $3, mountainhomecedar.com

online bonus
For tips on cutting molding and refreshing the aroma of installed planks, go to **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

PHOTO: AN DRSACH LLEROY

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

LIGHT MAKES IT RIGHT

A window-wall addition opens cottage rooms to a spacious view, transforming a dark bungalow and bringing the outside in

This page: [illegible] windows makes the new living room a source of [illegible] round. Millwork details and stained oak floors [illegible] the 1920s Craftsman style portion of the home. *Inset, opposite:* [illegible] of diamond-pane windows in the dormers, and more [illegible] restored the charm of the cottage's front porch.

It was kind of dark inside, but that was okay with him. She craved the sun, though, and places to enjoy the outdoors. So when the couple got together, the onetime bachelor pad had to morph into something suitable for two—or more.

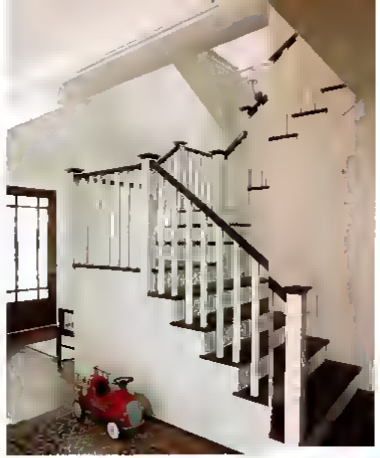
When Craig Matthew bought this 1920s Craftsman-style cottage in Sag Harbor, an old whaling town and artists' colony on New York's Long Island, he never dreamed he'd be married with a couple of kids inside of six years. At the time, all he wanted was a no-worries escape on weekends. The simple one-and-a-half-story house, with its original stained oak paneling and its bare-bones 1950s kitchen, was the perfect bumming-around seaside retreat. Craig painted the walls, updated the bath a bit, and planted some hydrangeas out front. His mother warned him, though: "Don't do too much to that house. When you find the right woman, she'll want to leave her mark, too."

Mom was on the money. Within three years of buying the place, Craig met and married his wife, Edwina, a native Australian who grew up on a sheep and cattle ranch. She found the little house dark and cramped, with its front door that opened right into a combined living/dining room, two tiny bedrooms to one side of it, and a little kitchen and bath in back. "It was a masculine house, and I could appreciate that," says Edwina. "But it wasn't quite right for two people."

Never mind three. With a baby on the way a year later, the couple decided to realize their dream of decamping from their one-bedroom apartment in the city in favor of living year-round at the Sag Harbor house. But to make that plan a reality, much had to happen there, inside and out.

For one, the house needed more living and storage space. As it was, Edwina's "closet" was a hook on the back of the bedroom door. Their queen-size bed left only a thigh's-width gap all the way around the bedroom to creep through. As much as extra space, though, Edwina craved light and outdoor areas where she could soak up the sun. "Winters are longer here than they are back home," she says. "I'm used to a long spring, summer, and fall. But if I have sunshine and light, I don't mind the elements."

Those twin impulses—toward more light and more usable space, both indoors and out—would govern how the couple breathed new life into their old house and its surroundings. The cottage sat on a generous half-acre lot, with most of the land behind it dropping off down a hillside. From a sunny breakfast nook at the back of the house, Edwina and Craig could peek out over their sloping backyard and the undeveloped, 5-acre meadow beyond it. They imagined a lawn for their soon-to-be-toddling tot to play on, a patio for outdoor meals, plus a back addition full of windows for whenever Edwina needed a booster shot of sunlight.

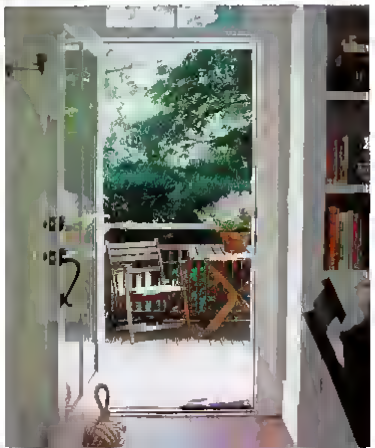


Right: A new side entry moved foot traffic from the front porch to this entrance hall, created when the couple built a central staircase where the kitchen had stood. *Below:* Craig and Edwina Matthew with their son William, who is now 2.

The new bright and airy kitchen sits in the sun-filled addition. White cabinets and marble countertops, plus a small island worktable in place of a solid built-in, keep the look light and open.

Floor plans: On the first floor the front porch now opens into the dining room, with an office and guest room to one side. The staircase and side entry are now located where the kitchen had stood. The back addition adds a new living room and kitchen, with a playroom and guest suite in the walk-out basement. The old attic level now holds three bedrooms and two baths.

Above: Just around the corner from the living room, a built-in wet bar fits neatly into space that was part of the old kitchen pantry. *Right:* A small deck off the living room faces south for maximum summer sun. Opposite the kitchen, it provides a convenient spot for open-air breakfasts.



"Don't do too much to that house," said Craig's mother. "When you find the right woman, she'll want to leave her mark, too."

So the couple tackled the renovation in stages. First up: taming the slope with a 50-foot-long, semicircular retaining wall to shore up a generous swath of green lawn. From the house, the masonry appears as a friendly, 2-foot-high sitting wall.

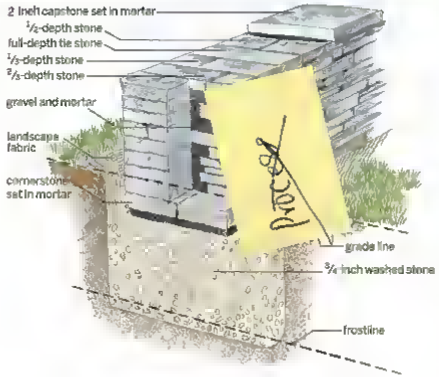
Then local architect Anthony Vermandois came on board and listened to the rest of the couple's wants and needs. He saw an opportunity in the way the house was sited. Though the structure was built at the top of a south-facing slope, the charming original front porch sat level with the street. If he could graft an addition onto the back of the house by burrowing into the slope to create a walk-out basement and turn the unused attic into living space, he could boost the square footage significantly but still retain the house's low profile in front.

Vermandois's plan called for ripping out the old kitchen, building a staircase in its place, and creating a two-story addition 18 feet beyond what had been the kitchen's back wall. On the main floor, the addition would house a spacious new kitchen and informal living room, both lined with windows to invite the outdoors in. On the new lower level, there would be a guest bedroom suite and playroom. The attic would be tapped for the private areas: two small bedrooms, a hall bath, and a master suite with ceilings that rise from 7 feet to 12 feet at their peak. The Matthews' one-level living situation would be transformed into three.

Once the ambitious remodel was complete inside, more landscaping plans could be put in place, starting with a pergola-covered patio right outside the garden level of the addition, accessible via French doors. This would be the central staging area for open-air meals. To soften the cedar structure, the couple planted white wisteria to grow up the posts—the same vine that Edwina's parents have on their pergola in Australia.

At the height of summer, the couple knew they would also want the shelter of a shady spot. So they called on Southampton-based landscape designer Romi Sloan to help. She decided an area toward the bottom of the slope would be just right for a rustic patio of broken bluestone and a nearby play structure surrounded by pine-bark mulch. Rustic stone steps would lead directly from the upper lawn to the patio's edge. To soften the stone slabs, Sloan planted ferns around the patio and filled the joints with tufts of moss. For privacy, she screened the areas from

The patch of lawn draws guests outside during parties, and the low sitting wall provides plenty of extra seating.



LAUSTIN, KON, RODCA RIVAS

SITTING WALL KNOW-HOW

AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, a sitting wall should be low, about 17 to 20 inches high and 1 to 1½ feet deep. To get an idea of how high to go, measure the seat of a favorite chair," suggests *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook. For stability, the wall should be mortared. To give stones a dry-laid look, though, Roger likes to use a stiff mix of black mortar and scrape away any visible joints (once the mortar is set up) along the wall's face. Two-inch-thick capstones make a flat, comfortable seat.

Here's how Roger would construct a wall like this one, which was built using flat Pennsylvania fieldstone.

1. Use an uncoiled hose to create a curved shape. Then set stakes and strings to measure out the wall's length and width.

2. Dig a trench 2 to 4 feet deep, excavating below the frostline and 6 inches beyond the wall's perimeter. Line it with landscape fabric, and fill it with ¾-inch washed stone, ending 4 inches below grade.

3. Choose the largest, flattest pieces for the four cornerstones; set each in a bed of mortar. Then lay one entire course in mortar, working front to back and end to end. Fill the center gap with smaller stones or leftover gravel and top with mortar.

4. Starting at the first cornerstone, fit stones together, working up and over, staggering the mortared joints. Fill interior gaps with small stones and more mortar as you go. Every 5 feet, Roger lays a "tie" stone that spans the wall's full depth. If he doesn't have one, he offsets two stones that span two-thirds of the wall's depth. For the final course before the capstones, he lays tie stones mixed with half-depth stones to seal off the center gap.

5. Set capstones level in a ½-inch layer of mortar. —SAL VAGLICA

the next-door neighbor with white pines, rhododendrons, and hollies between the two properties.

Today, Craig, Edwina, and their two children—10-month-old Genevieve joined 2-year-old William last year—live year-round in a charming, spacious home that seems to harness the sun on even the darkest days. On the main floor of the south side of the house, an 8-by-10-foot deck captures the maximum hours of summer sun and offers a spot for outdoor dining a short walk from the kitchen. Windows in the new driveway-side entry and in the new living room flood the back of the house with light. The bright white kitchen, drawn up by East Hampton–based kitchen designer Scott W. Smith, gets an added sense of airiness with a small island table in place of a solid built-in and lots of open nooks in the cabinetry to display cookware.

Careful attention to marrying the interior with the landscape just beyond the windowpanes has paid off in every way. Standing at the kitchen sink, Edwina can watch the sun go down beyond the pasture below. "Even in December, you'll see a pretty pink sunset," she says. Craig loves that every inch of the lot is now functional. "In summer, the house just opens up. When people come over, we have lots of different spaces to spread out," he says. And year-round, the house's expansive design has turned the former bachelor's domain into the kind of comfortable home that the couple dreamed of, one fit for the whole family. ■

Opposite: The two-story addition is lined with windows to maximize natural light in the new living room. The garden-level playroom opens on to a pergola-covered patio, which is also accessible via stairs that lead down from a small, south-facing deck. *Left page:* Rustic fieldstone steps wend their way down from the leveled lawn area to this rustic patio of broken bluestone—a shady spot where the family can enjoy a fire when the weather's cool.

online bonus

Find more on landscaping a sloped lot at thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts

STONE PATIO KNOW-HOW

A DRY-LAID PATIO of broken bluestone with moss creeping along the joints has a rustic look that blends into a woodland setting. *TOH*'s Roger Cook always dry-fits stones like these off-site, placing the largest stones first and then filling in with smaller pieces or shaping them to fit with a brick hammer. With a circular patio like this one, the outermost edges might need shaping, too. Here's how Roger would proceed on a project like this:

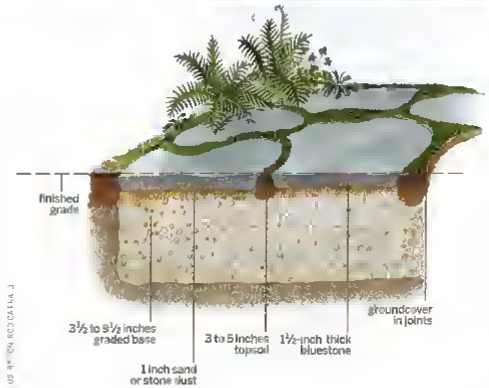
1. Outline desired patio shape with an uncoiled garden hose. Then set stakes and lines to mark the finished grade; the patio should be pitched ½ inch per foot.

