This Old House

14 DESIGNER FINDS you can afford p.40

39 COLOR BOOSTS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME

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#1 secret to a garden like this p.49

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For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

I was taking warfarin. But ELIQUIS was a better find.

I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

1. ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
2. ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
3. Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death

Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious,** and rarely may lead to death.
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and** take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. **Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.** While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding
  - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums, nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine, red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**
- **Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma).** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.
- **Before you take ELIQUIS,** tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.
- **Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain** types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

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

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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Eliquis®
(apixaban) tablets 2.5 mg

IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

℞ ONLY

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss)

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation. Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma). People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS (apixaban) and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation
- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery
- treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) or lungs (pulmonary embolism), and reduce the risk of them occurring again

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you before you have any surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS (apixaban) works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS. Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - chest pain or tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

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

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

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com

Manufactured by:
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
Marketed by:
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Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
and
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New York, New York 10017 USA

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This independent, non-profit organization provides assistance to qualifying patients with financial hardship who generally have no prescription insurance. Contact 1-800-736-0003 or visit www.bmspaf.org for more information.

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Contents

Ways to brighten your home

26 **before + after: kitchen** The right recipe changes a somber cook space into a cheery gathering place

30 **before + after: bath** Raising the roof creates enough room for a light-filled two-part master bath

35 **shopping** Chic subway tile

38 **get this look for less** Vintage industrial lice

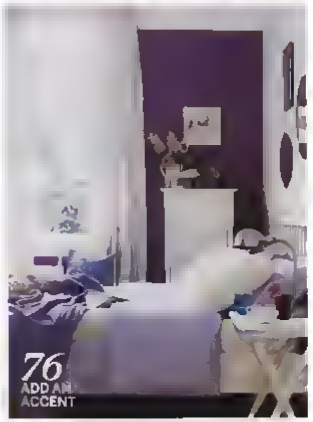
45 **Photoshop redo** Updated color palettes bring an American Foursquare's architectural details to life

60 **bumping up the charm** A million-plus designer enhance the Dutch Colonial Revival's defining traits

68 **get more street cred** [illegible] of curb appeal tips

76 **add an accent** Strategies for giving any space a colorful pop of personality with paint

pp. 24, 25, 30, 35, 38, 45, 68, 76, 78
p. 68
pp. 49, 82



Cover Photograph by KEN GUTMAKER
Styling by SARAH ALBA

Contents

THIS OLD HOUSE MARCH [illegible]

Watch videos and see more photos!
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68 GET MORE STREET CRED

19 HOME SOLUTIONS

58 LET THIS LOOK FOR LESS

35 SHOPPING

home solutions

19 Breathe life into village houses for less; porcelain doorknob hangers; potential lead-in risks; budget-friendly front porch redo; painted stair runner trim partner; and more

upgrades

40 **big-box scores** [illegible]

82 **all about** Shade trees

how-to projects

49 **landscaping** Green up your garden with our guide to feeding plants and soil

52 **you asked for it** How to: Hanging roman shades; window shades

55 **weekend remodel** [illegible]

ask this old house

89 **Q + A** Prune shrub roses; halt ground fault shocks; deep-feed an aging tree; advice for fledgling woodworkers; and more

93 **Norm's tricks of the trade** [illegible]

94 **editor's picks** [illegible]

IN EVERY ISSUE

9 *letter from* This Old House
11 *reader mail*
16 *checklist*
95 *directory*
102 *save this old house*

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The Da Vinci delusion

The editor makes a case for shabby chic

"It's sort of like a palazzo in Milan or Florence," I said to my wife as we stood in the street, looking up at the decaying front of our house: the cracked cast-iron railing, the flaking brownstone, the missing mortar between bricks. What I meant was how the imposing, sometimes dirty, and dinged if not altogether crumbling facades of those Renaissance-era Italian buildings often bid modern and well-decorated interiors (just like ours!) and how that was sort of cool.

She sensed that my over-enthusiasm was just overcompensation and wasn't buying it.

"Yeah, well, you know, Leonardo, the Taos Pueblo is a thousand years old and looks like it was built yesterday because they keep up with the keeping up."

She was right, of course. I once toured the Taos Pueblo, and the guide made a point of saying how the cluster of attached homes looked new because it was often replastered. Our place—from the outside, anyway—wasn't being kept up and did not look so new. In fact, I'm embarrassed to say that unlike the palazzi, which seem uniformly grimy, we had, on the outside anyway, the shabbiest house on the block.

See, my neighborhood has had something of a renaissance of the real-estate kind in the past year, and in addition to the Medici-vulgar—things like four-story additions that use full-lot coverage allowances—there has been the elegant, thoughtful facade restorations sensitive to the 19th-century streetscape. We should have done the same. I just didn't want to spend the money.

"Almost derelict," my wife said, shrugging her shoulders as she walked up our dilapidated stairs to the front door. It was clearly time for a makeover. Not a relationship one, I mean a curb-appeal makeover.

Perhaps you're in a similar position—not making excuses for how a moldering manse could be thought of as Italo chic, but aware of the need for a front-door facelift yourself. Enter our cover story, "Get More Street Cred" (page 68). In it you'll find advice from seven smart redos in seven house styles. While my urban Italianate isn't one of them, you'll surely find a style that's a winner—or should I say *un vincitore*.

SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com

Speaking of winners, our **Search for America's Best Remodel** has begun. Does your place have what it takes, in curb appeal or otherwise? Look for the Blippar icon at right and throughout this issue for instructions on how to enter the contest.

SHARE YOUR REMODEL

to enter your home redo in our America's Best Remodel contest.

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The Old House
35TH ANNIVERSARY

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR

Roger Cook

This Old House landscape contractor since 1982

After more than three decades on air, how do you keep it fresh? Every homeowner has different needs, and every project has different challenges. That's what keeps the job from becoming repetitive. Plus, we have a lot of fun on the set. It's like going to work with four brothers—and you know how brothers are!

What trends are you seeing in home landscaping these days? I'm seeing less demand for the "perfect lawn" and a growing interest in organic vegetable gardening and native landscaping plants that use less water. I'm excited about the farm to table movement and the return to eating more locally grown, in season foods. The key for gardeners who want fresh produce from early spring through late fall is to plant in succession—stagger plants based on their maturing dates. And always set up the garden in an area that gets full sun.

The Lexington Project is airing now. Tell us what landscaping challenges you're facing there. The Lexington property has a protected stream and wetland area in the backyard, so we had to jump through a lot of hoops for the local Conservation Commission, including using proper gutters, a drywell system, and turning a section of lawn back to nature using local plants that will provide wildlife habitat. The other major challenge, as always, is budget. The homeowners would like to do everything on their wish list—lots of plantings, a big patio, a fire pit—but they only have the budget to do "Phase 1." So we've helped them get the most for their investment by focusing on a beautiful new front walk, a very cool granite house marker, a few flowering trees, and plenty of fresh sod in the front yard for their young daughters to play on. The "phasing" of landscape projects is something that happens often in my industry. We've given them a solid base they can build on over the coming years.

One last question: What's your favorite tree, shrub and flower? Kousa dogwood is a four season tree with beautiful white flowers in June, sweet strawberry colored fruits that birds find delicious in the fall, and exfoliating bark in the winter. Summersweet (clethra alnifolia) shrubs feature fluffy white flowers that bloom by mid July, with a fragrance that is attractive to butterflies. And vibrant, fragrant peonies have always been my go to flowers.

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Reader mail

THIS OLD HOUSE READERS *chimed in about myriad topics covered in our November/December 2014 issue, from admiration for the featured house remodel to tips on quieting annoying household noises to the best strategies for evicting furry home invaders.*

Wood's timeless appeal

Like the homeowners in the article "All the Comforts of Home," my husband and I live in an 1890s house with original, untouched woodwork. It has been a challenge to decorate around so much wood, but we believe it is beautiful and worth preserving. So many decor articles feature acres of beautiful white-painted woodwork. Your article affirms for me that there are others who love and appreciate original finishes. I think our home is warm and inviting, and I need be envious of white woodwork no more!

—KATHLEEN SCHREURS SHELDON IOWA

Dispatching mouseguests

The suggestions offered for eliminating mice ["Meet the House Mouse"] didn't follow all the tenets of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a series of preventive strategies to deter pests. The reason mice are in homes is that they find food, water, and/or harborage there. Simple fixes, such as closing off entry points and eliminating food sources, are often most effective. If traps must be used, they should be live traps, released mice provide an important food source for a variety of wild predators, including hawks and foxes. Poison should never be used as it can harm not only humans and pets but also wildlife.

—CATHERINE ZIMMER ZIMMER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT LLC ST. PAUL MINN

Silence the screech

I enjoyed reading your tips and comments in "Quiet in the House!" Re number 4, Growling Garage Doors. I have a belt-drive opener, but after about a year my drive belt started screeching. I sprayed the drive surface of the belt with silicone lube, which dried and stopped the squeaking. That was two years ago and it is still quiet.

—JIM BOOTH BY E MAIL

Puncturing tin cans

I have a tip to add for making the DIY votive holders from empty tin cans [Get This Look for Less]. It is easier to nail the pattern if you fill the cans to within ¾ inch of the top with water and put them in the freezer overnight. Then attach the pattern for the holes, lay the can on a doubled terry towel on your work surface, and hammer the holes. This prevents the can from bending, when you're finished hammering, just thaw the ice enough to shake it out of the can.

—ALICE PLUMMER HENDERSONVILLE TENN

How to reach us

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New York, NY 10020

→ Please include your full name, address and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

HOW TO
INSTALL A LINOLEUM FLOOR

If the word *linoleum* makes you think of grandma's flecked kitchen floor, think again. In tile form, linoleum offers a nice alternative to ceramic, wood, or vinyl, in just about any room. It's colorful, cushiony underfoot, warm to the touch, and hypoallergenic, all thanks to its construction of linseed oil, sawdust, and cork. Best of all, the tiles click together to form a floating floor, so no glue is needed to install them.

Downloadable templates make intricate patterns easy. Before you begin, map out your pattern on graph paper using colored pencils, each square equals 1 square foot of the room. Total the squares for each color and order an extra 10 percent of each.

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

For step-by-step instructions, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

COPD makes it hard to breathe air. ANORO helps you breathe air better.

(COPD is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

APPROVED USE

ANORO ELLIPTA is a prescription medicine used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis emphysema or both ANORO ELLIPTA is used long term as 1 inhalation 1 time each day to improve symptoms of COPD for better breathing ANORO is not used to treat sudden symptoms of COPD and won't replace a rescue inhaler ANORO is not for the treatment of asthma

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- **ANORO ELLIPTA is only approved for use in COPD ANORO is NOT approved for use in asthma**
- **People with asthma who take long-acting beta$_2$-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems. It is not known if LABA medicines increase the risk of death in people with COPD**
- **Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ANORO**
- **Get emergency medical care if your breathing problems worsen quickly or if you use your rescue inhaler but it does not relieve your breathing problems.**
- **Do not use ANORO to treat sudden symptoms of COPD** Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden symptoms

ANORO ELLIPTA is the first FDA-approved product that contains 2 long-acting bronchodilators in 1 inhaler Once-daily ANORO helps you breathe better for a full 24 hours Your results may vary

In clinical trials, ANORO ELLIPTA helped people breathe air better than SPIRIVA® HandiHaler®.*,**

*Results shown in 2 of 3 clinical trials Individual results may vary SPIRIVA contains 1 long-acting bronchodilator and is used to treat COPD and reduce COPD flare ups ANORO is not approved to reduce COPD flare-ups Each product has its own risks and benefits

(Important Safety Information cont'd)

- **ANORO is not for the treatment of asthma It is not known if ANORO is safe and effective in people with asthma.**
- **Do not use ANORO if you have a severe allergy to milk proteins or any of the ingredients in ANORO** Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure.
- **Do not** use ANORO more often than prescribed
- **Do not take ANORO with other medicines that contain a LABA or an anticholinergic for any reason. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take and about all of your health conditions.** Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take anticholinergics, including tiotropium ipratropium aclidinium or atropine
- **ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:**
  - **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine**
  - **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction rash, hives, swelling of the face mouth, and tongue breathing problems.
  - **effects on your heart.** increased blood pressure a fast and/or irregular heartbeat chest pain
  - **effects on your nervous system** tremor nervousness
  - **new or worsened eye problems, including acute narrow-angle glaucoma.** Acute narrow angle glaucoma can cause permanent loss of vision if not treated Symptoms of acute narrow-angle glaucoma may include eye pain or discomfort nausea or vomiting blurred vision, seeing halos or bright colors around lights, red eyes. If you have these symptoms call your doctor right away before taking another dose
  - **urinary retention** People who take ANORO may develop new or worse urinary retention. Symptoms of urinary retention may include difficulty urinating, painful urination urinating frequently urination in a weak stream or drips. If you have these symptoms of urinary retention stop taking ANORO and call your doctor right away before taking another dose
  - **changes in laboratory blood levels,** including high levels of blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and low levels of potassium (hypokalemia)
- **Common side effects of ANORO include.** sore throat sinus infection lower respiratory infection, common cold symptoms constipation, diarrhea, pain in your arms or legs, muscle spasms, neck pain, chest pain

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

Please see Brief Summary of Prescribing Information for ANORO ELLIPTA on the following pages

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ANORO ELLIPTA was developed in collaboration with Theravance

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ANORO® ELLIPTA®

(umeclidinium 62.5 mcg and vilanterol 25 mcg inhalation powder)

ANORO® ELLIPTA®
(umeclidinium 62.5 mcg and vilanterol 25 mcg inhalation powder)

BRIEF SUMMARY

Read the Medication Guide that comes with ANORO ELLIPTA before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This summary does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA is only approved for use in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). ANORO ELLIPTA is NOT approved for use in asthma.

ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **People with asthma who take long-acting beta$_2$-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems.**
- **It is not known if LABA medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA), increase the risk of death in people with COPD.**
- **Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ANORO ELLIPTA.** You may need different treatment.
- **Get emergency medical care if:**
  - your breathing problems worsen quickly
  - you use your rescue inhaler but it does not relieve your breathing problems

What is ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA combines an anticholinergic umeclidinium, and a LABA medicine, vilanterol.

Anticholinergic and LABA medicines help the muscles around the airways in your lungs stay relaxed to prevent symptoms such as wheezing, cough, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. These symptoms can happen when the muscles around the airways tighten. This makes it hard to breathe.

ANORO ELLIPTA is a prescription medicine used to treat COPD. COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ANORO ELLIPTA is used long term as 1 inhalation 1 time each day, to improve symptoms of COPD for better breathing.

- **ANORO ELLIPTA is not for use to treat sudden symptoms of COPD.** Always have a rescue inhaler (an inhaled short-acting bronchodilator) with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have a rescue inhaler, contact your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.
- **ANORO ELLIPTA is not for the treatment of asthma. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA is safe and effective in people with asthma.**
- ANORO ELLIPTA should not be used in children. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA is safe and effective in children.

Who should not use ANORO ELLIPTA?

Do not use ANORO ELLIPTA if you:

- have a severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure.
- are allergic to umeclidinium, vilanterol, or any of the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA. See "What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?" on next page for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using ANORO ELLIPTA?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your health conditions, including if you:

- have heart problems
- have high blood pressure
- have seizures
- have thyroid problems
- have diabetes
- have liver problems
- have eye problems such as glaucoma. ANORO ELLIPTA may make your glaucoma worse.
- have prostate or bladder problems, or problems passing urine. ANORO ELLIPTA may make these problems worse.
- are allergic to any of the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA, any other medicines, or food products. See "What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?" on next page for a complete list of ingredients.
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding. It is not known if the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA pass into your milk and if they can harm your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ANORO ELLIPTA and certain other medicines may interact with each other. This may cause serious side effects.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- anticholinergics (including tiotropium, ipratropium, aclidinium)
- atropine

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use ANORO ELLIPTA?

Read the step-by-step instructions for using ANORO ELLIPTA at the end of the Medication Guide.

- **Do not** use ANORO ELLIPTA unless your healthcare provider has taught you how to use the inhaler and you understand how to use it correctly.
- Use ANORO ELLIPTA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to use it. **Do not** use ANORO ELLIPTA more often than prescribed.
- Use 1 inhalation of ANORO ELLIPTA 1 time each day. Use ANORO ELLIPTA at the same time each day.
- If you miss a dose of ANORO ELLIPTA, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take more than 1 inhalation each day. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.
- If you take too much ANORO ELLIPTA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away. If you have any unusual symptoms, such as worsening shortness of breath, chest pain, increased heart rate, or shakiness.
- **Do not use other medicines that contain a LABA or an anticholinergic for any reason.** Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicines are LABA or anticholinergic medicines.
- Do not stop using ANORO ELLIPTA unless told to do so by your healthcare provider because your symptoms might get worse. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- **ANORO ELLIPTA does not relieve sudden symptoms.** Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have a rescue inhaler, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.
- Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away if:
  - your breathing problems get worse
  - you need to use your rescue inhaler more often than usual
  - your rescue inhaler does not work as well to relieve your symptoms

(continued on next page)

What are the possible side effects with ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ANORO ELLIPTA?"**
- **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine**
- **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - rash
  - hives
  - swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
  - breathing problems
- **effects on your heart**
  - increased blood pressure
  - a fast and/or irregular heartbeat
  - chest pain
- **effects on your nervous system**
  - tremor
  - nervousness
- **new or worsened eye problems, including acute narrow-angle glaucoma.** Acute narrow angle glaucoma can cause permanent loss of vision if not treated. Symptoms of acute narrow angle glaucoma may include:
  - eye pain or discomfort
  - nausea or vomiting
  - blurred vision
  - seeing halos or bright colors around lights
  - red eyes

  If you have these symptoms, call your doctor right away before taking another dose.
- **urinary retention.** People who take ANORO ELLIPTA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Symptoms of urinary retention may include:
  - difficulty urinating
  - painful urination
  - urinating frequently
  - urination in a weak stream or drips

  If you have these symptoms of urinary retention, stop taking ANORO ELLIPTA and call your doctor right away before taking another dose.
- **changes in laboratory blood levels,** including high levels of blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and low levels of potassium (hypokalemia).

Common side effects of ANORO ELLIPTA include:

- sore throat
- sinus infection
- lower respiratory infection
- common cold symptoms
- constipation
- diarrhea
- pain in your arms or legs
- muscle spasms
- neck pain
- chest pain

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

These are not all the side effects with ANORO ELLIPTA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?

Active ingredients: umeclidinium, vilanterol.

Inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate (contains milk proteins), magnesium stearate.

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for additional information about ANORO ELLIPTA. You can also contact the company that makes ANORO ELLIPTA (toll free) at 1-888-825-5249 or at www.myANORO.com.

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ANORO ELLIPTA was developed in collaboration with Theravance.

GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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May 2014 ANR-BMG

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15 Most Useful DIY FIXES You Didn't Know You Needed

1 Silence Squeaky Wood Floors

2 Stop an Annoying Faucet Drip

3 Make Rotted Wood New Again

Find these and more at thisoldhouse.com/video

This Old House

Checklist MARCH

Easy ways to improve your home right now

6 FAST FIXES

☐ **Replace felt furniture pads**
They protect your floors but break down over time. If any of your pads look worn, take time this month to replace them.

