

This Old House

57
quick
updates for
home &
garden

easy, low-cost
options for
*outdoor
living*

Gather-round seating areas
Relaxing garden rooms
Go-anywhere bar cart

Create this look with
two square tablecloths

BIG COLOR
FOR A
SMALL BATH
P. 31

plus:
Cottage-style wainscot
Cozy porch classics
Vintage-look lights
Flowers that fill in fast

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72
OUTDOOR
LIVING



{ June.10 } **contents**

OUTDOOR LIVING

- 67 **weekend remodel** Spruce up your barbecue space with this hand-made outdoor bar cart
- 72 **25 thrifty ways to create an outdoor dining space** Peruse our budget-minded tips on furniture, fabrics, and other elements you'll need to create a stylish alfresco eatery
- 78 **how a garden grows** Ambrose landscaper patiently turns her 1/2-acre back yard into a flourishing floral paradise

idea file

- 32 **before + after: bath** Colorful glass tile and space-saving fixtures help turn a gloomy space into a pleasant place
- 43 **budget redo** DIY homeowners' new updates and just-right finishing touches give an uninspiring kitchen a welcoming glow
- 63 **Photoshop redo** A wraparound porch and fresh-scarlet palette add up to an eye-catching facade for a two-story
- 84 **small spaces, lots more function** For a family-friendly summer cottage, it's the little things—the built-ins and trimwork—that mean a lot

upgrades

- 47 **shopping** Barn-style sconces
- 50 **get this look** Rustic wicker-filled porch
- 57 **price wise** Grasscloth wallpaper
- 59 **all about** Wood fences



78
HOW A
GARDEN GROWS



47 SHOPPING



84
SMALL SPACES, LOTS
MORE FUNCTION

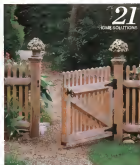
on the cover



32 **2010 Outdoor Living**
25 **45, 46, 47, 50, 52, 78, 84**
57 **quick updates**
78 **big color for a small bath**
81 **Cottage-style weekend**
83 **Cozy porch chairs**
47 **Wings look light**
57 **28 Flowers that fill in fast**
Cover **Photography: Lisa Brannan**



Give your garden gate an air of elegance with decorative cast-concrete post toppers.



21
long solutions

home solutions

- 22 **Decor** your garden gate: a special time your home. 3D stiles for sand barns, a polka-dot bench, an outdoor party station, and more

how-to projects

- 25 **paint ideas** A dining area is dark wood, but the ceiling gets a splash of color with white and pale green hues
- 27 **landscaping** Learn four ways to help shape your favorite plants
- 33 **animal house** It's a dog training crib, it's a solid oak and table, it's built! Find out how to build it
- 39 **salvage style** Use wood mending to create a cottage-style window box
- 43 **whaddya call it?** Take a tour inside winter: fibration and bridge

ask this old house

- 50 **Q + A** Replace a rotten door threshold, get inside all your roof and keep it off, erase Corian countertop scratches, and more
- 102 **step-by-step** Resurface worn concrete
- 104 **reader tool test** Milwaukee trimmers
- 106 **Norma's tricks of the trade** Remove a wood plug from a hole saw. Fix an interior door gap

in every issue

- 7 **thisoldhouse.com**
- 11 **letter from This Old House**
- 13 **reader mail**
- 24 **checklist** Easy ways to improve your home right now
- 30 **home news** Your driveway's silent might be dangerous. Use a driveway's gravel ground
- 109 **2010 Best Old House** Neighborhood and more
- 109 **directory**
- 120 **save this old house**



35
PAINT IDEAS



53
ANIMAL HOUSE



59
SALVAGE STYLE



99
ASK THIS OLD HOUSE



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General contractor Tom Silva on how to install a window

Landscaping contractor Roger Cook on how to plant a tree

Tom's advice to his daughter on being a first-time homeowner

Year	Sample	Year	Sample	Year	Sample
1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008



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letter {from This Old House}

Feeling a bit sluggish?

"Why don't we take it to the lawn and eat there?" I said to my wife, who'd come home with a pizza on a gorgeous spring night. I'd just rolled out a fresh carpet of seed in our backyard that afternoon, and we hadn't bought any outdoor furniture yet. And so we sat down in the grass to sup.

We ate and talked in the dying light of the June evening, and as we did they began moving toward us. From all directions, slowly inching closer and closer.

My wife was the first to notice. "Oh, my God, oh my God, OH MY GOD!"

It was like we were in *Night of the Living Dead*, with the zombies converging on us from everywhere. But the zombies were dogs.

Fortunately, they didn't want us—they wanted the pizza. True story, they inched right by us toward the pie. Most of them. Turns out they were much easier to deal with than zombies, no. They didn't require a well-placed whack to the brain like zombies—a good thing, 'cause I'm not sure if dogs have brains. The attack didn't even require me to be much of a hero. I just sort of picked them up when they got to the crust and flung them into the neighbor's yard, and that was that. Except for the one I raised.

A cautionary note on missing a dog. In the moonlight it might look like a lump of meatball on a slice of pizza, but it definitely doesn't taste like meatball or a slice of pizza.

More like zombie. Or at least what I imagine a zombie to taste like. Or maybe just a dog.

Anyway, I've lived in my house long enough to know that I shouldn't be surprised when a little bit of a horror movie plays out in the backyard. From the previous year's lawn that wanted to go extinct overnight (*28 Days*) to the rampaging squirrels (*Wild*) to the back-fence neighbor (*The Blue Watch Project*), I've got a regular fright show out there, not including my people-drinking buddies. And we're even here on the verge of a sequel with the dogs (*Dinner of the Dead II*), so it's not bad to have a clue as to how to furnish the backyard.

But that was before I read the story on page 72, called "13 Thrifty Ways to Create a Dead-on Dining Space." Great-looking, clever stuff—and every one of those ways includes a table, which will help put our next pizza night beyond the reach of all sorts of creepy-crawly critters.



THREE THINGS I LEARNED FROM THIS ISSUE

1. How to redo a kitchen for less than the cost of a high-end makeover (page 47)
2. How to safely have bees on the go (page 67)
3. How to turn a pool into a patio (page 76)

Scott Cushman
SCOTT CUSHMAN, EDITOR
scottcushmanhouse.com

readermail

The days are longer and warmer now—just right for getting to work on that wobbly porch rail or heading to the nursery for new perennials. Check out this month's project, opposite, for one example of what *The Old House* readers have been up to. Meanwhile, others took exception to one of April's "Trees in a Hurry" or reacted with gins and/or chagrin to editor Scott Omslunak's tale of his incarceration. But mostly we heard from folks submitting their projects and ideas for our Reader-Created Issue—to be revealed next month!



how to reach us

THE EDITORS
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Or e-mail TOSH (at) earthlink.net
Please include your address, address and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

Fast-growing trees

I cannot believe you would include the river birch as a recommended tree (Landscaping, April). Forget the shoddy book—the tree is packed with thin sticks that fall off constantly, in quantity. Most the stakes, get one for broken for driveway, walkway, and target.

—FREDERICK CHARLTON, S.C.

The editors reply: Location is everything. Fred, a poor complaint elsewhere. "One person's dream tree is another person's

weed," says Tebbs Anderson, staff arborist at the Tree Care Industry Association. Despite its popularity, "the river birch can be messy," she says, if it's too near a patio or other area you wish to keep tidy. "But in the right place in your landscape, it's a beauty."

Managers, not just builders

I got a good chuckle from Scott's letter ("Let Me Chat," April, about his arrest for putting household trash in his contractor's

dumpster). I did take exception to the picture you posted of an contractor, though. This is a stigma I've been fighting for years. In my experience the best contractors out there are the ones who run their company like a business and not like a contractor, many can swing a hammer but can't read a profit-and-loss statement and understand it.

I take a lot of pride in my business and taking care of my clients. It breaks my heart when I have to go in and clean up after a "frank" contractor and see all the red flags the homeowner should have noticed before hiring them.

—DAVE HANSEN, WASATCH VALLEY CONSTRUCTION, CODY, UTAH

You can watch a video version of Scott's April letter (and other recent letters) by going to theoldhouse.com/home

reader project of the month



Salvaged-wood entry table

JONATHAN "JACK" WIGAN

When I saw your article about building a tall entry table (Salvage Style, March 2009), you got me inspired. I rounded up some old wood from house remodeling I never threw away. It was a little usable, added some spindly legs from the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore (\$1 each), put it together, and voila! You're "instant elegance" one for my table, one for my house. What a fun project—thanks for the idea!

DO-IT-YOURSELF WEEKEND PROJECTS TO Brighten Up Your Backyard

LAY A GARDEN PATH

Using marbled and tumbled pebbles, you can quickly and easily create a winding path through your garden.

WELCOME LOCAL WILDLIFE

Attract a colony of Purple Martins by building a house on an easy-to-set pole that will keep them safe from predators.

POUR A DISTINCTIVE PATIO

By adding an optional aggregate finish to coloring with an etching stain, your concrete patio will be the focal point of your outdoor space.

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QUIKRETE

West America's Most Used



checklist { June 10 }

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

□ Help Dad clean up his tools

Instead of getting Pope yet another drill this Father's Day (June 26), give him the gift of organization. Line his workshop walls with pegboard so that he can easily store and find tools, and install some heavy-duty shelves. If he doesn't have a workbench, make one from a pair of plywood or melamine on a 2x4 frame with 4x4 legs.



✓ Fence in your garden

To prevent burrowing critters like rabbits, woodchucks and gophers from turning your vegetable garden into a buffet, surround beds with fencing. Choose wire mesh with openings less than 1 inch wide and around \$2 per square foot; it's affordable, and it should last for years. For maximum protection make sure the barrier is buried at least 12 inches into the ground and stands 2 to 3 feet tall (7 to 8 feet where deer are also a problem).

□ Deadhead flowers

Encourage fuller blooms by removing flower heads as soon as they look brown or wilted. For most annuals and perennials, pinch the stalk right above the next bud or set of leaves. In woody shrubs, use a bypass pruner. Learn more about how to prune properly at thefoldhouse.com/home.



□ Wash your house's exterior

To bring your home's siding back to its original luster, you'll need to remove all the dirt and mold that's built up over the year. Mix 3 gallons of water with 3 cups of trisodium phosphate-free cleaner, such as Jomax House Cleaner (9% homedepot.com).



Using a scrub brush or pump sprayer, apply the solution sections. Rinse immediately with a garden hose to prevent streaks.

□ What's on your checklist?



The garage is a concrete masterpiece. We first step-by-step make it all under the hood of the past year.

—Jeni Christie
Decorating Tips, The
E-mail in your inbox at
checklist@thefoldhouse.com.

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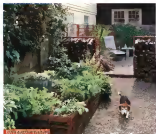
\$17 billion

Amount that Americans saved on their household bills in 2009 by using ENERGY STAR appliances.

INTERESTING IDEAS

Driveway detox

Turns out that many of us are unwittingly tracking a toxic chemical onto our lawns in the form of invisible dust, a recent study found. The source of the chemical, polyaromatic hydrocarbon (common used for asphalt—you know what we use on our asphalt driveways. You can avoid danger by using petroleum- or latex-based sealants, while more expensive, they have low toxic levels of this cancer-causing chemical.



It's the end of the lawn as we know it

Low-maintenance, drip irrigation, drought-tolerant plants. Those are the three features over 85 percent of homeowners now look for in good landscape design, according to a recent survey. What they're not interested in is mowing a water-chugging lawn—three of four responders said they dislike to see less of them. Need some ideas for your lawn? Visit hishouse.com/lawns.

NEWSFLASH

Police in New York State charged an 18-year-old party boy with criminal mischief after he caused \$3,000 worth of damage to a home's hardwood floor by break dancing on it while wearing a diamond-encrusted belt.



