

This Old House

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35 easy ways to add charm

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using paint, paneling, and
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A vintage
sink

A contrasting
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ask this old house

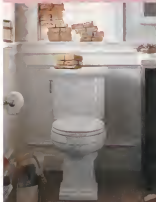
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BONUS IMAGES

See more ways to create the farmhouse breakfast nook look on page 40—plus other tablet exclusives—only in the digital edition of This Old House magazine. To start your copy, go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet.

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Ideas to help you dream up your perfect landscape

- Make the most of a small yard
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► "Full-time education?" Working men are more prone to attend school. The two highest levels of education available (graduate and postgraduate) are more common in the life sciences than in the physical sciences, and the lowest level (high school) is more common in the physical sciences. It appears that the physical sciences are more of a "vocational" field, and the life sciences are more of a "liberal arts" field. The two highest levels of education are more common in the life sciences than in the physical sciences, and the lowest level (high school) is more common in the physical sciences. It appears that the physical sciences are more of a "vocational" field, and the life sciences are more of a "liberal arts" field.

readermail



The January/February 2013 (ISSN) inspired lots of *This Old House* readers to comment on their favorite feature stories, share a more nautical approach to rope knots, or offer a cautionary tale from their own experience. Here, some recent highlights from our in-box:

Witcher's contribution

The cover for January/February (from *Before + After Kitchen*, page 25) feels like you're peering into a real home journal of a show kitchen. It is one of the prettiest, most welcoming kitchens I've ever seen. I'd love to sit and chat with the owner at the table in this cheerful room!

Your magazine continues to inspire ECV folks like myself who want our most modest homes to have quality touches while staying within a tight budget.

—BETTY MONSON, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Authenticity is essential

Re January/February's "Low-Cost Custom Details From Design Firm's Own Homes" (page 78) I like Scott Lee and Erin Martin's manila-rope drawer-knob idea. Perhaps they could take it one step further: Go visit a local maritime museum. Have fun, learn some history. Best of all, ask them about some fancy knots that might make the drawer-pull idea even better.

Oh yeah, I'm one of the many volunteers at the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum on the waterfront in Manteo, North Carolina.

—CHARLIE PARKER EYE MAIL.

Contractor advice

Regarding "How to Get the Most Out of Your Contractor" (January/February, page 76): As a specialty contractor for 30-plus years and as a homeowner, I have found that often is your contractor's

incentive to finish early can be a bad thing. We did this with our contractor during a major home addition and remodel 23 years ago. We gladly paid him the extra bonus when he was done ahead of schedule, but the rest of time has uncovered many shortcuts that he and his subs took to get the job done early.

—LLOYD SILVERSTEIN
THE HOLLYWOOD CALL

Reversed: involution

I am a newer subscriber, but I plan to become a permanent member of the *The Old House* reader family. Exchanges have so many great, practical ideas that I can envision for my house "someplace." As I read, I put a small sticky note where I liked something, anticipating that I want to study more closely later. All my other home magazines usually just get a quick flip-through and are tossed on, and they will be allowed to expire at some time—but TOH will definitely make the cut! Keep on the road with us!

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— Roger Cook



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letter {from This Old House}

Inching toward the finish line

"Why can't you decide on buying a dining room table?" I asked my wife, and she volleyed right back, "Why can't you plaster the hole in the wall?"

"Because I'm waiting for you to pick the dining room table," I said. "And I'll do that," she responded, "as soon as you fix the hole."

There it was. We'd hit a tough patch of chicken-and-egg arguing over why our remodel had grown to a hulk. And I wasn't even sure how we got there, though I knew each backing was (using history as a guide) my fault and a common symptom of any project that has more periods problems and dogs on—and on and on.

The real question, though, was how would I get out of it. Devorce seemed extreme. Letting forepersons might work, but that would set a bad precedent. Plus, I wasn't even sure I'd done anything wrong. Maybe, I thought, my wife and I needed an intervention.

That's when I got a letter from TGH reader Stefanie. Stefanie wrote to let us know that she and her husband, John, love getting TGH each month and feel a real sense of camaraderie when reading about the home-improvement challenges that I share in this space each week.

That was a conundrum: I wasn't currently feeling at home, I knew, but what Stefanie and John made the real difference. She asked the tale of their difficulty in starting a family and how, through it all, they continued to work on their home and what a terrific job John has done on it. "My husband would like nothing more than to see our house in TGH," she wrote. "I have not said that to I submitted this letter, to surprise him by showing he had work would be my ultimate 'thank you' to him for a life of his support and hard work in building the perfect home for our family, which one day will be complete." It feels good to make people happy, so here you go, Stefanie Great job, John.

As for my wife and me, well, shortly after getting Stefanie's e-mail, I patched the hole. And a week after that, we had a new dining room table on the way. I've got a ways to go before my wife starts writing in to complain about me, but maybe it's a start toward the finish.

Scott Oakeshott
SCOTT OAKESHOTT, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com



The editor ABOVE guffawed and Stefanie and John's 1847 Queen Anne. Do they have a chance at winning a spot in our Reader Remodel Contest? (Joy?) You can check out the competition and enter your own house at thisoldhouse.com/yourTGH.

checklist

(April 2013)

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

□ Give trees a lift

Honor Arbor Day on April 26 by giving trees some extra care. Cut away any lawn beneath the canopy to help roots pick up more nutrients, and move mulch at least 4 to 6 inches from the trunk to thwart rot. To boost growth in young trees (and keep older ones well fed), spread a high-nitrogen, low-phosphorus tree fertilizer, such as an 15-2-5, in a wide arc over the root zone, starting a foot from the trunk so that exposed roots don't get burned.



Fast-growing
to try: Indian
hazels (Hales),
Columbian
amurhies, and
catalpas.

TOH TIP

□ Take advantage of a tax-credit extension

Be a green saver? Just pay for your utility bills. You can get a federal tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of new solar—\$500 a year—for energy-efficient upgrades made in 2012, including insulation, windows, exterior doors, central A/Cs, and furnaces. You'll need Form 5695 to file, but be aware: The \$500 is cumulative for any credits you've taken since 2006.

□ Clear out old paint

While you're in spring-cleaning mode, pare down your paint stash, getting rid of colors you no longer use or paint that isn't viable. Unused cans last five years or more, but test previously opened ones by stirring the paint. See lumps? Toxic no. directed by your local municipality's disposal rules. Donate still-good paint to a local home-improvement charity.



□ Level uneven stepping stones

Winters freeze-

thaw cycles can knock your pretty path out of kilter. To avoid a tripping hazard, lift affected stones, remove or redistribute uneven soil, and add a layer of sand or stone dust, which will stabilize the stones. Starting with one that's still flat, use a level to square the others up, too.



✓ Go wild filling in bare flower beds

Bring quick color—and pollinating bees and butterflies—to your yard by planting fast-growing wildflower seeds. For best results: 1. Choose patches of well-draining soil, clear of grass and weeds. So that color lasts all season, opt for varieties with staggered bloom times. 2. Mix seeds with vermiculite or light sand and scatter evenly, raking ground lightly to ensure soil contact without burying seeds (they need sunlight to germinate). 3. Keep ground moist, and thin seedlings so that none are right on top of each other. You'll see blooms in as little as six weeks.

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BUILD
your dream deck

□ What's on your checklist?

"I'll power wash the south-facing side of my house to clean off the mold that grows there during winter due to the lack of sunlight."

—Keith Mackfield,
Washington, D.C.

E-mail us your ideas at
checklist@thisoldhouse.com.



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WHERE ENGINEERING MEETS ARTISTRY

BUILD *your dream deck*

Before you start digging, follow this DIY deck prep checklist.

- 1 **CHECK WITH YOUR** local building department to see if you need a permit or an inspection.
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- 3 **STAKE OUT YOUR** deck's footprint to visualize size, layout, comfort, and views.
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Tyler Florence, Culinary Artist
— — —
Lisa Switkin, NYC High Line Landscape Architect

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Edited by Amy Roberts

inside

10 USES

FURNITURE FINDS

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MORE



New angle on lattice

Those art-deco-styled strips of wood can do more than support a climbing vine. Try putting them to work indoors to give unfinished wood frames a playful cottage look. Dry-foam-lance again or buy new strips at a hardware yard, and cut lengths slightly longer than the sides of the frame (one with a flat face works best). Mark each end at a 45-degree angle, or make two opposing cuts to give each corner a charming picket shape. Dry-fit your design, secure with wood glue, and add a colored stain that won't hide the grain. Then frame with hooks and chains for a display that really hangs together.



Vinyl mini blinds

When upgrading your window treatments, it doesn't have to be lights out for the old window shades you take down. Check out these ways to give those flexible slats a new purpose.

1 Sweep your workbench.
Put a 6-inch length to work as a scoop for whisking bread crumbs into a finish can.

2 Label plants.
Eight-inch-long pieces make great tags. Wrap the stems of the variety of one end with a permanent marker, and stick the other end into the pot or the ground near the plant to ID it.



3 Make tape easier to peel.
Use a piece of a slat, trimmed to the width of the roll, as a tab so that the tape ends are easier to find and pull.



4 Draw a straight line on a curve.
Thanks to its flexibility, a slat can wrap around objects, such as a chair leg, to create a straight-edge against which to get a line.

5 Rescue dropped hardware.
A full-length slat slides smoothly beneath or behind furniture to ferret out the bolt that slipped through your fingers.

6 Decant liquids.
For those quart-size cans of several sprays, paint thinner, and

denatured alcohol with a short, narrow spout. Curve one end of a short piece widthwise and tuck it into the opening for an extended pour spout.

7 Clean up paint cans.
Fold a piece of slat along its curve into a V shape and use it to clean out the rim of a paint can before replacing the lid.



8 Spread caulk or glue.
Vinyl blind slats are excellent spatulas for applying these or other viscous substances.

9 Scrape away labels.
A slat's thin profile and pliability let you get under stickers without marring the material they're stuck to.

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Neat trick: built-in charging stations

No need to wire your phone, tablet, or laptop to a desk or a corner of the kitchen where the last fry gets low. New tech-friendly wood tables like these let you charge the items next to what they're charging, thanks to hidden power strips and other smart-control features that keep the surface clean and sleek.

