

This Old House

#1
Way to
SIMPLIFY
Laundry
Day

Easy Upgrades for Kitchen and Bath

23 stylish storage solutions
32 brilliant tile ideas
50 appliance-buying tips

Thrifty
DIY
Kitchen
Lights
p.15

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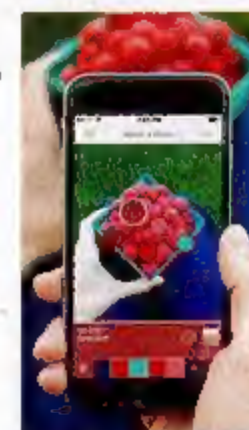
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Peppery



SW 6910
Daisy



SW 6797
Jay Blue



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BRIGHT + AIRY

PHOTO: NAT REA

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Cover Photograph by NAT REA
Styling by TRACY PARKINSON

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PHOTOS: (TOP) FREDERIC DILLON/GAP PHOTOS; (BOTTOM) ANDREW MICHAEL

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Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

What's a weekend for, if not DIY?

No, thanks, we can do it ourselves," I said, speaking the words that more than any others have led me to near divorce—multiple times.

I had just told the salesperson at the tile shop that we needed no help installing the material we were picking up for our kitchen backsplash. My wife was silent, which was a bad sign, and I could see her calculating the number of weekend hours we'd spend installing it versus the check we could write to a professional for what was likely a one-day job. "It'll be easy," I said, trying to interrupt her math.

Now, as you'll see on page 80, in our story "All About Glass Mosaic Tile," it's quite possible to do the job on your own. There are beautiful choices in simple designs that any couple could lay out in a weekend.

But here's the thing: In typical fashion, I had chosen a random-patterned ultrathin Italian glass mosaic with each not-quite-10-inch-square sheet being made from about eight different sizes of glass rectangles and with indecipherably irregular edges that only fit together just so. No straight grout lines, not even a simple jigsaw-puzzle pattern. And the mosaic, while beautiful, was so thin that no notch on my trowel was small enough to keep thinset from squeezing through the grout lines when we'd press a sheet into place.

In the end there was no divorce, fortunately, but there were about four full weekends of nothing but calculating and nipping and discovering little fingertip cuts that hurt like the hell I'd created. And then, of course, there were the following three or four months where, in a mutual delusion, we somehow imagined that the last square foot or so we hadn't finished was done. Didn't matter that we looked at it while eating dinner every night. It wasn't there, until the trauma somehow wore off and we managed to finish completely.

All of which is why I'm glad it's time to move the projects outdoors, like Deborah Ellman did over the course of several years at her house—see our story "Garden Color That Doesn't Quit" (page 68). I'm particularly fond of her creativity and ambition. So much so that I showed the story to my wife and suggested we might try such a scheme at our house. "We could knock it out in a couple of weekends—it'll be easy," I said.

"Uh, yeah," she said, "I think it might be better for us just to look at the pictures."



The editor, with the glass-tile backsplash that he and his wife spent a month of weekends almost finishing.

Scott Omelianuk

SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com

P.S. Have you entered the Search for America's Best Remodel Contest yet?

You've gotta be in it to win it, as they say—and there's a \$10,000 grand prize. Enter at thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH. Or at the very least, send us a story idea you'd like to see in our October Reader-Created Issue.

PHOTO: IAN SPANIER

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Reader mail



WHETHER THEY WERE ABOUT TURNING back the clock on a newer home or putting a personal stamp on one of our DIY projects, your letters this month showed us the many ways you were inspired by our March issue. Plus: a lesson in reading the fine print.

For homes of all ages

As longtime subscribers, we really enjoy your magazine. Even though we have a somewhat new home, we often find good ideas to improve it in *This Old House*. Keep up the great work!

—NEWELL CHEESBOROUGH, ALTHA, FLA.