2. Excavate 6 to 12 inches of loam (for the 1½-inch-thick slabs shown here).

3. Add "graded base" (a blend of stone dust and ¾-inch crushed stone), working in 3-inch layers and compacting each one with a power tamper. Continue until the base is about 2½ inches below the finished grade, then spread a 1-inch layer of sand or stone dust for a setting bed.

4. Starting at the corner nearest the house (or, here, at the steps leading to it), set each slab in place, smoother side up, leveling it by filling in underneath and tapping on top with a rubber mallet as you go. Leave a joint of 1 to 2½ inches between stones.

5. Finally, using a small trowel or putty knife, excavate the joints, going down several inches; then fill with topsoil and plant moss or other groundcover suited to the site's conditions. —SAL VAGLICA



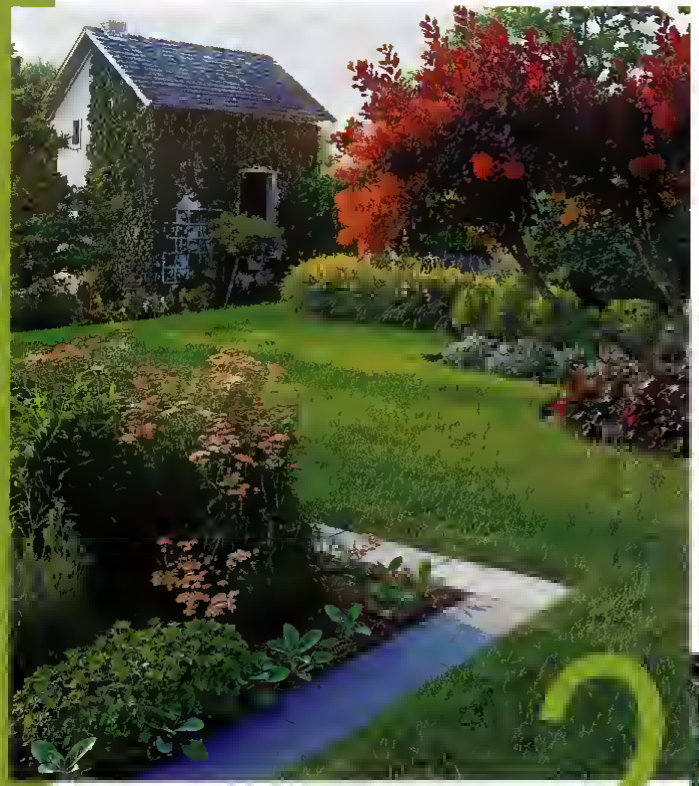
PUT SOME *Spring* IN YOUR STEPS

...nd in your planting beds, patios, and pots, too. On these pag... eye-catching ways to transform your outdoor space

ENHANCE THE ENTRIES
Clustering plants along a building's foundation walls and even up the front steps blends a structure into its natural surroundings and makes it more welcoming. Here, a humble potting shed gets the inviting look of an English country cottage with vine-covered walls and a profusion of flowering plants. Unmatched containers overflowing with velvety petunias, trailing yellow and white million bells, and a small coleus up top lend an informal feeling. The rich purplish hues repeated in the container plantings lead the eye—and visitors—right up to the door. Stone pups stand sentry, furnishing the entrance with an added dose of friendliness.

BY KATHRYN KELLER • ...GRAPHS BY TOM McWILLIAM
PRODUCED BY COLEY ... • ...TYLING BY MARIELLEN ME...

Chalk it up to the power of the printed page. When Densey and Ronald Juvonen moved to their Chester County, Pennsylvania, property more than 20 years ago, their 200-year-old stucco house sat on lovely, but somewhat featureless, pastureland. All the gardens that now flourish around the house, up the walls, and in the courtyard are of Densey's design, based almost entirely on landscapes she pored over in magazines and books. She diligently clipped and photocopied—assembling bulging file folders marked "stonework" and "color combinations"—and fueled her imaginings with visits to the outstanding public display gardens at nearby Longwood Gardens. Drawing her plans to scale using graph paper, Densey formulated a unique mix of French and Italian formal landscaping up close to the house, with loosar English gardens farther afield. Working in stages and with a talented local mason, Denis Hare, she tamed the open area around her home into a series of beautiful and useful outdoor spaces. There are lessons anyone can learn from looking at the stunning results on the following pages. Feel free to tear them out and start a few idea files of your own

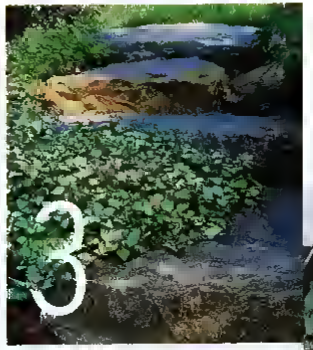


2

SHARPEN YOUR EDGES

Well defined edging not only delineates flower beds and garden borders but also lends a cared for look to any landscape. Here clean cut concrete pavers establish a formal be[illegible] in a grid of four square beds filled with a mix of herbs vegetables and flowers. Straight e[illegible] like these are especially good for defining and organizing small spaces. Sink at grade level—a[illegible] on a base of gravel and a setting bed of sand mixed with cement to prevent them from be[illegible] dislodged by frost heaves—they also allow for easy maintenance since the lawn mower can roll [illegible]

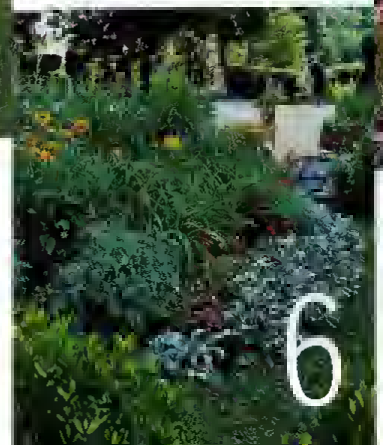
On the outer perimeter curved lines undulate along the borders encouraging [illegible] at each colorful clump of plants that spills out onto the grass. For curved earthen edges—which have a natural look well suited to large landscaped areas—digging down 5 inches or so with a half moon edging tool creates crisp lines. Regular upkeep using a string trimmer with its head turned perpendicular to the ground will help keep them that way



3

SOFTEN THE HARDSCAPE

While big slabs of stone make handsome steps or patio surfacing, left alone they can look a little cold. To help rustic stonework blend even better into its natural surroundings—and take the edge off its solid mass—surround it with small leaved groundcovers such as creeping thyme or the spotted deadnettle. Planted along rock edges or in the cracks between stones they add a welcome color contrast soften hard surfaces and reinforce any natural curves in a meandering path or in a round or oval patio. The encroaching foliage makes such slabs look even more like natural stone outcroppings.



6

CLIMB THE WALLS

Blend an outbuilding or the sides of your house, into the surrounding landscape by growing plants up the sides. Below apple trees (LEFT) and a lacebark pine (RIGHT) are espaliered in geometric and fanlike shapes against the walls of a freestanding garage. Espalier is a pruning method—popular in Europe as a space saving way to cultivate fruit and a decorative technique for formal gardens—used to train small trees and shrubs flat against a wall or fence in various patterns. Key to using espalier to enhance a building's walls (and to growing any vine or climber there, too) is using an anchoring system that suits your siding, keeps shoots from rubbing against it or adhering to it and avoids damaging or restricting plant growth. The masonry anchors on this structure have loops that hold soft, stretchy plastic ribbon ties (available at amleo.com) for securing branches in place.

4

5

PLANT IN MASSES

One secret to striking flower beds. Restrict your color palette and plant large clumps to create waves of color. Avoid the "one of this here and one of that there" approach to garden design. Using swaths of a single type of plant has greater impact and makes beds look more orderly. To keep costs down forgo buying large specimens at your local nursery use mail-order sources (davesgarden.com has a list of gardeners favorites), where you can save more by buying smaller plants in bigger quantities. Then let them fill in. Divide established perennials—such as the rust colored yarrow and light pink evening primrose here—every two to four years as needed. Then spread the wealth and fill in bare spots

LAYER BEDS FOR A LUSH LOOK

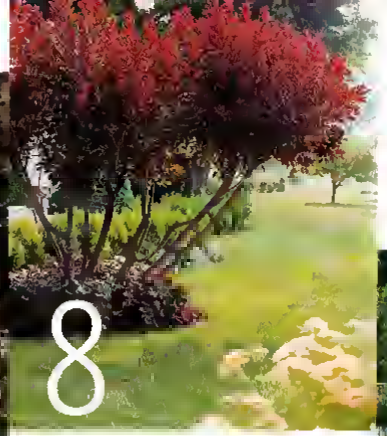
While using a limited number of colors is a plus in a flower bed, planting in shallow rows that top out at a single height is a major negative. When planning beds, go deep—4 to 5 feet front to back, if possible. Then place plants according to height with the tallest in back medium height plants in the middle and the shortest ones in front. The effect of this layering approach a profusion of blooms. Stepping down plants by height also lets you reach back rows more easily for deadheading. And such dense planting helps crowd out any weeds. Here, primary colors of yellow red and blue look lively but not noisy thanks to the small size of the yellow and red flower heads and lots of green foliage. Soft blue-green lambs ears in front provide the third element and the bonus of fuzzy-leaved texture.

"I planned and built the gardens in stages. That way, I could see much better what the next step should be." —DENISE KUVONEN, HOMEOWNER

7

FRAME A VIEW

An arbor is a simple way to create a vista. Here, a sequence of framing elements extends past the arbor, which is covered with antique climbing roses. Flanking rows of yellow-blooming butterfly bush lead to pairs of evergreen shrubs, then trees. The straight-shot perspective emphasizes a lineup of focal points: a stone garden urn, a courtyard bed bursting with pink geraniums, and a planter in front of a side door that leads to the family room. This arbor is made from salvaged ironwork about a foot wide. But you could carve an opening in a tall hedge or use a classic wooden garden arch for a similar effect even in a much smaller space. Place it streetside to frame the view to the front door, or by the side of the house to provide a peek into the backyard.



8

FOCUS ON FOLIAGE AS MUCH AS FLOWERS

Blossoms may seem like the star of the garden, but dramatic foliage plants can be just as effective—and they present opportunities for bold color hard to find in flowers themselves. The burgundy hues in this multistemmed smoke bush and the coral bells around its base make for a stunning focal-point planting. And whereas blooms come and go during the growing season, these foliage plants will stand as a strong visual anchor from spring to fall. Making the effect doubly striking is the way the forms balance each other: the ball-like clusters of foliage, which sit atop multiple upright stems, are grounded by one low mound of leaves.