—MATEUS HELL



FOR THE FAMILY ROOM

The top of this end table slides forward, revealing a built-in power strip and jumble of cords to charge a laptop and more. Cords can snake through a slot on the underside, so you can use your gear while it's getting juiced. \$199, water.com



AT YOUR BEDSIDE

The open book behind you better control the lights, too. This sleek, minimalist table has a built-in power strip, so you can charge your phone, tablet, or laptop while you read. \$199, water.com



A fresh source for local plants

When shopping for blooms to revitalize your garden, ask your local botanical garden if they hold a spring plant sale, which can be a great resource for finding hardy native plants and discovering unique hybrids bred specifically for your region. Sale policies differ among organizations, so check to see if you need to preregister or buy tickets, or if membership comes with special discounts or early access.

—NATALIE BROCHOWSKI



Online tools that save cash

Down the software, DTLR can hit a snag or two when shopping a remodel project. These websites and apps can help you home your smart-buck list—and maximize purchasing power.

SCREEN Products on your wish list are here, there, and everywhere on the Web—and you can't decide which to buy? **STRATIFY** Use Clippix to make a virtual shopping list. With its Web browser plug-in, smartphone app, "clip" products drop-ship state-to-add to a gallery so that you can see how they all go together. Price-alert e-mails let you know if something goes on sale. Free, stratify.com, Android, and iOS

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before + after:
kitchen

More light, more function—still cozy

An open-plan makeover of the cook space preserves a small house's friendly proportions. By AMANDA LACKY • Photographs by KIM YOUNG



A cottage can feel charming—or just cramped. When Michelle and Paul Hobbs bought their compact 1904 house, the 165-square-foot kitchen had minimal storage and four doorways, and was generally just in pain. “The layout wasn’t efficient, there was very little counter space, and the laminate cabinets were cracking,” says Michelle. Five years later, the couple was finally ready to tackle a redo, with contractor Steven Offenbauer. To create a spacious look, they opened up the kitchen to the rarely used dining room, removing the shared wall and gutting the old cook space. Moving the basement door freed up a usable footprint for a new U-shape layout that included two peninsulas and delicious back-entry-hall mudrooms. A raised breakfast bar provides a perch for casual meals and screens the view of dirty dishes in the open plan. Crisp white cabinets and sculptural counters offer a clean canvas for fun color accents. The kitchen now flows into the bright, bay-windowed dining area. “We spend most of our time here now,” says Michelle. “It’s just a great setup.”



[before]

before: The basement access was one of four entryways into kitchen with little usable wall space. After: Now open to the dining area, the new cook space has a breakfast bar where Michelle Hobbs and her sons Ethan, 22, and Clark, 7, grab casual meals.



Back-friendly cork tiles cover the floor. Natural soapstone tops the Shaker-style cabinets. One peninsula forms the back entry hall; the kitchen and the dining area are divided by the island/breakfast bar. *Design: Performance*

before

The 180-square-foot kitchen had four passageways and minimal usable wall space for cabinets.



after

The new, more efficient workspace is open to the dining area and features an off-kilter entry hall.

1. Shifted the basement door out of the kitchen's traffic pattern, making room for a cabinet with bending space and a tall wine drawer along the new fridge/pantry wall.

2. Created a U-shape layout in the gutted space, with the range at its center and the island at the distal end. A new wine fridge was added.



3. Established a back entry hall on one side of the kitchen, characterizing two windows for privacy and creating space for a mudroom bench.

4. Added a raised breakfast bar to separate the dining area, where a wall with an open passageway was added.

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WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS

the key details

• A microwave drawer fits neatly beneath a wood-veneer top, leaving area for keys and mail. Microwave: Sharp Carousel Shelton Free Woodgrain



• Glass-bin pulls add another hint of color and elegance in the glass-fronted feature above the wood-topped breakfast bar. Pulls: Lark Door

• A low open-shelf cabinet with a built-in countertop top provides a spot to rest a hot serving dish, as well as additional storage.



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• A back entry hall now leads past the relocated basement stair and into the kitchen. New evening windows bring in light and air, and a mudroom bench offers a perch for shoes and bags.



• Pendant lights made from wood of blue glass mosaic jars add a touch of soft color. Pendants: Good Will & Light



pro advice
STEVEN CHENOWETH
CONSTRUCTION
SULLY, IOWA

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A luxe, light-filled DIY update

Years of planning and saving—followed by months of hard work—give an enterprising couple their longed-for retreat. by **CRISTIAN BALDWIN** • Photographs by **DAVID PERROW**

Some people have to live today. Others can simply lie in bed and compare a dresser account behind furniture first under a mirror centered below a coffee-drinking window expected window tucked under its peak. "I wanted a little drama," says Elizabeth Frantz, who wasn't even conscious when she came up with the scheme for her bath redo. "She'll dream it, we'll do it, and dream it," says her husband, Tim, who used her sketches to build her and her nation and the room to go around them.

The result is a luxurious master bath and laundry area on the first floor of the couple's 1950s house, in Walnut Creek, California. They crafted the space after spending many savings for six years and setting aside weekends to do the work, with occasional help from a friend who Tim knows through his job at a lumberyard. They avoided moving pipes and stuck to a pay-as-you-go policy, too. "I love the challenge of making things work," says Elizabeth. Today they have a dream retreat, complete with age finishes and "just enough space for us but no full-on remodel."

before The bathroom and laundry area were dated and worn. **after** The new layout and design brings two smaller, stepped vanities, a full shower, and a revamped laundry area. Perimeter floor tile approximates the look of natural slate but won't spill or stain. Always Safe floor tile. Tile Shop.



A shower took over a corner of the space.



(before)

before • after: **bach**

• Custom touches by Interwater and D&B Cabinetry: The Foyer includes a suite for TP and a mirror for bath supplies that slides out of the vanity track. He built all the cabinet bases and entered doors for BL Cabinetry's 30x30.



• The light-colored concrete base is a sturdy bench—fixed to back, 4 inches thick—and marble pedestal for a snug bed. *Photo by Tai & Steve Online Website: Dumb Showerthings.com*

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Enjoy your new look with a new look. For a chance to win a new look and a new look, visit www.yourreno.com today!

before

The 120-square-foot bath and laundry available 1 bathroom TLC since they were built in the 1960s.



after

• Cutting the space, getting rid of all liability and inconvenience, moving one wall out 6 feet, bumping it 4 feet further for a second sink, and adding more modern paint off with improved function and style for

1. Moved the existing window wall 5 feet to make way for artful ambience shower enclosure, and added a 1 by 4-foot bumpout for second vanity.

2. Added windows over the tub, inside the shower, and over the washer and dryer to bring in light and air.



3. Relocated the opening to the bedroom, separating the space with a pair of narrow steel doors.

4. Replaced the laundry area with a swing-out door with a space saving pocket door.

5. Rebuilt one wall and added cabinets with a built-in hamper and ironing board near the washer and dryer.

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before+after: bath

the key details

• The zirconium window centered under the cathedral ceiling speaks with the help of a red that's stored inside the vanity below.



• The laundry area has a new line over the top that echoes the red in the tub. A new window brings sunlight and fresh air from the outside. Economy Lumber, Washer and dryer: ProStyle. Linens: Cold Plus. Glass: Rockwell. Cabinet:



• The hamper, a wire insert built into the floor, almost fits the washer and dryer space and comes unclipped with the help of a bit support frame. Hamper: eBay. Photo:



• Ceiling-height cabinets hold a pop-out landing board and an outlet for a portable brush can. An electric radiant heat mat under the tile keeps feet warm on cold mornings with the help of a programmable thermostat. Radiant floor heating: NuHeat. Sink: Daltile.



homeowner tip

SHAWN ELLIOTT
FOUR WALNUT CREEK,
CALIFORNIA

"To avoid moisture problems, we painted the backs and all sides of the V-groove paneling and used AZEK trim where the paneling meets the tub deck and the vanity tops."

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Prepared.



Over 400,000 waterpik showerheads are sold each year. Waterpik is the only showerhead brand that's been clinically proven to help improve circulation and reduce the risk of heart disease. Waterpik is a registered trademark of Waterpik, Inc.

Farmhouse-fresh breakfast nook

Simple furnishings and soft blues and grays with butter-yellow accents infuse this space with cheerful charm. **BY WILLIAM MARTIN**

It's a style that's comfortable and forgiving, where painted and rustic wood finishes only get better with wear. In the dining space, classic elements of the farmhouse look, such as a big, open-shelf hutch and a long, open-style table, create a pull-up-of-pottery picnic—and plenty of room for family to put them to use. Dishware that seems hand-thrown, restored beams, and fresh flowers keep at the rural life.

Keeping the lines clean and the color palette light give the look an updated feel. Bench seating is softened with striped two-pillow cushions, a single French country armchair painted the same pale gray as the hutch adds a subtle bit of ornateness. Whimsical farm animal shapes—a jackson free—appear as accents.

Read on to learn how you can assemble your own casual, countrified breakfast spot with a little elbow grease and other thrifty alternatives to the antiques and one-of-a-kind finds



dairy decor items

Butter cartons, milk and cream canisters are stored and served in glass or ceramic vessels. Bottle, \$15; farmhouseaccents.com. Cream canister, \$40; barnwood.com

French-country dining chair

The homeowner's vintage, but this new piece will be well-loved. Back and a half seat, \$330; wayfair.com



painted hutch

To give this handcrafted piece some instant appeal, brush it with gray paint to a chalky finish to show. Hutch, \$454; townandcountry.com. Paint, \$19 per quart; townandcountry.com



get this look
for less

rustic wood beam
Reclaimed barnwood gives this decorative beam a weathered quality. \$280; townandcountry.com

prairie pendant
A funnel-shaped shade directs light over the table and a counterweight system allows for height adjustment. \$120; bellacor.com



base pillows
Add comfort with cushions in patterns, such as gingham checks and ticking stripes. Gingham, \$25; stripe.com. Striped, \$44. (Other items sold separately.) dohertydoherty.com



study stone vase
A pair of ribbons and a nesting tree stick lean up a harvest table. Vase, \$20; wayfair.com. Ribbons, \$15; dohertydoherty.com



robust egg-blue dishware

These porcelain pieces look delicate, but they're dishwasher and microwave safe. \$10 for a four-piece setting; bellandhoneyfarm.com

harvest table and bench

Store in a golden box and wear up the look of this antiques-inspired set. Table, \$279; and bench, \$79; ikea.com

MAKES STYLIZED ROOM

Shrimp up a rustic farmhouse look for a space in support of a busy morning meal. Pull out the table, \$279; ikea.com



Tidy catchall for \$104

A little lumber and lots of hooks turn a foyer into a family-friendly coat central that makes room for everyone's necessities. BY LIZIAN BAUGH

the project tally

- Created the look of double-panel wainscoting by nailing 1 x 6 (and) 1 x 4 pine boards to the plaster walls and taping them with 1 x 6 display shelf \$90
- Used leftover supplies to make prime-and-paint the area for a bright—and durable—white finish \$5
- Installed adult and/or child height hooks for coats, hats and bags \$25
- Protected the floor from muddy shoes with a hefty stall floor rug \$10
- Mixed one-hand benches for both sides of the door for long commutes \$0

total

\$104

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before The entry looked like a floor space but no place for COATS AND SHOES. **after** Two benches (30x60x18) and a shelf (60x18) provide storage space and backing of double-panel wainscoting.