NEWSFLASH Anyone getting rid of old window blinds or shades can now drop them off at any of Blinds To Go's hundreds-plus locations, where they'll be shipped to local recycling centers.

POWER TOOL

Triple charged

Having trouble keeping all your tools charged?

Reid's new 12V JobMax Kit lets you use one base to power a drill, angle grinder, impact driver, and a ratchet. Two more helpful heads, for an auto-winner and an auto-lost, are also available. \$179; additional heads \$40-\$50 each. reidspower.com



TOOL-TIME KNOWLEDGE

Farewell, Freon

Thanks to new legislation limiting the amount of Freon available in the manufacture and maintenance of air conditioners, the price of this a/c-repairing refrigerant is expected to rise dramatically. If you run the market for a new A/C this summer, steer clear of ones using Freon, even if they're on sale. The replacement cost might not be such a bargain.

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INSTALL LOW-FLOW FIXTURES

By installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, you can reduce water use and cut hot water consumption by up to 30%.



smart tip



homenews (June 2010)

Here's another winner of our 2010 Best Old-House Neighborhood contest



Wellington, Ohio

- A textbook of architectural styles
- 200+ attractions on the National Register of Historic Places
- Plenty of festivals, outdoor concerts, and house tours

THE NEIGHBORHOOD Wellington, a quiet and quiet northern Ohio town, is a scholastic neighborhood of elegant houses that still have their nearby winners frequently take held together for a rich course in American architectural styles. Most houses were built during the mid- to late 1800s, when the town was known mostly for its large and its 40 cheese factories. The town's tourism is still focused on the historic during the Wellington Cheese Festival.

THE HOUSES The town's most eye-popping houses were built on South Main Street by wealthy factory owners. The town is



AFFORDABLE LIVING Most houses in Wellington cost well below \$200,000.

where you'll find 40+ in the Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles at bargain prices. **WHY BUY HOME?** Wellington offers small-town living with a great business. It's just 50 miles from Cleveland and 15 minutes from Glen College and its world-renowned Conservatory of Music. The town is also home to a thriving farmer's market, so foodies will have plenty of locally sourced ingredients to choose from. ■



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Edited by Jessica Dedeil-Peder

inside

10 USES

HOSE STORAGE

PARTY IDEAS

MORE



Play up a backyard garden theme with toppers that look like boulders of pebbles.

▶ SMART IDEA

Decorative post toppers

Turn a garden's variety gate into an eye-catching entryway by dressing up cypress posts with sculptural outdoor ornaments. Start by choosing cast-concrete toppers that fit on the posts with room to spare. To square them, use 1/2-inch-dia. steel lag bolts that measure two-thirds the height of the ornament. (To secure the 1/2-inch ornament at right, you'd need a 4-inch bolt.) Drill a pilot hole into each post, then sink a bolt halfway into the wood using a socket wrench. With a sawsaw bit, bore out a conical hole in the underside of each ornament, deep enough to accommodate the exposed half of the bolt. Fill the sawsaw holes with concrete-to-encase epoxy and set the ornament on top of the bolt. The result: An elegant upgrade that'll give you every nose you head outdoors.



Williamsburg garden ornaments, \$42 (compare international prices for stone, lag bolts \$2 each, screws \$10)

Sand

If you've ever deiced your driveway, mixed concrete, or filled a sandbox, you likely have a leftover bag or two of these great grains. Here's how to put them to work.

1 Clean up an oil leak. Sprinkle a generous amount of sand onto a garage floor spill. Let the grains soak up the oil, then sweep up the mess.

2 Light a path. Fill mason jars with sand and drop a tea light into each to create an icicle lamp—and inexpensive—glow along a walkway.



4 Give your paint some grip. In a bucket, combine 2 cups of paint with 1/4 cup of sand. Use the mixture to coat stair treads. Let dry, then top them with a coat of regular paint.

5 Cushion a play area. Lay a foundation of 12 inches of sand under a child's in-swing set or slide (it's been shown to decrease risk of injury better than wood chips).

Steady an item for repairs. Dury the larger part of a broken item, such as a coffee tray, halfway in a container filled with sand. The grains will hold the item in place while you glue it back together.

6 Distress a wood finish. Scrub exposed or stained piece of furniture with a mixture of 2 parts sand to 1 part

water to give it a worn, rustic look.

7 Quell a grease fire. Keep a small bucket of sand near a charcoal grill for dousing flare-ups.

8 Condition gardening tools. Fill a 5-gallon bucket with sand and about a quart of old motor oil. Knock soil off



tools after use, then dip their heads into the bucket a few times. Brush off the sand and store the tools as usual.

9 Clean a narrow-neck container. Put a little sand and soapy warm water in your vessel. Swish the solution around to help loosen residue, then rinse thoroughly.

more 10 uses
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thisoldhouse.com/ideas

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



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4 OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

All-in-one party station

Rather polish your tools than your silverware? The potting bench is 4 tiers for potting, bench-turned-entertaining center. Made from an off-duty piece of gardening furniture (3450 gardeners.com) and stocked with practical serveware that boasts a playful DIY twist, it makes a natural gather-round spot for your next get-together. —DANIELLE BLUNDILL

1. Hard-to-shake beverages

Replay rock n' roll by adding what with Zak Designs' brightly hued polycarbonate glasses that won't break—no matter how rowdy the action gets. \$29 for six; zac.com

2. All-weather music player

Thanks to a splash-proof rubber case, this iPod-compatible clock radio delivers its 8-track rain or shine. \$200; theaudio.com

3. Ice cream keeper

Prevent your favorite plant from melting to mush by bringing it outdoors in its insulated stainless-steel holder with a lid with a freecable gel pack. \$14; mammoth.org

4. Repurposed-tile cheese board

Transform a leftover slate roof or floor tile into a rustic server. Glaze the surface with warm soapy white vinegar and let dry. Before serving, use chalk to label each cheese. Then add a set of wood-handled stainless-steel cheese knives for cutting everything from Monterey Jack to Muenster. \$43 for a set of five; salsabine.com

5. Plastic table saw

Show off sharp serving skills with this 11-inch-long replica of a commercial hand saw, designed for use on baked goods. \$9; treatthe.com

6. Tardis-style flatware holder

Keep napkins and utensils at your fingertips in a metal caddy covered with a woodgrain-baked print of the very same. It costs no. \$42; themadethcollection.com

7. Handware bottle stoppers

Crafted from porcelain faience handles and vintage glass knobs, these plugs make sealing a bottle almost as exciting as popping the cork. From \$22; knobstoppers.com

8. Blueprint platter

This 12 by 16-inch porcelain plate, adorned with a detailed floor plan, lets the house showcase serve its style. \$33; thecity.com



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1,000 different feelings?

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1 QUICK FIX

Screen with window film

Get a new look behind those glass doors you'd rather scrape or display? Make it—but still let light through—with a semiprivate window film. Here's how: (1) Spray the glass with a solution of 1/2 quart water mixed with a few drops of dish detergent. Wipe dry, then re-wet the window. Peel the film—use cardboard or paper (\$2.1 per sheet, Amazon.com), but it comes in dozens of styles—from its backing, and line up one corner with the window's upper corner. Smooth the film down over the window with your hands. (2) Moisten the film with the solution. Using the flat end of an edging tool or a putty knife, smooth the film from the corner outward to press out any air bubbles. (3) Use your flat edge and a razor blade to trim excess film. Smooth one last time, then close the door to admire their new, screened-in look. —J.S.

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before+after:
bath

Major impact in a shoe-box bath

One couple used natural-stone fixtures and a blast of color to upgrade their small bath. by TERRISA HOWARD • Photography by JORDEN FRANK

The smaller the space, the more crucial the details—on least that's the approach my husband, Peter, and I took in tackling the space's bath we share with our two young daughters. Our New Jersey rowhouse dates to the 1890s, but in 1966 a previous owner turned the bath into a study in dark marble. After living with the gloomy, cramped space for six years, we decided to remodel it ourselves, with help from a plumber and electrician. Scouring plumbing-supply shops, we found a smaller toilet, a narrow-rimmed tub, and a sink just wide enough for two kids armed with toothbrushes. Peter did almost everything, so again, we experimented endlessly to create a colorful pattern of 3-by-3-inch glass, mosaic, and silver glass tiles, which we ordered mounted on mesh sections for easy installation. A recessed cabinet with sliding doors holds essentials—spillover goes to the linen closet—and radiant heat saves space too. It will get crowded at bath time, but having every detail right makes being there a pleasure.

Before The bathroom in 1960s bath was depressing and dysfunctional. Light-colored glass tile and mosaic fixtures help create a cheery, updated. The Dutch cabinet shines.



(before)



↑
A new pedestal sink saves space and has a fully tiled back.

the key details

• **A band of tile** with an aluminum border pulls the eye toward the vanity, making it look larger. *David Hill, Zoran Ljubic, Michael Soto, Sheri Hill, Greenlee*

• **A stainless-steel caddy** coordinates with the metal trim and fixtures, and lifts off for easy cleaning. *Shower and Blom*



• **Compact towel hooks** extend sideways, tuck into the vanity—instead of space used. *What towels dry away from the bathroom*



what we did

A lower-cost tub and toilet features great way to alter decor and shower shapes in the small 50 square-foot space

1 Moved the tub to the right, demolishing a bumpout on the far wall for a cleaner look.

2 Stripped the strikers a wide track that projects only 15 inches.



3 Replaced the toilet with a model that measures just 23 inches front to back.

4 Moved the doorway 2 feet to the right and installed a pocket door to create more attractive light flow.

• **A shelf caddy** contributes to the openness, as does a translucent shower curtain. *Chosen over glass doors because it doesn't require a supporting Ace Hardware. Best Bath & Beyond*



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A two-tone scheme wakes up wainscot

To brighten up wall paneling, try warm white and beach-glass green

by DEBORAH DOLVEN • Photograph by DEKA GUNAWAN

Sometimes the best way to illuminate vintage woodwork is to give it some color. When Valene Moran and her husband, Ken, found their 1910 house on the New Jersey shore, it was true to its era, right down to the dark, varnished wainscot. But it wasn't true to them. "It was so dreary!" says Valene. So rather than make that time-honored rule of vintage-house ownership—to highlight the woodwork, keep it bare—she did the opposite.

She began by devising a whole-house paint scheme that would reflect the seaside setting while allowing chairs, tables, and accent pillows to move from room to room as easily as weekend guests. The result was a unifying palette of pale greens, blues, and yellows. In the dining room shown here, the trim is painted a reflective white semigloss, and the wainscot is filled in with a fair pale green. The wall above is a bluer green to a satin finish. Similar hues went into a checkerboard on a bit of flooring between the dining room and kitchen.

"Many people are wood and think they have to preserve it, but the point is to make the room appealing," says Valene. One nice payoff? Not to the subtly contrasting porch and linoleum, the glossy red oak floor looks rather than ever. As does Valene's collection of mid-century American pottery, which she picked up years ago for pennies. "Nobody wanted it then," she says. "I fill in love with the colors and just keep going"—which sounds much like her approach to picking out paint. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEKA GUNAWAN

paint
ideas



Valene painted a soft blue-green complementing the white and pale green.



subtle highlights The dark wood wainscot in this 1910 seaside house needed a little TLC (and losing color). Designer Moore's Camille Kline (at left) on the porch, pulled out the white, and warm painted both sets did the trick.

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landscaping

Multiplying plants

Grow additional specimens (for free!) from ones you have on hand to fill out your garden beds or share with friends. Coming up: four methods for making more plants

By STEPHEN ORR • Photographs by SION DRUSE

Don't let the scientific terms vegetative propagation scare you—it just means growing new plants from established specimens rather than seed. It can be an easy and economical means of increasing your plant stock. “Propagation is a wonderful way to make more of your favorite varieties to fill in blank spots in your yard or keep a few backups of a prized plant in case your original dies,” says horticulturist Marc Hochdornstein, who manages the Kolan Greenhouses at The New York Botanical Garden. Many gardeners also enjoy increasing the number of their favorite specimens to share with friends as gifts.