REPEAT PLANTS FOR BALANCE AND UNITY

Echoing the same shapes and colors within a landscape gives it a cohesive look. In a formal design, plants are balanced symmetrically: both sides of planted areas are mirror images. In an informal design, balance can be achieved by giving both sides of a garden equal interest, as here, by repeating forms and color values. Here, the arching foliage and yellow trumpets of Lady's Mantle and the soft blue spires of the catmint combine for a dynamic pairing: using the same mix to flank both sides of the walk gives them equal weight and creates harmony. Their flowing forms also provide a nice counterbalance to the pairs of stiffly clipped evergreens that mark the turns along the path. All the repetition establishes a rhythm and unifies the garden's design.

9

10

MARK THE EXITS

Highlighting transition areas with short pillars, gates, or a change in paving announces that one area of the garden is ending and another beginning. Here, pea gravel underfoot leads to an oval of decorative hardscape flanked by short stucco pillars as you leave the enclosure of the formal courtyard. Two semicircles of granite blocks split into wedges fan out in a sunrise pattern around a half-moon piece. In between, bands of smooth river rock are mortared into place. This decorative interplay of materials encourages you to pause, then step down onto a curved path that points the way to sights yet to be discovered.

loads more tips

Get more advice on how to build a garden at **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

Is your pro a con?

As the weather warms and home-improvement projects begin, renovation rip-off artists come knocking. Here's what you need to know to see through their scams.

NO PAPERWORK

FREE INSPECTION

CASH ONLY

DEEP DISCOUNTS

OFFER ENDS TODAY

By Jeffrey Rothfeder
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FREDRIK BRODEN

Each spring, along with the forsythia and snow crocuses, comes a more disturbing rite of the season. That a when thousands of homeowners are conned by contractors into paying for improvement projects that never see the light of day—or are so sliphod that they never ahould. As the mercury rises, so do complaints to consumer-affairs offices and attorneys general nationwide. In Illinois, for example, more than 3 000 cases of home-repair fraud are reported annually. Louisiana fields 500 complaints a month. Some scams have been around so long it's a wonder that anyone still falls for them. Who hasn't been warned to beware of a lowball bid or never to cut a check for work that hasn't been done yet? But even seemingly savvy homeowners can get snared in an unscrupulous contractor's net. So, in the belief that forewarned is forearmed, we asked consumer advocates, home inspectors, and trusted builders (you know, the ones you call to fix the messes that the other guys make) to tell us about the most common come-ons they see and share their advice on how to avoid falling victim to one of these scams.

PHOTOGRAPHS (TYPE) JAMES WORRELL

Hook #1 I JUST FINISHED A JOB AT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, AND I HAVE EXTRA MATERIALS.

The Scam: A workman knocks on the door and tells you he s just finished coating a driveway down the street and that he s got leftover asphalt to get rid of He ll repave your driveway for a fraction of what it cost your neighbor "It s the oldest scam and it still cons hundreds of people each year" says Jim Rooney a home inspector and contractor in Annapolis Maryland. Typically the material is inferior or it's improperly applied. Then you ll have to shell out even more money to have the mess cleaned up and repaired Rooney explains

How Not to Get Taken: Good contractors rely on word of mouth not door to door solicitation to attract customers. But if you're tempted to take the offer ask to see the contractor s license and write down his ID numbers Most states require home-improvement professionals to carry a license as well as liability and workers compensation insurance, which offer you protection if the contractor skips out or if someone is injured on the job Then call your state s attorney general s office which typically oversees contractor activities to determine if the guy is actually licensed in the type of work he is bidding on and that there are no outstanding consumer complaints against him In states where the attorney general doesn t regulate contractors ask a representative to direct you to the agency that does. You can also get contact information for regulators at contractors-license.org.

Hook #2 I CAN FIX IT FOR LESS.

The Scam: Deep discounts can be so irresistible that some homeowners are willing to believe the impossible Leo and Shirley Schmidt of Yakima Washington fell for this one. The contractor pledged that a newfangled sealant would fix their leaky roof so they wouldn t have to replace expensive shingles The job, guaranteed for 10 years, would cost just $1,000 But when he finished he handed them a bill for more than $6 000 with no explanation for the increase or for the mess he left behind—green stains on the garage door fence, and shrubs in the yard Suspicious Shirley Schmidt checked him out with the local chapter of the Better Business Bureau but since there were no complaints on file she paid the contractor It wasn t until the leaks resumed after a big rainstorm two weeks later that the Schmidts discovered he had simply painted the roof green and hadn t applied a sealant.

How Not to Get Taken: There s hardly ever a cut rate alternative to an expensive and labor-intensive job like roof repair or siding replacement If a contractor says he can sidestep the work by using a new less costly material ask for the product name and call its manufacturer to verify the claims Then double-check what the manufacturer says with experts at your municipal building department or a knowledgeable salesperson at your local hardware store A wide variety of building products—including plumbing fixtures electrical switches skylights and door hardware—are also certified for quality and safety by independent testing groups such as Underwriters Laboratories and NSF International that list results on their websites

Hook #3 I NEED THE MONEY UP FRONT.

The Scam: Too many homeowners fork over big bucks for work that never gets done and materials that never make it to the job site Illinois resident Fe Pascual hired a firm to turn her patio into an enclosed sunroom She liked the $21 000 bid and was charmed by the salesman "He told me I had to sign the contract and give him 10 percent down He left with my check and a contract I had barely looked at" Within weeks, Pascual received a blueprint for her sunroom, along with a bill for another 20 percent After pulling the building permit the company hit her up for 30 percent more. Pascual paid both fees But that was the last she heard from the company Through her state s attorney general, Pascual filed a consumer-fraud lawsuit against the company the case is still pending

How Not to Get Taken: Payments beyond an initial one-third down (in California it s 10 percent or $1,000 whichever is less) should be contingent upon completion of various stages of a job or delivery of materials that can't be returned such as custom cabinetry For projects under $25,000, like Pascual's, follow the 30-30-30 rule Pay one third of the cost at contract signing a third midway through the job, and a third at the end Retain 10 percent of the final payment in escrow until you're satisfied with the work and all the subcontractors and suppliers have been paid For bigger renovations peg payments to milestones spelled out in the contract For example cut a check after the drywall goes up, then another once the cabinets are installed and so on.

bonus tips online Read *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva's expert advice on hiring a great contractor and avoiding a crooked one at **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

STYLING: JULIE WHITING

Hook #4 FREE INSPECTION; YOU ONLY PAY IF I FIND A PROBLEM.

The Scam: You might hear this pitch on TV get a solicitation through junk mail or find the offer on a flyer left on your windshield You take the bait and after a considerable amount of poking around particularly in areas that you can t see—on the roof inside the chimney in ductwork, in crawl spaces—the guy gives you his diagnosis. You ve got big problems And if you don t hire me to fix them right away they re going to get worse.

How Not to Get Taken: A contractor who s on the level rarely offers something for nothing, nor will he use scare tactics to drum up business says Charles Greaves of Contractorposse com which posts consumer complaints about contractors. If you can't tag along with the guy during his inspection and see for yourself ask for pictures of the damage and an explanation of exactly what s wrong Then get a second opinion. And never pay in cash Make checks out to the contractor s firm so you have an audit trail or if possible choose one of the increasing number of tradespeople who take credit cards "This allows you to withhold payment if the job isn t completed satisfactorily" says Greaves

Hook #5 YOU DON'T PAY, YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY DOES.

The Scam: You hire a repairman to fix a cracked pane in your bay window but he points out the entire unit could use replacing He confides that there s a way to get a whole new window free and for him to get paid at no out-of-pocket expense to you All you do is file an insurance claim saying a windstorm caused irreparable damage Then, if you hand over the settlement, he'll reimburse your deductible

How Not to Get Taken: "This is one of those situations where the contractor doesn t say "let's defraud the insurance company but it's understood," says James Quiggle, a spokesman for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud "Wink-wink nod nod schemes happen all the time, and they can slip through the cracks especially if the damage isn t so great that the insurance company would send an adjuster to do an inspection" But making even a small fraudulent claim is foolish says Quiggle. At a minimum you risk future premium hikes if it s approved. If the scam is exposed, however your policy will be cancelled and you'll be subject to criminal prosecution Then you could find yourself in jail with plenty of time to ponder why on earth you decided to replace a window that wasn't broken

Hook #6 FIRE, FLOOD, OR WIND DAMAGE? I'LL FIX IT TODAY.

The Scam: "Any time there are natural disasters scammers come out of the woodwork to take advantage" says Rick Lopes of the California Contractors State License Board These crooks, who descend from faraway places and stay for just a few days or weeks advertise on classified ad websites and with signs taped to lamp posts in hard hit neighborhoods. They offer to do repairs quickly without the hassle of obtaining building permits In exchange they ask for all or most of the money up front. And although they often finish the work, it s generally subpar These fly by nighters may even leave the house in worse shape than they found it says Lopes

How Not to Get Taken: Make sure the contractor s card lists a local business address not a post-office box. "I d be very suspicious of a contractor soliciting work where he doesn t live" says Dean Herriges secretary of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry For a contractor to travel outside of a local radius wastes time and money" After a disaster lists of area contractors can usually be found through regional builders associations, FEMA, and state regulators Just keep in mind that when your entire town is rebuilding you may have to line up for that trusted tree-removal service. But it s better to wait than gamble on an unknown ■

MORE LINES NOT TO FALL FOR

1_ ***"This offer expires today."***
Most bids are good for 30 days so clients can mull over decisions and get loans.

2_ ***"You get a rebate if we use your house as a model for our work."***
A sales gimmick this price is usually higher than the quote you d get elsewhere

3_ ***"I'll give you a price just from looking."***
Bids come in writing and only after careful inspection. If you don't know what the bid is based on how can you negotiate a better deal?

4_ ***"I don't give out contact information for past customers."***
A good contractor is happy to provide references. Just be sure to follow up and confirm that those clients are satisfied with the work.

5_ ***"A simple handshake will do."***
Get it in writing A contract protects both you and your contractor should something go wrong

6_ ***"I'll cut you a deal if you pay with cash."***
A contractor can reduce his rate by not reporting your payment as income and therefore by not paying taxes This is fraud

7_ ***"You'll have to get the work permits."***
A contractor who can t get permits for a job probably isn t licensed in your area or his license was revoked

8_ ***"For an extra fee, I'll give you a warranty."***
Guarantees are built into most contracts at no charge and cover the work for a specified period usually one year —MARK STEFFEN

11 modules + 8 flatbeds + 3 days = 1 custom-built house

Modular used to be code for small, cheap, and boring. Not anymore. Today's factory-built housing is designed as well, looks every bit as good, and uses **the same quality methods and materials** as houses built one stud at a time. Plus, it often costs less. Here's a look at how this house went **from the factory to home sweet home**

BY JOE CARTER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN

From boxes to beautiful. With the foundation prepped and ready, a crane lifts and sets each module (FAR LEFT) while human hands guide their precise placement. It took one long day for the 11 boxes that made up this house to be put into place. Then came a few months of finish work: trim, shingles, shutters and paint on the outside; paint, flooring, tile and fixtures on the inside. When it was all done, those boxes were transformed into an architect-designed 4,000-square-foot Shingle-style house.