Fine-print warning

In the March 2016 Home Solutions, you suggested Bagster for disposal of mixed debris, repeating the claim on the packaging that each bag can hold up to 3,300 pounds. That is true if one has, say, 47 full sheets of drywall, which are stiff and won't fall out when the bag is lifted. But if the debris pieces are heavy and loose, the bag can sag and spill. My knowledge comes from unpleasant personal experience. I didn't read the

fine print before I fully loaded four Bagsters with the debris from my demolished chimney and fireplace. When I contacted the company to have them hauled away, the rep pointed out that the label clearly states a Bagster can hold only 1 cubic yard of heavy debris—one-third of the bag's capacity.

—JOHN WALLIS WHITE, BROKEN ARROW, OKLA.

To find articles from the March issue, go to thisoldhouse.com/mar2016.

How to reach us

E-mail the editors at TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com or write to This Old House magazine, 225 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281.

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

READER
PROJECT
OF THE
MONTH

Vintage sign

JANICE WILLIAMS, CARVER, MASS.

Inspired by the old railroad sign in the March 2016 Get This Look for Less [top right], I followed your suggestion for re-creating the look, using a piece of wood from 1745 that I had been saving for a special project. I gave it to my daughter for Valentine's Day. Thanks for your great projects and ideas!



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Checklist

MAY 2016

*Easy ways to
improve your home
right now*

6 FAST FIXES

☐ **Keep tools rust-free:** Slip a few pieces of chalk into your toolbox to absorb moisture and head off oxidation.



☐ **Wash your home's exterior:** Use a hose to clear siding of winter gunk, spraying at a downward angle along siding laps.

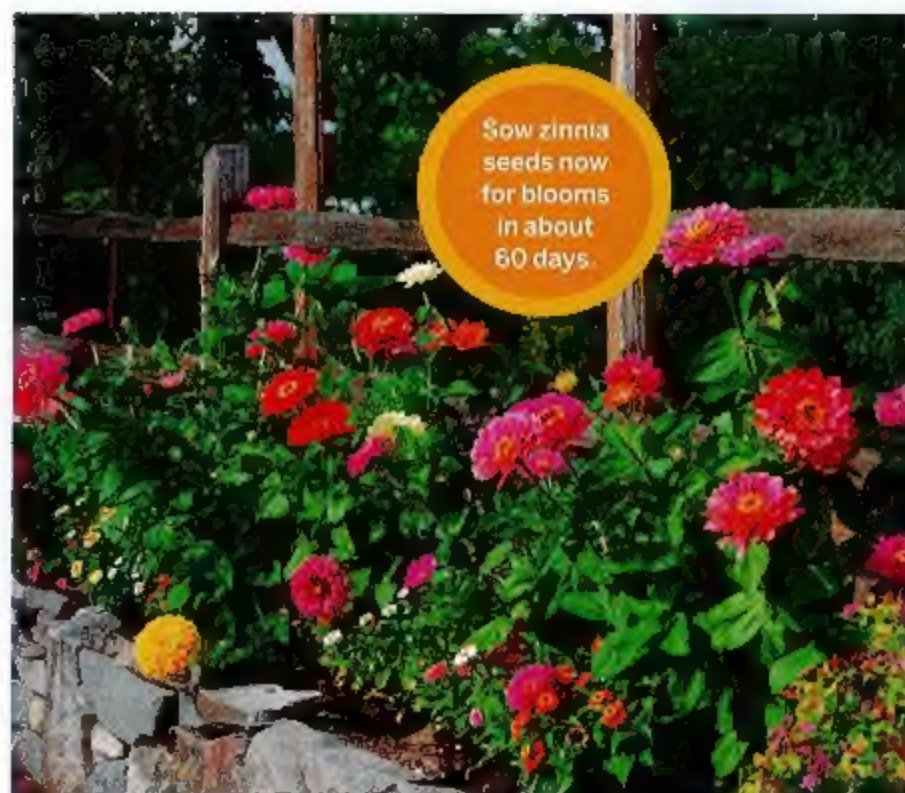
☐ **Tune up the lawn mower:** Start the season with new air and fuel filters and a fresh spark plug, then change the oil and add a fuel stabilizer. In electric models, clean the air vent.