☐ **Elevate potted plants**
Place containers on stands to let air circulate below and reduce the chance of rot on wood decks and porches.

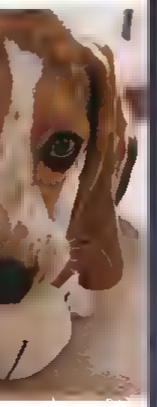
☐ **Make stairs safer**
Add reflective tape to make steps in a garage or an unfinished basement easier to see.

☐ **Recalibrate the oven.**
Use a stand-alone oven thermometer to check the temp, then reset the oven's thermostat following the manual's instructions.

☐ **Schedule fireplace checks**
That goes for gas inserts too. They don't leave behind flammable creosote, but they can still deposit corrosive substances in your chimney.

☐ **Wash away salt damage**
Passing cars can spray road salt onto plants, damaging roots and browning leaves. When the weather warms, hose off affected plants and soak the soil to dilute salt buildup.

☑ **Disinfect Fido's toys**
Pets' playthings are some of the germiest items in the house, thanks to infrequent cleaning (and your pup's lax hygienic practices). To help keep your whole family healthy, run hard or rubber toys through the dishwasher on the HOT cycle to sanitize. Throw soft toys in the washing machine, set on COLD, then air dry. You can do the same with rope toys, just skip the detergent for safety. Repeat monthly.



☐ **Identify hidden leaks**
In honor of Fix a Leak Week (March 16–22), check your water meter before and after a 2-hour period when no water is being used. Any change indicates a possible leak. Look for drips under sinks, behind toilets, or around showerheads. Water-stained walls and warped floors can point to hidden sources.

☐ **Reduce puddles**
Spring's heavy rains, coupled with melting snow, can turn the yard into a swamp. If you have low areas in your lawn, add topsoil to help even the surface and prevent standing water—at least until you're able to plant new grass. Bonus: Tackling these areas now will help you keep mosquitoes from moving in once the weather gets warmer.

☐ **Inspect the garage door**
Garage door–related accidents account for more than 13,000 injuries every year. To make sure your door doesn't crush foes—or worse—pull the emergency disconnect and manually open the door. It should lift smoothly and stay open around 3 or 4 feet above the floor; if not, it may be out of balance, which causes premature wear on the opener and door. Call in a pro to adjust them.

Adjust your lights from anywhere.

Control lights when away or schedule to automatically adjust

Never come home to a dark house again

Dim the lights before the movie begins

Caséta Wireless

Install a dimmer in minutes to control overhead lights or plug-in lamps. Place the remote where you need it for convenience and security.

Control your lights from anywhere in the world with your smartphone or tablet. Simply add a Smart Bridge and download the Lutron app.

Pico® remote, Caséta Wireless In-wall dimmer, Smart Bridge™ and FREE app for your smartphone.

Find out where to buy at **www.ChooseCaseta.com**

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home solutions

Edited by Michelle Brunner

INSIDE | 10 USES | EASY UPGRADE | SPRING CLEANING | HEALTHY HOME | MORE

Unexpected collections

Even the humblest of kitchen tools—well-worn cheese graters, whisks, rolling pins, and colanders, to name a few—can be elevated to art when curated as a thoughtful grouping and hung together. Take the vintage breadboards shown here. With their subtle variations in shape and decoration, and blond-to burnished wood tones, they bring unexpected warmth and personality to the wall. Score them at flea markets or on eBay for not a lot of dough ($20 and up). Or scour your own kitchen for pieces to display. You'll have a wall collage that's anything but ordinary.

PHOTO: ADRIAN BRIGNOLE/PHOTOSYNTHESIS

10 USES

Keys

These indispensable openers—often made of brass—can do more than provide access. Read on to unlock new uses.

1> **Use as a plumb bob.** Tie a key to a string when you need a vertical reference line for indoor jobs, such as hanging wallpaper. Because the key is flat, it will sit flush against the wall, unlike a regular plumb bob, making it easier to check that your work is straight as you go.

2 **Turn them into hooks.** Bend the keys using pliers and a crescent wrench. If keys are old and brittle, you may want to heat them over a gas burner first to make the metal more pliable and prevent them from cracking. Attach to a piece of wood with decorative nails or tacks.

3 **Clean boot treads.** Use a key to dig out caked-on mud from the soles of work boots. The tip fits between treads perfectly.

4 **Weigh down curtains.** Slip keys into the hem pocket along the bottom edge of lightweight drapes that are near a breezy floor register, to keep them from blowing around.

5> **Pop a top.** Grab the edge of a beer or soda bottle cap with a key's teeth and lever it off.

6> **Anchor a balloon.** Tie a few loose keys to the ribbon on a party-ready helium balloon to keep it from floating away.

7> **Create a door chime.** Suspend keys from staggered lengths of fishing line attached along the edge of a narrow board with eye screws. Hang on a door to alert you when someone is entering.

8 **Distress furniture.** Place several old keys on a ring and attach to a piece of string or a long zip tie. Beat furniture with the keys to create indentations where wear marks might occur naturally with age.

9> **Make magnets.** Glue small magnets to the backs of old tarnished keys to add a fun touch to your fridge front.

10 **Donate them to charity.** Send extra keys to Keys for Kindness (keysforkindness.com), an organization that raises money for multiple sclerosis by recycling the metal.

—M. BRUNNER

MORE 10 USES
To find more smart uses for leftovers, scan this page with the Blippar app or go to **thisoldhouse.com/mar2015**

PHOTOS: JOHN GRUEN (KEYS); MANFRED KIRCHHEIM INC. (BOTTA); STUDIO STRING (BOTTOM); ILLUSTRATIONS: (OPPOSITE PAGE) RYAN SNOOK

Surprising sources of potential toxins

Some common household items contain ingredients that could be poisonous if ingested, especially for small children. In conjunction with National Poison Prevention Week (March 15 to 21), here's a look at five things on your shelves that can pose a risk.

Single-load laundry pods
More than 17,000 children under 6 were poisoned—two fatally—between 2012 and 2013 after ingesting or inhaling the contents of laundry pods. These products are small and colorfully packaged, so they vaguely resemble candy; all are coated with a thin, easily torn or dissolved wrapper. Store locked up, out of reach and sight of little ones.

Mouthwash
Many brands of mouthwash contain substantial amounts of ethanol, the same kind of alcohol found in intoxicating beverages. If you must have the boozy variety, store it in a locked medicine cabinet and with a child-resistant cap.

Vintage toys
You may be tempted in a fit of nostalgia to let little ones play with your childhood toys, but playthings made prior to 1978, when lead paint was banned, can be problematic as old-school stuff starts to flake. Refrain from sharing your collection with kids.

Imported spices
Seasoning from overseas adds exotic flavor to food, but imported spices were found to be contaminated with salmonella at twice the rate of other imported foods. Choose spices produced in the U.S.A. If you must use imported spices, avoid consuming them raw; heating to above 160°F will kill salmonella.

Wax filler sticks
What kid hasn't taken an exploratory nibble from his box of nontoxic crayons? With that in mind, note that some wax filler sticks used to camouflage scratches in wood furniture contain arsenic. If you don't see ingredients on the package, plug product keywords into material safety data sheets at msds.com, a clearinghouse for potentially hazardous substances. Never leave sticks where they'll be accessible to curious youngsters, and avoid using them on wood surfaces where you prep food.

—NINA MALKIN

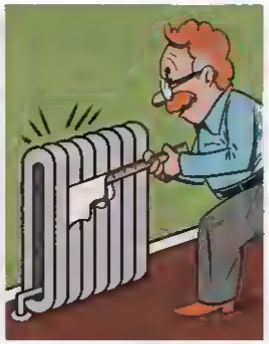
Don't just sit there... DOO something.

When it's hard or hurts to go to the bathroom, don't wait for it to "work itself out." Dulcolax® Stool Softener allows more water into your stool, for comfortable stimulant-free relief.

Dulcolax.
Designed for Dependable Relief.®
www.dulcolax.com

Handle wet gear

Call it a standout spot for rain slicked stuff—one that doesn't stand out. Here, white porcelain doorknobs (find vintage ones for as little as $5 each on eBay) serve as hooks to provide a temporary waystation for wet gear to dry before going into the coat closet. When not in use, the knobs blend into the woodwork. Install several in a row for a perfect place to hang your hat—and umbrella. —M. BRUNNER



Cleaning tips for tricky spots

Wiping down the counter. Easy. Tackling the dust bunnies behind the fridge. Not so much. Face it: some places in your house require almost circus performer-like contortions to clean properly. Here, expert tips for getting the grime out of five hard-to-reach areas.

> BETWEEN RADIATOR COILS: Wrap a dustcloth around a yardstick to get in between close coils. Or use a radiator brush (Brushtech radiator and baseboard cleaning brush, $14, amazon.com). Follow with a wet rag and soapy water. Finish by drying the radiator with a clean rag to prevent rust.

> BENIND THE TOILET: Use a clean toilet brush (not the one you use to clean the bowl) to reach behind the tank. Dried on crusty stains? Hit them with a steam cleaner to loosen the grimy residue.

> ALONG HORIZONTAL BLINDS: For a quick fix, bust out the vacuum. For a deeper clean, pop plastic or aluminum blinds out of their hardware and give them a bath in the tub using mild detergent; rehang once they're dry. For wood styles, use a gloved hand to sweep the dust off each slat.

> ON TOP OF CEILING-FAN BLADES: Climb up on a stepladder and place a pillowcase over a blade, holding it closed to pull away dust. The case will contain the dirt.

> IN BACK OF THE REFRIGERATOR: Dust bunnies on the coils can reduce your appliance's efficiency. Set down a large piece of cardboard in front of the fridge to protect your floor, and wiggle the refrigerator out. Vacuum the coils, then wipe with a damp cloth. —MEGAN BAKER

PHOTO: WENDELL T. WEBNER; ILLUSTRATION: RYAN SHRUM

The end OF THE ROAD FOR GRIME.

HIS MAGIC ERASER SCRUBS AWAY THE TOUGHEST GRIME WITH EASE.

FOR RIMS + INTERIOR + GLASS

Wet before use. Not recommended for vehicle body, painted glass or upholstered surfaces. Use as directed.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

Welcoming front porch for $688

A stenciled floor and punchy new door color give a dull exterior a fresh new look

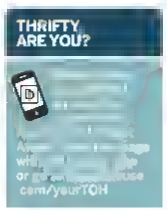
BEFORE Blah brown-on-brown tones made the front porch fade into the background and look one-dimensional **AFTER** The porch's new color scheme pops against the home's newly painted white brick, thanks to the one-two punch of an eye-catching door and stenciled floor. Chrome accessories—door hardware, ceiling light, and extra-large house numbers—round out the look.

THERE'S NO SECOND CHANCE at a first impression so when the exterior of your house is lackluster it can drag the whole place down. Once Dana and Brooks Tucker saw what a difference a coat of white paint made on the tan brick of their Nashville 1980s-era ranch they knew it was time to update the front porch with a new look too. First up they removed storm doors that obscured the paneled detailing on their double front doors. Dana painted the doors bright green for a crisp contrast with the white brick then installed new chrome door hardware including a hexagonal knob. Above she painted the porch ceiling a dreamy sky blue and had an electrician install a new orb-style pendant light. When it came to the floor Dana and Brooks knew they wanted a large-scale pattern so they opted for a ready-made stencil which they had enlarged for an 18-inch repeat. They began by painting the concrete a shade of warm gray to mask any irregularities, then used a brush to layer on white paint using the stencil. The finishing touch large house numbers that friends can actually see from the street. "Before it felt like a black hole," Dana says of the porch "but now it pops. I love sitting out there waiting for my kids after school." —M.B.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Removed the old storm doors then painted the front doors bright apple green and installed new hardware	*$184*
Bought a new pendant light and had an electrician wire it	*$241*
Painted the ceiling added a coat of gray paint to the front steps and porch floor and used a stencil and on-hand white paint to create an all-over geometric pattern	*$234*
Added new large house numbers in a streamlined font	*$29*
TOTAL	***$688***

MODERN MASTERS Fortunate



PHOTOS: (TOP) DENVER HILL; (PAINT BASES) BRIAN HEW; TIME NO. 9 TOTAL STUDIO (OPPOSITE PAGE) DAN BUCHARD/GAP INTERIORS

Brush on a bit of trim

To reinforce the impact of a stair runner, give it a perfect partner

A CARPET RUNNER seems designed to reinforce a staircase's geometry whether it's straight and narrow or takes a turn like the one here. A width of flat-woven cotton covering a set of stairs can endow it with both presence and a whiff of mystery drawing the eye up and around the bend to an unseen landing.

What makes this runner especially effective is the parallel band of paint in the same shade of brilliant orange running right above the baseboard like chunky trim. This extra shot of color adds an unexpected finishing touch paradoxically softening the starkness of orange carpet in a sea of white while balancing the weight of the handrail for a cohesive look.

Wood floors a shade lighter than the banister are still dark enough to ground the space. Ample daylight simple furnishings and a few hits of green round out the picture and make the route upstairs inviting to family and guests alike. —DEBORAH BALDWIN

BEHR Inferno

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

Crowd pleaser

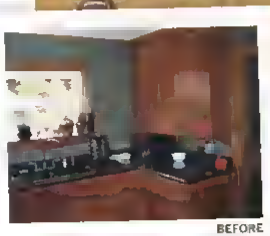
Cheery yellow cabinets and a new open floor plan transform a once dreary cook space into an inviting hangout

BY LISA HIGGINS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN SEUBERT

TIGHT QUARTERS can really cramp your entertaining style. That's why Tim and Wendy Hogan, who love hosting a crowd, were eager to open up—and brighten up—the dark kitchen in their Portland, Oregon, home. The DIYers gutted the room within days of getting the keys to the bite-size 1926 bungalow, salvaging only the stove. "The layout was awkward and the kitchen was closed off from the dining and living areas," says Wendy. Busting out a dividing wall created airiness and elbow room without altering the footprint.

Once the shallow, worn-out cabinets had been scrapped, Tim got busy building new ones of his own design, giving the stacked uppers seeded-glass doors at the very top. Then he addressed the tricky task of spray-painting the cabinets in Wendy's favorite sun-drenched shade, a built-in pick-me-up in their rainy Pacific Northwest locale. Pine floors and a cherry butcher-block-island top lend more warmth. Aluminum casters allow the island to go from prep surface to serving station to suit any bash the couple may host. "It's not a big house," says Tim, "but the new open concept makes it easy to get everyone together."

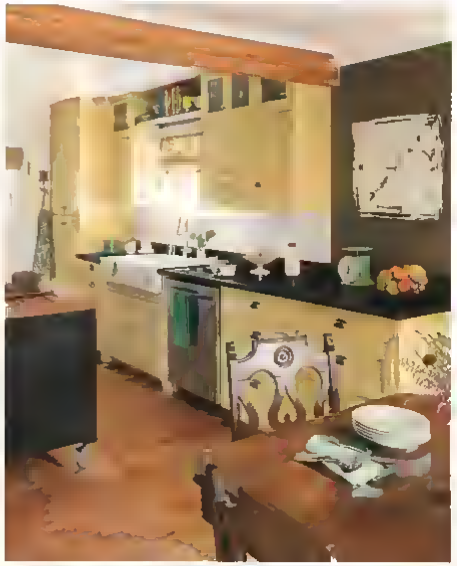
STYLING MICHELLE GRIFFITH • ART DIRECTION PAUL ANTHONY



BEFORE

BEFORE Drab stained-plywood cupboards closed in the kitchen. **AFTER** Custom cabinetry, an apron-front sink, and clever details deliver a high-functioning space with farmhouse charm. *Cabinet paint: Sherwin-Williams Midday*

To keep fresh herbs on hand, Tim installed a 6-inch-deep windowsill supported by curved brackets on the sink wall—perfect for plants. *Pull-down faucet: Moen. Sink: IKEA. Tile: U.S. Ceramic.*



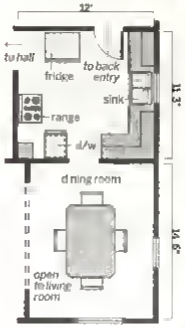
A Douglas fir beam takes the place of a load-bearing wall. The couple tore up three layers of linoleum to reveal the old-growth pine floors underneath.

SHARE YOUR REMODEL

Sc[illegible] with the [illegible] er go to [illegible]use.com/yourTOH

before

A makeshift layout hampered the tight kitchen while a wall closed it off, isolating the cook.

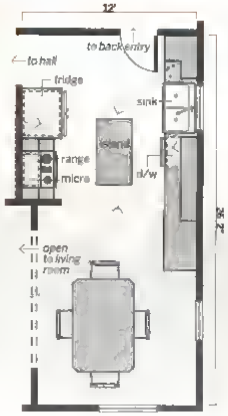


after

Losing a wall and reconfiguring appliance placement turned the same footprint into an open, party-ready space.

1] Moved the fridge—it had blocked the flow of traffic into the next room—alongside the range, which was shifted over.

2] Tore down a wall between the dining room and kitchen and added a beam for support.



3] Added a movable 2-by-4-foot island for extra prep and storage space.

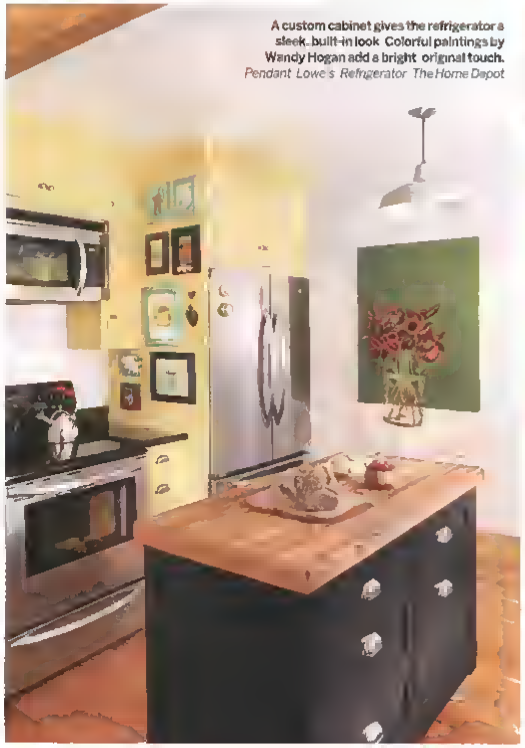
4] Installed a new dishwasher next to the sink to replace the nonworking model that sat across the room.

5] Replaced an L-shaped cabinet run with one that extends into the seating area.