When everyone in the family is constantly coming and going, the absence of an organized drop spot can really take a toll. In June and Mark Nara's 1922 home, in Kansas City, Missouri, a lack of storage at the front entry made the adjacent dining room a dumping ground for their three young children's backpacks, boots, and jackets. Their solution: Mark cut the corner of the foyer's angle wall space by using it to create a makeshift mudroom. Mark cut the space with double-panel wainscoting, nailing up 1 x 6 pine planks for the horizontal rails, which echo the busy beachboards, and 1 x 4 boards for the vertical stile. A slim pine shelf added directly into the top rail creates space for displaying the kids' artwork. June and Mark caulked the seams between the boards and the wall before painting the area with white semigloss for a smooth, easy-to-clean surface. To add open storage, Mark installed two sets of chrome hooks on each side of the entry combination coat-and-hat hooks for adults and two-pronged hooks for kids' jackets and backpacks. June finished the space with an oversize vinyl-blend rag rug inside the door for wiping muddy feet, adding benches for slipping on shoes. Now everyone's belongings have a place to park. "It's like cleaner and brighter even though there's more stuff on the wall," June says. "And it makes the whole house much more serene to walk in."



MARVIN windows and doors presents

Bellevue, WA

Be True to Your Home's History

Remodeling or adding on? The style and quality of the windows and doors you choose are important decisions you'll make.

If you have a period home, chances are you were attracted by the architectural detail and distinguishing characteristics of the era in which it was built. Maintaining that integrity should be your No. 1 goal when remodeling. Mismatched doors and windows will not only detract from your home's curb appeal, they can also reduce its value.

When shopping for windows and doors, here's what you should look for:

Wood stile and rail Many a house where your home was built, and if you have a taste for it, a manufacturer that offers the specifications that match your existing windows and doors.

Craftsmanship and the ability to replicate the look and quality of your home's windows and doors, right down to period-appropriate hardware, every glass, if desired, and an uncompromising fit.

Durability If you live in an area with extreme weather, could you see it worth high performance aluminum-cladding in a choice of colors to match your exterior?

Energy-efficient windows that can improve the comfort in your home.

A warranty that promises your windows will stand the test of time.

It's nearly impossible to get state-of-the-art functional yet style-conscious outer windows and doors that are assembly line produced and sold off the shelf. That's why all Marvin windows and doors are made to order with select exterior wood species. 19 clad colors and a host of authentic hardware and glazing options from which to choose. They're one of a kind, built around you and the classic details and values inherent to the great architecture that gave your home its character.

If you can dream it, Marvin can build it. Explore your options at Marvin.com

Dress Up Your Double Hung



LEFT: A simple white frame with a small decorative element at the top. RIGHT: A more ornate white frame with a decorative valance.



LEFT: A simple white frame with a small decorative element at the top. RIGHT: A more ornate white frame with a decorative valance.

Combine color, casing and subtle options to maintain or enhance the architectural integrity of your home.

The most popular and versatile window style in the U.S. is the double hung with two sashes that slide up or down. Marvin's double hungs feature authentic-looking lines and hardware plus joints with more wood than commonly found. Both sashes tilt in or can be removed for easy cleaning. Available with an endless variety of casings and subtle Marvin's double hungs mirror state-of-the-art functionality with the ability to maintain your home's architectural integrity.

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shopping style

Hardworking laundry bins

These sleek containers and sorters bring order and a cool, industrial look to your laundry area, all while simplifying dirty-clothes-duty. By AMY ROBERTS • Photographs by ANDREW McCALL

A long step up from the standard-issue plastic bucket, commercial-quality clothes bins feature sturdy metal frames and durable fabric liners. Some look back to 19th-century French laundries, while others borrow their designs from current modern-day boutique hotels. For all their style and practicality at home, the simplest version hold a load or two and have handles or removable bags for taking the trash up and down stairs. The most elaborate include supply shelves, cross bars for hanging shirts, even an existing board or a folding table. Choose a bin with wheels if your laundry room is on the same floor as the rest of the house or you need an extra clean clothes line from the dryer to a folding or hanging area across the room. No matter your set-up, you'll find a storage solution hard to prescribe your clothes.



Vintage style
WILSON & CO. LTD.
 Size: 18" W x 18" D x 28" H
 Material: Galvanized steel, cotton
 Features: Handles
 Makes this wire mesh bin easy to carry, and built-in hangers on the base make it handy for hanging clothes. \$249
wilsonandco.com

Aluminum clothes sorter

WILSON & CO. LTD.
 Size: 18" W x 18" D x 28" H
 Material: Aluminum
 Features: Handles
 It's a handy clothes sorter that can hold a load of laundry. \$249
wilsonandco.com

When Fido meets wood flooring

Scratches and stains are the hallmarks of dog ownership. But you can fix the damage done—and minimize the chance of future mishaps. *By TERRY O'LEARY FOR THE DOG* • Photo Illustration by MONICA HELLERGRIM



The damage done by your dog's claws and teeth may seem minor, but it can add up over time. If you don't take care of it now, you'll have to replace the floorboards later.

If you've got a dog, chances are your house already bears a few battle scars. From their innate tendency to dig and scratch to those "kitty accidents" they sometimes leave behind, pooches are especially tough on our cherished hardwood floors. Pat Hunt, owner of Hunt Casano Milling Wood Floors, in Lexington, Massachusetts, has found his fair share of the damage inflicted on his clients' houses by man's best friend. "We just did a job where a guy's dog scratched the back out of his floors," he says. "Too many indoor games of fetch, I guess."

Though a good polyurethane seal on your floors is the best defense against urine stains and surface scuffs, it can't fully protect the wood. Fortunately, any clever, dog-owning DIYer can make minor floor repairs without the help of a pro—just follow our guide below.

> SCRATCHES Conceal surface scratches with a simple stain-filled marker (Minwax Wood Finish Stain Marker, \$8.49; acbhardware.com). Deeper gouges require wood filler, which can be sanded down and stained to match the surrounding boards. If you're unsure about the stain color of your floors, it's best to start light and gradually go darker. "Start with the lightest stain you can," says Hunt. "Let it dry for a few minutes, then add another coat to deepen the color if needed."

Scratches covering a large surface area are best handled by sanding and, if necessary,

replacing all the affected boards and covering with polyurethane. Keep in mind that matching the finish of your existing polyurethane can be tough, says Hunt. Make sure you choose a product with the right sheen, whether gloss, semigloss, or satin, and for best results, coat the entire length of each board you're repairing. If the damaged area isn't very large—smaller than, say, a standard piece of paper—it might be best to simply forget about repairing unless the blotch is in a high-traffic spot, says Hunt.

> ACCIDENTS Even if your floors are sealed, dog urine can still penetrate the wood and reach the subfloor, resulting in discoloration and an ammonia-like stench. Dark stains—as in black-Labrador-on-rice-cream-dark—are bad news. "You'll have to replace those boards because the damage is so deep that you'll never get rid of the smell," says wood-floor repair expert Steve DeLuca, who works for Hunt. For lighter-colored stains, though, there's some hope. Try sanding off the finish, scrubbing the boards with wood bleach (a specialty product available at lumberyards), and refinishing the area. You're in the clear if you've brushed both the stains and the odor. But if that unpleasant smell rears its ugly head on a hot summer day, you'll have to replace the boards that were affected. And remember: While damage done is too much for you to handle, pro help there can help you clean up the mess. ■

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MONICA HELLERGRIM



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IAMS
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Window cornice

Use poplar boards and primed-pine crown molding to create a custom wood valance, or opt for a ready-made option. **By SHEL HOPE • Photograph by ROAN BERRY**

A window cornice adds a strong dose of architectural character to any room and, at the same time, conceals mounting hardware for drapes or blinds. If your home already has interesting moldings, you can design the cornice to match; if it doesn't, let your imagination be your guide.

Or follow our lead to build the one pictured here. It hangs on a French cleat mounted above the window and stands out from the wall enough to allow the curtains to open and close easily. Your cornice should be an inch or two larger than the curtains rod, including the finials, to make it easy to install. It should also be deep enough to clear the finials and the rings by 1 inch.

If you choose to buy a window cornice, there are plenty of wood types and finishes, not to mention architectural styles, to choose from. In either case, you'll never look at your window the same way again.

Shown: Custom-built of white-painted French cleat, 1/2-in.-thick poplar, 1/2-in.-thick pine crown molding, 1/2-in.-thick pine French cleat, 1/2-in.-thick pine crown molding, 1/2-in.-thick pine crown molding.

get more info

For a full list of available kits and materials, visit our website at www.thisoldhouse.com/build.



build it •

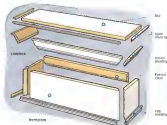
Transform stock molding and lumber into an elegant piece fit to frame any window

1. **Build the frame.** Follow the cut list at the top of the page to size the pieces. For the front and sides, make 45-degree miter cuts where they meet, make 90-degree cuts where the sides will meet the wall. Use corner clamps and wood glue to secure the front to the sides, then tack the corners with a pneumatic nailer and 20-inch brad nails. To make the French cleat, set your circular saw blade to 45 degrees and rip a 1/4-in.-thick board one half of the width between the sides, with the cut edge facing the interior of the frame and pointing down, and secure it with glue and brad nails. Position the top flange at the back and overhanging the front and sides evenly; secure it with glue and brad nails.