MY HOUSE ARRIVED AT AROUND 1:00 A.M. on a cool March night. The scene at the job site was mildly chaotic: diesel tractors hauling long flatbeds, flashing lights, beeping back-up signals, workers shouting, floodlights throwing long shadows across a hodgepodge of large boxes. There were 11 boxes in all, some of them 45 feet long, and, come daybreak, they were going to be assembled into one enormous box—a brand-new modular house.

I had been preparing for this day for months, meeting with my partner in the project, architect Michael Steinj, arranging for the excavation, formwork, and concrete pours for the footings and foundation, selecting the factory to build the boxes; and finding a contractor who could handle the "set," or basic assembly, that would have the structure up (if not running) in just two or three days.

Along the way, I got a crash course in the benefits and pitfalls of building modular. I also learned how far factory housing has come from the ticky-tacky boxes of the past. Modular manufacturers now compete at the highest levels of an industry dominated by traditional "stick," or site-based, building. No longer tethered to their own limited portfolios of unimaginative designs and quirky floor plans, they're willing to build just about anything you can envision, whether it's 8 boxes for a 3,000-square-foot Colonial or 30 boxes for a grand mansion. The house on these pages is a case in point: A 4,000-square-foot Shingle-style, it was custom-built from our blueprints, with the details and finishes we specified. The results are all but indistinguishable—in quality as well as style—from a house built one stud at a time.

"When I went inside a custom modular for the first time, I said, 'Oh my God. Why am I stick-building?' In five days, that house can be up and watertight." —BRIAN DEAN, BUILDER

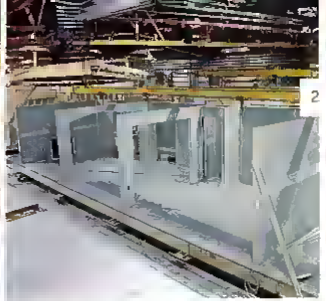
MADE-TO-ORDER MODULAR

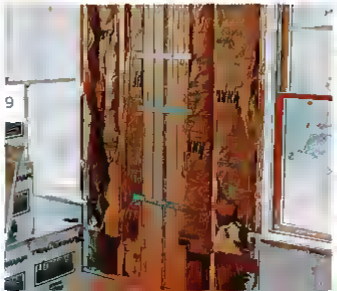
"When I went inside a custom modular for the first time, I said, 'Oh my God, why am I stick-building?'" says Brian Dean, owner of Bryan & Brian Construction in Redding, Connecticut, and a modular builder who's been assembling and finishing boxes for more than 15 years. "These houses are built inside a controlled environment and never see a day of weather. In five days, that house can be up and watertight."

Things move so quickly on site because the boxes are delivered so fully finished. A modular factory is the house-building equivalent of a Detroit assembly line. Floors, walls, ceiling panels, and roof sections are all built with forms that keep everything precise, square, and flat. Openings for windows, doors, and stairs are framed just as they would be at a job site. Toward the end of the line, all the big pieces are hoisted into place and joined to form the boxes. Then come windows and doors, wiring and plumbing, insulation and drywall. You can outfit the interior with your choice of trim, flooring, tile, cabinets, and plumbing and lighting fixtures. The finished boxes are wrapped in plastic and taken out to a storage yard to await delivery day, when they're loaded onto flatbeds and trucked to their destination. A crane stacks them in place,

online exclusive

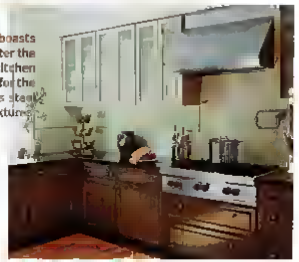
For a look at how modular is helping rebuild New Orleans go to thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts





Fresh from the factory.
1] Each module starts as a set of interior and exterior walls built on broad platforms and then moved down the assembly line to be joined with the floor and ceiling structures. 2] After the walls are erected, wiring, electrical boxes, and plumbing lines are roughed in and insulation is pressed into exterior walls. Then the drywall can be screwed in place, taped, and sanded. 3] Roof structures can be built to their full upright design, but for ease of transportation, rafters can also be "hinged" and then swung up to full height after they're placed on the house. 4] A finished module, complete with windows, doors, and weather protection, is set on a flatbed trailer and hauled outside to the storage yard to await delivery day. 5] While the modules for this house were being fabricated, the foundation and basement were being readied at the job site. Once delivered the boxes are hoisted by a crane and put in place, then bolted to the foundation and to one another. 6] The guest room floats above the dining room on its way to being set. Each module has its own floor and ceiling structures, resulting in "double" framing between the first and second floors for greater strength and reduced noise transmission. 7] One half of the house's playroom is carefully lowered onto the garage, which was framed on-site because of a relatively complicated connection to the main part of the house. Since the garage is unheated, insulation was factory installed under the playroom floor. 8] Not all modules are boxes. After the hinged roof sections were raised and braced, this wall section was put into place to complete a gable and 9] Metal straps create a rigid connection between two modules and are later hidden behind a drywall patch. 10] Some roof sections come from the factory already shingled and need only patching to complete the job. 11] When all the boxes are in place, a modular house is just another house that has to be trimmed, sided, and painted. This house has pre-oiled cedar shingles, for good looks with minimal maintenance.

PHOTOS (1,2,3 & 4) COURTESY © PRO FES ONA BU ILDING SYSTEMS LLC



Finishing touches The living room (ABOVE) boasts a traditional stone fireplace, which was built after the module was put in place. Cabinets for the kitchen (RIGHT) were installed at the factory, ready for the stone counters, tile backsplashes, and stainless steel appliances and fixtures.

and a "set crew" bolts them together and raises the roof. Then comes a flurry of work—hooking up electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems, patching, painting, and installing whatever wasn't ordered from the factory.

Building for transport has its quirks. "If you've got to ship the house 400 to 500 miles on a flatbed, it's going to be built a little different," says Steve Like, chairman of the National Modular Building Council, whose members delivered some 40,000 houses last year. For example, drywall is both fastened and bonded to studs and joists. Factories use industrial-grade fasteners, in some places screws instead of nails. In addition, each box has its own floor and ceiling structures, which results in double framing between floors for greater strength and less sound transmission.

Because the modules must travel highways, they can only be so large. In America's wide-open spaces, they can be up to 18 feet wide, 17 feet high, and 90 feet long—and that's a piece of a mighty big house. In more urban areas, overpasses and narrower roads reduce the maximum width to 14 feet, ceiling height to 9 feet, and overall length to 60 feet, which is still quite ample. In our town of Norwalk, Connecticut, we were able to have a 9-foot ceiling on the first floor but only 8 feet on the second because top-floor boxes also carry the roof structure (it's all about getting under bridges). A modular builder will be able to tell you whether you'll have a problem accessing your site or accommodating the boxes once they're delivered. Sometimes, unsolvable delivery problems alone can force a project into site-building.

INSIDE THE BOXES

Seeing a section of a house rolling down the road might make you think that the rooms are flatbed-shaped on the inside. Not so. In fact, modular designs can yield generous interior spaces. Getting beyond that 14- or even 18-foot limit is simply a matter of specifying that flush headers be built into the joists to preserve a flat ceiling where boxes are set side by side. The great room in the house we built, for instance, is two boxes wide, or about 31 feet.

Roof pitches can be steep, both for aesthetics and to make room inside for a finished attic, which can yield relatively low-cost living space. Factories also routinely make shed and gable dormers to increase top-floor space and headroom. Here or there, a small box, such as one containing a box-bay window, can be attached to a large one to produce a more interesting, articulated facade. "There are really no stylistic limitations on what a modular can be," says architect Michael Stein.

Where modular does meet its limits is with curved shapes and interior spaces that are two stories tall, or where the structural gymnastics simply get too extreme. Sophisticated software lets modular designers solve pretty gnarly structural problems, but at some point site-built framing becomes more practical. And mixing in a little conventional building isn't entirely uncommon. In ours, for example, it was easier to frame the two-car garage on-site and plop a modular bonus room on top of it. Porches, decks, and breezeways are also commonly built on-site.

When it comes to choosing things like windows, doors, and cabinets, a factory may be aligned with a manufacturer or two, or it may be willing to install whatever brand you want. The same goes for trim, lighting and plumbing fixtures, even tile and appliances. You'll likely get a better deal if you go with factory-supplied appointments instead of buying them yourself; most builders offer a few options, at different quality levels.

Some finish elements may be best left off the order sheet. Leaving off the siding is common for all but the simplest designs, because filling in the seams where boxes meet could never be done with wood shingles or clapboards in place. Hardwood flooring can't be installed at the factory because of the need to make seamless transitions between boxes (carpeting, however, can be almost invisibly seamed). Going with factory trim and tile is simply a call based on whether the factory offers the styles or quality levels you want. The tile isn't grouted until after the house is set, though, that's one item that might not survive the road trip.

MODULAR TIME, MODULAR MONEY

All other factors being roughly equal, the main reason for going modular is that it's going to cost less. A big part of the potential savings comes in the form of time. Simply put, while site work—clearing, excavating, footings, foundation—is under way, the house is already being built. If everything's properly timed and sequenced, the house could be delivered right after the concrete cures. "The factory I use takes about 12 weeks from order to shipping," says Dean. "Then, depending on the size of the house, I need 10 to 20 weeks to finish it. For a 4,000-square-foot house, it's 10 weeks."

The schedule for a site-built equivalent could be four or more months longer: the time it takes to frame, sheath, roof, plumb, wire, insulate, and drywall. Saving that kind of time will certainly save some kind of money, mainly on the interest cost of the construction loan and the cost of owning your current home or renting temporary digs. Whether the house itself will be cheaper than the site-built equivalent depends on local construction costs. The only way to be sure is to get quotes from both sides of the equation. From a modular builder, you should get a price not only for the boxes but also for the delivery and the set, both of which will total thousands of dollars. For that 4,000-square-foot house, says Dean, delivery alone would be about $27,000, and the set would cost about $12,000.

Paying $40,000 just to get a house to its final destination does not necessarily make modular any more expensive than building on-site. Barring complicated prep work (such as having to carve level land out of a slope) or through-the-roof finish materials and products, it's safe to say that a nicely done modular can come in at $200 a square foot or less—a lot less if the design is relatively simple. Here in Fairfield County, a bastion of high-priced housing, custom stick-building routinely exceeds $300 per square foot.