Four-inch aluminum casters make the handmade island portable so the duo can shift it around as needed during dinner parties *Wheels Coolcasters.com*

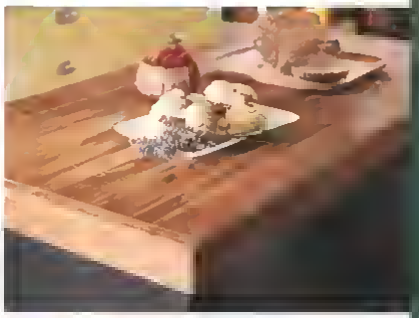
homeowner tip TIM HOGAN PORTLAND OREG

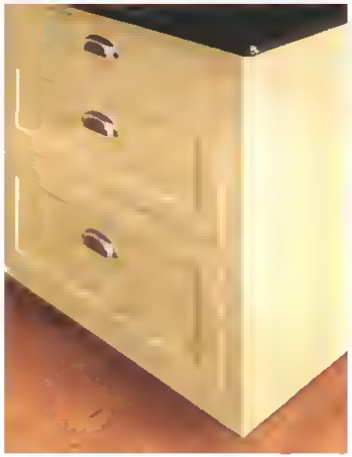
"When spray-painting cabinets, be sure the surface is *very* clean and dust free, and use Flotrol, an additive that thins the paint and prevents drips"



A custom cabinet gives the refrigerator a sleek, built-in look Colorful paintings by Wendy Hogan add a bright original touch. *Pendant Lowe's Refrigerator The Home Depot*

Linseed oil, brushed over the island's cherry edge grain butcher block top brings out the wood's natural color *Island paint, Behr's Stealth Jet*





Tim Hogan designed and built the plywood cabinet boxes with poplar face frames The lower units are fitted with drawers Including extra-deep ones along the bottom to store pots and pans *Bin pulls The Home Depot*

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

Where will color take you?

Ask Sherwin-Williams and discover a new world of color with the very best paint. Visit a store or sherwin-williams.com/color

SHERWIN WILLIAMS.

Upgraded for grown-ups

A children's sleeping loft becomes a piney yet refined two-part master bath full of light and custom-made amenities

BY NINA MALKIN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN GILMORE

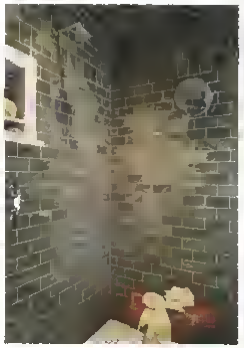
A HOUSE OUGHT TO keep pace with its owners. Back in the early 1990s, when Ann and Doug McMillan started their family, they bought a rustic home in the woods of Hudson, Wisconsin. Used primarily as a summer retreat, it had a cramped first-floor bathroom that didn't bother the couple much. "I'd often shower upstairs in the kids' area and Doug used the outside shower," Ann says. Two decades later, hoping to spend more time in the place, they made a larger, more accommodating master bath a top priority.

Designer David Heide hired on to fully remodel the house, built in 1956. Scenic guidelines prevented altering the footprint, so since they couldn't go out, they decided to go up. To increase headroom in the attic, Heide reconstructed the roof, raising the ridge 3 feet and adding four shed dormers. With ample room now for a master suite on the second floor, walls went up to create a lavatory as well as a separate space for the shower and commode. Local artisans crafted knotty pine vanities and a spectacular skylight with a leaf motif to celebrate the forest setting. "We have lots of room, lots of light, and lots of storage," Ann says. The place now suits the McMillans so well, they sold their home in St. Paul, Minnesota, and made it their full-time residence.

BEFORE

BEFORE Upstairs, bed berths sat under the low roofline. **AFTER** A raised roof with large shed dormers added height and width for a two-part bath suite. Custom woodwork, marble countertops, and unfussy floral wallpaper elevate the cabin aesthetic.

In the shower, deep green mottled-marble tile has earthy appeal. Amenities like a toiletry niche and a mounted shaving mirror lend luxe functionality. *Tile: New Ravenna. Shower system: Rohl.*



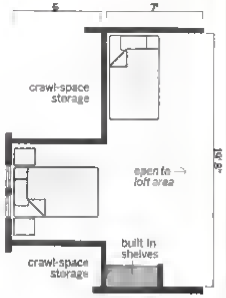
Heated floors, done in basketweave marble tile, and a dry-off station featuring an alder bench with a rush seat keep things cozy. Extending the wallpaper to the ceiling above wainscot-height tile lends an enveloping canopy effect. *Bench: Bausman & Company.*

SHARE YOUR REMODEL

Rip your remodel and appear in our October issue. Scan this page with the Blippar app or go to thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

before

The second floor was an open loft where children slept.



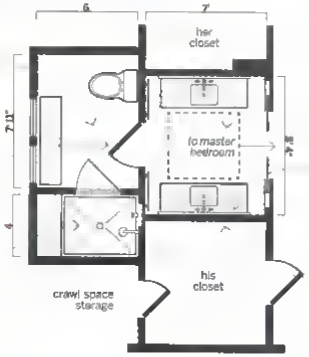
after

A shed dormer raised the ceiling above former knee-wall crawl spaces to provide room for a gracious 130-square-foot master bath.

1] Boxed out the main area of the bathroom from the larger crawl space

2] Erected walls and installed a door to separate bathroom from lavatory

3] Put in a 4 by 6-foot shower with a built-in bench.



4] Installed a large square skylight to illuminate the windowless lavatory

5] Added long mirrors above the vanities to create the illusion of more space

6] Built his and hers walk-in closets on either side of the lavatory

STYLING: SHANNON DALE. FLOOR PLANS: ARWORPOLE

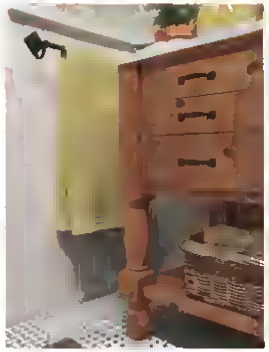
Pristine white marble adds unexpected elegance to the pine vanity. A 14-inch deep drawer under the sink wraps around plumbing to make use of every inch for storage.

pro advice DAVID HEIDE DESIGNER MINNEAPOLIS

"Skylights pair well with face-height sconces to provide natural, full spectrum light during the day."

The skylight can be appreciated by night as well as by day, thanks to dimmer-controlled LED lights that line the cavity. *Skylight: Century Studios.*

A white shade softens the look of wood and iron. The Craftsman-style wallpaper was inspired by a traditional William Morris design. *Shades: Lundberg Studios. Wallpaper: Stark.*



While the knotty pine cabinetry with chunky turned legs was custom made, the iron drawer pulls and the towel bar are off-the-shelf. *Vanities: Frost Cabinets. Hardware: Acorn.*

17 STYLISH VANITIES Check out smart sink ideas from reader remodels at **thisoldhouse.com/mar2015**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

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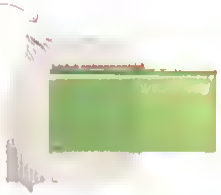
Glass subway tile

An updated material puts a colorful twist on the classic

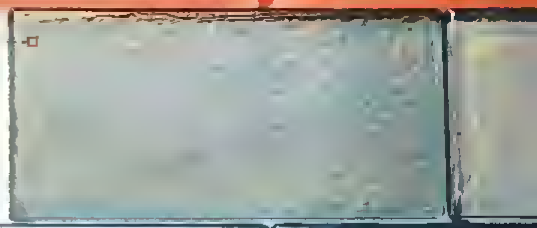
BY MEGAN BAKER + PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEVI BROWN

THE ICONIC 3 BY 6 INCH subway tile is durable, inexpensive white ceramic—well-suited to its original purpose as an easy-to-clean surface lining train stations. But reimagined in rainbow-colored glass, the timeless style takes on a light-reflecting glow ceramic can't match. The jewel-like tiles are easy to install, too—just keep in mind that translucent glass can also show off any flaws in the wall or trowel marks or gaps in the thinset. Hence, a new generation of tiles with white-painted backings hitting store shelves that make adding a dose of glassy color to your walls easier than ever. Here, 11 of our favorite takes to get you started.

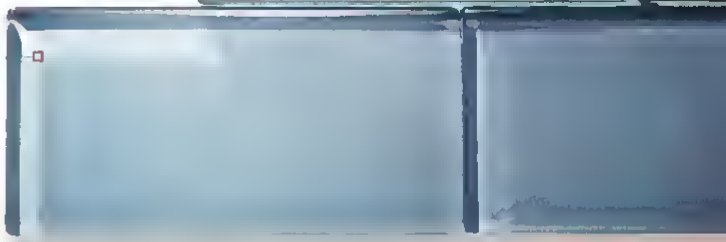
TRUE HUE
Even tiles with white backings will look different once they are installed. For the most accurate color rendering hold tiles up to a wall at the store.



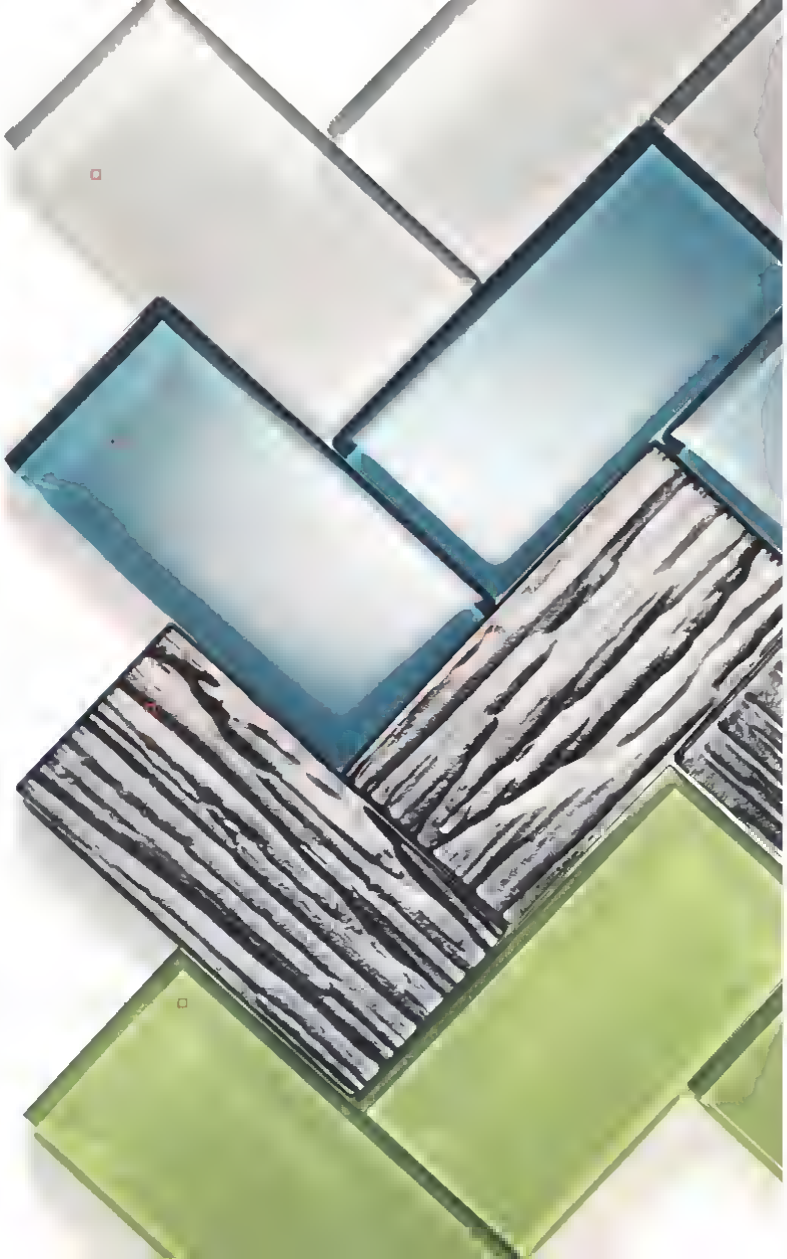
dreamsicle
GIORBELLO
Highlights: Orangey coral perks up walls and cabinets in blue, gray, and, of course, clean white.
Cost: $25 per sq. ft., amazon.com



opalescent
AMERICAN OLEAN
Highlights: An iridescent finish gives these textured tiles a color-shifting quality.
Cost: About $25 per sq. ft., americanolean.com for dealers



falling water
JEFFREY COURT
Highlights: A serene dusty blue makes these an obvious choice for a spa bath, but they're equally at home in a cool white kitchen.
Cost: $9.97 per sq. ft., homedepot.com



soft touch
MEROLA
Highlights: The slightest hint of a blue-gray hue gives these tiles a quiet wash that's perfect for the color-shy.
Cost: $15 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

aquamarine
GIORBELLO
Highlights: Teal can be overpowering in opaque ceramic, but in translucent glass it's elegant.
Cost: $20 per sq. ft.; amazon.com

3-D look
MEROLA
Highlights: A textured backing gives this tile a sculptural feel despite its smooth surface. Dramatic in small doses—say, in a powder room.
Cost: $14 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

spring green
MODWALLS
Highlights: Bright green tiles come netted in a modern stacked design for easy installation. Or cut them apart to make any pattern you like.
Cost: $20 per sq. ft.; modwalls.com

true blue
EMSER TILE
Highlights: Bold cobalt is just right for smaller spaces, like a shower, as an accent stripe, or for making a statement with a full wall.
Cost: $22 per sq. ft.; wayfair.com

heavy metal
AMERICAN OLEAN
Highlights: The shimmering textured metallic surface offers some glitz, but a sophisticated gunmetal hue keeps it grounded.
Cost: About $25 per sq. ft.; americanolean.com for dealers

ocean view
TILE BAR
Highlights: The frosted surface has a softer look that channels tumbled sea glass.
Cost: $17 per sq. ft.; tilebar.com

vintage hue
TILE BAR
Highlights: Reminiscent of Depression-era green glass, this tile strikes a nostalgic note.
Cost: $17 per sq. ft.; tilebar.com

Vintage-industrial office

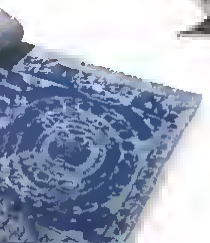
Salvaged storage pieces, typographic touches, and calming blue accents give this space hardworking charm

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS • PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTIAAN BLOK

THERE'S NO REASON a home office can't be as cool as it is functional. Take this room designed by homeowner Kim Rawlins, owner of the Sweet Salvage monthly market, in Phoenix. "I always go for items that tell a story," says Rawlins of her buying philosophy. To that end, she filled her home workspace with graphic finds—vintage clocks, weathered signs, even a wing chair partially upholstered with a canvas bus roll purchased in the U.K. Hard-wearing furniture—salvaged factory shelves, a hairpin-leg desk—give off an industrial vibe. Rawlins also added touches of indigo in the form of vintage seltzer bottles, a throw, and a plush rug. "When you stay with a neutral palette and have that color pop, it's dramatic but soothing at the same time," she says. To assemble a similar space at your house, read on.

industrial shelf
Modeled on wheeled 19th-century baker's racks, this pine-and-iron version strikes the same rustic note as the homeowner's vintage find. $323, allmodern.com

desk clocks
Wind-up Big Bens debuted in 1909. These modern models echo the oldies at right. From left: $40, llbean.com; $14, lifeandhome.com; $22, overstock.com



indigo rug
Rawlins's suzani-inspired wool rug provides needed color—not to mention softness underfoot. From $399 for a 3- by 5-foot rug, potterybarn.com

bus-roll upholstery
We asked custom fabric maker Spoonflower to create a pattern reminiscent of a canvas sign with British bus stops writ large. From $18 per yard, spoonflower.com

seltzer siphons
"When the sun hits, they bring an extra element of sparkle," says Rawlins of her flea-market bottles. We got these on eBay for $30 and $40 each.

station clock
An oversize metal and wood timepiece adds major typographic interest. $108, wayfair.com

metal letter
Make your mark with a distressed metal initial or two. $15, homegoods.com for stores

fringed throws
The multiple hues in these acrylic wraps help bring the other blues in the room together. From left: $41, allmodern.com; $58, lampsplus.com

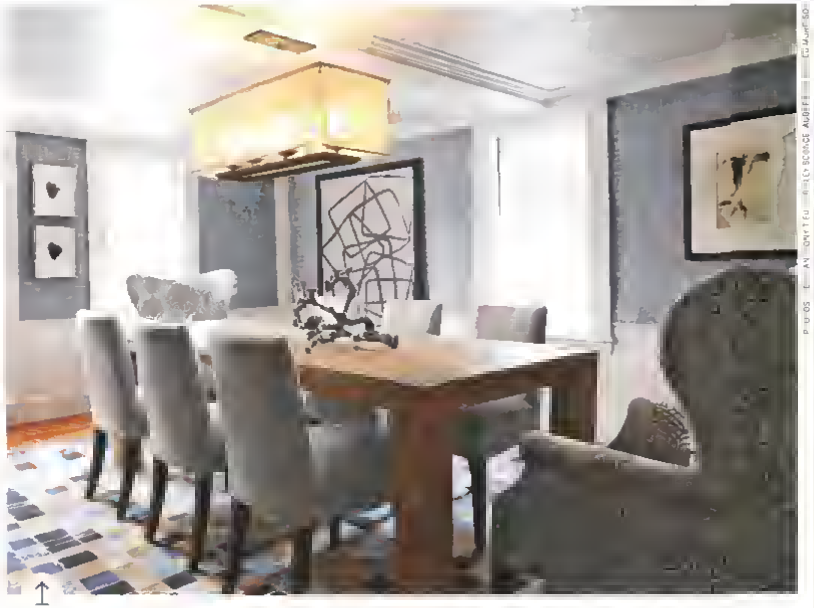
pharmacy lamp
A telescoping steel body and swiveling shade make this a go-to choice for an office. Just aim the beam where it's most needed. $99, ballarddesigns.com

hairpin-leg desk
You could add iron hairpin legs to a slab of reclaimed wood, as Rawlins did. Or opt for this sturdy wood-grain finished workstation with teal metal legs. $83, amazon.com

Designers' favorite basics

These days, even tastemakers shop big-box retailers for well-designed, well-made (and well-priced!) fixtures, fittings, and furnishings that are always in stock—and in style. Here, some go-to buys from four of our favorite pros BY AMY R. HUGHES

Dee Elms
Principal with Terrat Elms Interior Design in Boston. Elms has brought a clean, lined and comfortable aesthetic to multiple *This Old House* TV project houses



PHOTOS: [illegible]

big sur dining table CRATE AND BARREL
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "It's a substantial table that feels good to the touch. It's like an old harvest table but with a streamlined look that's fit for a casual summer cottage or a contemporary great room."
THE DETAILS: Made in the same family-run factory for more than 12 years, this wax-finished white-oak table has heartwood legs and comes in two sizes. From $1,799, crateandbarrel.com

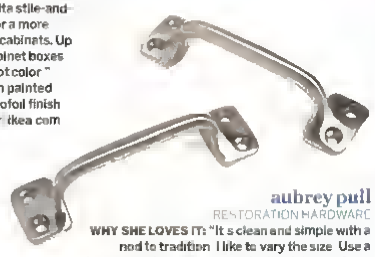
newbury with multicolor shade SCHOOLHOUSE ELECTRIC & SUPPLY CO.
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "It's a classic ceiling-mount fixture, yet paired with the painted glass shade it feels updated and fun. The banding adds great color over a kitchen sink or in a powder room."
THE DETAILS: Handcrafted in the U.S.A. at heavy-gauge brass, the base's stepped design evokes Art Deco lighting from the 1930s. 4-inch fixture, $164, schoolhouseelectric.com

celina floating rail bed MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "The headboard is so sleek, with the slightest camelback hump in the middle and handsome nailhead trim. I let it be the star in the room, and have everything else recede. For a neat appearance, tuck in the bedding so you can see the rails. Then punch it up with a throw pillow in the same shade as the upholstery."
THE DETAILS: Made in the U.S.A. in 11 shades of velvet, plus custom leathers and linens. From $2,575, mgbwhome.com

ripley sconce KICHLER
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "It's an outdoor light that works well in a bathroom, where you have a lot of moisture. Put two over a vanity mirror. The style is rustic but with modern lines and a geometric quality."
THE DETAILS: Made of all-weather aluminum with a bronze finish, the sconce is a fresh take on Arts and Crafts lighting from the early 1900s. Comes in three sizes. $77 for the 7½-inch-high model (shown), lumens.com