2. **Attach the molding.** Measure the sides of the cornice and cut the crown, pine, and cap molding to fit, with 45-degree miter cuts at the outside corners and 90-degree cuts where the pieces will meet the wall. Install all the sidepieces with wood glue and 16-inch brad nails. Then measure and miter out the front pieces of molding to fit, and install. For the crown, butt the top edge against the overhang before attaching it.

3. **Prep and paint.** Fill nail holes with wood filler, let it dry, and sand it smooth. Apply two coats of paint in the same sheen as your existing casing.

4. **Install it.** Position the bottom of the French cleat above the window with the mitred edge facing the wall and pointing up. Level it, then drill and countersink pilot holes into at least two studs. Secure it with 2 1/2-inch wood screws. With a partner, lift the cornice and lower it onto the cleat.



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buy it •

Select a style that suits your home and existing window treatments

\$124+ the basic model

Available in seven painted finishes, this cornice has clean lines that easily blend with a number of different decors. blindsdirect.com



\$151+ the mid- range model

A flared shape and a mix of wood-grain and solid-color finishes help set this piece apart. It's available in a variety of painted or stained finishes. blindsdirect.com



\$274+ the luxury model

Model from North American hardwood. This cornice boasts a classic, elegant design with a mix of wood-grain and solid-color finishes. blindsdirect.com



Prices shown are for 36-inch windows.



PATTERNS THAT PACK A PUNCH FOR SPRING

With spring just around the corner, it's the perfect time to start freshening up your home. Why not add a splash of personality and spruce up your space with one of these chic patterns trends for 2013.

Chevron: a bold, dramatic, V-shaped pattern

Geometric: graphic, colorful shapes, delivering a vintage-modern look and feel

Ombre: subtle color gradation of similar shades that's extremely versatile

When using daring designs, it's best to heed the right pairing of both color and print, so you don't overwhelm your space. Try incorporating a pattern onto one accent wall or even on a single bold piece of furniture to revamp your whole room.

With a fresh coat of paint and a premium painter's tool like FrogTape® Multi-Surface and Delicate Surface these powerful patterns are easy to achieve. Treated with PaintBlock® Technology FrogTape® can be used to create intricate designs for a haute interior just in time for spring. And best of all FrogTape® will help deliver sharp lines making your handwork look like that of a professional.

For more great tips and inspiration, visit frogtape.com



Add edibles for food—and beauty

Colorful vegetables and fruit-bearing plants can enhance the look of your flower beds, not merely provide a mealtime bonus.



Maybe you lack space for a dedicated vegetable patch or would love to expand the edibles harvest you already have. Either way, it's easy to get more of your leafy greens—and fruits and other veggies, too. Simply pop them in your garden beds for a fix that's practical and pretty. Blooming ornamentals attract pollinators that will stick around to visit the food plants, resulting in bigger harvests, and some ornamentals may even help ward off hungry pests. As for the edibles, they'll not only put fresh food on the table but will also add drama and surprise when used in place of your usual ornamentals and perennials. Just imagine red-veined sorrel replacing your pansies, or scabrous runner beans vines swagged in for climbing roses on an arbor.

Plenty of edibles are an eye-catching outside as they are useful in the kitchen. Many have big leaves with striking outlines, colors, and textures. 'Bright Lights' chard, for instance, with its multi-hued stems, shows beside round-shaped New Zealand flax, and 'Purple Ruffles' basil offers a rich contrast to lime-green bordeaux. 'Lover's Some edibles, such as okra and fava beans, flower extravagantly before producing, while others—including orange eggplant and burgundy bean pods—offer madly colored fruit. Certain food plants can also give structure to a

landscaping

star treatment is in the front garden. At the home of landscape designer Rosalind Greary, clematis and flowers and formally clipped shrubs are set in a lush garden and a formal runner beans. Polished kumquats mark the entrance.

Use color to mimic the look of trim

Strategic bands and blocks of paint can add height and architecture to a plain space

By DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photographs by WENDILL T. WEBER



Cost: About \$75
Time: Two days
Difficulty: Easy—once you determine which wall tape

controlled energy
The bold geometry of this approach adds dimension and interest to bland walls. It's balanced by soothing neutrals and the careful alignment of the blocks and bands with the existing trim.

When a room is too stark, consider creating the illusion of molding the way decorator painter Ingrid Lavin did in this once dull dining room. "The ceiling is a standard under 8 feet," she says, and the space, with its mowry walls, baseboards, and window casing, "was white on white on white." Lavin coated a warm beige "wainscot," then added bands in the same shade along the ceiling edges and the top of the walls to visually add height—and suggest crown molding. Punctuating the intersection of wall and ceiling by running the color onto the overhead plane took the eye into using a taller space, while deep-blue blocks in a light-absorbing flat finish make the walls step back. After experimenting with different proportions, Lavin let the distance from the top of the window casing to the ceiling dictate the band width; then, made the bands align with the window slightly narrower, as dictated by the base wainscot with the window opens. She kept the furnishings clean and simple, too, adding a striped carpet and a whitewashed tabletop and cabinet to soothe the palette. For the project step-by-step, read on.

DIY.com

HOW IT'S DONE

1 Put down the light-colored bands on the walls, and mark where the darker color blocks will go. To reduce the amount of taping, use a brush to cut in around edges and base molding. Then roll the light color on the walls, leaving a rough edge just beyond where the darker color blocks will go. Use a tape measure, a level, and a pencil to draw guidelines for the color blocks, aligning them with the top and bottom of the window trim.



2 Measure, mark, tape off, and paint the ceiling bands. Draw guidelines for the bands, and put down painter's tape, taking care to position it just outside the pencil lines. Run a piece of putty knife or a credit card along the edge of the tape to help prevent bleeding. Roll on the ceiling bands, using a brush to get into the intersection with the wall. Slowly pull off the tape at an angle before the paint is completely dry.



3 Tape off the darker color blocks. Outline the color blocks with painter's tape, again taking care to position the tape just outside the pencil line and sealing it by running a plastic putty knife or a credit card along the tape's edge.



4 Roll on the darker color. Using a clean roller cover, fill in the blocks with the contrasting color. Let dry, and add a second coat if needed. Slowly pull off the tape at an angle before the paint is completely dry. Now stand back and watch the room come to life.

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Cottage style
for a boxy Cape

An over-the-entry addition and decorative millwork add style to a plain facade—and space upstairs. BY JENNIFER STATTEN • DESIGNER: HOWARD KENTZEL



"The entryway just looks like a box, but I'm stumped as to how to improve it," says Tyler Wells of his 1920s starter house, in Norwalk, Connecticut. To give him some ideas, we turned to designer Keith C. Baglow of nearby Ridgefield.

"In old neighborhoods like this one, space is tight and people try to get extra rooms however they can," Baglow says. "In this case, the entryway might have been an open porch that was later enclosed." The bump-out gives the house a much-needed mudroom and car closet, but it detracts from the home's charm. Baglow suggests adding an upstairs addition to soften the entryway's boxy look while boosting the size of a second-floor bedroom. Stick-style elements, including an open train in the gable, faced eaves, and decorative brackets, add a major dose of personality to the facade.

"I would have never thought to build up," Tyler says. "But I love the idea of claiming a little extra square footage upstairs." ■

Finishing touches

Architectural millwork details and custom entry upgrades enhance a public addition. ■



brackets

Stylish arches are available in wood or metal. Prices, \$150 (each) and \$27 (each).



SCREENS

A bronze-finished cast-iron screen hangs up the sliding doors. Estimate: \$80.



SCREEN VEDGES

A nice upgrade for a screen to close. Estimate: \$100. Price: \$8 per square foot.



DOOR

Section of glass set in entry case. Estimate: \$100. Price: \$100.

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Build a classic storage chest

Join oak lumber with wood dowels to create a modern take on Shaker-style storage. *by THEBOLDPROJECTORS • Photographs by KEVIN EDYCE*

Tired of those plastic bins peeling out from underneath the bed? Scrap them and make yourself a storage chest that will last for generations. Constructed of solid oak using a type of box joint, this chest is as sturdy as it is good-looking. Follow along as senior technical editor Mark Powers and colleague Douglas Adams show you how to craft an attractive piece of furniture with clean, quiet lines that also happen to provide loads of useful storage space.



For complete
instructions, turn
the page



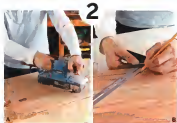
Cost: \$155
Time: 18 hours over two days
Difficulty: Moderate. The job isn't simple, but joining the corners requires precise cutting.

Photo: Kevin Edyce
Illustration: David Lee

2. Finish the panels

A. Sand the sides smooth. Once the glue has completely cured, lay the panels on a flat work surface. Using a belt sander and 60-grit paper sand both sides of each panel until the seams disappear. Then use a random orbit sander to sand both sides, stepping up from 180-grit to 220-grit until both sides are smooth.

B. Cut the handle notch. To make it easy to lift the lid, make a notch at the top of the box's front panel. Use a combination square to mark a centered notch 4 inches long, 3-inch tall and angled at 45 degrees on each end, as shown. Cut the lines with a jigsaw. Round the sandpaper cut edges smooth with 220-grit paper.



WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?
We're looking for great creative artists to feature in our August issue. Send us photos of your weekend remodel to remodel@fox.com

Tip: Use a square wood scribe to keep the drill bit on target, as shown in Step 3B, and to help keep the pilot hole straight and level.

3. Assemble the box

A. Dry-fit the side panels. Before you glue the box together, dry-fit the panels already sanded to make sure they'll assemble smoothly. Use 220-grit paper to level out any high spots. Once all the joints mesh, brush a thin coat of glue onto the mating surfaces, one corner at a time. Make sure the bottom square and glue bar clamps are snug together. With the clamps in place, glue and nail a 1/4-inch-thick plywood floor to the underside, flush at all edges, using a brad nailer and 1-inch brad nails. The exposed seams will be covered by the skin.

B. Install the dowels. Use a combination square to mark pilot holes on the faces of the longer boards.

1 inch from the ends and 1 inch from the top and bottom edges. At each point, drill through the face and into the end of the adjacent board with a 1/4-inch bit. Switch to the 3/16-inch bit and enlarge the pilot holes to accept the Miller dowels. Glue out the sawdust with a vacuum or by blowing it away. Secure won't stick. Apply wood glue to the dowels and insert them into the pilot holes. Use a hammer to tap them fully into place. Install the dowels on the adjacent side of the corner in the same way. Then install the dowels at the other three corners.