☐ **Clean up cabinetry:** De-grime wood cabinets by wiping them down with an oil-soap cleanser on a slightly damp rag. Dry immediately with a soft cloth.

☐ **Tighten deck rails:** Secure wobbly wood railing posts by drilling 1/2-inch carriage bolts through the tops and bottoms, straight into the framing.

☐ **Test GFCIs:** Plug in a switched-on lamp and hit the TEST button; the light should go off. If it doesn't, the GFCI may need replacing. To restore power to a functioning GFCI, press the RESET button.

☒ **Grow a cutting garden**
Treat Mom to months of fresh cut flowers this Mother's Day (May 8) by planting a cutting garden. Hit the nursery for seeds or ready-to-plant seedlings, and choose plants that produce many flowers over a long season—annuals like zinnias or snapdragons do particularly well. For flowers that will return year after year, opt for perennials, such as purple coneflower.



☐ Shred old documents

Keep the spring-cleaning momentum going by eliminating paper clutter—and protecting yourself from identity theft. Since shredding paper reduces its recycling status from high grade to mixed grade, it may not be recyclable; check with your municipality. If it isn't, save clippings to use as packing material or for the compost pile.

☐ Keep pollen off pets

If you're an allergy sufferer, take special care to prevent your pets from tracking in dust and pollen. Long hair traps more pollen, so keep dogs' coats short if possible, and clean their feet with damp paper towels or pet-safe wipes. When you vacuum, make sure to use a HEPA filter, which ensures you're not releasing allergens back into the air.



☐ Protect cookware

Stacking nonstick pans can damage their coating, and while stainless-steel pans are more scratch-resistant, their handles can come loose if they're piled on top of one another. To protect your cookware—and keep it organized, to boot—install a hanging pot rack over an island or on an empty wall, or place freestanding pan racks inside cabinets.

their handles can come loose if they're piled on top of one another. To protect your cookware—and keep it organized, to boot—install a hanging pot rack over an island or on an empty wall, or place freestanding pan racks inside cabinets.

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) STEVE TERRILL/CORBIS; BURCU AVSAR; MOAN/GETTY IMAGES; MINT IMAGES/TIM PARNELL/GETTY IMAGES

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Please see Brief Summary of Prescribing Information on the next page.

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When diet and the highest tolerated dose of a statin are not enough, adding PRALUENT could make it PLUNGE.

PRALUENT is different than a statin, and is for adults with uncontrolled LDL (bad) cholesterol who have HeFH* or heart problems due to plaque in the arteries.

- In clinical studies of patients with HeFH* or heart problems due to plaque in the arteries who were not at their LDL cholesterol goal despite being on the highest tolerated dose of a statin, adding PRALUENT to a statin reduced high LDL cholesterol an additional **44%-58%**, on average
- So if diet, exercise, and statins haven't been enough to get your LDL cholesterol to where it needs to be, talk to your doctor about adding PRALUENT

*Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.

What Is PRALUENT (alirocumab)?

PRALUENT is an injectable prescription medicine called a PCSK9 inhibitor. PRALUENT is used along with diet and maximally tolerated statin therapy in adults with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (an inherited condition that causes high levels of LDL) or atherosclerotic heart problems, who need additional lowering of LDL cholesterol.

The effect of PRALUENT on heart problems such as heart attacks, stroke, or death is not known.

Safety and efficacy in children is unknown.

Important Safety Information for PRALUENT

Do not use PRALUENT if you are allergic to alicumab or to any of the ingredients in PRALUENT.

Before starting PRALUENT, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including allergies, and if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist about any prescription and over-the-counter medicines you are taking or plan to take, including natural or herbal remedies.