Amy A. Alper
An architect in Sonoma, California, Alper is known for creating farmhouse-style spaces with a contemporary vibe

adel cabinet door IKEA
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "It's a simple white stile-and-rail design that'll never look dated. For a more custom look, I use it only on the base cabinets. Up top, I do open shelves or use open cabinet boxes and paint the insides to add a splash of color."
THE DETAILS: This top seller comes in painted solid birch or fiberboard with a thermofoil finish (shown). $34 for a 15-by-15-inch door, ikea.com

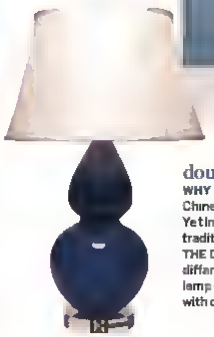


aubrey pull RESTORATION HARDWARE
WHY SHE LOVES IT: "It's clean and simple with a nod to tradition. I like to vary the size. Use a larger one, for instance, on the fixed drawer front below the sink so you can hang a towel on it."
THE DETAILS: Patterned after an old window sash lift, this solid-brass pull comes in four sizes and finishes. $10 for the 3½-inch pull in polished nickel (shown), rh.com

Paige McClellan
Interior designer at Niche Furnishings + Design in St Louis McClellan creates eclectic interiors that mix modern and traditional styles.

archer pedestal sink KOHLER

WHY SHE LOVES IT "One of the most versatile pedestals it goes with Arts and Crafts and Art Deco interiors and has a remarkably wide flat deck that can function as a countertop It s perfect in a powder room where space for toiletries is limited."
THE DETAILS: This vitreous-china sink has chamfered edges borrowed from Craftsmen style millwork and comes in 10 colors $241 in white (shown), lowes.com

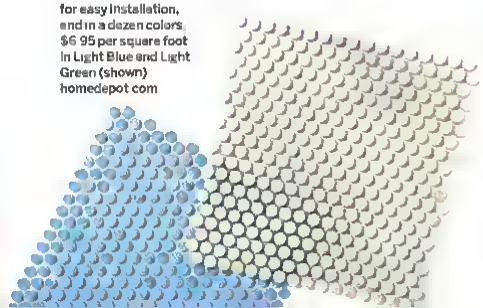


double gourd table lamp ROBERT ABBEY

WHY SHE LOVES IT "The shape is inspired by antique Chinese porcelain—you can t get more classic than that Yet in a vibrant color with a Lucite base rather than a traditional brass one it can look poppy and modern "
THE DETAILS Available in two sizes 24 colors and different base and shade options this glazed ceramic lamp is made to order in North Carolina 30-inch lamp with duponi shade (shown) $299 yaghting.com

penny-round tile MEROLA

WHY SHE LOVES IT. "Penny rounds work with so many room styles depending on the color and how you install them White ones on a kitchen backsplash or bathroom floor have a vintage look but bright turquoise ones going all the way up an accent wall feel contemporary"
THE DETAILS: These ¾ inch porcelain mosaic wall and floor tiles come with a mesh backing for easy installation, and in a dozen colors $6 95 per square foot In Light Blue and Light Green (shown) homedepot com

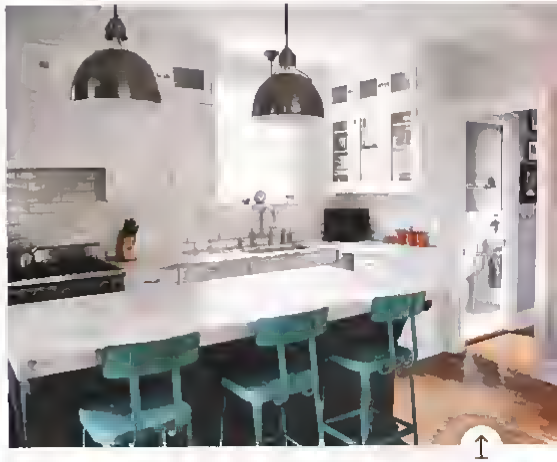


bungalow bar cabinet pull HICKORY HARDWARE

WHY SHE LOVES IT "The raised facets make this pull a little decorative but not fussy I use it to add dimension to simple Shaker style shte-and rail cabinet doors."
THE DETAILS: This sturdy 3 inch zinc pull comes in six finishes $5.91 in oil-rubbed bronze (shown) build com

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

Rebekah Zaveloff
As co owner of KitchenLab, in Chicago Zaveloff's signature is timeless kitchens and baths that not only look good but also function well.



all-welded stool LYON

WHY SHE LOVES IT "It's hard to find good counter height kitchen stools that are comfortable This fits the bill and is affordable too I like to have a few powder-coated in a custom color for a fun accent."
THE DETAILS: Made in the U S A by a century-old company that manufactures workplace and industrial storage products, the steel stool has a backrest, a perforated seat for ventilation and rubber feet for stability $155 for two 26-inch high stools amazon com

framed medicine cabinet RESTORATION HARDWARE

WHY SHE LOVES IT "Beveled glass and an exposed piano hinge give it a vintage feel and the frame looks hand-forged It s solidly built of stainless steel so it wears well in a moist bathroom "
THE DETAILS: The recessed cabinet with adjustable tempered-glass shelves comes in two sizes and can be installed to open on the left or right $630 in small (shown) rh.com

fortune mirror UTTERMOST

WHY SHE LOVES IT "It falls somewhere between Hollywood Regency and Art Deco yet feels very current. The mirrored frame provides lots of reflective surfaces to bounce light around a bath bedroom or entry "
THE DETAILS Once to the trade only this 34-inch design can now be found online $327 bedbathand beyond com

key wool dhurrie rug WEST ELM

WHY SHE LOVES IT "The pattern and color really pop, and the price is great for a natural fiber rug The flat weave is so durable and easy to clean—I use it in high traffic areas like under a breakfast table "
THE DETAILS. These handwoven Fair Trade-certified wool and cotton rugs are made to order in 14 colors and sizes $179 for a 3-by 5-foot rug westelm.com

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From all white to all wow

Three fresh paint palettes enhance the lines of an American Foursquare BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS • ILLUSTRATIONS BY DRAWGATE INC.

BEFORE

"EVERY HOUSE on our street is white," Jamie Barwegen says of the 1910 home she shares with her husband and their two boys, in Watseka, Illinois. "We want ours to stand out!" To give them some ideas, we turned to Bonnie Krims, an architectural-color consultant based in Massachusetts.

"To me, the house looks dirty in plain white—tired and dated," says Krims. Because the Foursquare's simple architectural details can get lost, Krims modernized three historical color palettes to help them pop. In the warm yellow version at right, subdued blue accent colors highlight the house's latticed window muntins and new shutters. "You wouldn't ordinarily see shutters on a Foursquare, but they add polish," Krims says.

"Wow," Jamie says. "We can't believe that's our house! It looks so much warmer and more welcoming now. We're in love."

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PHOTOS (PAINT DAVIS) BRIAN HENRY; ILL. COURTESY STUDIO

palettes

Here are three updated paint schemes that emphasize a Foursquare's charms

1 2 3 4

soft yellow "There are a lot of yellow houses out there, but this color is particularly warm," Krims says of the body hue above. She picked a creamy white for the trim and two similar shades of gray-blue for the fascia, windows, and doors. "You don't see too many yellow houses with blue window frames, so that adds instant visual interest," she says. Paint: Valspar's Jekyll Crane Cottage Yellow (1), Royal Gray (2), Mystique (3), and Retro-Colonial Blue (4)

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cool blue The Berwegens wanted to see their Foursquare with a blue body, so Krims compiled, choosing a hue she calls "pleasant—not too light, not too dark." Creamy off white and sage green trim colors accent the porch columns and window trim. "The black shutters make for a nice contrast," Krims says. Paint: Glidden's Shady Blue (1), Muir Woods (2), Oyster Shell (3), and Black (4)

1 2 3 4

olive green "Sage is overdone as a body color in my book," Krims says. "This green has more yellow in it, so it's lively." She chose a bold tan hue for the window trim and contrasting deep red for the door. "No matter which palette they pick, their house will stand out as something different," Krims says. Paint: Behr's Seedling (1), Honey Tea (2), Coastal Beige (3), and Rumors (4)

1 2 3 4

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

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Family life. Simplified. COZI

The need to feed

For a knockout garden, you've got to serve up the right nutrients in the right proportions. Call it menu planning for your plants

BY KATE KARAM • ILLUSTRATIONS BY EVA VÁZQUEZ

NO MORE spotty turf, skimpy blooms, or stingy vegetable plants. If that's your mission, you're not alone! Homeowners spent over $6 billion on fertilizers in 2013. But randomly adding fertilizers won't produce a beautiful bounty; both plants and soil require a nutrient-rich diet targeted to their needs. Ahead, we answer your questions, troubleshoot problems, and guide you toward the ideal mix for your lawn, flowers, veggies, shrubs, and trees. You'll learn what to sprinkle, spray, mix in, and spread around for a garden that's the envy of the neighbors.

Q: How do fertilizers and soil amendments differ?

A: Fertilizers, which can be organic (e.g., bone meal) or chemical (such as superphosphate), provide nutrients directly to plants, especially nitrogen (N) to fuel leaf and stem growth, phosphorus (P) to stimulate root growth and seed formation, and potassium (K) to promote flowering and fruiting. Amendments, such as peat moss, animal manures, and compost, indirectly impact plants by improving the structure, texture, and microbial activity of soil. A top layer of organic mulch, such as pine bark, to conserve moisture and deter weeds, also feeds the soil as it decomposes. Used together, these can all help deliver the right nutrient balance to your garden.

Q: All my plants seem to struggle. What should I add?
A: First feed your soil Top dressing beds with several inches of well aged compost in spring and fall will increase soil s ability to hold nutrients and water make it fluffier and stimulate microbial action Once you ve improved the soil fertilizers—as indicated by a soil test—will fill in any deficiencies and give your plants a shot in the arm

Q: Do I really need a soil test?
A: Don t guess Test At about $15 it s the smartest garden investment you can make Obtain a kit through a university extension service (such as soiltest umass edu) and get results in about a week The analysis will provide exact recommendations for nutrients Retest every five years or so

Q: What do the numbers on the fertilizer label mean?
A: The set of numbers on the label known as the fertilizer grade guarantees the actual percentage by weight of nitrogen phosphorus (a k a phosphate) and potassium (a k a potash) collectively referred to as N-P K For example a label reading 21-7-14 means the product is 21 percent nitrogen 7 percent phosphorus and 14 percent potassium the other 58 percent is filler like clay that helps with even distribution and prevents chemical burn The N-P K numbers will help you pick the best combination of nutrients to address deficiencies See Wrangling your ratio " below to find the fertilizer grade that your soil test report recommends

Q: Does it matter if I buy synthetic or organic nutrients?
A: Yes depending on whether you need a quick fix for a failing plant or hope to enrich your soil long term Synthetic fertilizers are primarily water soluble and fast acting They can green up a lawn or revive a severely slumping plant in as little as a few days but will do little to improve soil texture or fertility for future growing seasons Organic fertilizers generally break down over a period of months or even years to stimulate beneficial soil microorganisms and improve soil structure "Bottom line building healthy soil with organic fertilizers and compost is the better choice for the long term health of your garden " says horticulturist Lee Reich Ph D author of Grow *Fruit Naturally*

Wrangling your ratio

Convert the data from your soil test into numbers your garden can use

So you've had a soil test and received a report on how to correct nutrient deficiencies Now you need to convert the recommendation, which is given in pounds per area, to the ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium that will best suit your needs To calculate the ratio, divide the weight of each of the three nutrients (N-P-K) by the nutrient with the lowest weight For example, if your recommendation is for fertilizer composed of 1.5 pounds of nitrogen, 0.5 pound of phosphorus, and 1 pound of potassium, divide all those numbers by 0 5 The result? A ratio of 3-1-2 Purchase fertilizer with a label that most closely corresponds to that ratio, such as 9-3 6

1.5 LB *nitrogen*	÷ 0.5	=	3	
0.5 LB *phosphorus*	÷ 0.5	=	1	= RATIO 3-1-2
1 LB *potassium*	÷ 0.5	=	2	

What exactly is plaguing your plants?

Identify nutrient deficiencies in your garden and fight back with appropriate fixes

Bottom leaves turn yellow

OTHER SYMPTOMS Newest leaves are pale green yellowish, spindly stems slow growth
DEFICIENCY Nitrogen—it depletes faster than other nutrients
SOLUTION Apply high nitrogen fertilizers such as cottonseed meal or ammonium sulfate Add organic aged compost or well aged manure for a steady release of nitrogen

Leaves turn reddish-purple

OTHER SYMPTOMS Small stunted leaves foliage may appear burned at the tips older leaves may become dark green Reduced fruit or seed production
DEFICIENCY Phosphorus
SOLUTION Dig in fertilizers such as greensand (a mineral also called glauconite) or superphosphate The ideal time to add high phosphorus fertilizers critical for seedling root development and early growth is before planting as indicated by a soil test If plants show symptoms midseason side dress (apply fertilizer around the base of plants) with additional fertilizer

Scorched and/or wilted leaf edges

OTHER SYMPTOMS Yellowing between the leaf veins (called interveinal chlorosis) slow growth poor flowering or fruiting
DEFICIENCY Potassium
SOLUTION If symptoms appear during the growing season spray all leaves and stems weekly with a liquid fertilizer like fish emulsion until plant recovers Potassium unlike nitrogen isn t mobile in the soil If a soil test indicates a deficiency address the upper levels of soil by side dressing with manure or greensand in fall

The do-it-right garden diet

Vegetables and annuals are particularly vulnerable to nutrient deficiency while trees and shrubs fare better on less food. Here, the whats, whens and hows of getting your plants to their peak

PERENNIALS> Eschew high nitrogen fertilizers because they promote excess foliage at the expense of flowers and roots cause floppy stems and can increase disease susceptibility Annual or semi annual applications of aged manure or finished compost will restore trace elements while improving soil texture and water retention
WHAT Low nitrogen high phosphorus slow release fertilizer (like Garden Food by Espoma $7 for a 6 75-lb bag midlandhardware com)
WHEN With proper soil prep many perennials will be happy with one early spring application of fertilizer
HOW Broadcast throughout beds or side dress in the general root zone of each plant

TURF> Manufacturers have made it pretty mistake proof so a product labeled lawn fertilizer ought to have the right mix of ingredients Bulk up nutrients by raking a few inches of compost into turf in the fall This will nourish roots and make a lawn stronger and greener " says *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook. "Aerate the lawn first to get the compost down where it will do the most good "
WHAT An all purpose fertilizer with a 3-1 2 ratio or a specialty lawn food (like Ringer Lawn Restore $32 for a 25 lb bag midlandhardware com)
WHEN Twice a year once in late spring and once in early fall
HOW Use a broadcast spreader to prevent patchy spots and odd growth patterns

TREES AND SHRUBS> To encourage lateral root growth avoid fertilizing trees or shrubs in their first growing season Established shade trees and shrubs may get the nutrients they need from the soil decomposing leaves or lawn fertilizers applied around them As long as a tree or shrub is healthy and vigorous There s probably no need for additional fertilizers However competing trees and shrubs that put out little new growth but are otherwise healthy can benefit from a once yearly dose of fertilizer to promote root growth
WHAT A slow release granular nitrogen fertilizer (like Nursery Plus by Shultz $10 for a 3 5 lb bag amazon com)
WHEN Early spring or autumn
HOW Broadcast within a tree s or shrub s root zone (the area from the trunk outward past the outermost branches)

ANNUALS AND VEGETABLES> Since we ask these plants to pump out lush flowers and premium produce throughout a very short season they gobble up nutrients at a rapid rate even fertile soil will likely need a boost Begin with a soil test as many vegetables require specific nutrients correct deficiencies per test recommendations and add several inches of amendments such as compost to soil
WHAT A balanced fertilizer (try Osmocote Flower and Vegetable 14 14 14 $14 for a 5-lb box lowes com) or Hi Yield Bone & Blood Meal ($8 for a 3 lb bag newegg com)
WHEN Six weeks after the last spring frost for both annuals and vegetables
HOW If planting in rows mix in fertilizer while preparing soil For individual plants add fertilizer to the bottom of the planting hole

CONTAINER PLANTS> Plants in pots need regular fertilizing because available nutrients are quickly utilized or leached out by frequent watering
WHAT Fresh potting soil which provides adequate nutrients but should be

supplemented during the growing season with a balanced slow-release fertilizer (like All Purpose Fertilizer $7 for a 1-lb can gardeners com)
WHEN Every four to six weeks during the growing season
HOW Side-dress scratch in with a trowel

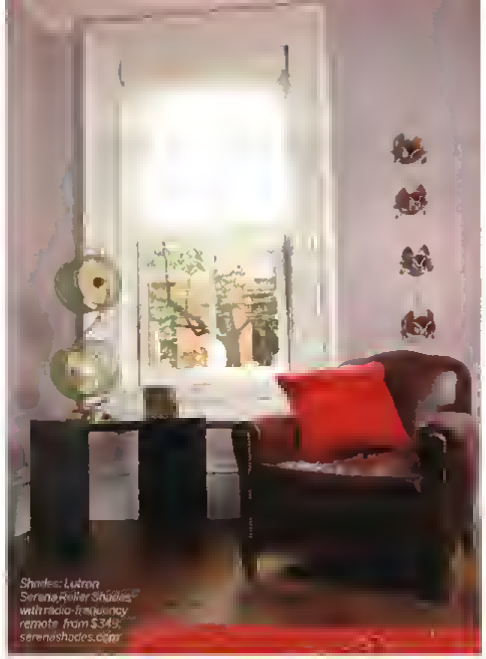
ROSES> The secret to healthy roses is great soil 4 inches of mulch in the spring and even regular watering "More roses die from too much or too little water than from over- or underfertilizing" says Tom Carruth who oversees some 1 200 rose varieties at the Huntington Library Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California Roses feed heavily on nitrogen which must be replenished even in rich, fertile soil Carruth also advises spraying liquid kelp emulsion on leaves between feedings Planting roses in a berm (a rounded mound) promotes warmer soil and better drainage
WHAT Rather than traditional rose food Carruth uses nitrogen-rich Scotts Natural Lawn Food (11 2 2) a slow release organic formula ($23 for a 29 lb bag lowes com)
WHEN Once new leaves emerge after spring pruning and again after the first flush of flowers All fertilizing in Zones 1–7 should stop in late July in warmer zones The last feeding is early September
HOW Broadcast dry as if you were feeding chickens spray liquid emulsion onto the whole plant including leaves ■

HAVE A LOVELY YARD?