C. Cut the dowels flush. Using a small flush sawing saw, cut the ends of the dowels even with the face of the boards. Using a sanding block, sand the corners of the box, first with 180-grit paper, then with 220-grit, until they're smooth.



4. Build the base

A. Rip the beams. Set the blade of your circular saw to 45 degrees. Clamp a 1x6 deckboard piece with the long edge hanging off the work surface and rip a beam along its lengthwise. Repeat on the other three pieces for the base. Then use the circular saw (or table saw) to cut the ends at 45 degrees on the ends of these four beams, as shown, to fit around the chest.

B. Attach the base. Turn the notches in the skirtboards first, draw a parallel line 1/4 inch from the bottom (unbeveled) edge. Then using

a combination square, draw 45-degree lines toward the center of the board. Stretch an 8-foot string and, intersecting the parallel line, use a jigsaw to cut out each notch. Sand the pieces smooth with 220-grit paper.

C. Attach the skirts. On the back of each skirtboard, counter-sink pilot holes and attach a 1x1 strip along the top of the notch with 1-inch deck screws, as shown. Attach a nailing block flush with the bottom edge end of the shorter skirtboards, in line with the top of the skirts. To level the base, join the notched corners of the skirtboard pieces, like a picture frame, with wood glue and 1-inch brad nails.



5. Attach the base and lid

A. Slip the base in place. Drill pilot holes and drive 1 1/2-inch deck screws through the skirts on each side of the base and into the bottom of the chest, as shown.

B. Install the hinge and lid. Screw the tension hinges to the under side of the lid, flush with its back edge. Set the opposite side of the hinges on the top edge of the back of the box, and screw them in place. Finish the chest with wax or stain. Seal it with polyurethane for a hard durable coating or with oil or wax for a soft, hand-rubbed look.

see how it's done
To watch a step-by-step project including detailed how-to tips, go to fox.com/remodel

From
FIXER-UPPER
to **REFINED**
FARMHOUSE

While resurrecting a falling-down circa 1850 home, the owner found poetry in salvaged sinks, antique tile, and a couple of pros who could bring her design ideas to life

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUE SMITH
PRODUCED BY
COLLETTA RICHMOND
STYLING BY
LARISSA LEE

MEETING PLACE

The formerly far less kitchen now doubles as a gathering spot for close friends. Including the people who designed and built it. Salvaged windows and tile give the built-in hutch a vintage look. *Johnson | Jarcho Interiors/working*



WHEN JANE HENSON ACKERMAN finally got around to dealing with the sagging walls of her mid-19th-century house, she had no idea what she would find. But the biggest surprise wasn't the covered-up evidence of fire and former windows or the absence of a firm foundation, which her general contractor was determined to discover while attempting to shore up a supporting wall in pointing rain. What she uncovered was something less tangible, though no less dramatic.

An intricate woman whose passions ran toward literature and gardening, Jane had managed to put off the renovation for 15 years, despite a flooded basement, a yard mired in more mud than manure, a kitchen she says was "dark and scary and had no view," and an adjacent bath that was so dysfunctional, she used it for storage. During happier times, she had renovated half of the two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath house, which sits close to the road in tiny Norwich, Vermont. As for the rest, she simply stepped around it.

"Today, Jane is surrounded by so much order and beauty that people lined up here for the town's house and garden tour. And she is now often to reflect about those endless microwave meals, the troubling leak in the living room ceiling, or the times she would open her office door "and listen to water, like a waterfall."

"A house can be such a metaphor for a life," she notes. "It's interesting how the health of a house can telegraph your own health, physically and psychologically."

For Jane, who volunteers that a bad relationship had left her emotionally bogged down during those dark years, the kernel of renewal lay buried in a cache of design books, which she had gathered the way a patient might collect cookbooks. One featured the home of architect R. Smith. "I so loved the images of that house," Jane says. "Then I discovered she was right here in this town."

Smith, whose firm is known for tender revivals of rickety old houses, will remember when the first look measure of Jane's old house, which appears in the two structures welded together. The unloved hall included a front door that opened opposite a washer and dryer in a corner of the pine-paneled kitchen, which was not only

VINTAGE CHARM

When homeowner Jane Ackerman produced a "must-have" tailored desk (right), "it was so wide and tall, we had to take her out of it," says architect Pileggi. But at the end, the **NOISE** ABOVE EGG-IT was designed around it. "Having it work out is such a bonus," says Smith. "It was great style—and it takes all the dishes." Town and Providence Hardware



PIECE BY PIECE

The cluttered interior house shown in an underphoto, **DEET** had gained a chimney and a fireplace before the current owner got to work. While honoring the home's historic style, she renovated the front **LEFT** and the back **RIGHT** with new windows and skylights and a porch facing a landscaped yard accented by salvaged stone walls.



FLOOR PLANS

The partly renovated, **LEFT** exterior first house was opened up for better light and then and beefed up with a new foundation and built on throughout. A garage came down, and 640 square feet of living space were added in the office/studio section, plus a back porch and a new garage.



missing a range but also starting for natural light. As for the bath—almost jarring into the kitchen, Smith says, “I never looked inside.” But, she continues, “if you went into the living room, it was clear right away that Jane had a good eye. The things she collects are beautiful, and the space she had dealt with was cozy. I had been driving past the house for years on the way home from work, wondering who lived there. I’d see the glowing windows—it was such an appealing room.”

If the front room displayed tasteful still lifes of hard-bound books and Simon Pearce lamps, the house’s psychomancy lay hidden in the barn, where Jane was quietly amassing salvaged stuff, mostly household goods with their own histories: light fixtures in need of rewiring, worn hardware, quirky old tools, random leaves, even 19th-century tinwareware etc.

JANE SOW HER STOCKPILE less as a reflection of misplaced longing than as a hope chest. Maybe someday she might want to warm up geo-style appliances with a big old cast-iron sink! And indeed, 19 years after she dragged that sink home, there she was, lobbying Smith to design a whole kitchen around it.

Jane’s general contractor, Lou Leskover, was taken aback to hear her suggest using the mast from her childhood sailboat as a soot ceiling. Next thing, he recalls, “we’re pulling it out of the barn and I’m thinking this woman is crazy.” But the mast was easily trimmed to the right length, and, he notes fondly, looks just right with the ancient snowshoes Jane hung over it like sculptures.

“I always ask what makes a job run well,” Leskover says. “One, we liked each other. We trusted each other, and everybody’s input was taken seriously. We had weekly meetings, which are a huge part of a successful job. And Jane has great taste.”

Also useful was keeping an open mind. After tracing the leak in the living room ceiling to a fiberglass shower wall in the master bath, for example, Leskover recommended a proposal from Smith and her project manager, Stephen Branchflower, to enclose a bit of the now, six-foot shower wall over a set of stairs, which also allowed them to give the shower a skylight. “Sometimes you’re a little in a hurry to do something out of the ordinary,” Leskover says mildly. “That was a new use for us, but it worked.”

Ultimately, so did his rebuilding of the house’s sinking side, which he’d originally favored tearing down. After excavating the garage, Leskover plucked out the powder room and jacked up the exterior wall to repair the foundation. “While we were transferring weight onto temporary cribbing,” he recalls, “the structure started to shift. We had an excavator in-house who helped as soon as it up—he used a backhoe with a long arm. That was a little time-saving.”



IT'S PART NATURE
ABOVE: Hand-planted pine, Beechworth, and a star cabinet gilded with pearl egg colors give this installation a long lived look. The star's handle was fashioned from a local mast still left behind by its ropes. **RIGHT:** Early on, the homeowner replaced the living room's 1960s fireplace and added built-in shelves.



FOR NO FOCAL POINT

The design team carved out open shelves for books and collected by the former dead space over the fire, turn it into a case in the living room. The original window moved upstairs to make room for this larger one.





ATTIC REBORN

ABOVE: Homeowner Jane Ackerman pursues designs and building projects in a light-filled studio just beyond an angled stair to the guest room. **RIGHT:** Last Vermont Salvage Project's Dominique Gowing before lighting renovation. Artwork: Ceiling fan: Modern Fan Company; Worktable: Blue Air



The enclosure was there to level the yard and bring the basement to the crew could put in a new foundation and a drain to direct water away from the house. Slog new windows, spray-foam insulation, and a wind-tight metal roof did a lot to improve the home's mood. But the most dramatic change came in the form of a new extension to the footprint, allowing a tiny office, a pantry/laundry area, a studio, and a garage—think of it as the home's residential loft house.

When Jane and Leskovice climbed the ladder to the new attic space for her first look-over, she said, "This is a lot of space for Christmas presents." The team doubled back to add a dormer, bathroom with stepped drawers in the dead space behind the knee walls, and plumbing for a big, salvaged soapstone sink, stylishly paired with contemporary light fixtures.

"There are hidden places when you renovate like this," says Leskovice. "We worked out on opening to the studio with a miniature, angled door. Though we never planned it, and the plasterer shook his head, we tucked in the corner little powder room. I've ever built." He adds, "To put so much into a small house in a nice, organized way is really remarkable. And it's fun to walk through because in every corner something draws your eye."

It is sounds as if Leskovice still comes around, that's right. After virtually living together for 18 months, the three central players became friends. Turns out they were born the same year and had all been dealing with the kinds of obstacles that are thrown your way in middle. "It was really a conscience project for all three of us," Jane says.

The project gave her a stronger foundation in another way, too. "I've become engaged to a lovely man," she says. "We're getting married this summer." As for doing things, "It's not a big house, but we're at that stage where we don't reuse a lot of space—or a lot of stuff." ■



LIGHT AND AIRY

ABOVE: The master bath, at one time a bedroom, has a salvaged tub, a painted floor, and ample light augmented by a new skylight. **LEFT:** Over a shower enclosure spotted by English ivy were the Tub and Shower Storage. **RIGHT:** Before Photo: Leskovice. **Middle:** Before Photo: Leskovice

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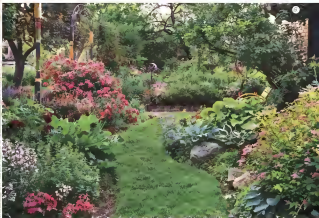
BY JEANNE HUBER
PHOTOGRAPHY DALE HOWARTH
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SOANON
STYLING BY SUNDY HENDRICKSON

PARADISE MADE

Intelligent and eco-friendly plants paired with the same-sensory support net with electric blue color. The garden is a secret safe Q1. All the vegetables of the house, a green path connects between personal beds (3).