When our house was finally done, wrapped in oiled cedar shingles and forest-green trim, it was, with all due bias, solid, good-looking, energy-efficient, and very livable. Since this was a house built to be sold, we got immediate feedback from brokers and house hunters. The floor plan was "normal," we heard, with a nice flow from room to room. In the end, it took 11 months from shipping our blueprints to the factory to getting a certificate of occupancy from our town's building department—about as long as it would have taken to site-build, and a good six months longer than we'd planned. Most of the delay was due to rookie mistakes, like not having the blueprints absolutely final. Our design tweaks kept the house off the assembly line for at least three months.

Would I build modular again? You bet. When we added up the advantages—factory-controlled construction quality, a closed-up house in a handful of days, costs that equaled or beat those for stick-building, and the ability to construct a one-of-a-kind design—buying a house made from big and little boxes made a whole lot of sense. ■

If You're Thinking About Going Modular

Modular may be a different construction technique, but finding the factory to build the boxes and the contractor to assemble them requires the same due diligence that you'd bring to any construction project. "You want someone who's done this day in and day out," says modular contractor Brian Dean. "Plus you've got to feel comfortable with the guy you're going to be working with him for months."

You can often find a factory through an area contractor who does modular construction. Or if you've found a factory you like, ask for a contractor referral. In a few cases, the factory handles everything, including fabrication and finish, but most only build and ship the boxes, leaving the set to the contractor.

For more information, contact the National Modular Housing Council (modularcouncil.org) or the NAHB's Modular Building Systems Council (nahb.org).

The Many Moods of Prefab

Time was, if you went with prefab, you had to settle for what the factory offered. While plain, two-box ranchers still attract buyers, the real growth in the market is in custom designs, says Connecticut-based architect Douglas Cutler, who has specialized in modular construction for 20 years. Along with more sophisticated catalog choices, factories these days will build just about any size or style of house you want. The waterfront Georgian (TOP LEFT) is made from eight modules; the boxes were assembled on the mainland and floated to the island by barge. Other faces of modular (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT): A seven-module, 4,200-square-foot Shingle style; the Lewistown, a 3,200-square-foot Cape Cod from builder Patriot Homes; Cutler's own contemporary-style residence.

PHOTOS, (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): DOUGLAS CUTLER ARCHITECTS (2); NATIONAL MODULAR HOUSING COUNCIL; DOUGLAS CUTLER ARCHITECTS

STYLING: REBECCA NEWMAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

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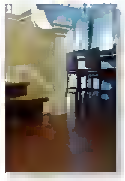

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THIS OLD HOUSE
FAMILY PROJECT

PROJECT > **Building a Toy Chest**

How to make handy storage for games and gizmos, with instructions for parents and kids

By **Chrystie Fiedler** Photographs by **Wendell T. Webber**

AGE RANGE > 7 and up
COST > $95
TIME > 5 hours
DIFFICULTY > Easy to moderate. Fitting the parts together takes a little extra patience.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE →

OPEN UP A TOY BOX and a child's imagination takes flight, especially if the box itself is part of the fun. This toy chest looks like a barn, designed to make even a city dweller feel a little bit country. An extra bonus? With wheels on the bottom and special safety hinges, it's easier than ever for kids to round up their toys when playtime is over.

You can make this toy chest in an afternoon with tools on hand and materials available at the home center. Kids can handle most of the work, which includes measuring, nailing, sanding, and painting, while adults need to help out with sawing and clamping. Once they're finished putting it together, kids will be scrambling for cleanup time.

SAFETY FIRST

Teach kids good workshop habits from the start. Here are a few guidelines for the tools used in this project:

HAND TOOLS
Gluing and nailing are great ways for kids of all ages to get involved, as are measuring and painting.

POWER TOOLS
Jigsaws are better off in adult hands, but kids 7 and up should be able to use a drill and a random-orbit sander or countersink nails with a parent's guidance.

GEAR
Keep sleeves away from power tools. Whenever the jigsaw is on, safety glasses are a must.

Project design by **Edward Potokar**

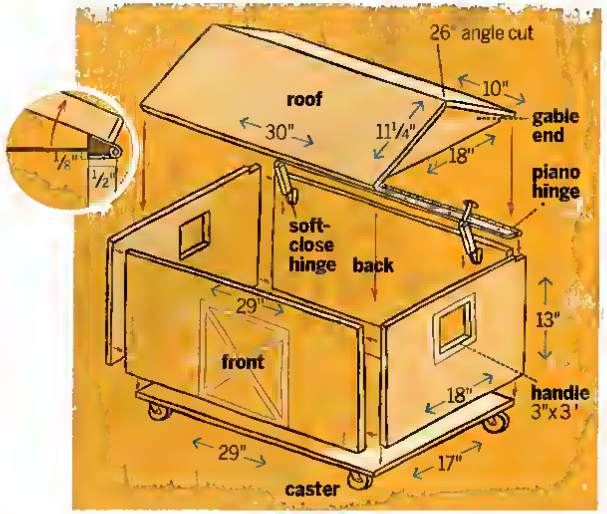
TOOLS YOU'LL NEED>
- Tape measure
- Combination square
- Framing square or straightedge
- Spring clamps
- Safety glasses
- Jigsaw or circular saw
- Random-orbit sander
- 36-inch bar clamp
- Hammer and nailset
- Drill/driver fitted with ¼-inch bit
- Putty knife
- Small paint rollers and brush
- Hand screwdriver

MATERIALS TO BUY>
- 4-by-8-foot piece of ½-inch birch plywood
- 120-grit sandpaper
- Stainable wood glue
- 4d finish nails
- Stainable wood putty
- Four 2-inch casters
- Satin-finish latex paint, in red, white, and silver
- Painter's tape
- 36-inch piano hinge
- 2 pneumatic soft-close hinges

1

Lay out the parts

> Using a tape measure and a straightedge, lay out the nine individual pieces of the toy chest on a half-sheet of ½-inch birch plywood: front, back, two sides, bottom, two roof sections, and two gable ends.



MAKE IT EASY
Get expanded step-by-step instructions and download full-size templates for this and other family projects at thisoldhouse.com/family

TO PARENTS:
Jigsaws and sanders can send dust or splinters flying. Be sure everyone wears safety glasses.

2

Cut out the parts

> Clamp the plywood to a worktable. Using a jigsaw or circular saw, cut the front, back, two sides, and the bottom piece.

> To make the roof pieces, set the saw blade at a 26-degree angle. Cut one long edge of each roof piece at that angle; together they will form the peak. Cut all the other edges with the blade set straight at 0 degrees.

> On each side piece, mark out a 3-by-3-inch square for the handle. Drill ¼-inch holes inside the four corners of each square to fit a jigsaw blade. Using a jigsaw, cut out both squares.

> Clamp the pieces to the worktable and sand them with 120-grit sandpaper on a random-orbit sander.

3

Assemble the box

> Put a thin bead of wood glue at the lower edges of the front, back, and two side pieces, then stand them up around the bottom piece. Let the sides overlap the front and back and make sure their notched corners line up with the back. Wipe up excess glue with a damp rag.

> Hold the box together with bar clamps. Nail along all the edges with 4d finish nails every 6 to 8 inches.

HEY KIDS!
Practice your nailing skills. To sink a nail straight, aim for the place you want it to end up.

Think About It

TWO WARRANTIES ENTER THE RING, ONE WARRANTY LEAVES.

It's gonna be a long night for one of these warranties. Guess which one:

In this corner, the typical 5-year/60,000-mile powertrain warranty from the typical car company.* In the other corner, Hyundai's towering 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain coverage—more than BMW, Honda, or Toyota.

We wouldn't offer this kind of coverage if our cars didn't keep humming year after year. Yelps would go up in our financial depart-

> CONTINUED at *ThinkAboutIt.com*

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4

Build the roof

> Stand the triangular gable ends on edge and clamp them on top of each side of the toy chest. Use scrap wood to bridge the seam and brace them; face the notched ends to the back. This will ensure that the assembled roof is straight.
> Glue and nail the front and back sections of the roof onto the gable ends, orienting them so the angled edges meet at the peak.

5

Add the finishing touches

> Using a hammer and nailset, sink all nails below the surface and fill the holes with putty. Sand the putty when dry.
> Screw casters on the bottom.
> Using rollers and brushes, paint the roof silver and the base red. Let it dry.
> Mark off the front door, corners, and frames around the handles with painter's tape, then paint them white.
> Line up the piano hinge on the top back edge of the base and screw it down, then screw it to the roof. Attach the pneumatic hinges. Now fill your toy chest with your favorite toys.

HEY KIDS!
Did you know that red barns became fashionable hundreds of years ago when farmers started adding rust to the paint to keep mold and moss from growing on the wood siding?

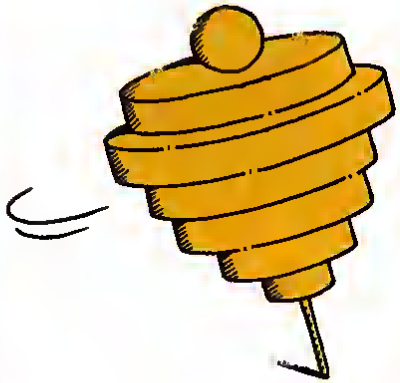
ONLINE BONUS Watch a video of building this toy chest—along with other family projects—at thisoldhouse.com/family

DIY Toys

Now that your kids have the coolest toy chest around, why not make some toys to go inside it? If you feel comfortable with a jigsaw—or better yet, if you have a scroll saw—then you can easily cut up the scraps left over from the toy chest to make these simple items.

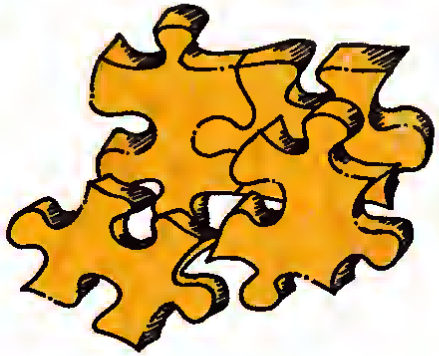
OLD-FASHIONED PULL TOY

Cut out your favorite animal shape, then attach some wooden toy wheels (you can find some at rockler.com), tie on a string, and you've got a toy that will keep a toddler busy for hours.



SPINNING TOP

You don't need a lathe to turn a top—just cut out some circles of different sizes and stack them to make the top shape. Screw on a handle and use a blunt nail to make the point at the bottom, then twirl away.



JIGSAW PUZZLE

Take apart your favorite picture, then put it back together for loads of fun. Print out an image—maybe a a beach, or a horse, or your family portrait—then use mounting spray to glue it to a piece of plywood. Cut it up into interlocking shapes, then challenge the family to reassemble it.

ILLUSTRATIONS: DOUGLAS ADAMS

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108 [illegible]k This Old House
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[illegible]rfect Fit for Closet Shelving
Staying Safe Around the Fire Pit
115 Norm's Notebook
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Ask This Old House

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TOM SILVA
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

NORM ABRAM
MASTER CARPENTER

RICHARD TRETHEWEY
PLUMBING & HEATING EXPERT

KEVIN O'CONNOR
HOST

ROGER COOK
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Spring Cleaning for the Deck

Our 19-year-old cedar deck has no finish on it and is looking gray and dingy. Last summer, my wife managed to scrub off the dirt but not the gray. Now it's my turn. What should I do this year?