Some of the more advanced techniques, like grafting, take a bit of skill. But there are easier techniques that even beginners—including rooting stems and leaf cuttings, root division, and ground layering—no greenhouse required. You can propagate most plants on a windowsill that gets only indirect light (harsh sunlight will bake tender cuttings). Follow the advice on the following pages—and be patient. “Sometimes it can take longer than you think to get adequate roots,” says Hochdornstein. “Plants won’t be rushed.”



pro advice MARC HOCHDORNSTEIN
THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

“Timing is everything. Be sure to consult a good plant encyclopedia to find the best time to propagate a specific plant before you begin.”



Stem cuttings

So-called softwood cuttings, such as coleus and pelargonium (common geranium), are easiest to root. Semi-wooded cuttings like boxwood take longer, though willows and forsythia are easy to propagate in early spring before they bloom. Timing varies considerably, so always research the right time to take cuttings for each plant.

1. Take cuttings about 3 to 6 inches long using a clean, sharp pruner (cut blades will create tears in the vascular tissue). Strip away the lower leaves.

2. Dip the bottom tip of the cutting in a rooting solution (available at garden centers) following the package directions. These hormones signal plants to put out roots. Don't use too much solution, since overdoing it can actually inhibit rooting. Horticultural peat or powder (available at nurseries) can be used as an alternative.

3. Fill a bag with a dampened, sterile growing medium, such as perlite. Using a pencil, poke holes and insert the cuttings. This technique keeps the cuttings from rubbing off as it would if you pushed the bags in. Gently firm up the medium around the cuttings.

4. Make a cover or dome to create a moist environment, like a mini-greenhouse to foster the growth of the roots. Seed-starting trays often come with their own covers; some are designed with the top part of a plastic side/bottom that has been cut out. Place the tray in indirect sunlight and keep moist.

5. After a few weeks, lightly tug on the stems. If the cutting resists, enough roots have formed for it to be removed (loosely) and planted in a pot or outside.

NOTE: Many softwood cuttings can also be grown in a glass of water. With a sharp clean knife, cut a 3- to 3 1/2-inch stem with removed leaves, and place it in a glass of water. Double sure the leaves stay above the water line. Keep cuttings out of direct sunlight and make sure the water level stays constant. After a week or so, look for a developing root system. When the roots are about 2 inch long, it's time to take the cutting out and plant it in a soilless potting mix. Don't wait too long or the cutting will develop "water roots" that no amount of nutrients can rid from water and soon it grows poorly once it's replanted in soil.

Root division

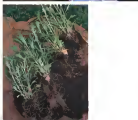
Many clumping perennials that develop a thick mass of roots—including hosts, rhodias, daisies, asters, and Siberian iris—can be divided to make more plants when they are starting to leaf out in spring or before they bloom. Consult a garden catalog yearly to know when you should divide any particular plant; some species should be divided, others need to be in active growth.

1. Using a garden spade, dig up the plant with as big a rootball as you can in steps.

2. Wash some of the soil off the plant (and know that you can accurately judge the natural way to divide the plant)—between major stems. For example, if some stems there may be viable plants, but one is too small to be separated.

3. If the root ball is soft enough, you can use your hands or a small garden fork to divide the plant. Use a cutting fork, like a garden trowel, for tougher jobs, such as dividing peonies (below).

4. Don't divide the plant into too many sections. Every section should have a healthy amount of root mass. Those that retain a part of the thick core will recover fastest (bottom). Don't divide too frequently either. It's best to go three years or more between dividing a root specimen.



Leaf cuttings

This method works really well with tropical and subtropical species, including certain ferns. One problem (Qing, below), and leafy succulents.

1. Take a thick leaf and cut it into 2-inch-wide sections with a clean, sharp razor blade (above). Each section should include a strong vein.

2. Place the sections vertically, with one side down, in a large of moistened peat moss, such as perlite (top right), cover with a plastic bag to keep moisture in.

3. When roots, followed by small leaves, form at the base of the cuttings (middle right), they're ready to be transplanted to a small container with peat moss.

NOTE: Almost most leaves can also be rooted if you place a piece of leaf in water. Out of a few young, full-grown leaf stems in late winter to midsummer, fill a glass jar with water. Cover the top with aluminum foil with several holes punched in it to hold the leaves erect and out of the water. Leave the jar for adding water. Keep cuttings out of direct sunlight, and make sure the water level stays constant. Look for a developed root system of 2 inch or so. Don't let the plant stay in the glass long enough to develop "water roots," which most types will not.

Ground layering

This method is suited to large, woody plants, such as climbing roses, clematis, hydrangeas, and other flowering shrubs and vines.

1. In late spring or early summer, take a 2- to 3-foot piece that is one-third old and bent and clip off any flower buds. Dig a shallow trench. Place the stem a couple of inches down and another soil over it. The stem will remain attached to the mother plant for the duration of the process. Use a rock or a landscape cloth pin to hold it down.

2. Keep the soil moist or use mulch to keep moisture in. Over a period of weeks, the plant will grow roots all along the leaf nodes (which the leaf joins the stem).

3. Once a good set of roots has developed off the stem, each section can be severed with a clean, sharp blade. Then, plant out and transplant the stems to make a new plant that will grow on its own.



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A charming kitchen revamp for \$1,527

Refaced cabinets and a handful of inexpensive finishing touches, like new hardware and a resurfaced countertop, update an inefficient and claustrophobic space

By NATALIE KORNBLUTH • Photography by JASON GRUBIN

When people walk into your house, you hope the first rooms they see make a good impression. And for homeowners Samantha and Bryan Langdon, their kitchen's jarring red walls, dingy off-white cabinets, and rusted hardware were just not a proper welcoming committee for their 1940s Cape. Plus, the ceiling was too low for them and the laminate counter's peeling edge snagged their clothes. So last year, after one long, too many, Bryan impulsively began tearing apart cabinets to start the room's long-planned remodel.

After having a friend help upgrade the electrical outlets, Bryan made new cabinets and drawers from scratch in the garage, and Samantha sanded and painted them. For two months, the couple worked nights and weekends putting together a better, more efficient kitchen. New upper cabinets mean they no longer have to walk across the house for Tupperware and goes they used to store in a guest bedroom closet. Plus, they dressed up the dated room with new hardware, fixtures, and toys. "Now we find ourselves in the kitchen more often than the living room," says Samantha. "It's one of our favorite spaces."

before The dated kitchen lacked storage space, lighting, and elbow room. **AFTER** Replaced cabinet hardware on new cabinets and refaced old ones; purchased light fixtures and bright finishing touches update the space.



↑
MOF doors require less maintenance than wood ones since they won't warp or swell in the humidity of the kitchen.



[before]

budget
redo



★ **Tumbled tiles**, a floor donated by a family member, replaced the dingy white laminate in the school.



* Apothecary drawers made by the homeowner using organic paint, paper, buttons and brass keys.



10 tie ties

Find out how to get a perfect end—at 25¢ a sq yd—perfectly comparable to life-size plaids of *Melodinus ramiflorus*.



homeowner tip

Copyright © 2004, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

"Using leftover cabinet paint on the kitchen's trim and bead-board tied the room together and saved us money."

the project tally:

Take out old cabinets salvaging the bases	\$0
Collect contractor for help upgrading the electrical outlets	\$0
Replaced the ceiling fan and added track lighting	\$300
Patched the walls and built in new drywall	\$200
Built six new cabinet boxes and added medium density fiberboard doors and drawers to fit the cabinets	\$200
Replaced the terracotta counter	\$180
Uncluttered the island and rebacked it	\$0
Upgraded to new brushed nickel hardware	\$170
Built custom oven niche and added crown molding	\$300
Added a range hood	\$140
Replaced the faucet	\$20
Brightened the space with 2 colors of primer and 4 colors of paint	\$180

Total

【图 1-1-25】

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Barn-style sconces

Charming and practical, these hard-working fixtures deliver high-performance light and a vintage look to any home. BY DANIELLE HUNTER. Photographs by MARK WOOD

Consider them the original Edison lights. Since those gooseneck sconces with web-burned shades first graced the eavesdroppers of agricultural buildings in the 1930s, barn lights have gone through more than a few changes. Originally made of cast-iron and with green porcelain enamel, they were styled with shades, fixed shades when they surfaced outside gas stations and truckstops a few years later, they got protective bulb cages in warehouses and factory lofts, and went aluminum in the 1960s. But throughout that evolution, barn-style lights have continued to provide a glass-free response of light capable of illuminating large spaces.

Today's versions come in a wide range of finishes, sizes, and colors. With ground-glass globes, these scooped-up sconces can hang just about anywhere, from rustic cottages to contemporary homes. And while most are made for exterior use, they make great indoor lamps, too. Here, 12 that prove barn lights work well beyond the barn.



Stated flat

REVERSON
Made of aluminum with a black powder coating. Shade with a black finish. To hang it, attach a white screw, which is a standard but variable shape. You'll have to connect it to a standard with either light fixture, \$245, reversion.com.

Colorful cage

BARNLIGHT ELECTRIC
Made of aluminum steel with a built-in red cage and black globe. Shade with a black finish. To hang it, attach a white screw, which is a standard but variable shape. You'll have to connect it to a standard with either light fixture, \$245, barnlightelectric.com.





cobalt colored

AMERICANAL PLATE

Made of Aluminum with nickel-plated blue powder coating. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: Over an outdoor grill for country-fair food. Light the fire with a sunny park day. **\$104**. lightingonline.com



brass era

WISCONSIN

Made of Solid brass with a nickel finish. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: In a kitchen above a sink with country-style wooden cabinets. The living room can be an industrial first second. **\$229**. www.barnlightusa.com



retro charm

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC

Made of Aluminum with a baked-on red enamel finish. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: Use a pair of them suspended lightly to create a focal point or an unexpected accent above a table. **\$247**. barnlightusa.com



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domed design

AMERICANAL PLATE

Made of Aluminum with nickel-plated powder coating. Shade width: 12 inches. When to hang it: Place one over a 3 to 5 foot long outdoor table to bring a temporary porch or back deck after dark. **\$160**. lightingonline.com



zinner glow

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC

Made of Aluminum with a baked-on dark green enamel finish. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: In the entrance of a garage or hang them when the elongated shape and rope details will echo the home's design. **\$309**. barnlightusa.com



monticello feel

PLUVER FISH

Made of Aluminum with a green powder coating. Shade width: 24 inches. When to hang it: Against water siding or in a family room with exposed rafters, where the rustic simplicity will look at home. **\$221**. ajayinteriors.com



rustical style

PROGRESS LIGHTING

Made of Polished solid copper. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: Let it show in a copper kitchen with butcher block and a water-glass chandelier. **\$235**. www.lighting.com



slightly weathered

WICKED

Made of Aluminum shade and stainless-steel cage with a hand-painted finish. Shade width: 24 inches. When to hang it: On a post by a back porch, where its glass-plate bulb catches up country garden paths. **\$110**. barnlightusa.com



guiding light

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC

Made of Powder-coated aluminum. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: Over a garage door or in the recessed white interior of its brass shade, catch the night shift. **\$229**. www.lighting.com

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well aged

HICKORY LATTICE

Made of Solid copper with a polished finish. Shade width: 22 inches. When to hang it: Against a brick wall, where its wrought-iron frame will heavily patina, complemented by the soft glow of frosted glass bulbs over. **\$294**. ajayinteriors.com



pro tip

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC

"Barn-light shades can be heavy. So before mounting, it's a good idea to switch out your plastic junction box for a steel or metal one, easily found at home centers. That way the fixture will be sure not to fall off the wall."