LOCATED IN THE CITY OF THE GARDEN, PLANTING IN THE CITY

IN THE GARDEN, PLANTING IN THE CITY



CREATING A SECRET GARDEN

Colorful plantings, winding pathways, and plenty of green screens transform an urban lot that's exposed to passersby on three sides into a private oasis



ON A CORNER LOT In the city, with an alley running along the back, it can be quite a challenge to create private outdoor space. Holly Flanagan knows, because that's exactly the situation she faced when she moved into this Denver home, in 1993.

She didn't really have a plan when she started land-scaping the property, but when evolved could be a textbook example of good garden design. She created a series of "rooms" that flow into one another and yet each have a distinct sense of place. Vine-covered fences and arbors shield various seating areas from the street and the alley but don't come across as unfriendly walls. And generous plantings on both sides of the sidewalk give neighbors plenty to enjoy as they walk by on their way to the neighborhood park.

At first, Holly's main goal was just to create a little privacy and an outdoor dining area. She installed brick paving along one side of the house and at the back, and built a roof over one end so that she could put a table and chairs underneath. Her next project

LOUNGE ACT A wicker pergola shelter is deployed at one end of the back yard so that homeowners Holly Flanagan built will find themselves in the garage. The best looks on her board fence that she shares with her neighbor. Colorful potted plants mark the outdoor space's entrance and soften the structure's bulky support posts.

was the pocket fence alongside one sidewalk. Then she decided to have her upcoming wedding in her garden. But the beloved lawn and vegetable gardens of the previous owners didn't quite suffice for a lovely outdoor ceremony. So Holly's mother, Sandy, came to help put in a large perennial garden with a brick path at the rear of the side yard closest to the street.

"One project turned into another, and I caught the gardening bug," says Holly, who delights in the way her outdoor paradise is the polar opposite of her day job as a chemical engineer dealing with hazardous-waste cleanup. "It allows me to exercise the artistic part of my brain." Before that fine perennial garden was done, she was already dreaming about putting in another.



After the wedding, she did just that, toward the front of the house. But there was more. Because her husband (now ex) was interested in home brewing, she created a little beer garden off the back alley, next to the driveway, with a bar and table seating and a vigorous hops vine that softens the walls and surrounding neighbors. In the side yard, next to a fence she shares with her neighbor, she spruced up a never spot to take an outdoor shower. Directly opposite the hot-tub area, she added a pergola with a corrugated plastic roof and installed a daybed in the sheltered space underneath. "My dad loves me that I can read in outdoors, and I could live out here," Holly says, referring to all the amenities she's put in place.

While Holly was making headway installing her out-

CREATIVE COLLECTING

Holly amassed old clay pots before she realized how fast plants dry out in small containers. So now she displays them mostly on the arched brick wall, perching benches collected together from eBay and units she found in her garage (2). Holly and her mother and gardening partner, Sandy Flanagan, sit on the daybed along with Holly's Shetland mountain dog, Sophie (3). A freestanding stool, Sandy made the concrete brickwork using a giant rubber leaf as a mold. When painted it, the trunk of a fallen aspen tree serves as its stand (2).



Want to see more of these sensational secluded garden spots? You'll find bonus images in our tablet edition—it's free for subscribers! Learn more at thisoldhouse.com/tablet

these long areas, she was also tidying the planting strips between the sidewalks and the streets. These expanses, which are 10 to 15 feet wide, were just lawns, which she had so consistently irrigated, weeded, and mowed. "I was paying more each year to my lawn service even as I was reducing the lawn's square footage," she says. She discovered a solution when she visited a demonstration landscape, or dry garden, now preserved as the most sustainable kind of landscaping for arid climates like Denver's. The garden's drought-tolerant plantings inspired Holly with their look. She decided to copy the idea at her house by putting in one approximately 10-by-13-foot streetscape garden each year and her streetside gardens were transformed. Frustrated by having to dig up the old lawn, she started just covering it with cardboard and piling on alternating layers of leaves and soil. Adding a blanket of fine pea gravel around the plants keeps weeds down and moisture in.

There is still a lot of lawn visible from the street, but it isn't the old thing. To separate the streetscape beds, Holly planted strips of fella blagras, a dark blue-green grass adapted to Denver's climate that grows only 4 inches tall, so it almost never needs mowing. "Finally, after getting rid of most of my lawn and replanting what remained with the fella blue-

grass, I could let my lawn service go!" she says happily.

The rest of Holly's yard isn't a streetscape, but the nicks pride in how much less water it needs than people assume it does, given how verdant it looks. She switches on her sprinkler system a few times each week for about 20 minutes per irrigation zone. "My mom and I have learned that 'drenching' in places close together reduces the need for water and weeding," she says. Conventional arid-climate gardeners agitate plants to dry out, on the theory that it will lead to disease. But in Denver's dry climate, Holly hasn't had a problem. Close spacing also creates spectacular displays, especially when plants are arranged in drifts. "A friend of mine once said that I subscribe to the 'big bang theory' of gardening," Holly says. "My mom describes it as a village of plants all holding hands in support of one another. I think both are good descriptions."

Among the other lessons Holly has learned is not to fight nature. "We are both happier for it," she



SECLUDED SPOT FOR RELAXING

A flower garden with a built-in table is tucked between the narrow alley and the garage. Holly sat the table at an angle to allow easy leaning into the driveway. The vine-covered arched trellis is a handy screen to make the space a lovely secret retreat. (P) Perforated openings in the arched trellis—made from lattice salvaged from an old garage—and in the lattice-topped brick walls offer a glimpse into her hidden world. (S)

THE PLAN

At Holly Flanagan's home, curving paths and porch-post arbors shield the house and outdoor seating areas, as do lattice walls, a breezeway, and tall perennials and shrubs. The streetside streetscape gardens share space with several trees—ornamental plums and a pear, an oak and maples—that also provide privacy. These are indicated here with dots but not drawn, to make the gardens more visible.

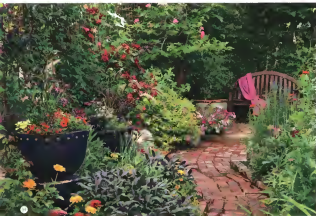


says. "If a tree wants to lean a certain way or a plant moves to a new location or won't leave a location that I don't want it in, or even if it dies, then that's fine with me." She no longer buys grafted roses, having discovered that roses growing on their own root stock recover better after harsh winters. She does, however, try to group some colors together. "That tendency probably comes from me wanting

my possible collection by colors as a kid."

Holly has also learned to repurpose, so garden art, items that might otherwise go into the trash, she used recycled bricks for the back patio and the garden paths and put an old sewing machine base to work as a plant stand. She salvaged iron rings from decaying whiskey barrels and gave them to her father, who turned them into a rare-chase sculpture that hangs from the





FAVORITE PERIOD Orange and scarlet striped and purple hollyhocks are one of the beds at the far end of the property, which is separated from the street and sidewalk by an arched iron walk with climbing and flowers. The Holly planted beds can't require much weeding, as they have little room for tall weeds. Holly loves to sit on the bench at the back to enjoy the view and listen to all passing-by comments on the garden (1).

back of her house. She also came to love and collect superposed-on art from a neighborhood gallery.

For a gardener who started out on a mission to create private space, one of the biggest surprises was the way gardening opened up a whole new set of friendships. Holly had an ardent friend ask if she could set up an arched walk in the garden. "Matt came on her heels, and now we're a group of ardent poets in my garden every year," she says. "As a result, I am now an art collector. And through being on garden tours and taking gardening classes, I have made new friends of fellow gardening enthusiasts."

The garden also gives Holly's mother a way to pass on her vast, mostly self-taught knowledge of

gardening to others. Holly says, "Constant rains during her years, I hear her sit in the garden answering questions from people passing by the garden on their way to the neighboring park. Some even seek her out now that they recognize her car."

Holly says that she herself is shy, so she tends not to join the conversation. But she does love to sit on a wooden bench at the very back of the yard, alongside the brick path. The sidewalk is just a few feet away, on the other side of a clearing and low-covered arbor, so she can listen to as people walk by. "They can't see me sitting there, but I can hear them talk about the garden," she says. "They'll say, 'Oh, look at this,' and 'Can you believe that?'" Holly finds it deeply satisfying to hear how they appreciate what she's accomplished even when they don't need to be polite. "I've also discovered that there is no stopping and gardeners," she adds. "They won't be deterred from coming on in—and that's all right with me."

NO-SPRINKLER ZONE In the planting strip between sidewalk and street, Holly has been gradually converting from conventional law to water-thrifty perennials. This new bed is also planted with colorful annual petunias and zinnias to fill in until the perennials—including yarrow, catnip, manzanita, penstemon, and garden shepherds—become well-established. Behind the picket fence, new and old lavender and sage are planted in a bed of perennials to the garden beside the house (2).



COLORFUL CHARACTER A vibrant mix of plants, including orange and yellow flowers, adds a splash of color to the garden. A large black pot with orange and yellow flowers is a focal point in the garden (3). Behind the picket fence, new and old lavender and sage are planted in a bed of perennials to the garden beside the house (4).

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13 thrifty ways to give your house vintage charm

1 Distress wood wall paneling

- **Cost:** \$66 for an average-size room. As a Premium Eggshell Interior Latex, \$26 per gallon and Studio Finish Latex Gloss enamel, \$20 per gallon. In special narrow cuts, for above.

[illegible]

3

Put beadboard overhead

Not just for porch ceilings and enhanced beadboard adds cozy cottage-style ambience. To ease installation—will-upon-you time on a ladder—choose prefinished-density fiberboard (MDF) planks instead of traditional work-built beadboard. Embossed with a beveled design, the 7-inch-wide-by-8-foot-long planks and groove planks closely resemble the real thing. And once mounted on the ceiling, you'll never know the difference. When working with a flat or prefinished in good condition (like the one shown straight), the simplest approach is to use panel adhesive and nails to attach the beadboard directly to the surface. Cuttings in rough shape require first installing a solid framework of wood framing strips to fasten the panels to. Either way, begin at a corner and put up your first panel, leave a 1/4-inch gap, which can be covered with trim at the walls. Because most MDF planks come preprimed, you need only to touch up holes and apply a top coat of paint to finish your new beadboard ceiling.