JEFF SHERMAN WOODBURY CONN

Kevin O'Connor replies: According to Ed Burke, eastern regional representative for the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association, you'll have to clean it again, then sand it to get rid of the gray. He recommends doing your cleaning early in the spring when the weather is cool, because washing a deck in summer heat puts a lot of stress on the wood. "You may not want to be out there with a hose when it's cold, but that is absolutely the best time to clean a deck."

He recommends using an oxygenated bleach cleaner, chlorine bleach, even when diluted with water, is too hard on the wood. He also cautions against using a power washer, for the same reason. A soft scrub brush works fine. Before you start, test the cleaner's strength in a small area first. It should kill the mildew and remove the dirt in 10 to 15 minutes. If it takes longer than 15 minutes, the mix is too weak, if it takes less than 10 minutes, the mix is too strong.

You can sand the cedar when it's dry. For this project, *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva would rent a four-head random-orbit sander with 80-grit paper and use a hand-held random-orbit sander along the edges. (Sanding pressure-treated wood requires taking special precautions; for guidelines, go to thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts.)

Before you start, make sure every exposed screw or nailhead is safely below the wood surface. Sand lightly, and stop as soon as the gray is gone. Vacuum up all the sanding dust, then apply a semitransparent stain, which should protect the wood for about three years, depending on sun exposure.

{ Q: WHAT IS IT? }

A Hand tamper
B Marking tool for drainpipe holes
C Fume-absorbing paint lid
D Or...

★ FOR ANSWER, SEE PAGE 111

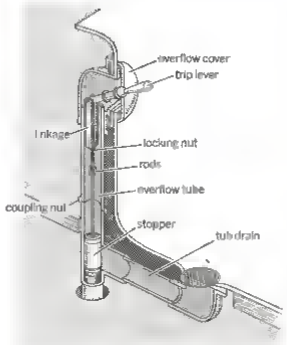
Tub Drain Fix

The mechanism that opens and closes out tub drain is no longer connected to the lever. Is there a way to repair this without replacing the tub? Fortunately, I can get to the drain through an access door in the wall.

LARRY CASAROW VAN NUYS, CALIF.

Richard Trethewey replies. What you are describing is called a trip-lever tub drain, which allows you to open and close the drain with a lever. Moving the lever raises and lowers a stopper, which opens or blocks the drain passage.

Trip-lever tub drain (cross section)



It's definitely possible to get it working again, and that access door may come in handy. First, put a towel over the tub drain to capture any small parts you might drop, then remove the screws holding the overflow cover to the tub. Then see if you can pull the rod and stopper out through the overflow drain opening. If the two rods have come unhooked, you may have luck reaching in with a flexible pick-up tool and snagging the stopper with its spring-loaded claws.

If you can't retrieve the stopper through the overflow, open the access door and disconnect the drain tube by unscrewing the coupling nut and then carefully unscrewing the overflow tube from the overflow fitting. Clean any parts you can reuse and replace the rest with new parts. Put back the tube, slip the assembly back through the opening, making sure the rods aren't tangled, and reconnect the trip lever and cover to the tub wall.

ONLINE VIDEO
Watch as *This Old House* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey puts a stop to a leaking bathtub drain at **thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts**

To see if the stopper works, raise the lever and put some water in the tub. If the water drains out, pull out the linkage that connects the lever with the threaded rod and give the rod a few counterclockwise turns so the stopper will go deeper and fit snugly against its seat. When the stopper is adjusted properly—this may take a few tries—tighten the rod's locking nut and put everything back in place.

Garage-Door Gap

There's a gap under my garage door on one side. How do I get rid of it?

FREDERICK CARBERRY HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.

Tom Silva replies: Sometimes gaps appear when wooden garage door panels sag, but your panels look nice and straight. I think the slab has moved, and you can't do much to fix that, so instead you'll have to work on the door. Heavy weatherstripping nailed to the bottom of the door can close small gaps. In your case, the solution is to cut the door's bottom rail to fit the sloping slab.

To do this, close the door and set a compass to span the gap at its widest point. If the gap is ¾ inch or less, scribe the slope of the slab to the door's bottom rail by running the pointed leg of the compass over the concrete while holding the leg with the pencil against the door. Keep the points of both legs aligned vertically as you go. Now open the door to a comfortable working height and cut along the scribe line with a jigsaw. Test and fine-tune the fit, then sand and seal any bare wood with paint and replace the weatherstripping.

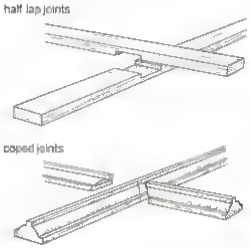
An gap of less than ¾ inch beneath a garage door can be fixed by cutting the door's bottom edge

If the gap is more than ¾ inch, you might be able to add a strip of wood to the bottom of the door and scribe that to fit the slab. But before you try this, call an installer to see if the door track or locking hardware will have to be adjusted, a job best left to a pro.

Adding Window Grillework

We can't afford new windows but want to dress up the old ones. I'd like to add a grille to the three picture windows at my house so it looks like they have muntins. Is this something I can do myself?

ANNIE VALLIERE BATH, MAINE



Norm Abram replies. That depends on your woodworking skills and how much you want to spend. Here are a couple ways to go.

The simplest method is to use square or rectangular stock thin enough to butt into the square, unprofiled edge of the sash. Where the horizontal and vertical pieces cross, you'll need to cut half-lap joints using a table saw fitted with a dado head, or a router fitted with a dado bit. The joinery itself is not particularly difficult; the fussiest part is tuning the depth and width of the cut so the pieces lap perfectly. Work with scrap stock and keep adjusting the cut until you get it right. Secure the finished lap joints with a dab of wood-working glue and then weigh each one down until the glue sets. Be sure the assembly stays square and flat while the glue dries.

The professional approach is more difficult and more expensive but will probably look better. You'd need to buy or mill stock with a profile similar to the one around the inside edge of the sash. Then the ends of each piece

PHOTO: ©BUNTON/CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GUY FOSTER; ©ERIC HEUMANN; RUSSELL KAYE; CARL TREMBLAY; RUS CULLAYE (2); WEBB CHAPPELL; ©BRI RENNOVATIONS INC. ® D. A. S. LOCK

PHOTO: BRYAN WALKER (BOTTOM LEFT); ILLUSTRATIONS: HARRY BATES

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ASK THE EXPERTS

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Today, it's all about being healthy. We exercise and watch what we eat. But what about the air in our homes? Is it healthy? Probably not. Dust, dirt, pollen, mold spores, etc., make untreated indoor air up to 100 times worse than outdoor air. And since we spend 90% of our time indoors, here are some tips to consider.

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will have to be coped to make a tight joint where pieces intersect. Coping cuts, which make a mirror image of the molding profile, are done with a cutter bit mounted in a router table or shaper. If you can't find a cutter that matches your profile, you can have one made.

Of course, you can also have the grilles made for you. Start by contacting the company that made your windows. Most of them can supply ready-made options designed to match your window. If that's not feasible, then Big Blue Window (bigbluewindow.com) also fashions custom grilles to fit most any type or shape of window. A simple, unpainted pine grille for a 4-by-4-foot window, for instance, costs about $60.

Whether you order a grille or make your own, you need a way to hold it in place. Window companies often use sliding-pin hardware that sticks into the sash frame. This hardware is available through Big Blue Window as well. Or you can just stick the grille to the glass with heavy-duty reclosable tape, like 3M's Dual Lock fastener tape, that you can pull apart and stick back together. Apply the tape in just a few spots so the grille can be removed easily when you want to clean the glass.

Pruning Lilacs

What's the best way to prune lilac bushes so they'll bloom every year?

BEV NELSON, NAPOLEON, OHIO

Roger Cook replies: Several things can cause lilacs to bloom poorly. An unusually cold winter or late cold spell could have killed your lilacs' flower buds, one of the shrub's more vulnerable parts. Or, your soil might have become too alkaline or acidic. Lilacs like soils whose neutral pH is between 6 and 7. A soil test will answer this question. Also, you should not overfertilize lilacs; that will cause them to produce more leaves than flower buds.

Prune lilacs early, before new buds form, or you may lose next spring's flowers.

But the biggest reason lilacs don't flower is because of pruning at the wrong time of the year. Lilacs bloom early and set new flower buds early, so a pruning in June or later in the season takes away the buds for the following spring. The best time to prune is right after the flowers turn brown. Take out the whiplike suckers at the base and older branches, and thin out growth in the center to improve air circulation and discourage fungal disease.

On large lilacs that haven't been pruned for a while, I'd prune one-third of the largest branches the first year, one-third the second year, and the remaining third of the older branches in the third year. Blooms form on stems at least three years old, so you'll never be without flowers. And the result will be a totally rejuvenated plant, with larger, stronger branches that produce more flowers.

Getting Rid of Groundcover

The pachysandra and ivy in the front flower beds are taking over the yard. What's the best way to get rid of these groundcovers so we can start fresh with other plantings?

BONNIE AND DAVE ROSEN, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Roger Cook replies. Here are three approaches you can take. They're all effective; the best one for you depends on your patience, physical abilities, and how you feel about using herbicides.

Smother them. Spread black plastic sheeting over the top of the groundcover and weigh it down with rocks. Wait a year, maybe two, for the plants to die, then dig out all the dead roots.

Spray them. Systemic herbicides such as Roundup are absorbed through the leaves and then travel to the roots, killing the plant. Don't be surprised if it takes more than one application to complete the job. These herbicides will kill anything else they get on, so be sure to protect any plants you want to keep. Once the groundcover is dead, dig it up and replant. The herbicide won't affect new plantings.

Dig them out. Ivy and pachysandra have very shallow root systems. If you cut through the foliage and remove a 4- to 6-inch layer below that, you'll get most of the roots. A root left behind has the ability to sprout and start a new plant, so if stragglers pop up later they should be removed, too.

{ A: WHAT IS IT? }

D. Concrete leveler

The Circle Level Float fits inside pier forms, where it levels and smooths wet concrete. $12, circlelevelfloat.com

Whichever method you choose, you can prepare the beds for planting once you've removed all the roots.

Weeps for Brick

My house has small vertical gaps between the bricks near the bottom of the outside walls. My builder calls them weep holes, and says they're necessary for removing condensation. I've never seen water coming out of the holes, so I filled them with silicone to keep out water and termites. Was that okay?

SHARON HINKLE, BILOXI, MISS.

Tom Silva replies: Your builder was right—weep holes are necessary. In fact, they're required by code in wood-framed houses with brick veneer because they ventilate the narrow cavity between the brick and the interior wall. Without weep holes, the moisture that wicks through the brick and mortar will soak into the framing and drywall, making them magnets for termites and mold. But any water that comes in through the weeps will hit metal flashing, if the inside walls were built properly.