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

How to install remote-control window shades

Grab a few kitchen-drawer tools and some D-cell batteries, then presto BY ERIC HAGERMAN

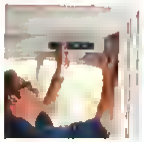


Shades: Lutron Serena Roller Shades, with radio-frequency remote, from $34.9; serenashades.com

IN ONE OF OUR POPULAR Facebook discussions recently, a number of folks wanted to know how to hang shades (we're talking about you, Sheena Simone!), so we thought we'd break it down. And we went a step further by using a unique type of shade from Lutron, called Serena. It houses D-cell batteries in the core of the roller, allowing you to operate the shade with a nifty little remote. The batteries mean you don't need an electrician for the install—just the following instructions.

Serena shades step-by-step

1. MEASURE AND ORDER
For each window opening, measure the width at the top, middle, and bottom and the height at each side and at the middle. Use the narrowest width and the tallest height as custom dimensions to order each shade.



2. LOCATE THE MOUNTING BRACKET
On a worktable, make a ⅛-inch pilot hole 2 inches from each end along the groove through the top of the bracket. Hold the bracket in place, centered side to side and recessed equally on each side, and mark the jamb through the holes.

3. INSTALL THE MOUNTING BRACKET
Remove the bracket, end drill a ⅛-inch pilot hole at each mark. Check the bracket for level; shim it if necessary and secure it with the mounting screws. Take care not to overtighten them, which could warp the bracket.

4. HANG THE SHADES
For shades longer than 48 inches, snap the center support into the bracket. Tip the shade into the bracket, hooking the lower tab with the shade clips, and gently press the top into place; you should hear a click.

5. INSTALL THE BATTERIES
Grasp the fascia on both sides and pull it forward and down, lowering it to reveal the battery compartment. Insert the specified number of D-cell batteries, then rotate the fascia back into place.

6. ASSIGN THE REMOTE
Locate the LED push button on the left hand side of the shade. Press it, wait for the LED to light up, then press and hold the CLOSE button, lowermost on the wireless remote. When the LED flashes, you're in complete control.

Cooking Light DIET

Turn Meal Time into Family Time!

Use COOKING LIGHT Diet to plan out easy, **family-friendly dishes** that are nutritious, delicious, and perfect for the whole crew. With meals so simple and tasty, you'll look forward to cooking — and your kids to eating!

✓ **No-stress** interactive tool for phone, tablet, or computer
✓ **Log on** to set goals and foods your family likes to eat
✓ **Personalized** menu plans delivered to your inbox

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PHOTOS: JIU PICTURES/FLASHSTOCK

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THE HOME DEPOT

Clad a wall in stone

Use cast-concrete stone-veneer panels and masonry screws to dress up a plain wall—no mortar required

BY PAUL HOPE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY KOLIN SMITH

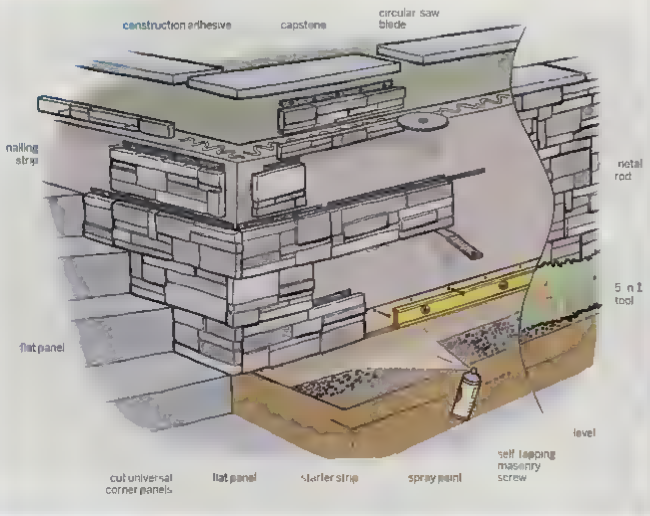
COST $14 per square foot
TIME Two days to clad a 100 square foot wall
DIFFICULTY Easy But cutting is dusty work

IF PULLING INTO YOUR driveway causes you to cringe at the sight of an exposed foundation or a stretch of bare cinder block, why not cover it up? These panels of hand-painted cast concrete provide the look of handsomely stacked natural stone, and you don't need to hire a mason. In fact, you can install them on concrete or even framed walls with little more than a drill and a circular saw. Follow along as *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers uses them to transform an unsightly eyesore into a front-yard focal point

Stone-veneer panels Versetta Stone Ledgestone in Terra Rosa finish $27 per panel lloralamerica.com

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Prep the site and install the first course (Steps 1–4)
SUNDAY Finish and cap the wall (Steps 5–7)

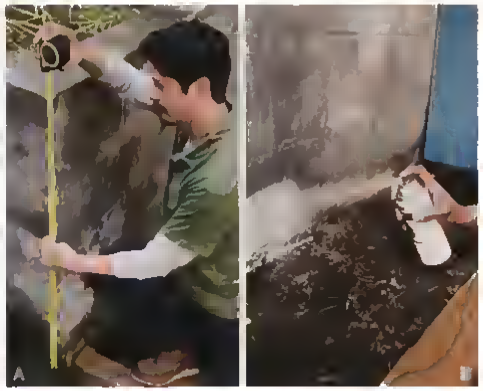


TOOLS

- measuring tape
- masonry pencil
- drill/driver
- 3/16-inch masonry drill bit
- 4-foot level
- 5-in 1 tool
- safety glasses
- ear protection
- N 95 dust mask
- circular saw with a segmented diamond blade
- 3-inch chip brush
- ¼-inch metal rod
- caulk gun

MATERIALS

- **stone-veneer universal corner panels** Get enough to cover the wall corners
- **stone veneer flat panels** Get enough to fill in the wall area, plus 10 percent
- **2-by-12-inch bluestone capstone** Get enough to cap the wall
- **1¼-inch self-tapping masonry screws**
- **spray paint** Rust-Oleum MultiColored Textured (we used Desert Bisque)
- **polyurethane construction adhesive**



1 MEASURE AND PREP THE WALL

A] **Measure the wall.** To calculate the number of universal corners to order, measure the height in inches of each outside wall corner, as shown; divide by 16, and round up to the nearest whole number. You'll fill the area between the corners with flat panels. To calculate how many you'll need, multiply the wall's width by its height in feet and divide the resulting area by 2 (each panel covers 2 square feet). Subtract the number of universal corners from the result, then add 10 percent to your order of flat panels. Add one universal corner to be safe.

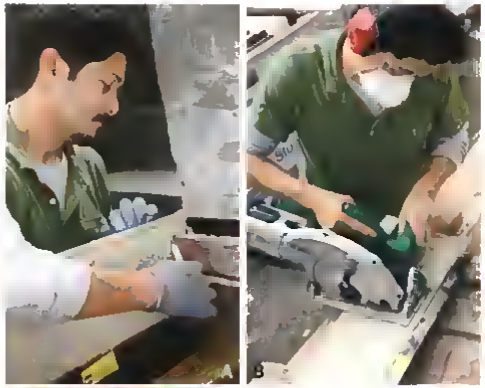
B] **Paint the bottom.** The panels must be installed above ground level, resting on a plastic support called a starter strip, so you'll want to paint the wall below the strip to match the stone. Find a spray-paint color similar to the palette of your stone panels and paint the bottom few inches of the wall.

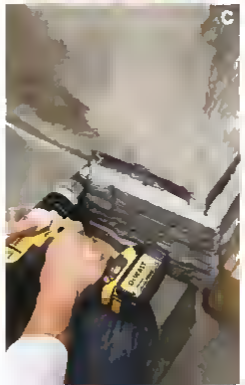
ILLUSTRATION: GREGORY NEMEC

2 PREP THE FIRST COURSE

A] **Install the starter strip.** Set the location for the starter strip at least 2 inches above any soil. Here, the strip's lip aligns with the top of a stair on the adjacent side of the corner. Fit your drill/driver with a 3/16-inch masonry bit and drill a pilot hole through a slot in the strip near the corner and into the wall. Drive in a masonry screw to secure that end, then use the 4-foot level to bring the strip to level, and mark a line, as shown. Drill pilot holes and fasten the strip in two or three more spots, maintaining level.

B] **Remove the tab.** Flat panels have a tab on each side that meshes with slots on adjacent flat panels but needs to be removed from any end that forms a corner. Rest the panel faceup on a work surface and use the blade of the 5-in 1 tool to knock the tab off, as shown. The resulting flat edge will make for a tight corner.





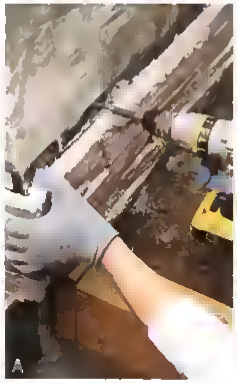
TIP Keep your bit spinning to remove dust as you back the drill out of the pilot hole, allowing the masonry screw to tap into the concrete.

3 INSTALL THE FIRST PANEL

A] **Mark the panel.** Each run starts at a corner with the finished end of a universal corner overlapping the end of a flat panel (with the tab removed). First, the universal corner is cut into two pieces; the finished edge of each piece starts a course, and the cut edge butts into a flat panel. For aesthetics, cut the universal corner so that each piece is at least 8 inches long. Or, as in our case, cut it to fit against the stair riser. Rest a flat panel on the adjacent side in the starter strip, then spin the universal corner upside down, butt its finished edge against the stair riser, and scribe a cutline, as shown.

B] **Cut to length.** Rest the marked panel facedown on a work surface with scrap boards beneath it on either side of the cutline. Use a straightedge to mark a squared-off cutline along the narrowest point of the scribed line. Fit the circular saw with a segmented diamond blade and cut along the line, going through the concrete as well as the metal nailing strip. Be sure to wear safety glasses, a dust mask, and hearing protection.

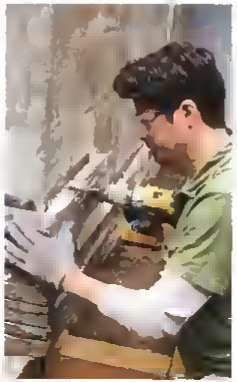
C] **Fasten the first panel.** Hold the cut universal corner against the wall, bringing its finished end flush with the face of the adjacent flat panel so that the two pieces form a 90° outside corner. Level the universal corner, and drill pilot holes through the nailing strip, as shown, directly through the metal if necessary, in at least two places. Fasten the panel with 1¼-inch self-tapping masonry screws.



4 FINISH THE FIRST COURSE

A] **Complete the corner.** With its tab removed buff the end of the flat panel tightly against the back of the universal corner Check the panel for level—making sure the starter strip is free of debris—and drill pilot holes through the nailing strip Fasten the panel to the wall as shown using four masonry screws for full panels

B] **Finish the run.** Continue installing full-size flat panels working your way down the course When you near the end measure and cut a partial panel to fill the end of the course If the cut piece has a tab on either side use the 5 in 1 tool to knock it off Fit the piece in place drill pilot holes and screw it to the wall

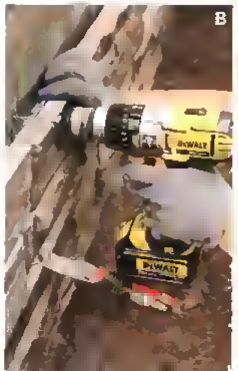


5 FILL IN THE FIELD

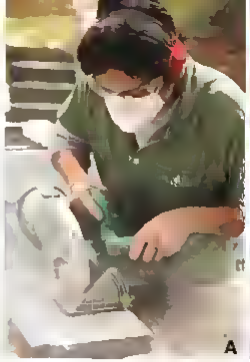
A] **Install the second corner.** Use the cut half of the universal corner from the first course positioned on the opposite side of the corner to stagger the joints Slip the tongue on its bottom edge into the groove on top of the flat panel beneath Position a flat panel with its tab removed atop the universal corner in the first course Be sure it s cut to a different length than the piece beneath—to offset the joints across the wall Mark and drill pilot holes for the universal corner secure it and install the adjacent flat panel to complete the corner

B] **Align adjacent panels.** Work along the course brushing out debris from the top groove to ensure that the panels fit together snugly As you set each new panel make sure that it s aligned with the previous panel by nestling a ¼ inch metal rod in the groove along the top edge The rod should lie flat and bridge the grooves in adjacent panels If it doesn't use the 5 in 1 tool to shim the panel up or back several screws out of the previous panel and adjust it When the panels align drill pilot holes and fasten them to the wall

C] **Stagger the joints.** If the end of a panel falls in line with a joint on any of the previous courses you'll want to cut down its length slightly to maintain staggered joints Hold the panel in place and mark the nailing strip at a different length Transfer the mark to the back of the panel cut it to size and fasten it to the wall



SHARE YOUR DIY PROJECT

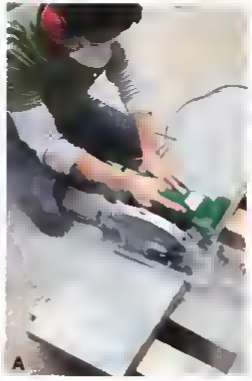


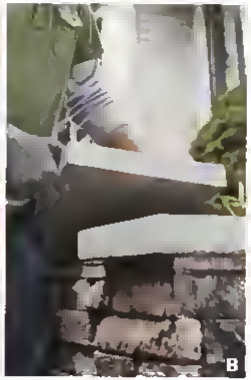
6 INSTALL THE TOP COURSE

A] **Cut panels to fit.** On the final course you'll need to cut down the height of the panels to fit removing the nailing strip so that the stone reaches to the top of the wall Rest a flat panel in place and scribe a cutline on the back at the height of the wall Set the panel on a work surface and use the circular saw to cut it to the proper height You may want to cut your corner pieces to length first then cut them to the proper height as shown Dry-fit the two pieces at the corner to check the fit

B] **Glue the pieces.** Remove the corner panels and apply straight beads of construction adhesive on the back of each piece in vertical runs as shown so that water is free to flow behind the panels and drain properly Set the panels in place on the wall and adjust them to fit snugly at the corner

C] **Sink the fasteners.** To further secure the cut-down panels locate several spots on each one where you can sink a fastener inconspicuously in joints between stones Holding the piece in place drill a pilot hole through the panel and into the wall Drive in a masonry screw sinking the head below the surface of the panel Cover the screwheads with caulk gather some dust from the cutting table and blow it onto the drying caulk to camouflage it You can touch up any gaps in the same manner Finish installing the panels in the final course





7 CAP THE WALL

A] **Cut the capstones.** Select a capstone several inches wider than the depth of your clad wall to create an overhang Measure and mark the capstones to fit along the top of the wall Use the circular saw and the segmented diamond blade to cut to length as shown

B] **Set the stone.** Working with a partner lift the capstones and dry fit them on top of the wall Remove them and apply construction adhesive to the top of the wall and the edges of the veneer before resetting the stones or if you prefer an even more authentic look set them in a stiff mortar bed Now take a step back and marvel at the seamless look ■

SEE HOW IT'S DONE
To watch a video of this project scan this page with the Blipcar app or go to thisoldhouse.com/mar2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

by Deborah Baldwin
photographs by Tria Giovan

produced by Tisha Leung
styling by Jennifer Vreeland McDermott

BUMPING UP The Charm

A GENTLE EXPANSION BUILDS ON THE SPIRIT OF A 78-YEAR-OLD HOUSE

OPPOSITE: Deep-red walls set off the small foyer in the 1937 Dutch Colonial Revival, while sunny yellow walls and blue accents unite the stairwell gallery and living room. **ABOVE:** Homeowner Jennifer Vreeland McDermott, an interior designer, whitewashed the living room's brick fireplace and pine paneling and reinforced the home's cottage style with colorful textiles. *Rug: West Elm. Curtain and pillow fabrics: Laura Ashley Home.*

IT NEVER HURTS to have a decorator in the house—especially one with drafting skills. Witness what pro Jennifer Vreeland McDermott was able to accomplish at the place she shares with her husband, Mark, and their two kids. Never mind wallpapering the dining room ceiling and hauling home a vintage stove. On some days, while the rest of the family was fast asleep elsewhere, she was standing in the backyard of their discombobulated Dutch Colonial Revival. "I was out there at five in the morning to make sure we got it right," she recalls of the rear addition. "I would say, 'No, it needs a better curve,'" meaning the final swervy dip taken by the new roof.

Most homeowners take a pretty relaxed approach to the back of the house, even if they spend more time there than they do out front. But for Jennifer and her longtime enabler, architect Lou Heiser, all four sides matter, from the detailing around the eaves to the way alterations to the exterior affect the flow of traffic and light—and standing room—inside.

Tasked with turning her family's 1,600-square-foot house into a more functional 21st-century home, Jennifer and Heiser worked from the outside in. The result was a fresh layout and more living space, made possible in part by an addition that faces the backyard with camera-ready style and unexpected grace (see page 67).

"Additions are almost sinful sometimes, and that was the last thing I wanted to do," says Heiser. "We tried to keep the same rooflines and made the interior fit, even though that meant some sloped ceilings on the second floor."

Jennifer, a former magazine editor, first got to know Heiser back in the 1990s, when she was producing an annual show house and he designed and built one of them. They became so used to collaborating, you could say they were able to finish each other's floor plans.

LEFT: An arched opening matched to an existing one welcomes traffic between the dining room and kitchen. Jennifer stained and painted the new hutch and had her GC add a wainscot topped with sea-grass wallpaper and fabric tape trim. *Wallcovering: Philip Jeffries. Ceiling wallpaper: Farrow & Ball. Hutch: British Traditions.*

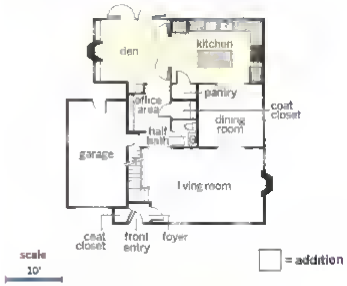
ABOVE: The homeowners and their kids, Kate, 16, and Odian, 14, pose with Luna and Zoe. RIGHT: The new den has decorative ceiling beams, a built-in bar, and a gas fireplace flanked by bookcases.

AND EXTERIOR MT: JACQUELYN SOFFER ARCHITECTS

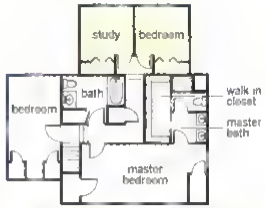
Floor Plans

The redo added 700 square feet to the 1,600-square-foot Dutch Colonial Revival while shifting the kitchen to a new spot and adding one-and-a-half baths.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



LEFT Soapstone countertops, painted pine beadboard, and a table-like island reinforce the vintage look of the new kitchen. ABOVE Tucked into a period-style alcove is a restored 1950s Chambers stove. RIGHT The pantry door was salvaged from the house, painted tomato red, and outfitted with a pull fashioned from a fork. *Cabinets: Plain & Fancy. Wall paint: Farrow & Ball's Ringwold. Ground Pendant fixtures: Circa Lighting. Beams and molding: Fypon. Tile: Artistic Tile. Barstools: Unfinished Furniture Expo.*

"He can eke out usage in the smallest spaces," Jennifer says.

The house Jennifer wanted Heiser's help with this time was a 1937 three-bedroom, one-bath family heirloom, built and handed down by its original owners, Mark's grandparents. Situated in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, a suburb that blossomed after the George Washington Bridge opened to traffic, in 1931, the little house had done some hard time as a rental between the second and third generations. Overgrown foliage blocked the light in front, and in back the narrow stoop seemed hesitant about making contact with the yard. Still, the neighborhood offered period charm, not to mention easy access to Manhattan, and at first the couple spent their off-hours simply cleaning, scraping, and refinishing.