• **Cost: \$150 to \$350, depending on the room's size.** *3M Corp./Beadboard Plank Kit, \$65 for 42 square feet, and Liquid Nails Paneling and Molding Construction Adhesive, \$23.97 for a 30-ounce tube; dohertydesign.com*



4

Paint kitchen cabinets in a two-tone scheme

Having her colors for your cabinets suggests an earlier time, when kitchens were assembled from different furniture-like pieces instead of banks of identical built-ins. Consider shades of the same color, or a complementary scheme, with the darker or lighter hue on the base cabinets to anchor the room. A light shade on the upper cabinets can open and airy feel, especially when ambient light is also light, as shown in the kitchen at left. For a long-lasting paint job, be sure to properly prep and prime first, and use a top coat specifically formulated for cabinets. (Get the full step-by-step for painting kitchen cabinets at thisoldhouse.com/bonus.)

• **Cost: \$150 to \$300, depending on the number of cabinets.** *Stain Purpose Latex Primer, \$27 per gallon, and All Purpose Enamel Acrylic Latex II, \$16.95 per gallon, \$27 per gallon, otherwise williams.com/whatsnew*



5

Install a stair runner and rods

Carpenter runners have been cutting footprints while adding color, a tie pattern to bare wood treads for centuries. And when paired with ornamental metal rods that help secure the runner in place, they're an instant classic. Installing a runner on a straight staircase is a relatively easy DIY project if you follow the rules laid out below. In essence, the runner steps of carpeting simply scale from top to step, as shown at right. You must apply to secure the runner at the bottom where the stair or meet the floor, as opposed to the tightly wrapping and securing the runner around the front of treads. (Watch a how-to video for installing a runner using the material method at thisoldhouse.com/bonus.) As the finishing touch, add the metal runner rods, centering and over the runner and securing the end brackets to the tread and over with the screws provided.

• **Cost: \$275 to \$400, depending on the rug and the number of steps.** *Maroon runner or runner, \$100 for 10 steps, from \$7 per foot. www.etsy.com/shop/etsy, \$65 for 10 and \$10 per step from thisoldhouse.com/bonus. Metal runner rods, \$10 each, from thisoldhouse.com/bonus. Metal brackets, \$10 each, from thisoldhouse.com/bonus.*



6

Add divided lights to single-pane windows

To give new single-pane windows an air of old-house authenticity, make your own divided grille for the back of traditional double-hung. Purchase the grille using rope in rectangular stock that's the same thickness as the muntin edge of the casework. This will ensure that the grille is flush with the frame and is secure with the glass. If creating a two-pane design, such as the one shown at left, apply a cable length at stock to the height of each pane and apply to the glass at the midpoint using heavy-duty adhesive. Fasten a corner hook and loop tape around a few spots without you completely remove and reinstall the grille when cleaning the window. For a four-pane or six-pane divided light design, cut into the grille a horizontal and vertical length to intersect so that they fit together like puzzle pieces and in flattening the glass. Use mounting to secure the grille, and adhere the grille to the window glass with the adhesive fasteners. (Find a more detailed how-to for DIY window muntins at thisoldhouse.com/bonus.)

• **Cost: \$10 to \$25 per window, depending on the size and number of lights.** *Square 1/2-inch diameter adhesive, \$10 for 10, from thisoldhouse.com/bonus. 1/4-inch diameter adhesive, \$10 for 10, from thisoldhouse.com/bonus.*



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES



7 Stain a wood floor with a checked pattern

A checkerboard floor instantly plays it cool & slick. During the colonial era, a decorative painted floor was one of the only ever-bare wood. For an updated twist on the tradition, trade painted squares for stained ones. In a dark espresso hue, like the one shown left, start with a clean, freshly sanded floor. Next, plan the pattern by determining what size square tiles you're installing on the top ones so that they result in half elements on all four sides of the room; paper cutouts can help with the design/representation. Use painter's tape to outline each square, marking the ones that won't be stained with a taped X. Stain the appropriate squares using a cloth or brush. Allow to dry and remove the painter's tape. To seal and protect your hardwood, apply two to three coats of clear polyurethane.

• **Cost:** \$110 for an average-size 10x100. *Veronica Freeman-Gel, Real Woodcare, 440 Perryville, 4100 Perryman Parkway, Suite 100, Pikesville, MD 21093 and Pine State Pro Products, 1101 Pine State Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32216*

8 Top wainscoting with a display rail

Sometimes adding character to your home is as easy as building onto the architectural details you've already got. By topping existing wainscoting, for instance, with a deep ledge, as shown at right, the wall paneling does double duty as a display shelf for artwork or plants. If your existing cap rail sits about an inch or so away from the wall, you can replace it with a 2x4 ledge and add a big additional support. And use finishing nails to hold the ledge to the top of the wainscoting after applying construction adhesive to the back of the molding. If your wainscoting protrudes less than an inch from the wall, first install an inch of dove molding to the face of the paneling to serve as a lip to help support the 2x4 ledge. To match the new wood with the existing paneling, paint it all the same color.

• **Cost:** About \$10 for one wall. *Patricia J. Sanderson, painting, 47 West 14th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901*



small touches with big impact



9. Sheathe walls with embossed metal (looking like tile or drapes in Victorian-era houses, patterned metal tiles look like yellowed). Solid, 1/4 by 24-inch panels, it's perfect for creating a look high-waist.

• **Cost:** About \$300 for a 4-by-8-foot room. *Feather-wood and stone, 10000 South 10th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85042*

10. Give a new lantern a verdigris patina. To make an art the sheet porch light look like a vintage find, brush the metal housing with a base coat of flat black or black paint. Then apply several coats of an etching solution. Wait at least three days for the chemical reaction to turn the finish into warm and well-faded green.

• **Cost:** \$27 to \$50. *Interior visions, 10000 South 10th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85042*

11. Use window film to fake etched glass.

Patterned vinyl film can add a period touch—and privacy—to glass entry doors or windows. To apply, clean the glass, cut the film to size, spray the glass with water, and press the film into place. Use a squeegee to smooth out any air bubbles.

• **Cost:** About \$20 per window panel. *Exotic Effects, 10000 South 10th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85042*

12. Dress up a mantel with panel molding.

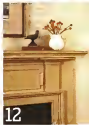
Experiment with different designs by sketching the mold to scale on graph paper. Once you've settled on a look, use a pencil and a straightedge to draw layout lines where the fire will go. Cut the lines to size, lightly sand it, and secure the strips in place with wood glue and finishing nails. Once completed, paint the entire mantel.

• **Cost:** About \$45. *Pepper paint, 10000 South 10th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85042*

13. Add texture to a prefab medallion.

For the look of vintage plaster, cast a urethane ceiling medallion with joint compound that's been thinned with water and a sponge. Once dry, the medallion is ready to install.

• **Cost:** \$30 to \$50. *Modelhaus, 10000 South 10th Ave., Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85042*



Ground-cover

On weekends, we joined our friends to hike the trails, and take the kids to the beach. Here, a carpet-like groundcover fills soft sand dunes along with bordered by other native plants and trees. The dunes are visible

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Reasons to love groundcovers

They save time and money. Compared with sod, there's no mowing, little weeding, and minimal—if any—watering or fertilizing once the plants are established. And unlike with many lawn plants, there's a little need for deadheading, cutting back spent growth, dividing, or replanting.

They're great mimics. When planted alongside lawn, ground covers can give you the appearance of a grassy lawn but with more texture. Small drifts of three or more plant types can give the layered look of flower beds but without the boom-and-bust cycles of annuals and perennials.

They ease transitions. Groundcovers create attractive buffer zones between lawn and natural woodland areas. They also soften the look of paved surfaces when used along pathways, patios, driveways and retaining walls.

They control erosion. Massed plantings tend to slow the movement of rainwater down a slope while the foliage cushions the punch and therus help bind the soil and absorb moisture. Plus, you don't have to worry about stepping as you tend the plants since there's barely any actual work to do.



DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

Knowing how a particular groundcover is classified and how it will behave is key to selecting the right plant for your yard.

CARPETFORMING

Plants that completely blanket areas are the most economical and are great for erosion control. But some can invade a nearby lawn or penetrate beds unless stopped by a switch in conditions—shade to sun, for example—or a physical barrier.

CLUMP FORMING

All groundcovers spread, but those with upright, slow growth tend to stay under control. They work well in small areas or where you want a defined edge, and/or combining with other groundcovers, since each plant stays distinct.

EVERGREEN

Evergreens look good all year but often lack showy flowers. They are best for shading out weed seeds and holding any color in frost right through a frost that unexpectedly awakes when groundcover edges a walkway or a driveway.

LOW GROWING

Plants that are under 12 inches tall are good for tight spaces and are useful for tight spaces and are often used for larger expanses and slopes. Be sure to select varieties with the mature height and spread you want. That way, you won't have to constantly cut them back.

DECIDUOUS

Deciduous groundcovers die back or turn brown when temperatures drop below freezing. But the majority of this group. They offer color and texture—including spring flowers, summer berries, or bright fall foliage.

TALL GROWING

Plants that keep 3 feet or more are best at shading out weeds and are often used for larger expanses and slopes. Be sure to select varieties with the mature height and spread you want. That way, you won't have to constantly cut them back.

Where to use them

Groundcovers are great labor-saving plants for just about anywhere, but here's where they really shine:

1 > lawns

To avoid the green-carpet effect, a groundcover should be used sparingly to shade and spread into the lawn without blocking it. Use only a single species for the most visible effect. The plants must also withstand foot traffic—unless your grounds have just few footpaths, such as the one shown here. Established with low-growing purple-flowered plants, this area appears year-round with an upswing.

2 > gardens

Arranged in small drifts or clumps, groundcovers can fill a lot with interesting foliage and flowers. For the most dramatic effect, plant groundcovers in similar species so they won't compete. Here, a well-tended mix of purple-leaved sage, fine-textured thyme, and mounding Japanese forest grass grows in a flower bed.

3 > hillsides

Drainage makes it difficult to find a good species for hillsides, which are often steep and difficult to cultivate. To prevent erosion, choose plants that root densely and cover the ground year-round. Here, a blue-flowered plant (Sedum spectabile) covers the hillside, with the banks of a stream purple flowers.

4 > paths and patios

To fill spaces between plants and stepping stones, choose plants that stay short and thrive in partial sun or shade. The English daisy (Bellis perennis) is a good choice. Here, a low-growing plant (Sedum spectabile) covers the ground, with the banks of a stream purple flowers.