PRALUENT can cause serious side effects, including allergic reactions that can be severe and require treatment in a hospital. Call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest emergency room right away if

you have any symptoms of an allergic reaction, including a severe rash, redness, severe itching, a swollen face, or trouble breathing.

The most common side effects of PRALUENT include: redness, itching, swelling, or pain/tenderness at the injection site; symptoms of the common cold; and flu or flu-like symptoms. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the right way to prepare and give yourself a PRALUENT injection and follow the "Instructions for Use" that comes with PRALUENT.

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.


Praluent®
(alirocumab) Injection 75mg/mL
150mg/mL
THE FALL OF HIGH CHOLESTEROL

Summary of information about PRALUENT® (alirocumab) (PRAHL-u-ent) Injection, for Subcutaneous Injection	Rx Only
What is PRALUENT? PRALUENT is an injectable prescription medicine called a PCSK9 inhibitor. PRALUENT is used along with diet and maximally tolerated statin therapy in adults with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (an inherited condition that causes high levels of LDL) or atherosclerotic heart problems, who need additional lowering of LDL cholesterol. The effect of PRALUENT on heart problems such as heart attacks, stroke, or death is not known. It is not known if PRALUENT is safe and effective in children.	
Who should not use PRALUENT? Do not use PRALUENT if you are allergic to alicumab or to any of the ingredients in PRALUENT. See the end of this Summary of Information for a complete list of ingredients in PRALUENT.	
What should I tell my healthcare provider before using PRALUENT? Before you start using PRALUENT, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including allergies, and if you: - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PRALUENT will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking PRALUENT. - are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take PRALUENT or breastfeed. You should not do both without talking to your healthcare provider first. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist about any prescription and over-the-counter medicines you are taking or plan to take, including natural or herbal remedies.	
How should I use PRALUENT? - See the detailed "Instructions for Use" that comes with Praluent about the right way to prepare and give your PRALUENT injections. - Use PRALUENT exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to use it. - PRALUENT comes as a single-dose (1 time) pre-filled pen (autoinjector), or as a single-dose pre-filled syringe. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the type and dose that is best for you. - If your healthcare provider decides that you or a caregiver can give the injections of PRALUENT, you or your caregiver should receive training on the right way to prepare and administer PRALUENT. Do not try to inject PRALUENT until you have been shown the right way by your healthcare provider or nurse. - PRALUENT is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously) 1 time every 2 weeks. Do not inject PRALUENT together with other injectable medicines at the same injection site. - Always check the label of your pen or syringe to make sure you have the correct medicine and the correct dose of PRALUENT before each injection. - If you forget to use PRALUENT or are not able to take the dose at your regular time, inject your missed dose as soon as you remember, within 7 days of your missed dose. Then, take your next dose 2 weeks from the day you missed your dose. This will put you back on your original schedule. If the missed dose is not given within 7 days, wait until your next scheduled dose to re-start PRALUENT. This will keep you on your original schedule. If you are not sure when to re-start PRALUENT, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. - If you use more PRALUENT than you should, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Do not stop using PRALUENT without talking with your healthcare provider. If you stop using PRALUENT, your cholesterol levels can increase.	
What are the possible side effects of PRALUENT? PRALUENT can cause serious side effects, including: allergic reactions. PRALUENT may cause allergic reactions that can be severe and require treatment in a hospital. Call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you have any symptoms of an allergic reaction including a severe rash, redness, severe itching, a swollen face, or trouble breathing. The most common side effects of PRALUENT include: redness, itching, swelling, or pain/tenderness at the injection site, symptoms of the common cold, and flu or flu-like symptoms. Tell your healthcare provider 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 PRALUENT. 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.	
General information about the safe and effective use of PRALUENT. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use PRALUENT for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give PRALUENT to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. This is a summary of the most important information about PRALUENT. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about PRALUENT that is written for health professionals. For more information about PRALUENT, go to www.PRALUENT.com or call 1-844-PRALUENT (1-844-772-5836).	
What are the ingredients in PRALUENT? - Active ingredient: alicumab - Inactive ingredients: histidine, polysorbate 20, sucrose, and water for injection.	
Manufactured by: sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC Bridgewater, NJ 08807; A SANOFI COMPANY, U.S. License # 1752; Marketed by sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC, (NJ 08807) and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NY 10591) / PRALUENT is a registered trademark of Sanofi / ©2015 Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. / sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC	