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yourself
Barn Light
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Rustic wicker-filled porch

In this cozy seating area, woven furniture and woodsy accent pieces come together to create a true outdoor living room. Here's how to replicate the look in your house

By JESSICA DODDILL-PILGER • Photography by TIM STRATTON-CHERRY

With its prime location overlooking the yard, a porch offers the perfect place for serious relaxation. To reimagine this idea in his own Shelter Island, New York, home, interior designer Tom Falen transformed the space into a full-fledged room. He anchored the furniture—vintage wicker and rattan united by a coat of hazel-green paint—with a natural rug, and hung mirrors and a watercolor from the shingles. Cushions in navy, white, and oyster yellow add color, while trim with a pale oyster hue draws attention to the 1875 Carpenter Gothic's lowered shutters and distinctive arched windows. "The look is classic, even a bit quaint, which contrasts with the house's exuberant architecture," Falen says. Here, under pieces for your outdoor area: ■



architectural mirror
Add Gothic-style detailing with this unlacquered frame carved in Bell. \$29, mirrored good shop.com

peach wicker and table

Designed specifically for outdoor use, this handwoven piece features a solid teak frame, 170 pieces with clay



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ceramic water pitcher

Blending Thai artistry, this piece of outdoor pottery lets you serve cool drinks in style. \$79, pook.com



get
this look



cotton arm chair and fabric

Though pricey, this painted seat is an exact match to the antique birds shown at left. \$1,399, westcoastcotton.com. More cushioning, pop and it's up to you: outdoor fabrics. Robert Allen Outdoor Fabric, yellow, \$40 per yard; and Club Stripe in blue, \$37 per yard, allenandbaron.com



lowered shutters

White-paint-shed shades Carpenter windows into a focal point. 2.08 for less-than-wooded areas. Live them up with a coat of outdoor latex in oyster of Pale. \$40 per gallon, sherrillallens.com

rustic

Stark magpies or a open cabinet in this rough hewn basket, crafted from stacked online logs. \$40, bigfactory.com





Choosing—and using—the right crate

Different dogs need different crates, whether it's the size, the materials, or the style of crate that works. Here are a few pointers to remember when choosing one for your dog:

- **One size doesn't fit all:** You don't want your puppy to outgrow the crate, so start with a small metal version until he's full grown and out of his chewing stage, then move onto a larger wire wire crate. If the crate is too big, he might start sitting on the side and sleeping on the other. However, if you want to buy one crate, you can purchase a divider that lets you split a large, adult-size crate in half. Just make sure your dog can stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably with his legs extended.
- **It takes time:** When introducing your dog to a crate, let him go inside and sit down (placing a treat inside helps), and, at first, leave the door open and stay in the room while he's in there. Gradually, he'll become comfortable enough with the crate that you can start closing the door—and leaving the room.
- **Avoid mixed signals:** Don't send your puppy to the doghouse. No matter what kind of mischief he gets into, don't use the crate as punishment. Doing so will send mixed signals and make it harder to get him to go inside the next time you leave the house.

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Openings should be a grid rather than just slots so that snouts, paws and tails can't poke through and get injured. The chain openings of our crate employ decorative lattice for extra safety.

door

The door should be the most visible opening. Our crate is made with a reproduction of the famous dog house from The Foxhunting Society. \$399 (retail) only.

CRATE

You can order plastic or metal crate from many pet centers. Choose a size that fits your dog, then use it as a measurement guide for your design.

TOP

Our crate has a solid oak surface, so it can be used as an ottoman.



[Nice pad]

You want your dog to be comfortable while he's crated, so choose bedding that's both soft and durable. The American Kennel Association recommends using foam rubber or fleece beds, available from companies such as PetSmart and UpCountry.



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Grasscloth wallpaper

Consider two versions of this classic wall covering—one the (pricey) real deal, the other a look-the-eye synthetic that's a lot less trouble. Here, a look at the contrasts by DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photographs by ELLEN McDERMOTT

Realistic and elegant all at once, grasscloth wallpaper dates back to ancient Japan and has enjoyed periodic revivals ever since. For example, as rich floral wallpaper in Victorian-era homes, while its classic handloomed style is well suited to simpler Craftsman interiors. Today, with the trend toward eco-friendly furnishings, grasscloth is experiencing another resurgence. But now you can choose between the naturally rubbery, organic and a bit unruly, smoothly printed fakes. As for two modern-day versions here shown, texture is just one of the things that set them apart.

High-End

The Carlisle Company

WILD ORCHIDS GRASSCLOTH IN BLUE

White Paper, Length 60 in.

+\$104

Per sq. ft. (actual)

\$38+

Per sq. ft. (actual)

Budget

Ashford House

PRINTED GRASSCLOTH IN GREY

White Paper, Length 60 in.

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you crave the handmade look, and stone or sticky fingers aren't an issue.

how it's made

The old-fashioned way: Artisanal plants are stripped of leaves; the stems are washed and carefully stacked, then pulled apart into strands. These are dried and handwoven together to form longer lengths that are woven with cotton thread, then pressed and joined to paper backing.

look and feel

Color variegates, knots, and knots are visible. The texture is organic, and the look is rustic.

keep in mind

This paper is a challenge to hang even with a professional's help. It's made of natural fibers and is not machine washable. While it's made from natural fibers, it's not machine washable. And it's not machine washable.

IS IT FOR YOU?

If you prize practicality and durability, and don't mind a little more work.

how it's made

A digital image is printed on paper using either color inks, and finished with a vinyl coating. The backing is composed of a nonwoven fabric.

look and feel

Looks like real grasscloth, but the color is flat, and the knots are not visible. The texture is smooth, and the look is more modern.

keep in mind

It's hanging it is relatively easy, but it's not machine washable. While it's made from natural fibers, it's not machine washable.

Cooling Classic Homes the Modern Way



Window air conditioning units are noisy, drafty and unsightly. And installing conventional air duct systems in old houses often requires carving up closets and walls at great expense and disruption. There's an easier, more efficient way...

Halcyon divides mini-split systems can cut your energy costs by 50% and provide year-round comfort for your home.*

As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. So, making smart decisions about your home's heating and air conditioning system can have a big effect on your utility bills and your comfort. Ductless heat pumps allow for a peaceful inside environment because components like compressors and motors are installed outdoors. Fujitsu Halcyon systems provide individual room temperatures yet whole-home constant comfort, year-round.

Several Energy Star® Fujitsu systems qualify for a residential Federal Tax Credit of up to \$1,800, which applies to equipment cost and labor.

Halcyon



Halcyon is for you if:

- ☒ Your upstairs is at a different temperature than downstairs
- ☒ The noise of your window A/C prevents you from hearing the TV
- ☒ You don't want to lose closet space to ductwork
- ☒ You want to reduce allergens and manage room temperature
- ☒ \$20,000 quotes for central air gives you sticker shock
- ☒ You'd like to lower your utility bill up to 50%
- ☒ You want a system that switches from heating to cooling automatically
- ☒ You're tired of paying to cool or heat rooms you don't use

For over 35 years, we've been making the hottest places cool and the coolest places more comfortable.

To find out why Halcyon is right for you, visit us at www.constantcomfort.com

FUJITSU

*Savings may vary based on model selected. Based on operating and geographical location. Example claim based on 15-0025 system versus 15-0025R system.

salvage
style

Vintage wood trim

It once elegantly defined where walls meet the floor and ceiling, but you can use salvaged molding as a frame for a mirror or to wrap a window box planted with bright blooms.

By AMY R. HUGHES Photograph by KRISTINE LANGRISH

A quarter doesn't buy much at salvage yards these days. Heck, it doesn't get you much anymore. Last I checked, it was 50 cents to see a pay phone in most states.

So imagine my surprise to find this posting on Craigslist: "Antique salvaged wood molding for sale... twenty-five cents a foot. Bring a truck." Better rent a U-Haul, I thought. That's a deal.

Most moldings made before 1940 were milled from solid wood—and oak, cherry, chestnut, walnut—across the comparatively flimsy finger-jointed pine and composite MDF you so often find today. Vintage profiles were also more complex. Ones from the late Victorian era (1870 to 1890), in particular, were often "built up" from as many as six smaller pieces, each curved with a bead, curve, or stepped geometric motif. Sold via the Universal Molding Catalog, there were 495 salvage profiles to choose from.

Every decade or so, molding styles



changed in response to architectural trends. By 1910, chunky crowns, casings, and baseboards with square edges lost some of the humble and handmade look of Craftsman houses. In the early '20s, classical period and decorative elements disappeared, as well as elaborate architectural details and windows in Colonial Revival.

Today, moldings are typically plain and thin, making the period originals all the more desirable. Problem is, it's almost impossible to find enough of a single pattern to trim out anything larger than a powder room.

But if you're willing to get creative, there are myriad ways that vintage moldings can add character to your home. A short length mounted on the wall, for instance, can be fitted with hooks for hanging keys in an entry or neckties beside a dressing table in the bedroom. You could also frame a mirror to hang above the bathroom vanity, or a chalkboard slate for a one-of-a-kind notes message center.

There are lots of fun uses for moldings outdoors, too. Nail decorative beams or wide boards outdoors to a wide section of board-and-batten siding above your entry door to welcome guests. Or, follow my lead and wrap navy canvas around a \$7 plastic planter filled with bright blooms for a cherry window box. Read on to learn how to make one for yourself.



STEP-BY-STEP

Make a window box with vintage trim

All you need to build a cottage-style window box is a few feet of 5- or 6-inch wide trim (choose straight baseboard or casing, rather than angled crown), one 2-by-2-foot sheet of 1/2-inch exterior plywood, water-resistant wood glue and a shallow plastic planter to cradle the soil and flowers. Because most old trim is covered in foreclosed paint, either remove the finish with a wet sander or sand it under a clear top coat. This is an easy one-person project, but it's more fun with a helper. I enlisted my husband, Jan. >



1 Build a plywood frame to mount the molding on. The sides' height should match the molding width, and their length should be slightly longer than the plastic planter that'll nest inside. Glue and nail the sides together.



2 Attach the bottom of the frame with glue and nails. Wait about 15 minutes for the adhesive to cure. Then flip the frame right-side up and insert the plastic planter.



3 Add drainage. Mark the locations of the planter's existing weep holes, and use a drill/driver fitted with a paddle bit to bore corresponding holes in the wood bottom.



4 Determine molding lengths. Snappy the trim against the plywood frame, and trace cut lines for the front and sides of the window box. No need for a back panel; it won't be seen.



7 Secure with nails. For extra strength, tap in fasteners along the top and bottom edges of the molding. Use a nailset to recess the heads. Remove clamps.



8 Seal the finish with clear spar urethane. Let dry, and plant your box with flowers. They'll boost your home's curb appeal—and your mood. >

Then Old
BENSONWOOD House collection

—inspired by

ASK
ABOUT YOUR
NEW HOUSE
KITS

See what's new at Prospect Hill

4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath
Total Living Area: 2,292 Sq. ft.

New for 2010, the Bensonwood This Old House Collection has been reimaged throughout with thoughtful features most sought after by today's discerning homeowners. Main staircase with flared metal, larger closets, and dramatic new centered entries are just a few of the touches evident throughout our redesigned signature collection.

Perhaps even better, each of the four Collection homes is now being offered at a wider range of price points, from whole houses to house kits, making owning one of them more attainable than ever.

Unchanged is Bensonwood's legendary quality at the core of these beautiful and durable high-performance homes.

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MARVIN

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whaddaya
call it?

Clean water—24/7

Under-the-sink water filtration systems greatly reduce harmful contaminants in your H₂O and spare you the expense of bottled water. We open one cartridge to show you how it purifies the water from your tap.