So, for the good of your house, remove the silicone. Then you can fit the holes with small plastic insect guards, like the ones sold by Critter Ridder, which allow air in but discourage bugs and other creatures from entering. Check with your local building inspector before you install these, though, just to make sure they're approved for use in your area. ■

To send a question to Ask This Old House, go to thisoldhouse.com/asktoh or write to

Ask This Old House
This Old House magazine
135 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10020

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that, due to the volume of mail, we are not able to reply to unpublished questions.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 117

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Skill Building

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Fire Pit Safety

What to do when your outdoor hearth gets too hot to handle

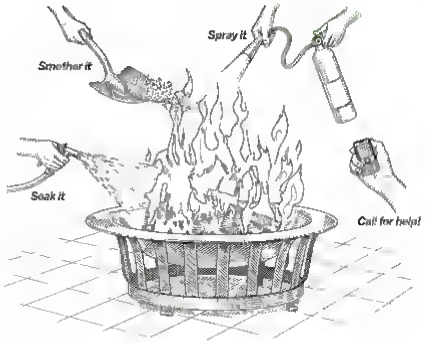
RELATED STORY, P.27, "HOT SPOTS"

A blazing fire pit is a delightful comfort on cool nights—unless the fire flares out of control. For safety's sake, take these precautions before striking the match. Never place a pit closer than 10 feet from anything flammable, including your house and overhead tree branches. With gas pits, make sure all vents are clear to avoid smoky flare-ups. And only use the fuel that the pit is built to burn. For traditional wood-burning pits, that means using dry, well-seasoned sticks. Also, don't load in so many that there's a danger of some falling out. Once the pit is lit, keep the following close at hand just in case your merry bonfire suddenly starts burning a little too bright.

Water or sand. Extinguishing a flare-up might be as simple as keeping your garden hose nearby, with the water turned on and the nozzle set to "spray." (A focused stream of water could spread burning embers.) Check ahead of time to see if your pit can withstand a dousing; water can crack ceramic pits and even some metal ones. If it can't get wet, or if you're not sure, keep a bucket of dry sand nearby to dump on the flames. For a gas or propane pit, turn off the supply before attempting to extinguish any fire.

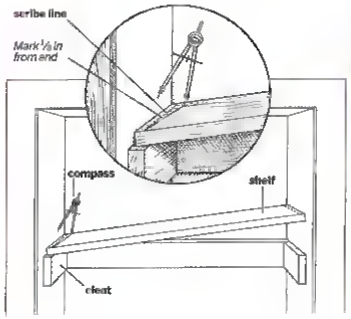
Fire extinguisher. It should be a dry chemical extinguisher with a Class B and C or multipurpose rating, such as the one you have in your kitchen. Be ready to follow the PASS procedure: Pull the pin. Aim at the base of the fire. Squeeze the trigger slowly. Sweep the nozzle from side to side. Remember that most portable fire extinguishers have a range of just 6 to 10 feet and last for 8 to 10 seconds.

Portable phone. If fire spreads beyond the confines of the pit or flares above your head or prevents you from switching off the propane tank or natural gas valve, calmly evacuate everyone from the area and call your local fire department. —NATALIE RODRIGUEZ



{ TOH TIP }

When burning wood in bowl-shaped fire pits, keep the sticks no longer than three-quarters of the bowl's diameter.



ILLUSTRATIONS: MARTY BATES

How to Get a Custom Fit for a Closet Shelf

The secret is to cut it three times

RELATED STORY, P.67 "LINING A CEDAR CLOSET"

After a closet's wall cleats are mounted, almost anyone with a tape measure can cut a shelf to rest on them. But to get a shelf with a no-wiggle fit against walls that aren't exactly square takes some skill or at least the ability to scribe. Here's how *This Old House* master carpenter Norm Abram measures and cuts his shelves for a perfect fit every time.

1. Make the first cut. Measure the distance between the closet's side walls at the top edge of the cleats. Add ¼ inch to the longest measurement and make the cut. Using a square, draw a line across the shelf ⅛ inch from each end.

2. Scribe. Tip the shelf into place so that one end rests on a sidewall cleat, the other end leans against the wall, and the lines face up. Push the shelf tight against the back wall. Set the pencil of a compass on the lower line at the point where the distance between the line and the wall is greatest. Adjust the compass's span until its metal point rests against the wall. Keep the points parallel with the back wall as you scribe the contour of the sidewall on the shelf, as shown at left.

3. Make the second cut, and scribe again. Using a jigsaw, cut along the scribe line. Now tip the shelf so it rests on the opposite sidewall cleat and repeat the scribing process on the other end.

4. Make the third cut. Trim the shelf along this second scribe line. It should fit between the walls perfectly. If not, make minor adjustments with a block plane. Then tip the shelf up one last time and drop it into position. —JENNIFER STIMPSON

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Norm's Notebook

> MASTER CARPENTER NORM ABRAM'S TECHNIQUES FOR WORK GLOVES FEATURED IN TOOLBOX P. 61

WORK GLOVES

Frankly I always feel I have better control over my tools without gloves, so most of the time I work bare-handed. Even when I was a contractor, I rarely bothered with them because they got in the way of picking up or holding little things like nails and screws. Besides, I had such calluses on my hands back then that it didn't seem to matter. There were a few exceptions. Come winter, I wore waterproof work gloves to scrape ice off lumber and insulated gloves to handle metal—power tools, aluminum gutters, flashing, ladders—which just sucks the heat right out of bare fingers. At any time of year, I'd put on medium-weight cloth gloves when doing demolition, especially when dealing with sharp-edged metal lath or fiberglass insulation. I still don't feel comfortable tearing a wall apart unless I have gloves on both hands.

Sometimes I'll only wear one glove, usually on my left hand, so I have full control with my right. To bend this metal strap, for instance, I'm wearing a single cloth glove dotted with rubbery plastic for a secure grip. It also protects me from the metal's sharp edges.

Throwaway Gloves

When I'm applying stain, I wear a pair of disposable latex gloves to keep my skin from turning color along with the wood. I'll also slip on a pair of nitrile rubber gloves—or latex. In a pinch—when I'm working with grease or oil on my car, the boat engine, or the lawn mower. That way my hands stay clean and I don't come inside smelling like a gas station. While I appreciate the dexterity these thin gloves provide, I still feel that I lose a degree of control. Frankly, I don't know how surgeons do it.

{ NORM'S TIP }

I never wear gloves when using most power tools, especially saws, drills, and routers. A glove, like loose clothing, can snag on a spinning bit or blade and pull your hand in after it.

Chemical Combat

Latex is great for stopping stain, polyurethane glues, and epoxies from reaching the skin. But it doesn't offer much protection against harsher chemicals. For those toxic substances, these are the gloves to wear:

Methylene-chloride paint strippers: Fluoroelastomer or polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gloves

Liquid fertilizers or pesticides: Nitrile gloves

Acetone: Butyl gloves

Hydrochloric-acid masonry cleaners and concrete etchers: Nitrile or Neoprene gloves

I'll put on a medium-weight cloth glove to test the tension of a saw chain, but I always take it off when using the saw so I have maximum control.

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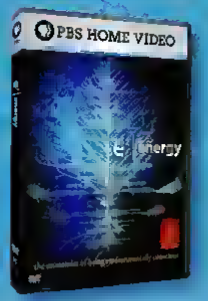

Directory

> SOURCES, PRICES AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

COVER

Rustic broken-bluestone patio Gardens By Romi Southampton NY 631-287-6538. **Fire pit:** Smith and Hawken, Pueblo CO 800-940-1170 smithandhawken.com **Adirondack chairs:** Lands' End Dodgeville WI 800-963-4816 landsend.com

AROUND THE HOUSE (pp. 13–20)

Blades of Glory *Thanks to* Paul Tukey author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* 207-688-8582 safelawns.org

BATH DESIGN (pp. 24–25)

Architect: Carol J. W. Kurth AIA Architect The Office of Carol J. W. Kurth Bedford, NY 914-234-2595 carolkurtharchitects.com **Associate architect:** John Rapetti Associate AIA The Office of Carol J. W. Kurth **Interior designer:** Jenna Burger ASID The Office of Carol J. W. Kurth **Contractor:** Eric Messer Sunrise Construction Briarcliff Manor NY 914-762-8453 sunrisebuilding.com **Tub, tub fittings, lavatory fittings, toilet, shower fittings, showerhead, valve trim, and shower valve:** Waterworks, Danbury CT 800-899-6757 waterworks.com **Lavatories:** Kohler Kohler WI 800-456-4537 kohler.com **Tile:** Terra Tile and Marble Briarcliff NY 914-923-4295 **Paint:** Sherwin Williams #SW6163 Grassland Sherwin Williams Cleveland OH 216-566-2151 sherwin-williams.com **Windows:** Kolbe and Kolbe Wausau WI 800-678-8604 kolbe-kolbe.com **Vanity lights and hanging fixture:** Nulco, Pawtucket RI 401-724-7100 nulco.com

LUXURIES Hot Spots (pp. 27–29)

Chiminea Combo: 3-in-1 Chiminea Fire Pit Unique Arts LLC Madison WI 800-928-3738 uniquearts.com **Tiled Surround:** Model WAD506B Blue Rhino Winston-Salem NC 800-762-1142 bluerhino.com **Stainless Shell:** Atno Fire Basket Blomus SKS USA Corporation Olney IL 618-395-2400 blomus.com **Fireball:** Ball O Fire Landmann Cartersville GA 770-606-8903 landmann-usa.com **Heavyweight Hearth:** 40-Inch Copper Fire Pit Frontgate West Chester OH 888-263-9850 frontgate.com **Ceramic Cylinder:** Bermuda In-Island Series, California Outdoor Concepts Commerce, CA 877-274-6773 californiaoutdoorconcepts.com **Tabletop Toaster:** Sequoia Log Table Real Flame a division of Jensen Company Inc. Racine WI 800-654-1704 realflame.com.

LANDSCAPING: Screen Time (pp. 31–33)

Thanks to Elliott Brundage Elliott Brundage Landscape Architecture, Andover MA 978-470-4970 elliottbrundage.com Michael Glassman Michael Glassman & Associates Sacramento CA 916-736-2222 michaelglassman.com Stephanie Hubbard SiteCreative Landscape Architecture Boston MA 617-390-5663 sitecreativelandscape.com Eric Sauer Envision Works Inc. Dayton OH 937-396-1134

ELEMENTS OF A STYLE: Depression Modern (pp. 35–36)

Thanks to Jared Goss, associate curator Department of 19th Century, Modern and Contemporary Art Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, NY metmuseum.org Michael Smith owner of Depression Modern and Adelaide New York NY 212-627-0508 adelaideny.com.