Revised: October 2015

ALI-PPI-SL-OCT15

home solutions

Edited by Megan Baker

INSIDE

DIY DECOR

GARDENING TIPS

CLEANING HACKS

PLUMBING FIXES

MORE



A real mix-'em-up

What better way to light a kitchen than by dipping into a cook's own tool kit? This whimsical pendant light is a simple two-part project, created with a stainless-steel industrial wire whip (\$37; webrestaurantstore.com) and a pendant cord kit (\$8; ikea.com). Before assembling, we gave our mixer a few coats of bright-red metal spray paint. Then we converted our plug-in cord to a hardwired version—you can have a full-service lighting shop help you do the same—and threaded it through the wire sides and open top of the whip. Fitted with an Edison-style bulb, the caged pendant is equal parts cheeky and charming—as ideas go, we think this one's pretty bright.

PHOTOS: ANDREW MCCAUL

Three more kitchen-right lights

Everyday items get a second, more illuminating life when you outfit them with plug-in or hardwired cord kits. Here's how to put them together

▼ Box graters

Gleaming aluminum combined with midtone wood creates a warm industrial vibe.

1. Tape off each grater's top handle, marking a hole big enough for the cord to fit through.
2. Cut a length of wood to size. We used a 20-inch pine 3×3. Drill three evenly spaced holes for cords.
3. Feed the cords through the graters, securing them with a small knot before stringing them through the wood. Braid cords together before hanging.



► Mesh colander

Lots of little pinholes make for a brighter light—and generously sized handles add some flair.

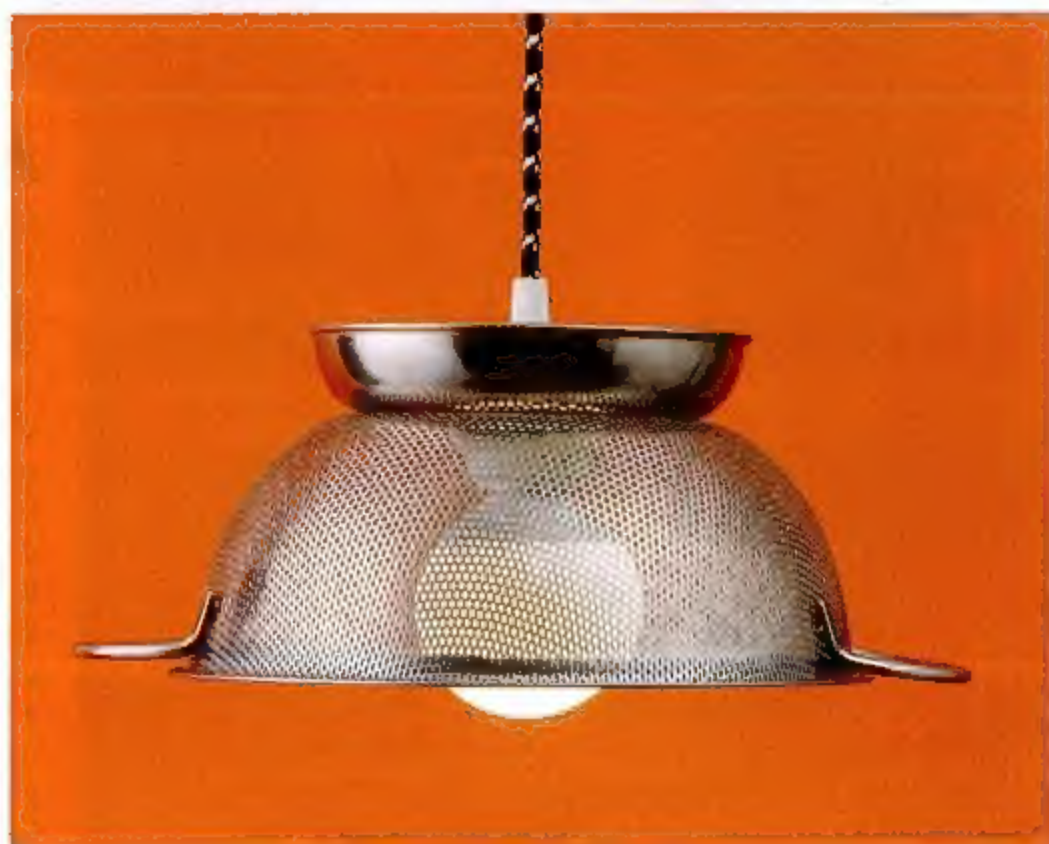
1. Mark a hole on the bottom of the colander, and drill with a bit made to cut metal. Use tin snips to widen the hole as needed.
2. String the cord through. Screw in a hefty globe-shaped bulb, then hang the lamp wherever you need a little extra light—or culinary inspiration.