By KATHY HUNTER/ILLUSTRATION BY JIM KOPPE

Instead of the single block of activated charcoal that most lower-priced filters use, this two-stage filter from Everpure relies on first trapping carbon particles, which remove a greater percentage of contaminants without slowing water flow. A final pass through a carbon-coated membrane ensures that the water meets a certified level of purity.

filter head
Delivers water to and from filter. Also fits permanently inside cabinet under sink.

filter membrane
Removes levels of asbestos, bacterial cysts, and other contaminants. Made of fabric coated with activated charcoal.

inlet tube
Fits cartridge with tap water.

screen
Prevents loose charcoal and copper zinc particles from clogging filter membrane.

activated charcoal
Traps and reduces levels of pesticides, VOCs, and benzene.

carbon-zinc granules
Reduce levels of chlorine residual and suppress bacteria and lime-scale buildup.

cartridge
Contains filter media that purifies water. This one is rotated annually. For other filters, follow manufacturer's directions.

certification
Indicates that filter meets National Sanitation Foundation standards for water purity. Look for filters with NSF-42 (carbon taste and odor) and NSF-53 (lead and other heavy metals) certification, such as lead and cysts.

drinking-water faucet
Dispenses filtered water. Most are made of lead-free stainless steel.

angle stop adaptor
Feeds water to filter from cold-water valve.

connect tubes
Carry water from angle stop to filter head to faucet.

lever
Slacks off water flow so that cartridges can be changed. Turn lever down, as shown, to restore flow.

eco impact
Everpure's 300-cartridge delivers 300 gallons of filtered water, saving for 68 cents per gallon. (Bottled water costs about \$7.60 per gallon.)

2,270 water bottles = 1 cartridge

install it yourself
Ask-TOT plumbing expert Richard Johnson at 800-444-4444 or visit him at 800-444-4444.com/Plumber.

BORN WITH TWO LEFT SPATULAS? HAVE WE GOT A GRILL FOR YOU.



CHAR-BROIL INFRARED. Grilling has never been easier. The secret is an infrared heat source and cooking system. Infrared heat goes all the way through the grill, resulting in a juicier, more tender, and more flavorful meal. It's the only grill that cooks in infrared heat. There's a side burner, too, and it'll be done for you while you're grilling. It's the only grill that cooks in infrared heat. There's a side burner, too, and it'll be done for you while you're grilling. It's the only grill that cooks in infrared heat.

GRILLING'S JUICY LITTLE SECRET:

Char-Broil
INFRARED

weekend
remodel

Build an outdoor bar cart

Offer up cocktails and beers with a dedicated serving station

by DEBORAH DODGINS • Photograph by DAVID PRICE



For complete instructions, turn the page

Cost: \$300 for cedar
Time: 10 hours
Difficulty: Moderate. Making accurate measurements and notching the legs requires precision (and patience).

If your usual method of serving beverages is shambolic, consider a keyhole saw, a circular saw, and a bag of lin. It's time to think about an upgrade. This mobile cart is tough enough to hold a ton of booze, and it's easy to maneuver. It's also a great place to store your favorite tools and supplies. The top tray is removable for serving drinks or snacks. With all the extra things you can do with it, this cart is a real winner. It's a great project to celebrate the beginning of grilling season. The Old Farmer's Almanac technical editor Mark Powers shows how to put it together using cedar and outdoor-grade materials.

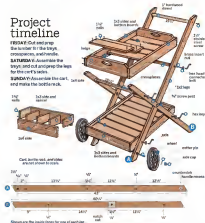


Get the full story on this and other projects at www.woodmagazine.com

Illustration by [illegible]

Project timeline

FRIDAY Cut and prep the lumber for the legs, crosspieces, and handle.
SATURDAY Assemble the tray, and cut and prep the legs for the cart's sides.
SUNDAY Assemble the cart, and make the bottom deck.



1



1. Cut pieces for the trays

A. Cut lumber for the trays, crosspieces, and handle. Use an m saw and also block to make cuts of the same length quickly. Refer to the illustration above left for dimensions. For the top tray, cut two 1-ft short sides and two 2-ft long sides. For the bottom tray, cut short and long sides from 2-in. Cut 29 2-ft bottom boards (one for the legs) and 10 for the bottom one). Rip a 2-in. half and cut four ledgers to support the bottom boards. Cut 2-in. deck planks to make crosspieces to support the removable top tray. Cut the cart handle from a 1-in. hardwood dowel. Cut off the corners of the top tray's 2-ft short sides so that each edge is 2-in. thick. Use a hand file to round over the cuts. Then smooth the cut pieces with sandpaper and a block.

B. Cut out the top tray's handles. Use a spirit level to trace a centered handle on both 2-ft sides. Make sure the cuts are at least 10 inches below the top edges and 2 inches above the bottom edge of the tray. Use a power saw to cut out the handles. Use a file to smooth the cut surfaces.

tools

miter saw
aligner or hand level for the top tray
power sander for the tray and handle
1 1/2-in. thick board

wood chisel to trim around cutouts
drill driver with 1/8-in. drill bit
1/4-in. square for the bottom tray
1/4-in. square for the bottom tray
1/4-in. square for the bottom tray
1/4-in. square for the bottom tray

large flat-head screwdriver
hex key to tighten the hex head connector bolts

500-grit sandpaper and **block**
wood file

materials
2-ft cedar for the cart sides and the legs for the trays. Buy 22 feet.

2-ft cedar for the trays and outside rack. Buy 20 feet.

2-ft cedar for the sides of the top tray and the rack. Buy 10 feet.

2-in. deck planks of cedar or treated lumber to make the crosspieces that support the removable top tray.

wood glue to glue the sides of the handles for the top tray.

wood glue to glue the sides of the handles for the top tray.

3-inch hardwood dowel
1/4-in. long hex-head connector bolts, 1/4-in. 20 x 36

40 millimeter long hex-head connector bolts, 1/4-in. 20 x 36

25 1/2-in. stainless steel screws for each aluminum and two parts set of two 3/8-in. wheels in the side of the cart, and axle caps.

25 1/2-in. stainless steel screws for each aluminum and two parts set of two 3/8-in. wheels in the side of the cart, and axle caps.

25 1/2-in. stainless steel screws for each aluminum and two parts set of two 3/8-in. wheels in the side of the cart, and axle caps.

2. Make the trays

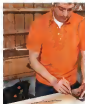
A. Attach ledgers to the long sides. Lay a long side and be flat, and use a 3-ft square to mark its position at the ends where the short sides will be attached. Apply wood glue to the long side between the studs and to the surface of the ledger. Press the ledger into place. Use the red gum to glue the 1/4-in. thick ends of the top tray into the ledger and into the long side. Repeat for the other long side.

B. Make the tray frames. Apply glue to the end edge of a short side and then of a long side. Place the pieces together to form a corner. Use the red gum to drive a nail through the top and bottom of the side into the edge of the short side. Repeat for all four corners.

C. Attach the bottom boards. Apply glue to the edges of the top tray. Lay the 2-in. boards across the ledgers, using a couple of screws as spacers between them to hold the design. Use the red gum to secure the ends of the boards to the ledgers. Repeat for the bottom tray using 10 boards.

TIP When marking multiple points to be drilled, we used the same spots, and sawed off the first one and saw a combination square to transfer the marks to other pieces at the same time.

3



3. Cut and prep the legs

A. Cut the legs, and mark holes and notch locations. Refer to the illustration for all dimensions. Use a miter saw to make parallel 45-degree cuts on four 2-ft legs. Cut 14 notches at the long points of each end. Lay the 4 legs with the notches at the long points. Mark a 1-in. notch at the bottom of each leg at the bottom end. Mark a notch at the bottom of each leg. Measure and mark hole and notch locations on both legs. Repeat for the 4 legs. Use a hand saw to cut a notch at the inside face. Then all legs and drive a nail at each end and a miter between marks for the notch cut.

B. Make the notches. Using an m saw, make several 1/4-in. cuts between the notches on the outside faces of the 4 legs and the inside faces of the 4 legs. Skip at the midpoint you mark on 2 ft up 34. Use a chisel to remove the wood.

C. Drill holes and recesses. Using a drill driver with bits and 1/4-in. holes, drill holes in the 4 legs. On the outside faces of the 4 legs, drill countersinks for the cart handle to rest. Dig the 4 legs over the countersinks, order a 1/4-in. hole and drill over the countersinks and make 1/4-in. recesses for the handle. Smooth cuts with sandpaper.

2



C



25 thrifty ways to create an outdoor dining space

You don't need a bank-busting "outdoor room" to enjoy your meals alfresco. On the following pages, see how a little candlelight, pops of colorful all-weather fabric, and creative repurposing of furniture and building materials you have on hand can transform a patch of green or silver of patio into a comfortable—and affordable—area for open-air entertaining.

By Heather Smith MacLennan

Perk up a picnic

1. Easy canopy Drape fabric between four poles sunk in the ground for a DIY sunshade. Use tent pins to anchor lines that run from the poles top to the lawn. Similar to shown: Tossens bamboo poles. \$18 each, bambooshower.com. Instead of a custom shade, use a drop cloth. This rectangular window canvas drop cloth has a water-resistant backing in case of rain. \$20, homedepot.com.

2. Multi-tasking tableware A major upgrade over the picnic blanket—and infinitely more comfortable for long lunches—your familiar table and chairs will seem fresh and new when moved into the light of day. No cost!

3. Vintage runners Use colorful table settings to echo colors found in the garden. Here, three runners laid across add more charm than a single one laid lengthwise. Make your trip out of a tablecloth. Just cut pieces to size and tuck in the edges. Similar to shown: The 60-by-34-inch Cherry Blossom cloth. \$42, breadhearts.com.

Carve out a courtyard

4 Flagstone floor Convert an unused portion of driveway into an eating patio. Here, stone pavers with beveled, irregular, weathered edges make parking just similar to viewing. All stone material from a barista's Gold wreath flagstone. \$5.75 per square foot. Handmade.com. Foot traffic: tough, woolly thyme. \$0.50 per plant. happycountrygardens.com

7 Corgi woodhouse Create a nook in the yard. A wooden house with an arched, topped gate enhances the side of an existing outbuilding. Adding a series of windows. Similar to shown: the ready-made red cedar Cedarbury Arbor with Gate and two side wings. \$1,049. cedarstore.com

8 Stained-glass window Swap out plain glass for something more romantic. Another colored glass adds a warm glow, turning the lighted outbuilding into a sort of lantern. Similar to shown: Craftsman 40-inch Rectangle Tiffany Style Art Glass. \$699. homedecor.com



Add drama to a simple deck

9 Candle wall Add a little extra backdrop on a raised platform of decking. Iron 4-ft by 4-ft with candles. Here, built-in 4-ft posts are notched where they intersect, making for horizontal members, as the back for vertical ones. Similar to shown: 30-foot square to match pine decks. \$34 each. www.comet.com. Safe and windproof battery-powered 16-inch tall Outdoor Flameless Candles. \$45 each. flamelesscandles.net

14 Ornamented alcove Set the stage for three with a comfortable valance and fabric panels that frame the grid site in view. Similar to shown: Cactus to Squash Shade Sail. \$130. www.cactus.com. Outdoor candles: \$70 per panel. candlelight.com

15 Checkered area Roll out a colorful all-weather rug to delineate a separate space for grilling or other fun. Similar to shown: Maui Mats Oriental Turkish in Red. 6-by-9 feet, \$85. bedding.com



Create a welcome work zone

10 Dual purpose table Topped with butcher block, a bar-height prep table lets the grill cook double duty: place for guests to top up a drink for a drink while chowing on the cook. For a DIY version of the custom table shown, use lengths of threaded 3/4-inch steel pipe and fittings for the base. About \$200 at three centers, and the 10-by-26-inch metal bar table sits for the top. \$89. dco.com

11 No-vibe nook A hanging, candle lantern offers a sturdy alternative to wall-hanging electrical work. Similar to shown: Copper Wall Lantern with frosted glass. \$118. candlelighting.com