"So much character was covered up by wallpaper and layers of paint and dirt and linoleum," Jennifer says. "We found some of the original doorknobs in the attic"—during his landlord years, Mark's father had replaced them with privacy locks—"and put them back." She adds: "We spent the first 18 months getting down to the bare bones, ripping up carpet, power-washing the outside. It was kind of like stripping off the 1980s as much as we could to bring the house back to the late 1930s."

As the kids got older, the house began to feel more cramped. The 10-by-10-foot kitchen was crowd-averse and had four space-squandering doors, one on each wall. The sole, charmless bath was upstairs and served the whole house, and storage was a throwback to the Depression. "There was only one tiny closet on the first floor," says Jennifer. "You couldn't fit four seasons for four people in there."

To address the big picture, the couple brought in Heiser and general contractor Christopher Mueger—though *brought in* is probably the wrong phrase for Heiser. Working long distance from his Michigan studio, he turned discussions and drawings into finished plans without ever stepping into the house.

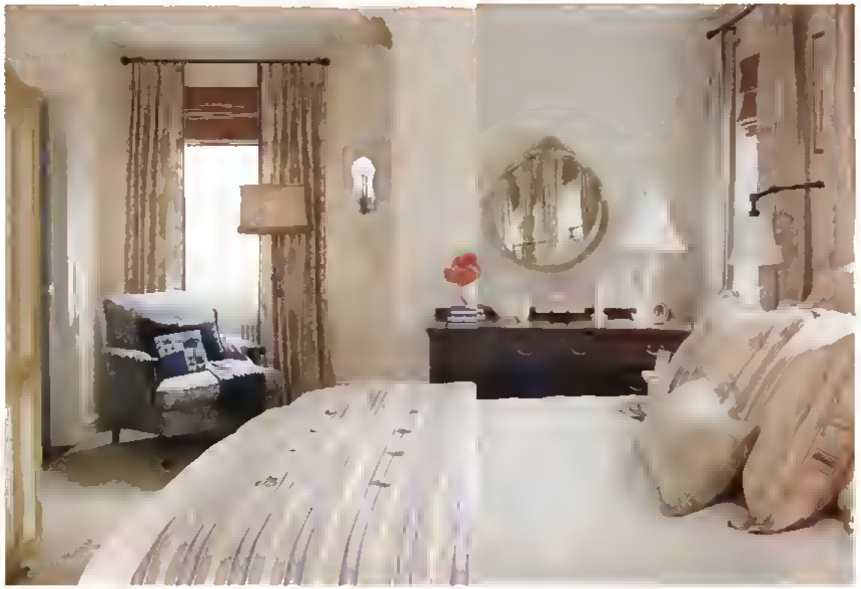
The team's goal was to expand and rework the layout without burdening the house with one of those supersize additions one sees so often in suburbia. By bumping out a mere 12 feet and cleverly tucking new spaces around old, the redo would increase living space from 1,600 to 2,300 square feet and give the family two baths, an extra bedroom, and two more closets upstairs, plus a new kitchen, a den with a gas fireplace, an office-area-plus-coat-closet that serves as a mudroom, and a half bath on the first floor.

"We figured we could just live upstairs with a makeshift kitchen in the living room while we renovated," Jennifer recalls wryly. But after a month, construction dust pushed them out the door and into the home of Mark's parents, where they began a three-month countdown to the final finishes.

Mueger's crew peeled off the old aluminum siding and took portions of the house down to the studs, allowing new windows, wiring, plumbing, and insulation to go in. The team kept the front-facing master bedroom while turning the second bedroom into a master bath and walk-in closet. They also tinkered with the hall to

SHOP THIS STYLE
To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, scan this page with the BI ppar app or go to **wayfair.com/thisoldhouse**

ABOVE Patterned wallpaper (a remnant) mismatched vintage fabrics, and beaded 6 inch wall paneling soften the lofty light filled study on the addition s second floor *Paint Benjamin Moore s Decorator s White*



LEFT Pale blues and sandy beiges add to the tranquility of the upstairs master bedroom OPPOSITE, BELOW A French door closes off the new master bath while inviting a glimpse of the wallpaper and checkerboard floor pattern *Wallpaper Farrow & Ball Floor stain Minwax Medicine cabinets The Home Depot Sinks Le Bijou Faucets Holly s of Bath*

ABOVE The addition s roofline echoes the side-facing gambrel roofs and has a bumpout with shingles to match those added to the existing dormers *French doors and windows Andersen Lap siding and shingles CertainTeed*

the new bedroom and study and updated the hall bath

The addition proved to be its own production. "With any old house it's difficult to match up to the old framing and foundation so that it's seamless going through," says Mueger After mapping out the study and the third bedroom on the addition's second floor, Jennifer asked to have them moved one step up, which would allow higher ceilings below "Old houses always had steps," she pointed out to Mueger, who was skeptical at first, "and a higher ceiling meant I could add beadboard and faux beams and fatter molding "

The team built the office-mudroom area and half bath in the old kitchen space. This hardworking complex of small spaces serves as a buffer between the addition and the attached garage while funneling traffic toward the back of the house

From the outside, the addition acts as a gentle rebuke to homeowners anywhere who aim to expand their living quarters by slapping on boxy one- or two-story rear additions This one is capped by a traditional gambrel roof with a triangular pediment ornamented by a Heiser signature: a bumpout with support brackets and faux louvers, loosely inspired by 18th-century dovecotes. He shingled both the bumpout and the existing garage dormers, providing textural contrast with the lap siding added to the rest of the house.

The addition's sweeping roofline rises higher than the main house while echoing its side views, where the original gambrel roofs still hold sway "I always match the new roof pitch to the existing roof pitch," says Heiser. On one side the gambrel roof over the garage is neatly aligned with the original roof above it, and Heiser says it was a struggle to tie together the roofs and existing dormers while making sure rainwater continued to flow where it should "When remodeling a house, the rooflines are always the greatest challenge," he notes.

Jennifer created a similarly layered effect inside, where she worked with carpenter John Savoia to add not only beefy trim, dining room wainscot, and period-style beadboard but also built-ins, like the bookcases that now frame the fireplace in the den A palette of Delft blue, sunny yellow, tomato red, and antiqued white spills across the house, underscoring the flow of light from the south-facing addition's windows and two sets of French doors

"I just love my kitchen," says Jennifer when pressed to choose her favorite room "It's such a functional space, and warmed up with vintage finds The dining room is right off it and we use it every day, so it feels like an eat-in kitchen."

Now that it has all come together, does she nurture secret plans to undertake another redo, perhaps at another period-style house?

"Oh, no, I'm so done," she says with a laugh "It's our forever house In fact, I hope one day the kids will take it over and make it theirs, too " ■

SHARE YOUR REMODEL

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

GET MORE STREET CRED

FROM PAINT SCHEMES TO PLANTINGS TO ENTRY PORCHES, WE'VE GOT **CURB-APPEAL UPGRADE IDEAS** FOR EVERY BUDGET

BY **KATE KARAM**

LAYER ON CLASSIC DETAILS

Beneath the gray faux-stone siding and front-and-center mudroom addition that this 1940s beach cottage in Lewes, Delaware, used to have, designer Jeff West saw the simple lines of the colonial era houses he admires. Ditching the mudroom, he skim-coated the exterior and created a period-appropriate portico supported by simple round columns. More quality finishes, such as a cedar-shake roof, copper gutters, and hinged raised-panel shutters, add substance to the little house. For the symmetrical garden, which is bisected by a formal brick walkway, West chose Japanese holly over similar-leafed but slow-growing boxwood, achieving this lavish landscape in just three years.

IDEAS TO STEAL

PORTICO Refined additions, like fiberglass columns and fish-scale cedar shingles, enhance the new portico. Similar to shown: Shingles, $6 per sq. ft., builddirect.com. Entry columns, from $250 each, menards.com

LANDSCAPING Pruning the holly shrubs to varying heights creates an undulating effect. Weatherproof fiberglass window boxes and pots create spots for colorful flowers in the all-green landscape. Nantucket window box, $110, gomayne.com

WALKWAY A mortared walkway of aged brick replaced a curved decomposed granite path. Cut costs by using thin veneer brick on an existing concrete walk or building a mortarless path with concrete pavers. Similar to shown: Brookstown Red Thin Series veneer bricks, $2.88 per sq. ft., pinehillbrick.com. Fulton Red concrete pavers $5 per sq. ft., lowes.com

ABOVE: Removing a picket fence (BEFORE) opened up the front yard to a densely planted symmetrical garden with a pair of weeping cherry trees

LEFT A revived front porch adds a sense of spaciousness and ample streetside charm to what had been a rundown rental (BEFORE)

RESTORE THE PORCH

It didn't take long for the new owners to decide to tear open the enclosed front porch of this late 1800s farmhouse in Wilmette, Illinois. Happily, they found the original posts and windows all in good condition. Working with architect Suzie Van Cleave, the couple commissioned new railings that incorporate flatsawn balusters inspired by those of local historic houses, as well as a design detail at the gable-end's peak that repeats the motif. The porch's fascia board, having rotted over time, was replaced with beefier, wider stock to balance the heft of the porch. Finally, the owners splashed the place in Sherwin-Williams's Bolero. Though not a historical color for the area's late-19th-century farmhouses, red was often used on barns of the period. Says Van Cleave, "It seemed appropriate—and a little ironic, since it's in a dense urban neighborhood."

IDEAS TO STEAL

PORCH RAILING. Elaborate flatsawn balusters are often seen on Victorian-era houses; the simple treatment here, interspersed with plain 2×2s, fits this farmhouse. Look for off-the-shelf flatsawn designs, starting at $20 each, at vintagewoodworks.com. Or create your own custom pattern with a jigsaw; see how at thisoldhouse.com/mar2015.

GABLE DETAIL. Van Cleave added the triangular pediment at the top, repeating the detail used in the balusters and mounting the piece on brackets. This floating detail was installed over existing vents, allowing them to work unimpeded. Estimated cost: $1,000. Effect: priceless.

PORCH SKIRT. Evidence of critters nesting under the porch showed this had been a cozy place for animals to hole up. Arches cut from ¾-inch marine-grade plywood replaced decayed vertical slats, echoing the curve of the window casing and keeping the area airy and open.

NICE CURB APPEAL!

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VAN CLEAVE ARCHITECTURE—BEFORE (TOP RIGHT) AND AFTER (BOTTOM RIGHT) ©ANGLI VANKER; (OPEN) ©SHELLY WILEY

MAKE IT WELCOMING

This new-old Colonial Revival in Palo Alto, California, had plenty of appeal, with its impressive portico, beefy trim, cedar shingles and roof shakes, and well-placed windows. But not until new owners enlisted designer Carolyn Woods to add billowy symmetrical garden borders and a wide-swinging gate did the place come to life. Out came trees that had hidden the house from view. In went 4-foot-wide beds edged with boxwood and tall Iceberg rose standards, with unfussy perennials, such as yarrow, lavender, and catmint, spilling onto the brick walkway. More sheared boxwood crisply wraps the yard and is tucked into vase-style cast-stone urns. Setting off all this greenery is a 3-foot-tall square-picket fence with an arch-top gate that swings open to point the way to the front door.

IDEAS TO STEAL

FENCE AND GATE. Replacing a hedge with a square-picket fence created an enclosure without dominating the landscape. For a similar style in easy-care vinyl, look for pickets and posts with steel cores and frames to ensure the gate won't sag. Similar to shown: Chestnut Hill cellular PVC picket fence, $120 per linear foot, walpolewoodworkers.com.

FRONT DOOR. The cool-gray stain on the house's individually applied cedar shingles gets a lift from a pale-blue door color. Semi-transparent stain: Driftwood Gray, $34 per gallon, cabotstain.com. Paint: A Capella, about $70 per gallon, c2paint.com.

ENTRY LIGHTS. Three-light lantern sconces flanking the door and a five-sided pendant hung from the ceiling illuminate the landing and highlight the leaded glass fanlight and sidelights. A pair of tall candle lanterns at the base of the door adds a romantic glow. Similar to shown: Livex Lighting's Westover series, $300 and up, wayfair.com. Lanterns: Malta bronze finish, $120 each, potterybarn.com.

LEFT The handsome house lacked a garden frame (BEFORE); now sturdy shrubs form the backbone of an English-cottage-style garden.

UNCOVER A CHARMER

Cheery colors and streamlined landscaping turned this once dreary teardown in Austin Texas into the coolest house on the block Builder Royce Flournoy preserved most of the 1939 cottage s original wood siding and updated it with fresh paint All the limestone chimney needed to restore its textured look was a good power-washing and a new cap Seeking privacy on this wide corner lot Flournoy enclosed a section of yard with a western red cedar fence running the 1-by-2 inch slats horizontally to echo the clapboard siding Playing off the original trim beneath the porch windows a new front door features a lower panel detail that s an exact match The limestone gravel terrace edged with Winter Gem boxwood is water-wise and easy-care

IDEAS TO STEAL

PAINT Flournoy got the warm modern-cottage look he wanted with a classic combo of chocolate-brown amped up with a zingy green Paint Iron Mountain (body) and Pale Avocado (louvered shutters) about $50 per gallon benjaminmoore com Gypsum (trim) $38 per gallon ppgpittsburghpaints com

SLATTED DETAILS The new fence is made from 1-by-2-inch clear western red cedar that will fade to a soft gray similar in hue to the limestone chimney The front porch swing is made from fade proof recycled plastic Similar to shown Cedar slats, 50 cents per linear foot lowes com Highwood Weatherly 4-Foot Porch Swing $329, amazon com

LANDSCAPING Rectangular slabs of poured concrete set into the crushed-gravel terrace are a budget answer to a stone-slab walkway For a tree lined lawn in a hot humid climate like Austin's look for a true-dwarf cultivar that is notably shade tolerant and requires less mowing Amerishade St. Augustine grass $225 per pallet (covers 450 sq ft) krturfgrass.com

BEFORE

BELOW Rundown and smothered in shrubs (BEFORE) this cottage got a modern face-lift with an inviting porch

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TEXAS FOUNTHOUT ON COMPANY (OPPOSITE) CHAD CHARTIER OF BENNETT FRANCIS OF AUSTIN AR

LEFT New front steps and a central path provide easy access to the front door, which had been hidden by a low roof and a walled-off porch (BEFORE)

BEFORE

LET IN THE LIGHT

Having to scrunch down to see out front windows blocked by a low pitched roof gets old fast Just ask the owners of this 1920s house a once dim tiny Cape in Takoma Park Maryland that they transformed into a Craftsman style cottage Looking for more square footage the homeowners turned to architect Shawn Buehler to add on in back and give the front rooflines an overhaul too The result is an open porch with a gable end roof featuring a unique slatted design that echoes the porch railings Local codes restricted the new porch to a depth of 9 feet but the airy design makes it feel larger—and brighter too To add interest to the faux-slate roof Buehler created a patterned inlay accent A house that was "sort of weird" is now a storybook showstopper right at home in a historic neighborhood of bungalows

IDEAS TO STEAL

PORCH The roof is a take on a classic Craftsman side gable design with railings and an open gable detail constructed of ¾-by-4 inch wood slats While appearing to support the porch roof the anchoring brackets are actually hollow PVC boxes as are the tapered columns built around 4×4 structural posts.

ROOF Synthetic slate has advantages over natural slate. It s lighter in weight negating the need for extra structural support It s easier to trim and it costs about one third less

Generating the inlay s layout on a computer first (you could do the same on graph paper) sped up installation and helped cut the cost Majestic Slate $7–$9 per sq ft , installed acostarlic.com

PAINT Employing the design "rule of three " a clay red accent color is repeated three times on the roof tiles, on the lower edge of the slatted gable and at the base of the columns This highlights key features and keeps the eye traveling from the bottom of the house to the top Paint Wild Sage and Rookwood Dark Green (siding) and Rookwood Terra Cotta (accents) $50 per gallon sherwin williams com

BEFORE

ABOVE: Once cloaked in foliage (BEFORE) the 33-foot-long, 8-foot-deep porch is now an open invitation to gather

USE COLOR TO PLAY UP DETAILS

Hidden behind a stand of ailing century-old trees, this magnificent 1870s Italianate, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, had seen better days. Four previous owners had left their mark on the place—primarily in the forms of paint and neglect. Intricately carved moldings, paneled shutters, and fretwork had disappeared under a thick crust. Rampant climbing ivy had damaged large sections of brick. Working with local craftsmen, homeowner Brett Youmans repaired the crumbling porch posts, soffits, and 14 decorative corbels, all victims of water damage. Meticulously scraped and patched, the 12-foot-tall porch and 8-foot shutters are now painted in a handsome display of warm and cool grays that show off the home's unique architecture.

IDEAS TO STEAL

PAINT: After sampling more than two dozen colors, Brett chose a striking combination of Site White for the body and porch columns, and three shades of gray, from light Network Gray (shutter panels) to medium Web Gray (porch floor) to dark Cyberspace (trim). About $50 per gallon; sherwin-williams.com

FRONT DOOR AND CEILING: The restored double front doors pack a welcome punch of color with a custom shade of red. Pale blue, true to the period, coats the ceiling. Similar to shown: Moroccan Red (door) and Glacier Blue (ceiling), $60 per gallon, benjaminmoore.com

LANDSCAPING: "Sometimes you add by subtracting," says Brett. Removing a stand of trees allowed in sufficient light for a new lawn. Shapely evergreen shrubs—a mix of tough, low-maintenance hollies and boxwoods—line the porch skirt. Red twig dogwoods, whose crimson stems add winter interest, dot a new walkway to the left of the house leading to the driveway.

PHOTOS: (LEFT) BRIBLEY + GRAVES (OPPOSITE PAGE) LAUREN W. GLENN

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

WARM UP A COLD FACADE

What a difference a wash of lime-white can make. As impressive as this 1926 French Eclectic house was, the monotone monolith of red brick lacked detail, depth, and warmth. Reimagined by architect Jeremy Corkern, the Charlotte, North Carolina, home finally got the elegant patina it deserved. The front door's 9-foot-tall arched limestone frame is now a dramatic focal point, and the divided lights of the French doors echo the existing windows. Against the pale facade, the gray slate hipped roof and the multiple-flue chimney pop, and shutters that looked dinky in harsh black now blend in, painted a warm white. Replacing a standard window with a custom bay inset with wavy restoration-style glass added major oomph.

IDEAS TO STEAL

PALE PALETTE: True limewash is a centuries-old type of matte paint made of slaked lime, water, and pigments. Off-the-shelf products create a similar patina. The treatment here was done with diluted white latex paint, mixed with sand and applied in a couple of coats using a horsehair brush and a burlap bag for texture. An experienced painting contractor can help choose the best option for your house, depending on the color and condition of the existing brick. Porter's Paints' Lime Wash, $102 per gallon; shpcompany.com. The other subtle colors at play here: warm white Lambswool (trim and window shutters) and pale green Artichoke (door shutters), $62 per gallon; sherwin-williams.com.