◀ Enamelled coffee mugs

Simple cups are even more charming when hung as a set.

1. Cover the bottom of each cup with masking or painter's tape to help prevent the enamel from chipping when you drill.
2. Mark a circle on the tape that's big enough to thread your cord through. If you're using a plug-in cord, size accordingly.
3. Drill the hole, then string a cord through. Round LED bulbs keep cups from heating up.



PHOTOS: ANDREW MCCAUL

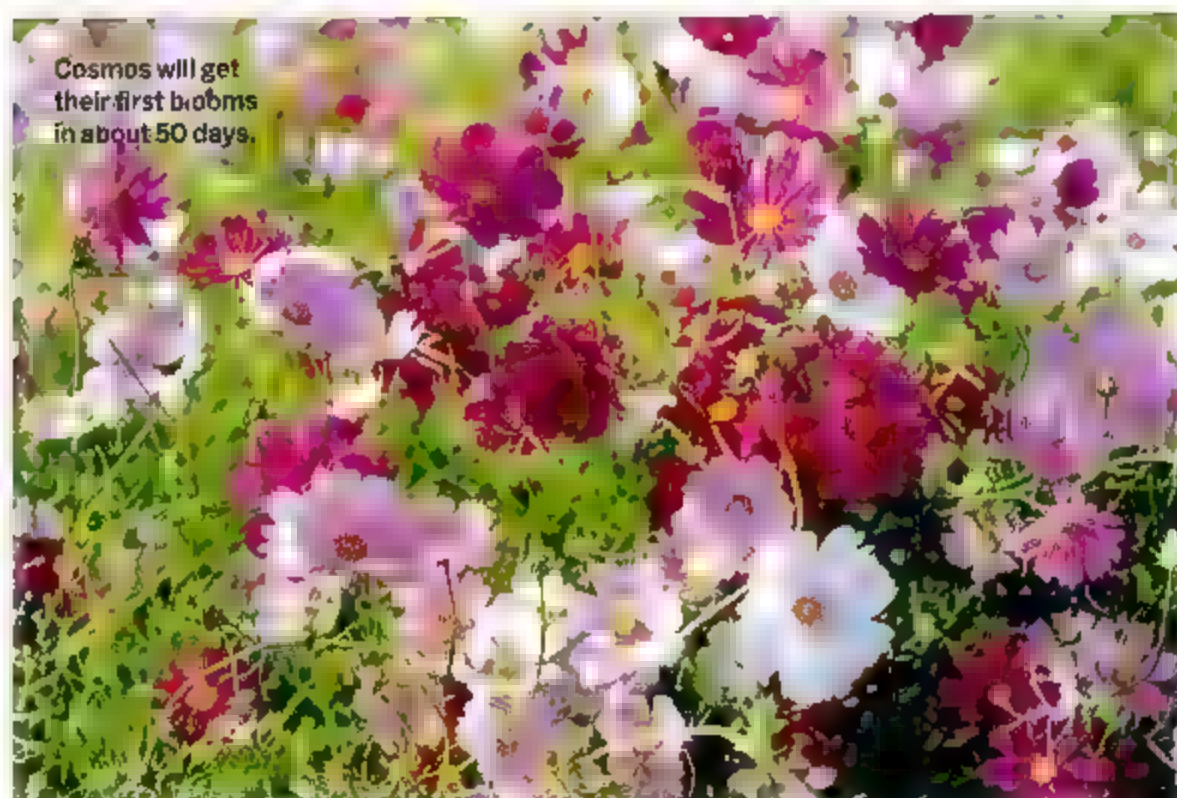
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Cosmos will get their first blooms in about 50 days.