Build a backyard retreat

6 Any garden Create an instant "room" with a garden structure. This forged wrought-iron gazebo defines the dining space without blocking the sunset, the stars, or the breeze. Similar to shown: Iron Dome Gazebo. \$1,200. hanginggarden.com

11 Tied away Paper tablecloths give a fresh look to a table. Here, tied over from a bathroom or kitchen, a towel for a stylish, DIY all-weather carpet. Adhere the tie with exterior-grade thrust mortar and grout as you would floors. Similar to shown: 100-lb 12-by-12-inch gray tie-dye. \$2 each. www.tied.com

14 Layered lighting Place candles at different heights, as was done here with standing lamps, a hanging lantern, and table-top votives to use where you're working as well as where a drink goes. Similar to shown: Old World Wrought Iron Floor Candle Lantern. \$200. www.1stdecal.com. Hanging Scented Lanterns. \$18. www.worldmarket.com. Amber Votive Cup. \$2.30 each. candlelight.com





Accessorize your entertaining area

15. Outdoor cushions Add plush comfort to outdoor furniture with midsize, resistant cushions that are easy to wipe clean after meals around the grillfire table. Similar to shown: 34-inch Spinelux® Weather-resistant cushions in the Blue: \$75 each; cushions in the tan: \$60 each. Square Valencia Woodcut and Medallion pillows in assorted colors: \$32 each. realtorshardware.com

16. Floor lamp Parks weather-resistant floor lamp for the sale. Here a tall, proud lamp provides soft lighting for conversation and helps guests gather around look out table. Similar to shown: Black Outdoor Floor Lamp: \$120. bedbathandbeyond.com

17. Metal-framed mirror Hung on a garden wall, a mirror adds Me a window to another space. Similar to shown: Solenne Decorative Wall Mirror: \$149. homedecorandmore.com

Personalize the porch

18. Recycled-back seats Shop thrift stores for mismatched furniture you can customize to your site a cohesive-looking set. Here a coat of red paint and a folding wood recliner makes the floral cushions and the white settle and chair. Find vintage seats for as little as \$10 online at your local Goodwill or Habitat for Humanity.

19. Indoors/outdoors mix Search the house for items that can handle indoor exposure to weather. This red velvet iron and glass coffee table and metal rag chair up to match and provide a place to gather round for casual lunches. No cost.

20. Wicker-looked chairs Pull colors from the landscape to give an open air ambience to an enclosed space. A leafy green paint scheme, the lush feeling to shades of this screened-in porch. Set: Premium Plastic Outdoor Seating: Green/Glass. Dream in Green: \$36 per gallon. homedepot.com



Put a roof on it

Enjoy your outdoor dining area even when the sun is baking or the rain clouds are rolling in. These overhead shelters help you cool and dry.

21. Shade tree Take advantage of a natural canopy. Lessen a strong, hot sun by using a weather-resistant shade tree. No cost.

22. Market umbrella Use an outdoor umbrella to block sun and shield your outdoor furniture from the sun. Similar to shown: 6-foot Silver Market Umbrella: \$99. gettybarn.com

23. Protected pergola Make your own wood and metal pergola with a lightly treated steel roof to block sunlight during the day and provide a place for hanging colorful chandeliers for nighttime dining. Here a roof and posts made of stained oak pole are treated pine surround a sturdy metal pipe frame: 36-foot table: \$4-80 each and 20-foot lengths of 1/2-inch black pipe: \$20 each. lowes.com

24. Covered carport Park your wheels and the driveway into your dining table in the shade. Bonus: Because it is protected from the elements, you can also make this your rainy-day outdoor retreat. No cost.

25. Gazebo or tent Tent corner of the garden. A full propane fire pit glows in the evening just steps from the backdoor. Similar to shown: 10 by 10-foot Windy Gazebo Canopy: \$220. acecamp.com



now get cooking
Learn how to use
a new gas
outdoor grill that
is perfect for
cooking and
serving food.

How a GARDEN GROWS



(before)

For one novice gardener, a blank-slate backyard became a canvas for a series of color-packed flower beds built over time. Here, the trial-and-error lessons she learned in creating her stunning landscape

by JENNIFER L. B. J. PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNIFER L. B. J. PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNIFER L. B. J.



Barbara Martin and her dog, a Boxer, sit on the stone path in the garden. Martin, who has been gardening for over 20 years, says she started with a small garden and grew it into a large one. She says she learned a lot from her mistakes and that she is proud of her garden. She also says that she enjoys spending time in the garden and that it is a great way to relax.

You've probably read that a well-designed garden starts with an overall plan.

And that having one can save you a lot of grief. Susan Martin agrees—though she transformed her own acre of scrubby trees and lawn into a colorful garden without ever putting pencil to paper.

Instead of following a point-by-pointers planning scheme, Susan simply experimented and watched to see what worked and what didn't. In the process, she discovered tricks that can help gardeners who don't think in terms of grid lines and circles on paper. They're also good for homeowners like herself who start out just wanting a few flowers but discover how much they enjoy the process and wind up tending the whole yard.

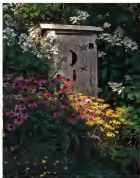
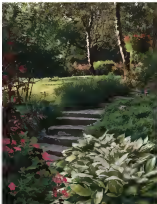
Susan didn't grow up gardening, and when her two children were young she had no time to do much outside the home her husband, Dave, built 38 years ago. Their suburban Illinois yard was mostly lawn. But when the kids outgrew an above-ground pool, Susan decided to replace it with a patio. Instead of hiring a stone-mason or a landscaping crew or even consulting a how-to book, she just ordered up a load of heavy flagstones and moved them one by one in her wheelbarrow, setting them down on the well-packed sand base on which the pool had stood. Some of the slabs were really heavy—she guessed 50 to 70 pounds—but with her teenage daughter waiting alongside, Susan was able to create a level surface by scooping out sand where needed to accommodate the different thicknesses. "It was amazing to me," she says. "When you looked at that pile of flagstones, you'd think they'd never fit together. But they did, like a puzzle puzzle. We just smoothed them in." She didn't have to make a single cut.

Flashed with that success, she decided to surround the patio with a flower bed 3 feet wide. Oh, my, what she recalls thinking as she watched the blooming cosmoses grow. This is party time. Gardening was so satisfying that she decided to convert another patch of lawn into a flower bed. Then another patch, and another, adding decorative flower-market finds as she collected them.

While she had no plan at the start, one did emerge, though she never formalized it. She laid two key goals in the front, to screen out the view of the street from the kitchen and dining room windows, as well as the sunny spot directly outside where she had a table and chairs to back, to block views of neighboring houses completely so that the yard would be a private retreat.

Accomplishing her goal for the front took a little trial and error. She first put in a flower bed as a screen, but it wasn't enough. So she planted three Austrian pines.

Right: On the south-facing side of the house a single Austrian pine, planted to help screen the view of the street, has branched back to give it the look of an evergreen bush. A large rectangular arch connects the front deck to the driveway. Below left: Two living parrotulas surround the flagstone patio, ornamenting patches of lawn it back to ring with shrubs and trees. Creating different garden areas made the 1/2-acre yard seem even larger than it is. Below middle: On the east side of the house, stone steps climb down to a walkway and back up to the front of the house.



Above: An antique wrought-iron cart serves as both a storage shed and a decorative object. Left: Susan collected old metal wheels at flea markets for years and finally had enough to wire together as edging to call out planting beds. She used other wheels behind the wheels to keep the edging from toppling.

lots more ideas
See other
rising garden
stars at
housthouse.com/home

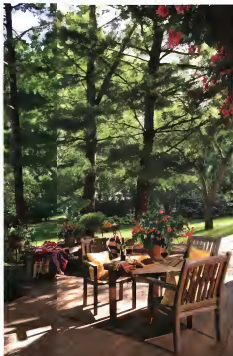
"They were only 4 feet tall, just perfect," Susan says. "It didn't dawn on me how quickly 10 years would pass." Over time, the trees grew into a wall looming over the house. So a little over a year ago, she took out two and pruned the remaining one, which has a crooked trunk, to look like a totem. "It still thickens the patio, but only a little." In the backyard, ensuring privacy was easy. Along the edges she planted shrubs, which have filled in nicely.

At some point during all this work, Susan recalls her husband asking, "What are you doing here?" The answer is now clear: By his, she was transforming the lawn into a more backdrop for an outdoor mix of flowers and garden art.

Today, she walks through her little wonderland delighting in the birds and butterflies it draws. From the first spring bulbs to the roses of June and through the cascade of dahlias and cornflowers in summer, a rolling display unfolds. It continues even when the growing season ends, because Susan rotates the urge to whisk away the remnants. "The dried flower heads and tall grasses look so pretty in fall," she says. "And in winter, the dried hydrangeas are lovely in the snow." Her leaves-as-you-go, no-plan approach has yielded what all gardeners aim for: a four-season garden full of color and interest.



Left: *Drummers* is an angel trumpet in the shrub border by the front deck. Because it isn't cold nearby where the bees in the fall Susan wheels the potbeds for onto the grasses where it overwinters. *Top:* *Goos*, a 5-foot tall metal rooster, presides over part of the backyard. Above: *Johnny* and *Scott* each year in the garden above this bed of carnations and black-eyed Susans. *Right:* A central piece of a dragonfly (beginning) draws attention in the back deck's a dining table. Over head, hanging pots overflow with angel wing begonia as favorite for their cheery flowers, rapid growth and ability to thrive in shade or part shade.



Time-tested tips

Here are some lessons Susan Martin learned as she grew her garden. (It took work, but her career for you, too.)

1. Move plants at will. Instead of trying to work out every detail on paper before you plant, you can use actual blooms in your way of seeing color combinations that do. Susan discovered that she can move plants with while they are blooming, provided she's willing to let that season's blossoms die. "Gardening looks so much more like a game during the summer," she says. "But if you really want them to stay, you can do it quite successfully." She takes care to keep much dirt as possible around the roots, and to move plants to her wheelbarrow to their new home right away. Even if flowers fall off, the plants do fine the next season. And there's no risk you'll forget what you wanted to switch.

2. Consolidate beds. If you start small and add new beds every year, you can wind up with a garden that looks a bit scattered. She discovered this after she put in several flower beds along the front of her property, each independently about 8 feet in size. An easy fix, join them together. "One big bed looks better than three small ones," Susan says. "It creates more of a flowing look."

3. Use art, but edit it. Sculptures, antiques, farm implements, and other art elements add interest and a personal touch to a garden. But if you want them to work as accents, not background noise, you have to choose carefully. Susan used to display everything she received as gifts or found at flea markets. Then a visitor to her garden made a remark about "freakishness," and she realized her garden had become too cluttered. She edited down her display and now features a single large piece in each bed. A tall metal rooster presides over one area. An outdoor storage shed serves as a backdrop for another. She buried rusty metal wheelwells edging for flower beds around the patio. Pots are displayed in a variety of art and a wood wheelbarrow elsewhere on the property.

4. Bed perennials, pot annuals. You can have lots of flowers by growing annuals. But then you have to replace each year, and you have to battle more weeds since all that digging exposes weed seeds to sunlight. Susan used to go heavy on annuals but learned that perennials require a lot less work. So now she divides most of her garden beds to plants that come back year after year and just need tidying up once in a while. She still shops for annuals, but mostly to put into pots.

5. Savor the last moments. Don't rush to cut back late season blooms. Dead flower heads and fall summer lawns look so lovely in the fall and winter." Susan says—and it's fun to watch birds fill their flower head to flower head as they harvest seeds. ■

By Gregory Ocito
 • Photography by Tris Oboyan
 • Produced by Celeste Scorsone
 • Styling by Pamela Akishima

small fixes,

A 1960s shore house gets upgraded for a family of today—with two new rooms, built-ins to corral clutter, and trimwork details that artfully blend new and old

lots more function



New shutters, roof, windows, exterior, and interior upgrades infuse this 1960s house with fresh ideas without losing its modest, seaside-cottage style. Inside, design-life changes add up to major improvements in comfort and flow.