DOOR AND BAY WINDOW: Corkern designed an oversize arched limestone entry-door casing with 7-foot French doors and a leaded-glass fanlight that balance the towering walls. The prominent molding around the custom bay window mirrors the visual weight of the front entry.

LANDSCAPING: The three shrubs on the right and lone shrub on the left are an example of asymmetrical balance. The simplest way to achieve it is with the 3-plus-1 arrangement shown here. Works well with planted pots too.

BEFORE

LEFT: Whitewashed brick, an arched door and a bay window gave the once bland vintage house (BEFORE) the finesse it needed

Add an Accent

A shot of color can bring out the best in an alcove, a fireplace wall, a built-in, even a sleeping spot. Read on for 13 ways to bump up a bland space and call out its secret strengths, from a paneled tub to a perfectly made bed

BY **DEBORAH BALDWIN**

LIVING SPACE

Here's where you're most likely to find examples of a house's "good bones"—and good reason to highlight them.

Scene-setter

Warm red allows this wall flanked by built-ins to step forward, reinforcing the presence of a graceful arched passageway and the soothing symmetry of a seating area finished in quiet shades of amber and gold

RALPH LAUREN Amalfi Red

BEHR Neptune Blue

Focal-point feature

Ocean blue adds definition to this well-trimmed fireplace wall and invites seating to draw around it campfire style. The vibrant shade coupled with clean white also helps balance the high-profile ceiling beams and chandelier

LIVING SPACE

Trick of the eye

Bold color blocks enlivened by delicate floral stenciling mimic wall panels while suggesting artwork. The panels add visual structure to the space and help organize its furnishings as well.

BEHR Green Grass

Viewfinder

Accent walls feel suited to lofty, sun-filled spaces. Here, intense charcoal gray helps steer the eye to the outdoors, a mission supported by crisp white trim and sage green adjacent walls.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Peppercorn

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Svelte Sage

BATHS

Small spaces are an invitation to experiment with color—in some cases, one wall at a time.

BLODDEN Antique Olive

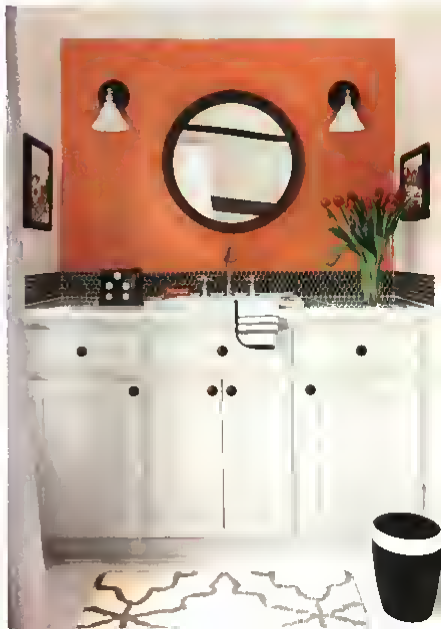
Paneling with punch

An earthy green adds weight to this room's dominant features and highlights the tub's built-in look as well as its contrasting textures—the V-groove paneling, pedestal sink, and exposed beams.

Character-building

Where would this plain white vanity be without its zesty accent wall? Contributing to the cohesive feel are a wall-uniting ribbon of tile along with knobs, picture frames, and sconce backplates, all in black.

PPG PITTSBURGH Orange Poppy



Finishing touch

Think about dressing up an accent wall with framed pictures or a mirror, says Sue Kim, a color strategist at Valspar. Along with providing extra polish, it can help keep a strong accent color, like this dusky blue, from overpowering the space.

VALSPAR Newport Gray

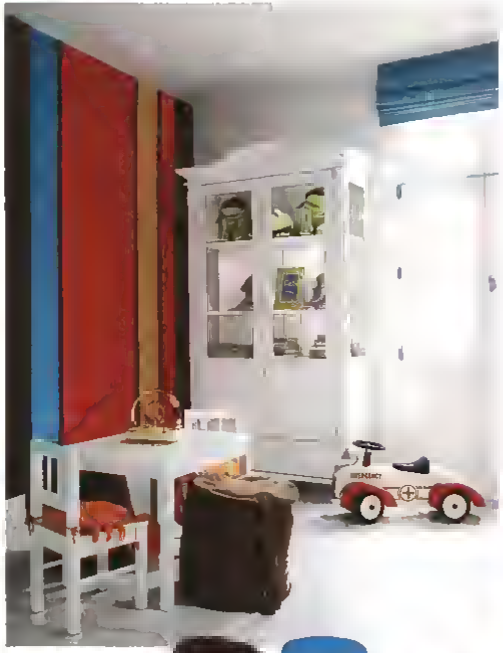
BEDROOMS

One of the most popular places to inject color is behind the bed, where an accent can reinforce or even replace a headboard. But don't overlook other ways color can elevate a sleeping space.

Warm-up move

The accent wall here evokes hot chocolate. The color deftly anchors the bed and makes this already cozy spot seem even more so.

CLARK + KENSINGTON Boardwalk



Playful stripes

When other walls are a gray-tinted neutral," says Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing at Sherwin-Williams, "it's an opportunity to use lots of different colors, including blue, yellow, and red." The pattern above takes full advantage by layering all three on a base coat of brown.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Black Bean

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Dynamic Blue

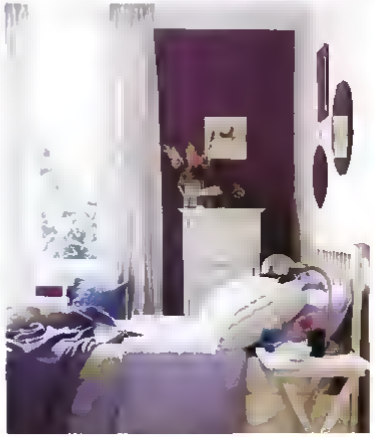
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Gypsy Red

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Eastlake Gold

Layers of related hues

Shades of lavender, lilac, and purple enliven a room otherwise wrapped in whites. Windows break up the accent wall so that it can ground the palette rather than overwhelm it.

OLYMPIC Perfectly Purple



Alcove emphasis

"Bumpouts and other architectural breaks lend themselves to paint," says interior designer Genevieve Gorder, who works with Valspar. Case in point: this once awkward recess, whose orange lining now signals a built-in lounge.

VALSPAR Autumn Gala

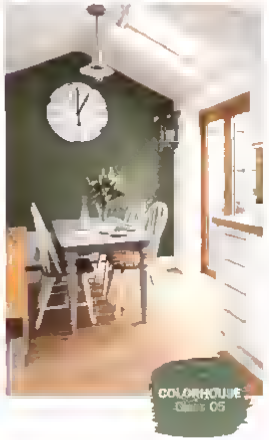
KITCHENS

In these multitasking spaces, color conveys warmth and the presence of a gathering spot. In an open plan, color helps define zones and can also give an unadorned task space an element of interest.

BENJAMIN MOORE Tomato Tango

Fresh dimension

A strong shot of color can interest up a room that lacks architectural detail, says Ellen O'Neill, creative director at Benjamin Moore. Here, a mirror backsplash amplifies the effect.



COLORHOUSE Glass 05

Study in contrast

Velvety green softens this sunbathed, mainly white space. "You need richness and depth and a different value to make an accent wall stand out," says Puji Sherer, a color expert at Colorhouse. And this verdant wall certainly does.

<ALL ABOUT>

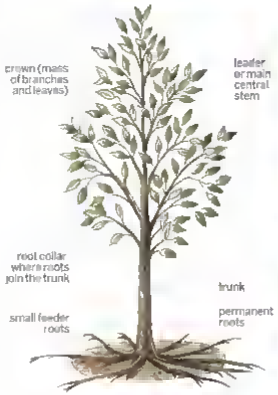
Shade Trees

They aren't fast growing, but these majestic beauties are worth the wait. Plant one to boost property values, lower energy costs—and leave a lasting legacy BY JEANNE HUBER

OWNING A HOUSE means putting down roots, and nothing underscores that notion like planting a large tree whose leafy embrace will shade your home and yard. We're talking about oaks, elms, maples, beeches—trees that can live for a century and whose names conjure small-town streetscapes and backyard picnics. Such a tree is an investment in the future. It may go in as a twig, but as you watch it grow, its canopy spreading and its trunk thickening as it rises toward a full height of 50 feet or more, it will start to feel like a member of the family.

There are practical reasons to put in one of these trees, too. Their deeper roots reduce the likelihood of buckling pavement, and their strong branches are less prone than spindlier specimens' to break under stress from wind or snow. Properly placed, they can keep a home cooler in summer and warmer in winter, taking as much as 25 percent off utility bills. Plus, when it comes to curb appeal, a mature shade tree can boost property values by as much as 20 percent.

We've narrowed the choices down to six species, all beloved for their looks, longevity, and low maintenance. And spring is an ideal time to plant. The key to success? Putting the right type of tree in the right spot, where it can spread out unimpeded. Read on for our guide to selecting, planting, and caring for a shade tree that will grow straight and tall—and enrich the landscape for generations to come.



Permanent roots anchor a tree to the ground while temporary feeder roots carry water and nutrients to limbs, branches, and leaves. At maturity, a well-shaped tree has a balanced canopy and a single strong leader.

A large deciduous shade tree, such as this ash, which can reach a height of 120 feet, provides a focal point in the landscape.

VITALS

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST? A year-old "whip" with no branches starts at $10; a 2-year-old pot-grown tree goes for $20 and up. A field-grown tree with a 2-inch diameter trunk can range from $800 to $1,000.

WHEN TO PLANT? In general, trees are best planted in spring or early fall so that strong roots develop before extreme weather sets in. Plant bare-root trees in early spring only.

DIY OR HIRE A PRO? It's easy to plant a 55-pound potted tree. But one weighing 300 pounds? Call in a pro; installation is usually included for trees with a trunk diameter of over 2 inches.

HOW MUCH CARE? Newly planted trees need supplemental watering and pruning for the first three years, then only as needed.

HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE? Absent disease or damage, often 100-plus years.

Pick a tree

Consider your lot size and USDA hardiness zone, then choose one based on mature size and ornamental attributes

1> WHITE OAK *(Quercus alba)*
Size: 50'–80' high and wide
Where: Zones 3–8
Broad and round at maturity. U.S. native with flat, lobed leaves that's adaptable to diverse growing conditions
Highlight: Brilliant fall foliage

2> AMERICAN BEECH
(Fagus grandifolia)
Size: 50'–70' high, 40'–70' wide
Where: Zones 4–9
Short trunk, wide-spreading crown, and shimmery foliage. Grows well in sun or shade
Highlight: Smooth, light gray bark

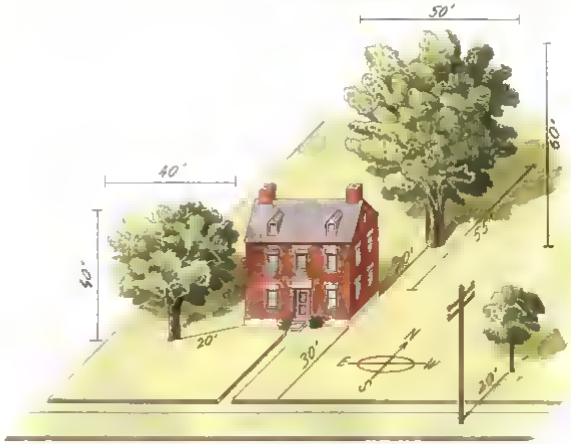
3> RED MAPLE *(Acer rubrum)*
Size: 40'–60' high, 30'–50' wide
Where: Zones 3–9
Round crown at maturity, with red twigs and three-lobed, toothed leaves. Specific cultivars will grow best in different regions
Highlight: Bright red fall foliage

4> 'VALLEY FORGE' ELM
(Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')
Size: 60'–80' high, 30'–50' wide
Where: Zones 2–9
Upright and vase-shaped with a full, dense canopy; this cultivar has been bred to resist Dutch elm disease
Highlight: Toothy oval leaves

5> SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA
(Magnolia grandiflora)
Size: 60'–80' high, 30'–50' wide
Where: Zones 6–9
Pyramidal-shaped; glossy, dark green leaves with matte brown undersides. Drought and heat tolerant once established
Highlight: Fragrant spring flowers

6> LONDON PLANE TREE
(Platanus x acerifolia)
Size: 70'–100' high, 65'–80' wide
Where: Zones 4–8
Massive stature, with wide-spreading branches at maturity
Highlight: Olive-to-cream mottled bark

LIKE THE LOOK, LACK THE SPACE?
For a list of smaller trees with attributes similar to those shown here, go to thisoldhouse.com/mar2015



GIVE IT ROOM TO GROW

Too big a tree in too little space is an all too common problem. A tree that's oversize for its site can damage a house's roof or foundation, impinge on power lines, and encroach on a neighboring property. Carefully consider a specimen's size at maturity—and believe that it will grow that big. A typical 55-foot-deep backyard can accommodate one large shade tree, planted at least 20 feet (or about half the width of its mature canopy) from the house and 5 feet from the sidewalk. In a typical front or side yard, about 30 feet deep, select a medium-size tree no taller than 40 feet and plant it at least 20 feet from a house's foundation. Around power lines, stick to a small tree, under 25 feet tall.

TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE?

Cutting down a 75-year-old tree—even if it's damaged, diseased, or causing havoc with paving—is a tough call. Before deciding, consult an arborist. A heavy limb that's leaning precariously may be saved with cables or bracing; one with dead and broken branches might be fine with a good pruning. An arborist can assess whether a diseased tree is treatable or if changes in leaf color, development, or branch tip dieback indicate that it has to go.

BUYING BASICS

Young trees are available three different ways. Here's what to look for.

POTTED For convenience, most folks buy three- to five-year-old trees sold in 15-gallon pots at nurseries or home centers. To inspect one, gently slip the tree from the pot; a thick, solid mass of circling roots is a bad sign. And if the tree's root collar is buried, don't buy it.

BARE ROOT Field-grown, dug up while dormant at about 1 year old, then shipped; small bare-root trees can be a money-saving option. Look for multiple, small, fibrous roots that are moist but not moldy. Plant within 72 hours or keep in a bucket of water until ready to plant.

BALL AND BURLAP Mature, field-grown trees are dug up with soil intact, then wrapped with burlap and sold at nurseries. Check for a strong leader and a firm root ball. If the burlap is torn, roots might be broken. The root ball should be 10 to 12 times the caliper (trunk diameter), measured 6 inches above the root collar.

Plant it right

Roots spread outward so a wide shallow hole that allows the root collar to sit 1 to 3 inches above the soil is best

FOR POTTED TREES> Dig a hole with sides that flare outward, three times the width of the container. Carefully slide the tree from the pot. Prune any circling roots with four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball. Add soil, keeping the root collar above the hole, and water

FOR BARE-ROOT TREES> Soak overnight, then clip any damaged roots. Dig a hole 3 feet wide and 1 foot deep, mounding soil in the center so that the root collar sits above grade. Flare roots over the mound and fill in with soil. Water once to settle the soil, and water again

FOR BALL AND BURLAP TREES> Dig a hole as deep as the root ball and five times wider to encourage rapid rooting. Move the tree into place. Add soil so that the root collar is above the top of the hole. Remove any wire, twine, and burlap. Fill with soil and water thoroughly.

PEST ALERT

They chew, they suck they bore insects are among the worst scourges affecting deciduous trees Some are species-specific while others are less discriminating Here s how to address the damage

> **Emerald ash borer** Half-inch metallic-green beetle, larvae feed on inner bark, eventually killing affected ash trees **FIX.** Have a pro apply systemic insecticide, even to healthy trees

> **Asian long-horned beetle** Inch-long black beetle with white spots, larvae tunnel into maple, willow, and elm heartwood. **FIX:** None; remove infested trees

> **Gypsy moths** Dark, hairy spotted caterpillars up to 2 inches long denude the branches of many types of trees **FIX:** Too widespread to eliminate entirely Aerial spraying with pesticides can lower the population

> **Aphids** Tiny pests in different colors that affect many tree species. Sucking damages leaves; honeydew-like secretions encourage sooty mold **FIX:** Ignore mild infestations, treat mold with a targeted pesticide

> **Tent caterpillars** Fuzzy, 2 inch-long caterpillars infest many tree species Feasting larvae strip trees bare **FIX.** Ignore, and let natural predators, including frogs, rodents, and birds, go at them

SAVING OUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE

The American chestnut was the dominant tree in the eastern U S until blight killed over 4 billion of them in the early 1900s Elms shaded streets and parks across the country then in the 1930s came Dutch elm disease a fungus caused by an insect infestation Now ash trees nationwide are at risk from the seemingly unstoppable emerald ash borer an imported pest But hope is on the horizon Plant scientists at the U S National Arboretum have already bred and patented two disease resistant elm varieties and progress is being made on disease resistant chestnuts Crossbreeding the American ash with hardier related species is under way and may possibly restore this species to our neighborhoods by the next decade

PHOTOS (LEFT) THOMAS J STORY (GREEN) PHIL NAGON (INSETS) (MAMARA STRAKTOVA/ICEPOP SOURCE (MOTH) E R BEGANNER/ICONE SOURCE (APH RED) VOLKER STEGER/ICONE SOURCE (APH YELLOW) ALEXANDRA SCHUSTER/ICONE SOURCE (APH BROWN) PHILIPPE GIL/ICONE SOURCE (TENT) ALEXANDRA SCHUSTER/ICONE SOURCE (ALL OTHERS) ALEXANDRA SCHUST

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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE
LEAKING ELECTRICITY / FEEDING TREES / INSULATING BLOCK WALLS / MORE

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

Q How and when should I prune my shrub roses?
—PAUL McGRUDER CUMMING GA

A Rose pruning is best done in early spring when forsythia starts blooming. Take a pair of sharpened bypass pruning shears like the ones shown here, and remove any canes, or stems, that are dead, diseased, or touching each other. Next, shorten the remaining canes by one-third or one-half, making each cut at a 45° slant, ¼ inch above an outward-pointing bud. Your shrub will have a nice, compact shape and a good start on producing lots of blooms this season.
—ROGER COOK
TOH LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEVI BROWN

Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General Contractor

NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter

RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert

ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor

KEVIN O CONNOR
Host

While watching *TOH* TV recently, I saw Roger digging postholes with a tool I've never seen. Can you tell me what it is?

—JOE FOTI DALTON GARDENS IDAHO

Roger Cook prefers digging postholes with a Boston digger, which can cut straight sided holes nearly 4 feet deep

ROGER COOK REPLIES That's my Boston digger, and I often get puzzled looks when I go to use it. But after watching it in action for a few minutes, people quickly realize how much easier it is to use than a typical post hole digger with scissored handles.

The Boston digger has a long hardwood shaft with a sturdy fixed scoop at its business end. About two-thirds of the way up the shaft, a short handle hinged to a steel rod controls a movable scoop. To dig, you fold the short handle up, pointing the movable scoop down, and slam the fixed scoop into the ground. Then flip the short handle down to clamp the scoops together around the loose soil, and pull the digger straight up and out of the hole.

With this design, you can dig an 8-inch-diameter hole with straight sides nearly 4 feet deep. With a conventional digger, the scissored handles collide with the sides of the hole at about 18 inches down. To go any deeper, you have to make the hole wider, slowing down both the excavation and the backfilling process.