SALVAGE: Embossed Metal Ceilings (pp. 41–43)

Metal ceilings: Discovery Architectural Antiques Gonzales TX 830-672-2428 discoverys.com. **Further reading:** *Cheap, Quick & Easy Imitative Architectural Materials 1870–1930* by Pamela H. Simpson The University of Tennessee Press Knoxville TN *Thanks to* Old Town Bar New York NY 212-529-6732 oldtownbar.com

HOUSE CALLS (pp. 54–55)

Thanks to Gary R. Fankhauser of N. Focus LLC Kannapolis NC 704-784-2022 nfocusplanning.org

HEALTHY HOME: Keeping Mold From Taking Hold (pp. 57–59)

Architect: Rick Fifield AIA New Orleans LA 504-949-3309 **Mold-remediation specialist:** EnviroMed New Orleans LA 800-882-0845 enviromedneworleans.com **Biocide:** MDF 500 Mold-n-More Decontamination East Fallowfield PA 888-361-7633 **Borate treatments:** Bora-Care and Bora-Care with Mold-Care, Nisus Corporation Rockford TN 800-264-0870 nisuscorp.com **Paperless drywall:** DensArmor Plus Georgia-Pacific Atlanta GA 800-284-5347 gp.com **Foam insulation:** Icynene Mississauga Ontario Canada 905-363-4040 **For further information:** LaHouse Louisiana House Home and Landscape Resource Center Baton Rouge LA 225-578-2378 louisianahouse.org National Center for Healthy Housing Columbia MD 877-312-3046 centerforhealthyhousing.org For EPA mold remediation guidlines, go to epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html

TOOLBOX: Helping Hands (pp. 61–64)

Thanks to Joe McGarry aka the Glove Guru for help researching this article. gloves-online.com

STEP-BY-STEP: Lining a Cedar Closet (pp. 67–72)

Cedar paneling and crown molding: Cedar Safe Huntsville AL 800-225-6738 cedarsafeclosets.com Woodlore Port Washington WI 800-258-0200 woodlore.com Mountain Home Cedar Benton AR 877-415-3667 mountainhomecedar.com Cedar America Grove City OH 800-767-8411 cedaramerica.com Richard's Homawares Portland OR 800-446-3880 richardshomewares.com

LIGHT MAKES IT RIGHT (pp. 74–81)

Architect: Anthony Vermandois Anthony Vermandois Architect Sag Harbor NY 631-725-2177 **Builder:** Jesse Koncelik Sag Harbor NY 631-278-5768 **Kitchen design, cabinets and countertops, and bar cabinet:** Scott W. Smith Smith River Kitchens East Hampton NY 631-329-7122 smithriverkitchens.com **Flooring throughout:** Don Disbrow Antique Lumber Company Sag Harbor NY 631-725-7026 **Landscaping and stonework:** Gardens By Romi

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Southampton, NY: 631-287-7664. **Tile installer:** Roman Tile Inc., Hampton Bays, NY: 631-723-0586. Living room: **Sconces:** Circa Lighting, Savannah, GA: 877-762-2323, circalighting.com. **Fireplace:** Gulchay Construction, East Hampton, NY: 631-329-1240, gulchay.com. **Fireplace screen:** Plow & Hearth, Madison, VA: 800-494-7544, plowhearth.com. **Windows:** Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Company Inc., Wausau, WI: 715-842-5666, kolbe-kolbe.com. Stairway: **Sconces:** Circa Lighting. Kitchen: **Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero Inc., Madison, WI: 800-222-7820, subzero.com. **Dishwasher:** DLX Series, Bosch Home Appliances, Huntington Beach, CA: 800-944-2904, boschappliances.com. **Stove:** Thermador, Huntington Beach, CA: 800-656-9226, thermador.com. **Hood:** Vent-A-Hood, Richardson, TX: 800-331-2492, ventahood.com. **Fan:** Restoration Hardware, Madera, CA: 800-910-9836, restorationhardware.com. **Cobb rise and fall lamp:** conranshop.co.uk. **Kitchen sink:** Gilford, Kohler Company, Kohler, WI: 800-456-4537, kohler.com. **Kitchen faucet:** Chicago Faucet Company, Des Plaines, IL: 847-803-5000, chicagofaucets.com. **Tile available through:** Southampton Masonry, Southampton, NY: 631-259-8200, southamptonbrick.com. Bar: **Bar faucet:** Grohe America Inc., Bloomingdale, IL: 630-582-7711, groheamerica.com. **Mirror and glass shelving:** Westhampton Glass Inc., Westhampton Beach, NY: 631-288-1727, westhamptonglass.com. Rear patio: **Patio stonework, chimneys, and rock side entry:** Gulchay Construction, East Hampton, NY: 631-329-1240, gulchay.com. **Pergola wood:** Liberty Cedar Inc., West Kingston, RI: 800-852-3327, libertycedar.com. **Side entry lights:** Olde Good Things, Scranton, PA: 888-233-9678, oldegoodthings.com. **Rear patio lighting:** Bellacor, Mendota Heights, MN: 877-723-5522, bellacor.com. Rustic stone patio: **Fire pit:** Smith and Hawken, Pueblo, CO: 800-940-1170, smithandhawken.com. **Adirondack chairs:** Lands End, Dodgeville, WI: 800-963-4816, landsend.com.

PUT SOME SPRING IN YOUR STEPS
(pp. 82–87)

Stonemason: Denis Hare Masonry, West Chester, PA: 610-864-6036. **Nursery:** Valley View Perennial Growers Inc., Cochranville, PA: 610-593-5000, valleyviewpg.com. **For further information:** *Garden Styles* by Penelope Hobhouse; *The Art of French Vegetable Gardening* by Louisa Jones; *The French Garden Style* by Georges Leveque and Marie-Françoise Valéry; *Gardens in Normandy* by Marie-Françoise Valéry; *Renaissance of Italian Gardens* by Lorenza de Medici. Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA: longwoodgardens.org.

11 Modules + 8 Flatbeds + 3 Days = 1 Custom-Built House (pp. 92–97)

Architect: Michael Stein, AIA, Stein/Troost Architecture, Norwalk, CT: 203-831-9983. **Builder:** Raise High Construction LLC, Norwalk, CT: 203-919-2110. **Modular factory:** Professional Building Systems, Middleburg, PA: 570-837-1424, pbsmodular.com. **Cabinets:** Merillat Industries, Adrian, MI: 866-850-8557, merillat.com. **Cabinet hardware:** Baldwin Hardware Corp., Reading, PA: 800-566-1986, baldwinhardware.com. **Granite countertops:** Bruce's Marble & Granite, Norwalk, CT: 203-853-8100, brucesmarble.com. **Cooktop:** Wolf Appliance Inc., Madison, WI: 800-332-9513, wolfappliances.com. **Refrigerator/freezer:** Sub-Zero Inc., Madison, WI: 800-222-7820, subzero.com. **Plumbing fixtures and fittings:** Kohler Plumbing, Kohler, WI: 800-456-4537, kohler.com. **Furnishings and accessories:** Lillian August Home Furnishings and Interior Design, Norwalk, CT: 203-847-1596, lilliansaugust.com. **For further information:** National Modular Housing Council: modularcouncil.org; National Association of Home Builders Modular Building Systems Council: nahb.org.

WORKSHOP Ask This Old House (pp. 108–111)

Spring Cleaning for the Deck: Western Red Cedar Lumber Association: wrcla.org. **Oxygenated wood cleaner:** OxiClean, Church & Dwight, Princeton, NJ: 800-781-7529, oxiclean.com. Weeps for Brick: **Weep hole covers:** Bug Out, San Antonio, TX: 210-493-1188, bugoutweepholes.com. Critter Ridders, Memphis, TN: 901-365-2847, critterridders.com. Adding Window Grilles: **Reclosable tape:** 3M Dual Lock Low Profile Reclosable Fastener MP4570, 3M, St. Paul, MN: 800-234-8068, 3mestore.com.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE
Monterey, Indiana (p. 130)

Thanks to Historic Properties, Richmond, VA: historicproperties.com. ■

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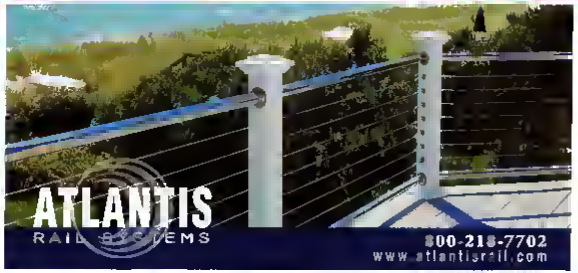

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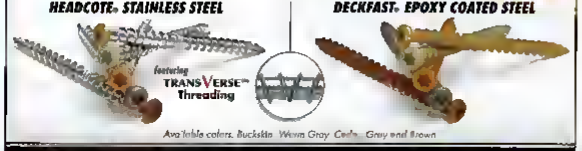

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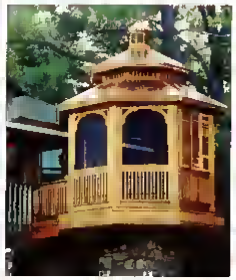

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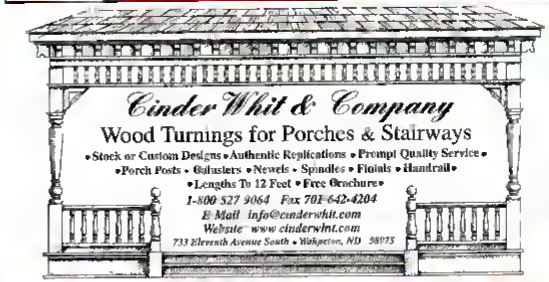

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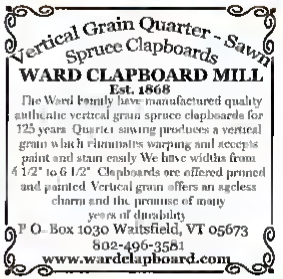
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DIANE BAUER ALWAYS KNEW her house was different It was nice different but mysterious different too" says Bauer the youngest of seven siblings raised in this Victorian era cottage from the 1950s through the 1980s With its squat mansard roof and a front porch dripping with spindlework the old Bauer house had plenty of local townsfolk wondering if the place was haunted

It wasn t But those hallmarks of its quirky Second-Empire-meets Folk Victorian style just seem to put people in mind of ghostly doings Built in 1867 the one and a half story three bedroom house may have ornate brackets and fancy frieze work on the outside but the interior is fairly plain This has led local historians to surmise that the original owner and builder Michael Keltzer was trying to keep up with the Joneses by gussying up the exterior in the fashion of his day

Knowing it was unique to the area the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana snatched the house up after it came on the market a few years ago. Now it is looking for a buyer willing to perform a complete remodel Though the structure is sound and termite-free it needs new plumbing and HVAC and electrical systems not to mention lots of paint and plaster Preservation covenants attached to the property require that all exterior work be approved by the foundation Buyers must also prove they re financially ready to perform the repairs and make substantial progress within two years

But once you re done with this old charmer you can take pride in yourself for restoring the most interesting house in town And don t worry still no sign of Casper. Says Bauer "It s just a neat old house and a nice place to grow up." —KEITH PANDOLFI

[1] Hand carved brackets support a squat mansard roof [2] The 2,400 square foot house has three bedrooms two parlors, a dining room kitchen, mudroom pantry and one bathroom Its recently installed asphalt roof won t need replacing anytime soon [3] The front porch has elaborate spindlework. [4] The bay windows of a second-floor bedroom [5] Beneath the curtains hefty casings surround a parlor s tall windows

If you know of a house that should be saved and is currently for sale write to This Old House 135 West 50th Street New York NY 10020 or savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com

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