The built-in bedroom is an addition, named as a buffer between the house and garden, with a head board that doubles as storage for flip-flops.



The equation seems simple: larger family equals larger house.

The house in question is a cottage in Amagansett, New York, in the duneslands of the East End of Long Island. Kevin Blaney purchased it as a weekend retreat when he was single and still courting his future wife, Liz. The house suited them well, but a dozen years and four children later, "we had simply outgrown the place," says Liz. Yet, "we loved the strengths of Scheffer homes—they're so cozy and welcoming—and we wanted to keep that feeling."

"Scheffer" is architect Alfred Scheffer, who helped run the townships of the East End into the sought-after summer resort towns known as the Hamptons. In the course of a 40-plus-year career that ended with his death, in 1976, Scheffer designed dozens of houses in the area, all impressive in scale and generally traditional in style, mostly clapboard Colonial Revival and shingled Cape Cod.

The Blaneys' house, which Scheffer built in 1965 for his daughter, was a variation on the Cape Cod type: a low-slung, two-story, gable and main structure bisected by a shorter front-paired section. With less than 1,600 square feet, it boasted five bedrooms but lacked a master suite and dining room, and the front door opened right into the living room. The house, with a pool and shed in back, exuded a quiet, reserved charm, and the Blaneys hoped to keep it that way, they wanted the place to be bigger but not look bigger. "To make it work," says Liz, "the house just needed lots of little things."

There are "lots," of course, and then there are "LOTs." Fortunately, the Blaneys found just the right partner for their project as architect Dennis Helgesen, who knew and appreciated Scheffer's work. "It was so important to me that we do the chores to maintain the spirit of the house," says Helgesen.

The renovations seemed straightforward enough. The Blaneys wanted to open up and expand the first floor by taking down walls and adding on to each



The all-white kitchen reflects light pouring through here, creating a bright interior.

floor plans

A series of first-floor additions enlarged the house to 2,540 square feet and opened up the living, dining, and cooking areas. The kitchen is open and added lots of space to the bedrooms above.

■ = addition



A round wooden table hides the range hood and gives cabinets a finished look.

A wall close-down to create room for a pedestal sink opens up the kitchen to a new breakfast area. New linens, a new style range, and a metal slatted top on the back bar play off cottage style hardware and vintage look cabinets with old-fashioned polished metal hardware.

Like the original dining room, was merged with the living room; an addition with a dining room and breakfast area was grafted on. White paint and French doors help give the 144-square-foot dining room its spacious feel.

↑
The vaulted
collage ceiling
adds volume
to the dining
room.

Each, one with a dining room and breakfast area and the other with a master suite—both opening onto the refurbished back patio. They also asked Halgeson to open up the downstairs and to add a mudroom where kids could shed their dirty boots. Two patio upgrades were on their list as well: a new pool house with an outdoor shower, and a remodeled shed where they could store barbecue equipment and outdoor furniture as well as garden tools.

But almost all these changes came with strings attached—especially as the work to be done was on a house two blocks from the ocean that had experienced only cosmetic fixes in 43-year-old years. “You can’t just slap up new walls,” says Helgeson, referring to opening up the house to graft on additions. “When you renovate an old house you have to take care of the basics first”—starting with the roof and foundation.

Helgeson enlisted veteran contractor Marty Makar, who also foreman comparisons. Houses in this part of Annapolis, built from the 1940s to '60s, "were meant to be used in summer places," Makar says. "When you start to work on one, you never know what you'll find."

lopping the underpinnings of the house, what Helgeson and Misher found was not caused by termites—"the bugs love the sandy soil," says Misher—as well as water damage. "The groundwater is so high in the dunes that there's always dampness and constant risk of flooding," says Helgeson, who for that reason planned to move the mechanical and electric space and install a sump-pump system and dehumidifiers in the basement.

The architect and builder made repairs, insect-proofed the old foundation, and built foundations for the additions. For Mother Nwara seemed to have it in for them. The day after they poured one concrete slab, a low-pressure weather front

zones for outdoor living

The backyard has long held a garden shed, which the architect refurbished to complement a new weathered-look and bluestone patio and built-in barbecue. The over-size door and a built-in bench in the gate enhance the garden, sized to fit house proportions, a shed lot established about 1940 complete with a bath and an outdoor shower.



stylish sheet

Learn how to start growing a garden worthy of the garden shed and greenhouse shown here. Get all the details on page 100.

Whether you're walking down a hall or entering a room, you're moving toward a window, so the spaces feel more open



The master bedroom is a roomy, vaulted ceiling with a double window, which adds to the room's airy feel.

blew in, followed by days and days of rain. "We tried pumping the water out of the basement, but the ground was so saturated, the water just washed back in," says McLean. "We couldn't do anything for weeks."

That was the biggest hunch on the project, but hardly its biggest challenge. Helgeson had to design a new roof—enlarging beams, relocating exposed rafters, and reconfiguring trusses—to evenly distribute the roof's weight over the additions. And then there was Amegasseri's recent adoption of a hurricane-code standard requiring windows with high-impact glass.

And windows are among the chief delights of Helgeson's design. The East End of Long Island is famous for its brilliant light, and Helgeson brought that much to his client. He installed French doors on the new breakfast area and master suite, built out a box bay in the living room, and enlarged windows or added more where he could, thus employing one of his favorite tricks. "Whether you are walking down a hallway or entering a room, I want you to be moving toward a window," he says. "It makes the space seem larger."

The choice of finishes enhances the effect. The kitchen was widened just 2 feet, but with white cabinets swapped a few for the old cherry cabinetry (which were reused in the garden shed) and the addition of white marble countertops and backsplash, the room appears twice its former size. Helgeson's simple, clean-lined moldings and trimwork—all, like the beamed ceilings and walls, finished in white latex—contribute to the sense of spaciousness.

The most ingenious aspect of the renovation may be one of the simplest: the use of built-ins throughout. A collaborative effort by the architect, homeowners, and contractor—who all agree that cabinetry is his favorite part of most projects—the built-ins create discreet storage and work areas and reduce the need for furniture in smaller rooms, like the kids' bedrooms. "None of the kids has to double up, and there's plenty of room for six persons," says Lin of the second space. "It's kind of wonderful how we managed to make the most of every space. It's not a huge house, but now it feels perfect for us." ■



A clear sight line to the window (shown in the bedroom in the garden)

The first floor's new master bedroom suite has sunny windows and a set of French doors that bring outside light and double as a private entrance. Double doors can be closed for privacy and French shades can be lowered to allow sleeping in.

Vintage-style medium oak cabinets, drawers, doors, and trim tie the new master bath design into the former look. The expansive double vanity is a nod to the ground.



Wood fences

On the following pages, see some of the forms a wood fence can take, and learn the basics of buying, installing, and maintaining it. Take the time now to carefully consider your choice; if you follow our tips, you'll be looking at that fence—and enjoying it—for many years to come.

Admission is available only on a limited basis.

Plants should be pruned and trimmed every three years or so. If the wood has a coating the schedule varies: clear-finishes and waterproofer need annual reapplying, semi-transparent stains last three to four years, and solid color stains go five to seven. Paint is not recommended.

Pick a type

Fences are defined by their height and how easily you can see through them

1 picket

BEST FOR FRONT YARDS, GARDENS, POOLENCLOSURES
Usually 3 to 4 feet high, these fences are named for their widely spaced, pointed pickets, which discourage climbing and shed runways. (Similar to shown: 4-foot tall painted top rail panel, \$24 per linear foot at redcreekblue.com.)

2 vertical board

BEST FOR NOISY NEIGHBORS, WIND AND NOISE PROTECTION
Overlapping or buttled edges, 6 to 8 inches tall vertical boards ensure privacy. They also block the wind, a good thing in winter but not so much in summer. (Similar to shown: 6-foot tall cedar two-panel, \$30 per linear foot at redcreekblue.com.)

3 lattice

BEST FOR GARDEN DECKS, PATIO POOLS
Overarching slats of both obscure the view while allowing air and light to pass through. A perfect screen for climbing plants. (Similar to shown: 4-foot tall lattice panel, \$28 per linear foot at white.com.)

4 post and rail

BEST FOR BACKYARDS, ENCLOSING PLOTS
This inexpensive fence, traditionally used for penning livestock, also makes a solid demarcation between properties. (Similar to shown: 4-foot, 140-pound fence, \$25.75 per linear foot at redcreekblue.com.)

5 louver

BEST FOR POOLS, DECKS, PARKING LOTS, PATIOS
Vertical boards or slatted boards afford privacy while allowing sunlight to pass when closed and open when the sun is high. (Similar to shown: 6-foot tall open-louver panel, \$22.50 per linear foot at redcreekblue.com.)



Buying options

Get off-the-shelf panels, build your fence from scratch, or let a pro do the work

Prefab. A DIYer can find ready-to-install panels at home centers, lumberyards, and fence suppliers. Home centers tend to have the best prices, fence suppliers usually have better quality woods and the biggest selection of designs. The downside: Fence panels, typically 8 feet long, are heavy and unwieldy, and it might take several trips to move all the material to your property. On grades that slope more than 1 foot in every 8, there'll be large, irregular piles at the bottom.

Assemble It yourself. Building a fence the old-fashioned way—stick by stick with wood from a lumberyard or fence supplier—gets you a custom barrier that follows uneven terrain. Your choices of woods and styles are limited only by your budget. This is also the most time-consuming option and will cost more than prefab panels because you pay a premium to purchase wood by the piece.

Hire it out. Having a professional do all the heavy lifting and digging is the fastest and easiest way to get a fence installed—and the most costly. Pro offer the widest choice of stick-built styles, as well as panel fencing, and can create almost any design you dream up. If your property is sloped, they can even install panels to follow the grade.

$$\frac{\text{DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO CORNERS (feet)}}{\text{NUMBER OF PANELS}} + 8 = \frac{\text{NUMBER OF PANELS IN A SINGLE FENCE RUN}}{\text{NUMBER OF PANELS} + 1} = \frac{\text{NUMBER OF POSTS IN A SINGLE FENCE RUN}}{\text{NUMBER OF POSTS IN A SINGLE FENCE RUN}}$$

POST ANCHORING

SOIL. FCM landscape contractor Roger Cook cuts posts on a 60-inch base of 1/2-inch crushed stone to encourage drainage. Then he fills around posts with the same from the holes, minus the topsoil, and packs it down every 6 inches. In steady soil, he uses a gravel so that it will pack more firmly. In clay soil, which doesn't drain well, he packs only gravel around posts.

CONCRETE. If Roger uses concrete only for gateposts or when rock stops him from digging deep enough, one-third of the post's length. Concrete is costly—each post requires two or three 55 bags—and slow, as posts must be set until the concrete sets.



How high?

Decide based on how you plan to use your fence

Containing kids or pets: Three to 4 feet prevents wandering but is low enough to leave the view intact and to chat with neighbors.

Enclosing a pool: Code requires 4 feet, typically. The maximum space between pickets is 4 inches.

Maintaining privacy: Six feet, minimum. Many communities require a permit and engineering plan for anything higher.

Containing livestock: Seven feet discourages casual browsers, although perimeter fences can clear 15 feet.

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ask this oldhouse

inside

FIX A THRESHOLD

FIX ROOF MOSS

SMOOTH A SIDEWALK

MORE



QI can't seem to coil a hose without it kinking—I'm left-handed—is that the problem?

—LISA SLEY, EDISON, N.J.