5 > around trees

Look for shade-tolerant species that don't need regular cutting to look tidy when a tree trunk can block the view. Here, a low-growing plant (Sedum spectabile) covers the ground, with the banks of a stream purple flowers.



BEWARE OF BULLIES

Many groundcovers are listed as invasive species in some states because they spread through forests and wetlands, smothering native plants. Others are locally listed but still creep into nearby lawns or gardens.

Often, plants pose problems only in certain climates. For example, Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii) is invasive in the East but behaves in the West. So before you buy, check your state's invasive list (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov) and avoid these few, which are widely considered to be troublemakers: English ivy, Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica), Japanese stinkweed (Mertensia virginica), Japanese periwinkle (Vinca minor), and Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii).



Replacing a lawn? Don't dig—smother

If converting turfgrass to groundcover, there's no need to dig out or kill it with herbicide. Just cover as low as possible in fall, and cover the area with cardboard (followed by a thick, 1-inch layer of mulch) (see from our online guide: www.garden.com). In spring, pull back several remaining patches as needed to reveal and ready for planting. The lower blanket of mulch will help keep moisture in and weeds out.

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space, with hydraulic cement.

Apply the first coat generously with a thick bristle brush or a 3/4-inch nap roller, and really work the paint into every nook and cranny. After that dries, roll on the second coat. That should stop the streaks.

TAME A HEDGE

Q How should I trim down an overgrown privet hedge and bring it away from the house?

and ANDYBLOCH FLINT MICH

Roger Cook repiles: Unlike most shrubs, heavy pruning on privets should be done in early spring, before they leaf out. The best tools for this job are a hedge trimmer with a 6-inch cut capacity and loppers to remove branches up to 2 inches thick.

Using the trimmer, hack off the top of the hedge until it's 18 to 24 inches high, and clear away the debris. Now take your loppers and go along the back of the hedge. Cut every branch so that there is 12 inches of clearance between the hedge and the house. The pruned won't look great initially, but its appearance will improve as new growth fills in.

To keep your hedge from overgrowing again, trim it lightly in June and again in September.

 REMOVE A FASCIA

Q I need to replace a floorboard. What's the best way to get the old one off?

—AL. BAPTIST LITIGATION UNIT—FALL

Tom Silva replies: First thing: Don't pry it off—you'll bend the deep edge. It's better to remove the fascia's nails with a cat's paw. Drive the tool under each nail head with a couple of hammer smacks, then lever the nail out.

WHAT IS IT?



A-4 Auxiliary
topical: female

► Study

C-1 **Pyridoxal**
form

D - Glass cutter

FOR THE JOURNAL
SEE PAGE 69

A retired hairdresser that a big good change should be introduced lightly about twice a year.

Don't make the mistake of removing every nail as you go from one end of the fascia to the other, because at some point, one nail will swing down and the other nail will pivot up and damage the drip edge and the low course of roofing.

To avoid that scenario, leave two nails near the center of the fascia and pull out the rest. That way, you can hold the board in place as you pry out the last two nails, then lower it safely without harming the roofing.

 WATER HEATER LEAK PROTECTION

My water heater sits on the same concrete slab as the rest of the house. I'm worried that the tank will do considerable damage if it ever leaks. Should I put a pun under it?

—DONALD PAGE, FORT WORTH TEAM

Richard Tratheway replies: Yes. The International Residential Code (IRC) actually requires a pan in locations where a tank leak could cause damage. To prevent overflows, the code specifies that a pan should be 1/2 in. (13 mm) deeper and connected to a

leach drainage that leads to the outside. A pan will also collect water expelled by the pressure-relief valve, should it ever activate.

Retrofitting a drainpipe in your concrete slab won't be easy, but you might be able to run it, without any pitch, on top of the slab to an exterior wall.

Because water heaters have a habit of springing leaks when you're not around, consider installing a moisture-activated shutoff valve, like those made by Flood-Master (floodmaster.com). The valve mounts on the heater's water-supply line and has a moisture sensor in the pan. When the sensor detects a leak, the valve automatically shuts down the water-supply line, preventing a leak from becoming a gusher. It's one of the great inventions of the plumbing world.

Continue until page 100

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

HOW TO INSTALL A HERRINGBONE FLOOR



If you have a wood floor that could use a built-in focal point, try inlaying a section of classic herringbone parquet! It's a challenging technique, to be sure, but armed with the right tools and detailed instructions, you can create this showstopping chevron pattern in the heart of your room.

Planning and measuring are the keys to nailing the pattern. Take the time to "snap" chalk lines, follow them carefully, and check your progress often to ensure a perfect layout. To save you the trouble of sanding and sealing, use prefinished engineered flooring planks for your project.

You'll find all the tools and materials necessary for this—or any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For step-by-step instructions and a shopping list of supplies you'll need, go to theoldhouse.com/project

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Matt Tames of Tames Electrical Contractors explains how to install a bath fan.

Our bath fan doesn't keep moisture off the walls, even if we open a window. Do we need a bigger fan? —BILL JACKSON, OLNEY, PA.

Matt Tames of Tames Electrical Contractors replies: You shouldn't have to open a window! Maybe the fan is clogged with dust. Take off its cover and vacuum out its housing. And, if you can get to the fan's duct, make sure it isn't pinched or blocked. If that doesn't help, it's probably time for a new fan.

You want one with a cubic-foot

per-minute (cfm) rating that's high enough to pull all the air out of your bathroom in 7½ minutes. To determine the fan's minimum cfm, divide your bathroom's volume by 7.5. Go with a higher cfm if the duct run exceeds 20 ft or if a fan more than one floor above. Also, get the fan's number so that it runs for at least 20 minutes after you finish showering and exhausts all the moisture.

The fan I'm installing here, from Panasonic's WhisperGreen line (panasonic.com), has a built-in timer. Finally, compare your energy bills: The lower the number, the quieter the fan. It has an important job, but nobody wants to hear it working.

STEP-BY-STEP Install a bath fan

1. Remove the old fan

Turn off power to the fan at the circuit breaker, and lay down a drop cloth to catch debris. Pop out the fan's cover and remove the screws holding the fan's housing to the ceiling. (With a few of a screw's threads exposed, you may need to unscrew the drywall to access the screws.) Pull down the entire housing and disconnect the wires.



2. Prep the opening

Compare the size of the existing opening to the size of the new fan's housing by placing the housing against the ceiling. If the opening is smaller or has a different shape than the new housing, as was the case here, trace the outline of the housing on the ceiling. Use a saw with a guide to cut along the line with a precise fit. If the hole is bigger than the new housing, you'll need to fill it around it.



3. Insert the fan

Fit the fan into the opening, and screw one of the housing's to the bottom edge into place. If there isn't a post in the right spot, get a helper to hold the fan from below while you attach brackets to the face of the joists from above (see Step 4). If you can't access the fan from above, enlarge the ceiling hole enough for your reach and attach the brackets from below.



4. Fasten the brackets

Up in the attic, extend the two support brackets to the ceiling joist, and screw each one in place on its own.



5. Connect the wires

Thread the electric cable from the bathroom through a cable connector and into the junction box. Remove the box cover. Using wire nuts and electrical tape, connect the fan's wires to the cable's black to black, white to white, green to green, and copper to copper—as illustrated on the fan's instructions. Replace the cover.



6. Attach the duct

By code, a bath fan must vent moisture to the outside, ideally through a duct to the roof or, as shown here, through a gable wall. In cold climates, use insulated duct (shown) to prevent against condensation in the duct. Zip the duct to the fan's exhaust port and to the exhaust vent, then seal the connections with foil tape.

Q The previous residents spread gravel so that they could park cars in the yard. The topsoil below is excellent, but how do I get the gravel out of the dirt?

—SOUTHWEST BULLDOG— SOUTHWEST UTAH

[Ringer Cook replies to You](#)

If the stone is 4 inches or smaller and there isn't too much of it, simply mix it into the top layer of soil using a garden spade or a large trowel.

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versus FieldEdge's e-Series. This info sheet extracted via www.OverDesignPro.com lists Field Edge's External Door with a View, Pinpoint and Midspan-Over-Join-Wire, all over 1000.

ThreeFlux-Copper to Redwood Partnership
(pp 48-52) Architecture and design
Smith & Vansant Architects, Norwich, VT
smithvansant@aol.com General contractor: Lutz
& Leppner/Builder, Norwich, VT 802 549-1327
Cabinets and built-ins: Jessica Woodcock Inc. 90
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doors: Martin Woodcock and Sons, Martin 200

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Ask This Old House (pp. 15-20) Question of the Month: Double-Well Taps, Taps Electrical Connections, Paul and CE 2013-003-0248
Build It (pp. 21-22) Shape Great LED TV (BYVME),
www.paulshouse.com

Save This Old House (p. 108) Thanks to Cary Grant, Danielle had great security. danahelmsbury.com
Rachel Mae AnastaciaFoster.com Community Development Department, City of Danville, VA. ■

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save this old house

Phone: 524-9000
Location: Danville, Virginia
Contact: Mark Willard
434-229-0018

Unique
post-Civil War
architecture!

The history: In the early 1870s, native son William Thompson, whose father was an early settler of Danville, used his tobacco fortune to build this home for himself and his wife, Mary Woodsum, who was determined to rebuild his swayed home. The house had served as a temporary headquarters for the Confederates during the Civil War. He ran a tobacco factory, using his profits to fund the construction of a school for women's college in 1876 and a local railroad a decade later, shortly before his death. After Mary died in 1909, the house went through a series of owners and renovations.

Why save it? The distinguished three-bedroom home is an unusual regional variant of post-Civil War historic architecture. The exterior retains original details, such as the pedimented windows and the cornice which has intricate scrollwork inlays beneath the eave brackets.

What it needs: The house requires new plumbing, electrical and updates to the heating system. A kitchen portion of the roof needs repair. A pending master plan for Danville will likely include incentives to finish returning the house, one of the town's most historic, back to the gracious single-family home it was meant to be. —PAUL HOPE

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1. This 2,750-square-foot house has a wide front porch and is the only house of its size in Danville or Old West End historic district. A two-story porch is behind the main structure.
2. Unique scrollwork inlays underlie the cornice.
3. The home retains most of its original architecture, including a turned wood post door, casement windows and heart pine floors.
4. The living room's oak fireplace surround was likely added a few decades after the original construction.



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