My digger, alternatively called an Erie digger, after the manufacturer, Sinclair Erie of Milverton, Ontario, is sold online at snugcottagehardware.com. At $135, it's a serious tool, tough enough to chew through my native rocky soil. That's more than I can say for the thin, stamped steel blades on most posthole diggers.

PHOTOS ANTHONY TEAL (6); (OPPOSITE PAGE: WHAT IS IT?) WENDY WEBER

Hot ground

The snow was melting and I was cleaning my downspouts when I got a nasty electrical shock. Curious, I got out my multimeter, which showed a 50-volt potential between the ground and the downspout. The ground itself was electrified (!) until I shut off the main breaker. What's going on?

—JASON SMITH MANKATO MINN

SCOTT CARON REPLIES You've got the electrical equivalent of a water leak, but far more dangerous. Call your power utility immediately to fix the problem.

Somewhere downstream from the breaker, inside your house, an exposed hot wire is in contact with a ground wire or a conductor, such as a metal pipe, and is leaking stray voltage to the ground. This leakage, known as a ground fault, is more pronounced when the ground is wet.

Left uncorrected, this fault can speed up the corrosion of buried iron pipes and steel fence posts, and will jack up your electric bills because stray current will be flowing out nonstop. Worst case, you run the risk of being electrocuted or having your house catch fire. Don't wait to make that call.

Master electrician Scott Caron is the owner of Caron Electric and appears regularly on Ask TOH TV

GOT ANSWERS?

What is it?

A Tile clip

B Cable hanger

C Painting prop

D Drawer catch

FOR THE ANSWER SEE PAGE 92

Like many streetside shade trees, this giant pine would probably benefit from compost tea treatments and looser soil around its roots.

Deep-feeding trees

After losing an old pine tree in my front yard, I'm determined to save its twin, which provides wonderful shade. One arborist says it needs 'deep feeding,' at a cost of $1,000. Another says a tree this old doesn't need such a treatment. What should I do?

—SYNDIA MARXER CHANDLER ARIZ

ROGER COOK REPLIES I believe that a tree in distress, no matter how old, can benefit from deep feeding: having fertilizer injected through a needle about 6 to 18 inches into the ground, beyond the reach of greedy grass roots. But if your tree is healthy and pushing out plenty of needles every spring—it certainly looks to be in good shape in the photo—then deep feeding probably isn't necessary.

That said, your tree may benefit from some extra attention to its root system because trees in streetside locations are vulnerable to all sorts of stresses, such as heat, drought, car exhaust, and the like.

First, test the soil to find out exactly which minerals, if any, are lacking. Then, if fertilizer is needed, spread it in early spring or early fall after removing any grass or mulch around the tree. At the same time, top dress the area with 1 to 2 inches of compost, and work it into the soil with a rake. Compost encourages the growth of beneficial mycorrhizae, soil fungi that enhance the ability of roots to absorb nutrients. Finally, cover the soil with mulch, keeping it 3 inches from the trunk.

Shingle color

I just had my garage sided with white cedar shingles. I want them to turn a lovely light gray, like shingled houses by the shore. Will misting them once a month with seawater do the trick?

—BARBARA COLLINS BURLINGTON VT

TOM SILVA REPLIES I don't know, it might. Salt water does discourage the mildew that turns raw cedar black, but you will have to go on spritzing indefinitely to keep mildew at bay. Not only that, the salt will kill foundation plants, and unless you had the foresight to use copper or lead flashing, and stainless-steel nails, it will corrode any exposed metal.

If it were my garage, I'd brush on Bleaching Oil (cabotstains.com), a lightly pigmented oil stain with oxidizing agents that gradually, over the course of a year, turn cedar shingles an even driftwood gray. We used it with good results on the Manchester TV project. To find out more, go to thisoldhouse.com/mar2015.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 95

Cold blocks

I have a 1950s brick Colonial with uninsulated concrete-block walls. Inside, the drywall is nailed to studs fastened flat against the block. How do I insulate walls with stud bays only 1½ inches thick?

DAVID CARUSO, SPRINGFIELD, PA

TOM SILVA REPLIES: You can't. And there is no effective way to fill the voids in an existing concrete block wall. Your only option is to cover the inside of the exterior walls with a continuous layer of insulation, as though you were insulating a basement wall. In fact, this would be a perfect application for InSoFast foam panels (insofast.com), which I installed in the basement of the 2012 *TOH* TV project in Cambridge, Massachusetts. To see me using them, go to thisoldhouse.com/mar2015.

These tongue-and-groove panels are made of expanded polystyrene (EPS)—the same stuff that's in the cups that keep your coffee hot—and are glued directly to the concrete block with a polyurethane adhesive. Drywall can be attached to them directly without the need for studs.

Your walls, in their present state, have an R-rating of about 3. According to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for your area, mass walls—ones made of thick block, brick, stone, or adobe—should be at least R-10. Adding 2½-inch-thick InSoFast panels will bring your walls to R-13, 30 percent more than the IECC minimum.

Before you can install these panels, you'll have to do some demolition. Remove all the trim from the exterior walls—window and door casings, baseboards, crown molding, you name it—and rip the drywall and studs off the block walls. Then, to account for the foam's additional thickness, add jamb extensions to the windows and doors and furr out around their openings.

Now, as you glue the panels to the exposed concrete blocks, leave a ½-inch gap at the floor and ceiling, and cut holes in the panels to fit around outlets and wall switches. After the adhesive cures, add extension boxes to the outlets and switches, and spray foam into every gap—top, bottom, and around each box. Install the drywall over the panels, finish it, then replace the trim.

When you're done, I bet you'll see a welcome drop in your heating and cooling bills.

What is it?

A Tile clip
The Tuscan SeamClip grips tile edges, top and bottom, so that joints are uniform and every tile is flush with its neighbors. $45 for 150. tuscanleveling.com

Advice for beginning woodworkers

I want to build and install basic cabinets, but I don't know how to use tools safely or how to join two pieces of wood together. Can you suggest any resources to teach the absolute beginner?

—JULIE ZATZMAN, CHETICAMP, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: One mistake I see a lot of beginners make is to run out and buy a bunch of tools, particularly power tools. Simply owning tools won't magically make you a woodworker. I'm not saying you don't need tools, but you have to know how to use them properly, and the sequence of steps needed to complete a project, or it probably won't turn out well and you could get hurt.

I think it's better to educate yourself first. Books such as *Getting Started in Woodworking*, by Aimee Fraser, and *Woodworking 101*, by Joe Hurst-Wajszczuk, are a good introduction to the tools, terminology, and techniques of woodworking. You can also learn a lot by watching how-to videos like those on thisoldhouse.com.

To gain hands-on experience, work with a friend who has tools and is handy. Or take an evening class at the local high school or community college. In that setting, you'll be able to work under supervision in a well-equipped shop, meet like-minded folks, and get helpful advice and encouragement. Classes taught at home centers also offer the chance to use tools and connect with people who enjoy woodworking. Just be sure to sign up for introductory classes and start with easy projects, like the ones you want to do. If you enjoy the process, work your way up from there.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE
Go to: thisoldhouse.com/asktoh
Or write to: Ask This Old House, This Old House magazine, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020

Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that, because of the volume of mail received, we're unable to reply to unpublished questions.

Norm's tricks of the trade

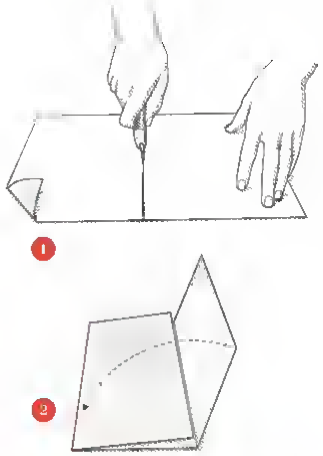
What's the best way to fold a sheet of sandpaper?

—ELAINE MALKIN, OCEANSIDE, NY

A I didn't used to give much thought to how I folded sandpaper. But then I realized that if the abrasive sides rubbed against each other, the grit would be worn even before it touched wood.

That's why I now cut the sheet in half across its width—rough side down, to avoid dulling the knife [1]—and fold each half in thirds [2] so that only the smooth paper backing touches the abrasive.

This keeps the abrasive sharp and makes the sandpaper easier to hold and far less bulky than a full sheet folded into sixths.



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Great stuff

Of the many tools, materials, and other products that we discover every month, here are the standouts —THE EDITORS

Quit your prying

Rapid-core-eject hole saw

Put an end to the slow work of prying wood cores out of hole saws. Simply push the button on the arbor (the part that joins the pilot bit to the saw), slide the saw back, and twist off the exposed core. This quick-release also makes swapping saws a breeze. Arbors with bits start at $23; compatible saws at $6.50. spyderproducts.com

High-tech hall monitor

Smart Alert night light

This plug-in listening device turns your existing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors into smart devices by notifying your iPhone when it hears an alarm. It also monitors indoor temperature and humidity levels and sends alerts if conditions are ripe for frozen pipes or mold growth. $99. leeo.com

Shrugs off weather

Torrefied wood entry doors

They're built with thermally modified mahogany. Douglas fir or poplar (shown), so they're stable, water- and rot-resistant, and don't need shelter from the weather as is required with regular wood doors. Each one comes with a 20-year warranty. From $1,590. lemieuxdoors.com

No-thinset tile—really!

Del Conca Fast porcelain planks

These edge-grooved tiles are held together with plastic splines, so they can be installed over existing floors without thinset or grout. That makes installation cheaper and about one-third faster than with regular tile—and you can walk on it as soon as you're finished. From $9 per square foot; delconcausa.com

Bright light, low wattage

Big Ass Light Shop LED

Meet the last fixture your garage or workshop will ever need. Its blazing 13,000-lumen light output—equal to sixteen 60-watt bulbs—uses a mere 122 watts of power. And its four LED boards, housed in a tough, extruded-aluminum fixture, have a 150,000-hour rating. That's about 70 years of daily use. $399. bigasstans.com

Decorating made easy

Sure Strip prepasted wallpaper

This wallpaper doesn't need to be soaked in a tray and won't leave slimy drips on the floor or walls. Just spritz it with water, let it rest a few minutes and hang it on the wall. And when it's time to redecorate, the paper pulls off cleanly with no residue. Starting at $80 for a double roll (60.75 square feet). yorkwall.com ■

Directory

COVER *See the listing for "Get More Street Cred."*

HOME SOLUTIONS *(pp. 19–25)* Surprising sources of potential toxins. *Thanks to* Dave Stone, PhD, Department of Environmental & Molecular Toxicology, emi.oregonstate.edu; Carl Baum, MD, Center for Children's Environmental Toxicology, ynhh.org/budget.redo. **Homeowner's blog:** belle-tucker.com/blog

BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN Crowd-pleaser *(pp. 26–28)* **Shelf brackets:** ikea.com **Dishwasher:** sears.com

BEFORE + AFTER BATH Upgraded for grown-ups *(pp. 30–33)* **Designer:** David Heide Design Studio, Minneapolis, MN, dhdstudio.com **Contractor:** Scott Holm, Reliable Builders, Eagan, MN, 651-688-2407. **Timber framer:** Phil Bjork, Cambridge, MN, 763-689-1404. **Cabinetry and sconce backplates:** Front Cabinets, Saint Paul, MN, 651-224-3745. **Skylight:** Century Studios, Saint Paul, MN, 651-699-4838. **Sinks:** kohler.com **Floor tile:** Opus Anticato, walkerzanger.com **Shower door hardware:** emtek.com

BIG-BOX SCORES *(pp. 40–43)* **Designers:** Dee Elms, Terral Elms, Sestan, MA, terralelms.com; Amy A. Alper Architect, Sonoma, CA, alperarchitect.com; Paige McClellan, Niche Interior Design Services + Home Furnishings, St. Louis, MO, nichestl.com; Rebekah Zaveloff, KitchenLab, Chicago, IL, kitchenlabdesign.com

PHOTOSHOP BEDS From all white to all wow *(pp. 45–47)* *Thanks to* Bonnie Krims, Bonnie Krims Color Studio, Concord, MA, bonniekrims.com

LANDSCAPING The need to feed *(pp. 49–51)* *Thanks to* Tom Carruth, The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, huntington.org; Linda Chalker-Scott, Puyallup Research & Extension Center, puyallup.wsu.edu; Lee Reich, leereich.com

WEEKEND REMODEL Clad a wall in stone *(pp. 55–59)* *Thanks to* Joe Holcombe, boralamerica.com **Circular saw:** Dust Collecting Circular Saw, rosentools.com

BUMPING UP THE CHARM *(pp. 60–67)* **Architect:** Lou Heiser, Tall Tree Studios, Tucson, AZ **Interior design:** JV Design LLC, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 201-294-0638, jvdesignstyle.com **Kitchen designer:** Broadway Kitchens & Baths, broadwaykitchens.com **General contractor:** All State Builders and General Contractors, Harrington Park, NJ, 201-784-2600 **Landscape architect:** Garden Makers Landscaping, Trenton, NJ, gardenmakerslandscaping.com **Shutters:** allentcshutters.com **Roof:** authentic-roof.com **Windows, doors, and skylights:** andersenwindows.com **Balusters, newel posts, and brackets (exterior) and beams and molding (interior):** fypon.com **Paint: Exterior:** HC-113 Louisburg Green (siding); HC-9 Chesterton Buff (trim), and PM-15 Cottage Red (door). **Living room:** Custom blend (walls). **Den:** HC-159 Philipsburg Blue (walls) and HC-26 Monroe Bisque (trim), benjaminmoore.com **Den. Gas fireplace and mantel:** heatilator.com **Flooring:** armstrong.com **Wine refrigerator:** kitchenaid.com **Sconces:** robertabbey.com **Wing chair:** hickorychair.com **Kitchen: Countertops:** vermontsoapstone.com **Range backsplash:** artistic-tile.com. **Island tap:** craftsmart.com **Refrigerator and microwave wall oven:** kitchenaid.com **Range hood:** ventahood.com **Montauk Black slate floor tile:** msistone.com **Sink and faucet:** rohlhome.com **Sconce:** robertabbey.com **Rug:** deshendelbert.com **Knobs and pulls:** houseofantiquehardware.com

GET MORE STREET CRED *(pp. 68–75)* Layer on classic details **Designer:** Jeff West, Lewes, DE, jeffwesthome.com/thelist **Restore the porch. Architect:** Suzie Van Cleave, Whitefish Bay, WI, vancleavearchitecture.com **Make it welcoming. Designer:** Carolyn Woods, Menlo Park, CA, carolynwoodsdesign.com **Architect:** Roger Kohler, Palo Alto, CA, kohlerarchitects.com **Uncover a charmer. Builder:** Royce Flournoy, Texas Construction Company, Austin, TX, txconstruct.com **Let in the light: Architect:** Shawn Buehler, Silver Spring, MD, bfmarch.com **Use color to play up details. Homeowner's blog:** greenthumbwhitepaper.com **Warm up a cold facade. Architect:** Jeremy Corkern, Birmingham, AL, batescorkern.com

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE *(pp. 83–94)* Q+A. **Hot ground.** *Thanks to* Scott Caron, Caron Electric, Burlington, MA, caronelectric.com ■

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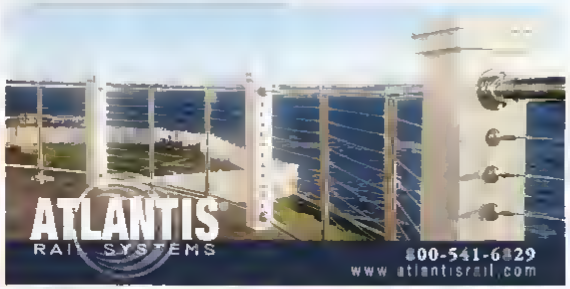

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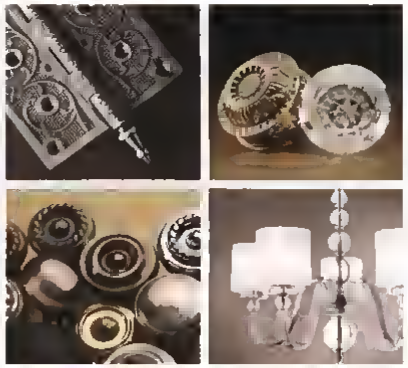

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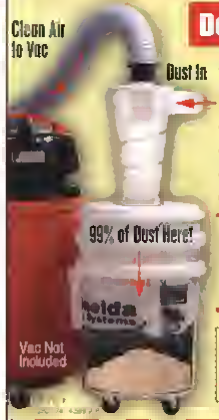

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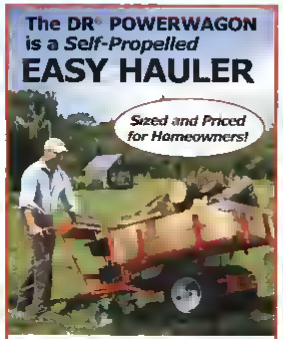

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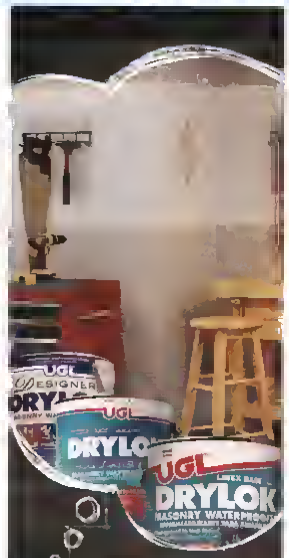

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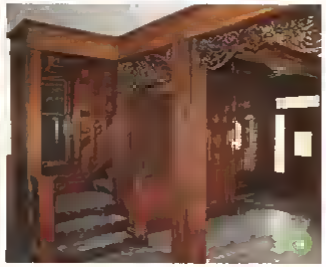
THE HISTORY When prominent businessman Jacob Ruhl passed away in 1858, he left quite a bequest for his wife, Sarah. Along with a cluster of furnishings and farm animals, he set aside a small fortune—and very precise instructions—to build her this sprawling 7,000-square-foot house, which she outfitted quite lavishly. The house was later purchased by Dr. C.D. Morgan, who briefly converted the building into a makeshift hospital for patients in town. In the years since, it was used as a rooming house as well as a private residence, and has sat vacant for several years.

WHY SAVE IT? The structure blends elements of Greek Revival and Italianate architecture, including a broad trim band beneath the cornice line and simple stone lintels above the windows. The interior has an elaborate quarter-sawn-oak staircase and matching paneling throughout the vestibule. It also retains carved mantels, built-in cabinetry, stained- and leaded-glass windows, and the original tin ceilings.

WHAT IT NEEDS Structurally, the house is in good shape, with an intact brick facade and a sturdy stone foundation. A previous owner put on a new roof and installed a handful of new windows. The plumbing, electrical, and heating systems need a complete overhaul. Galion is a town of about 10,000 located 60 miles north of Columbus. The house was a sight to behold back when it was built, and that's no less true today; whoever tackles the renovation will own what is widely thought to be the grandest house around these parts. —PAUL HOPE

1] The seven-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath house sits on a third of an acre in a neighborhood of smaller houses. 2] This circa 1910 photograph shows the stone porch, likely added after the house was purchased by Dr. C.D. Morgan. 3] The dining room has a detailed mahogany mantel, built-in cabinetry with leaded-glass doors and stained-glass windows. 4] The front entry has a series of intricate spandrels.



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