47
tips, tricks, and answers to your home-improvement questions

A I don't think that matters, but it could be your hose. Rubber hoses like the ones on the page are made of vinyl hoses. Also, try this technique: Grab the hose, lay it out straight, then wrap it around the base of a bush can. Now lift the can off your side and coil. Or, you could try using a 1/2-inch-wide 1/2-inch

—BOB ROOD, TOWNSHIP OF EDISON, N.J.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
FLAVIAN PETROV

Our cast of veterans expects

TOM SILVA
General ContractorTOMMY ADAMS
Master CarpenterHOWARD T. FITTS
Plumbing and Heating ExpertROBERT COBLE
Landscape ContractorKEVIN O'CONNELL
Roof

Q My back door threshold is rotten and worn, but the door itself is in good shape. I'm kind of handy; is this a repair I can tackle? —JACK STENO, BEDFORD HEIGHTS, OHIO



Tom Silva replies: You should be able to replace a wood threshold in a weekend, though the job will get bigger if you find rot beneath the threshold. Unfortunately, you won't know that until you remove it.

Before you tackle this project, though, you want to have a replacement threshold on hand that's a couple of inches longer than the current threshold but has the same width, thickness, and slope. To check the angle of the existing sill, use an angle finder you can get one for about \$10 at a home center. Once you have all the dimensions, head to a home center or lumberyard to find a threshold that will fit. If they don't have a ready-made match, ask a millwork supplier to cut a custom one for you.

Removing the old threshold isn't difficult. Just use a reciprocating saw to make a pair of cuts just near the center of the threshold, then lift out the loosened center piece and wiggle the remaining ends out from under the doorjamb. If the threshold has "bumps" at the lower edge that wrap around the doorjamb, save the old pieces to use as a template when cutting the new one. Now, check the

The first step in replacing a damaged threshold is to measure its length, width, thickness, and slope. Then you can have a new matching one ready to go in as soon as the old one comes out.

subfloor or framing for rot, and make all those repairs before proceeding.

Once you've transferred measure marks to the new threshold stock, trim it end slide it into position. You may have to come inside placing a hammer and wood block. There's no need to fasten it with nails or screws, which might split the wood or provide an avenue for water to enter. Instead, clip pairs of cedar shims under the threshold to lift it for a tight fit against the ends of the doorjamb. Finally, squirt some expanding foam underneath it to seal the gap and hold the threshold in place. For more information on tools and materials, along with a video clip showing how I do this work on a project, check out threshold.com/bonus.

SWEATING PIPES

How can I keep the copper pipes in my house from sweating?
—MICHAEL BIDD, SAULT STE. MARIE, MICH.

Richard Trethewey replies: Sweating is a problem only with cold-water supply pipes and only on the summer, when the air is warm and hot-cold hot-water pipes never sweat. Here's what happens: Water enters your house at 45 to 55 degrees F, an even colder if it comes from a well, and cools the surrounding air. Cool air can't hold as much water vapor as warm air, so moisture condenses on the copper.

The best way to stop pipes from sweating is to insulate them with self-stick foam or fiberglass sleeves that are split lengthwise. They aren't expensive, they're readily available at home centers, and installation is easy. You just have to butt the straight lengths tightly together and cover the ends where they come above and other angled pipe fittings. You don't want to leave any gaps



A - Dutch curve for drilling

B - Squeegee for curved glass windows

C - Sewing template

D - Do...

FOR THE COMPLETE
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Patches of missing shingles on a roof are not only unsightly, they also damage the shingles by not letting them dry out.

where moist air can reach the pipes.

These sleeves are made to fit either 1/2-inch or 3/4-inch pipe, so measure yours before you head off shopping. Fiberglass sleeves seal the best but are harder to enter and fit around angled fittings than foam ones. While you're in it, insulate your hot-water pipes, too. You'll get better water out of your faucets.

MOSSY ROOF

What, if anything, should I do about all the moss that's growing on my roof?

—CORREY THUMMER
BEDFORD, VERMONT

Tom Silva replies: Moss holds moisture against shingles, shortening their life. It also catches debris—twigs, leaves, dirt—just makes the moisture problem worse. But before removing the moss, grab a pair of binoculars and take a good look at your roof. If you see shingles with surface cracks, split blisters, curled-up edges, or areas where the earlier granules have worn off, you probably need new roofing. But if the

shingles are in good shape, here's how to get rid of the moss.

First, take these precautions: Spray water on all the plants under the eaves of the roof you will be working on to cover them with plastic. The 10-15 mm of water and bleach that's used to kill moss can also kill or damage any foundation plantings it drips on. Also, because the roof will become very slippery when you spray the moss with the bleach mixture, stay off the roof and on a ladder during the entire process. An extension ladder with a roof standoff provides a secure platform.

Apply the bleach solution with a pump sprayer until the moss is saturated, then wait 15 minutes or so to raise the roof thoroughly. If your foundation plants aren't covered, rinse them, too. Now wait a week or two for the moss to dry up. If you can, get on the roof to brush it off. If not, the dead moss will eventually wash away.

To prevent the moss from returning, install zinc or copper strips near the roof ridge, above the areas that seem to get mossy. Rain washing over

the strips will leech out metal ions and send them down the roof, preventing new moss from taking hold. You can find these strips online at mosskill.com. Also, trim any overhanging eave brackets as much as you can. Moss thrives in the shade that trees provide and the debris they drop.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
Q **COUNTERTOP SCRATCHES**
 Our Corian countertop has some minor cuts and scratches. Is there any way to get rid of them?
 —BOB STADENHUIS, SALT LAKE CITY

Kevin O'Connor replies: Because the color goes all the way through Corian and other solid-surface materials, you can indeed buff out those scratches. To do that, the folks at DuPont, who make Corian, recommend that you use the superior Micro-Mesh abrasive pads made by Micro-Surface Finishing Products (micro-surface.com).

First, clean your countertop with an ammonia-based cleaner, such as Windex, to remove dirt and residue, then rinse it thoroughly. Now, while the countertop is still wet, rub the area gently by hand with a coarse-grit Micro-Mesh pad. Buff in one direction only—do not work in a circular pattern.

When the scratches are gone, immediately wipe off the residue with a clean flannel cloth—microfibers and paper towel can create more scratches. Wipe the surface again and buff with a fine-grit pad in a direction 90 degrees to your first effort. Keep wiping and shining down with each change in grit until the damaged area is the same sheen as the rest of the counter.

If your countertop is extensively scratched, have your Corian dealer give it a complete rebuffing.

Now, other kinds of solid-surface countertops may have



Working concrete resurfacer over a worn walkway gives it a durable surface with uniform color.

Our concrete walk has pits and seems to be crumbling. How can we fix it?

—JILL LANGE, MISSOURI, MO

Tam Silva replies: Spalling, the loss that occurs in concrete, happens when too much water is used in a concrete mix, weakening it.

As long as your walkway isn't cracked all the way through, you can coat the slab with a concrete resurfacer, a no-sand mix.

Cost: \$27 for a 40-pound bag of resurfacer
Time: 5 to 10 hours
Difficulty: Medium
 The best heavy troweling takes practice.

of Portland cement, sand, and polymer additives that fill cracks and make a uniform finish. Its natural color is dark gray, so buy enough to cover your entire walk. Our 40-pound bag covers about 15 square feet. If you want a different color, just add a concrete tint.

Before resurfacing, strip off any paint or sealers and watch the weather. Temperatures should remain above 50 degrees F for 5 hours after the pour and above freezing for 24 hours after that.

Resurfacing takes most of a day, but your walkway will be back in previous shape once you're done.

STEP-BY-STEP

Resurface worn concrete

1. Clean the concrete

While wearing heavy boots and protective glasses, blast off surface dirt with a gas-powered pressure washer. Then go in with about a 500 psi jet. Fit the wand with a 25-degree fan tip, and hold it 6 to 8 inches from the surface as you clean the concrete with slow, even sweeps. To remove mold or algae, use a concrete wash.



2. Patch spalled areas

While the concrete dries, mix up enough resurfacer to fill any divots. Combine 1 part water with 3 parts resurfacer in a 5-gallon bucket, blend with a paddle mixer attached to a hand drill. Fill the recesses with resurfacer and smooth with a trowel. Go to Step 3 when you can tread on the patch without indenting it, in about 2 to 3 hours.



3. Spread the resurfacer

Fill the walkway patch with patch and tuck foam weatherstripping, and dampen the concrete if necessary. The resurfacer is workable for about 20 minutes, so mix just half a bag of powder with 5/8 cup of water at a time. That's enough to cover two sidewalk slabs, or about 17 square feet. Pour it on the walk.

4. Trowel it out

Spread the resurfacer until it's below knee level. Use a hand trowel. For every 100 square feet, wait 5 minutes, then sweep a trowel back and forth across it. 90 degrees in the first buffer. Remove the weatherstripping after 20 minutes. Wait 6 hours before walking on it. Cover only if use threatens in the meantime.

ask the old house

different repair techniques, always check with the manufacturer before you start sanding away.

CRABGRASS OVER SEPTIC FIELD

Last fall I grew a lawn from seed. It hasn't gotten, except over the septic system's leach fields, where crabgrass now runs rampant. What can I do about those weeds?

—PILK, PORTLAND, WISCONSIN, CONN.

Roger Cook replies: There's probably a lot of sand or stone in the leach field. And that means dry soil—and the cheap crabgrass loves. Watering more might help the good grass but isn't good for your septic system.

To grow a good lawn over a leach field, you'll have to remove 5 to 10 inches of the existing soil and add the same thickness of good quality topsoil and compost. If you just dump more soil on top of the leach field, it will suffocate the water-dispersing bacteria. Excavating a leach field is tricky and might be something to turn over to a pro.

Another option is to turn this area into a planting bed. Check with a septic contractor or the local board of health to see if they'll allow you to mow a few inches of soil to grow shallow-rooted perennials, such as daylilies, black-eyed Susans, cornflowers, or bearded iris.

send your questions to ask the old house

go to theoldhouse.com/asktheoldhouse or write to: Ask The Old House, This Old House Magazine, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020

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Need help with your to-do list?

- Balance forced-air system
- Vent bathroom fan to outside
- Cover ugly concrete wall with stone veneer
- Apply organic fertilizer to lawn
- Install edging in garden beds
- Plant climbing vines near retaining wall
- Install window flashing to prevent leaks

Ask This Old House

Tune in this month to Ask This Old House and learn how to tackle these projects and many more. For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/tvoschedule. To ask your question, visit thisoldhouse.com/askquestion.

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Before & After Before & After is a new series of photos showing the results of home improvement projects.

How to How to is a new series of photos showing the results of home improvement projects.

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member report #10101

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member report #6942

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member report #13458

"We kicked them out before something else happened."

member report #3425

"I wish every home project would go this smoothly."

member report #2319

"Absolutely outstanding!"

member report #2011

"...a like a rain cloud"

"They worked like a team and did an excellent job!"

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"They never showed up and never called..."

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"Received an apology from the owner and gift certificate to dinner."

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"What a mess!"

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"...clean shaven and most professional looking..."

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"Went to small claims court – we won."

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"It was also high to get the deposit back."

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"...they were Johnny on the spot..."

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"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."

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"They did it in just a couple of days."

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"They will help you lift things out of your car and so on."

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"...not the electrician to call if you have pets!"

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"I n... rushed a d..."

andpa did estimate... and son did the work."

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"...even com... bum... the..."

"e couldn't been more interested in the job..."

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"My wife wanted him to stay for dinner."

member report #17852

"pre... comm..."

"erred to pay something additional, but refused."

member report #6543

"Made me feel like I was their only client."

member report #9832

"They were here two hours and charged me \$840."

member report #9323

"...make sure you ask for the discount..."

member report #11357

"We waited almost two weeks for our appointment."

member report #6793

"He treated my house like it was his own!"

member report #4592

"Ne... how job... sti..."

"Got the..."

"The workers..."

"...destroyed..."