Start seeds the easy way —outside

Seed-starting indoors can take a lot of work: artificial lights, conscientious watering, and steady surveillance before you can transfer seedlings outdoors. Not sure you're up for it—or time's no longer on your side? Many plants are suitable for direct sowing in late spring, and some even prefer it. Read on for what to get in the ground now for optimal success. MICHELLE GERVAIS

Know what—and when—to sow. Direct sowing is the best option for fast-growing plants or those that have delicate root systems that don't like being moved. First, determine the safe sow date for your area by visiting the National Centers for Environmental Information at nccdc.noaa.gov. While some seeds, such as cold-hardy leaf lettuces, can be planted a couple of weeks before the last frost date, most seedlings can't survive a cold snap.

Prep smart. Many seeds are ready to plant straight out of the package, but some need to be soaked first to jump-start germination, as indicated on the seed packet. Soak seeds in warm water no more than 24 hours prior to planting to help prevent rot.

Plant properly. Follow the package directions for depth. For seeds that can be sown directly on the surface of the soil, press them down firmly so there's less risk of their being washed away. If seeds need to be covered, make a divot with your finger that's about three times as deep as the seed's diameter, sow, then gently cover it with soil.

Follow through. Use a watering wand or the broad rose of a watering can to keep seeds moist without drowning them. Thin seedlings as directed on the packet, pinching out ones that are struggling or are too crowded. Once seedlings have produced a second set of leaves, you can start fertilizing.

SURE BETS FOR DIRECT SOWING

FLOWERS

Calendula
Cosmos
Love-in-a-mist
Marigolds
Nasturtiums
Poppies
Sunflowers
Sweet pea
Zinnias

VEGGIES

Cucumbers
Edamame
Leaf lettuces
Melons
Peas
Pumpkins
Spinach
Summer squash
Sweet corn

Clever cleaners: painter staples

Sure, you can buy special tools for sprucing up your home—or you can reach into your painting tool kit



Foam brush A ½-inch foam brush makes quick work of cleaning out the tracks of windows and sliding doors. Dip in soapy water before running it through tracks, then use a dry rag to mop up.



Painter's tape The sticky strips are well suited to lifting crumbs and other debris out of hard-to-reach nooks and crannies such as kitchen or desk drawer corners. Or use them to quickly (and gently) dust fabric lampshades.



Nylon-bristle brush The tapered tips and soft material make these ideal for dusting delicate items, such as framed artwork or mirrors. Another option: Use one to sweep the slim tops of baseboards before vacuuming.



Plastic putty knife It's firm enough to scrape toothpaste and other gunk from sinks, counters, or floors, but flexible enough that it won't scratch.



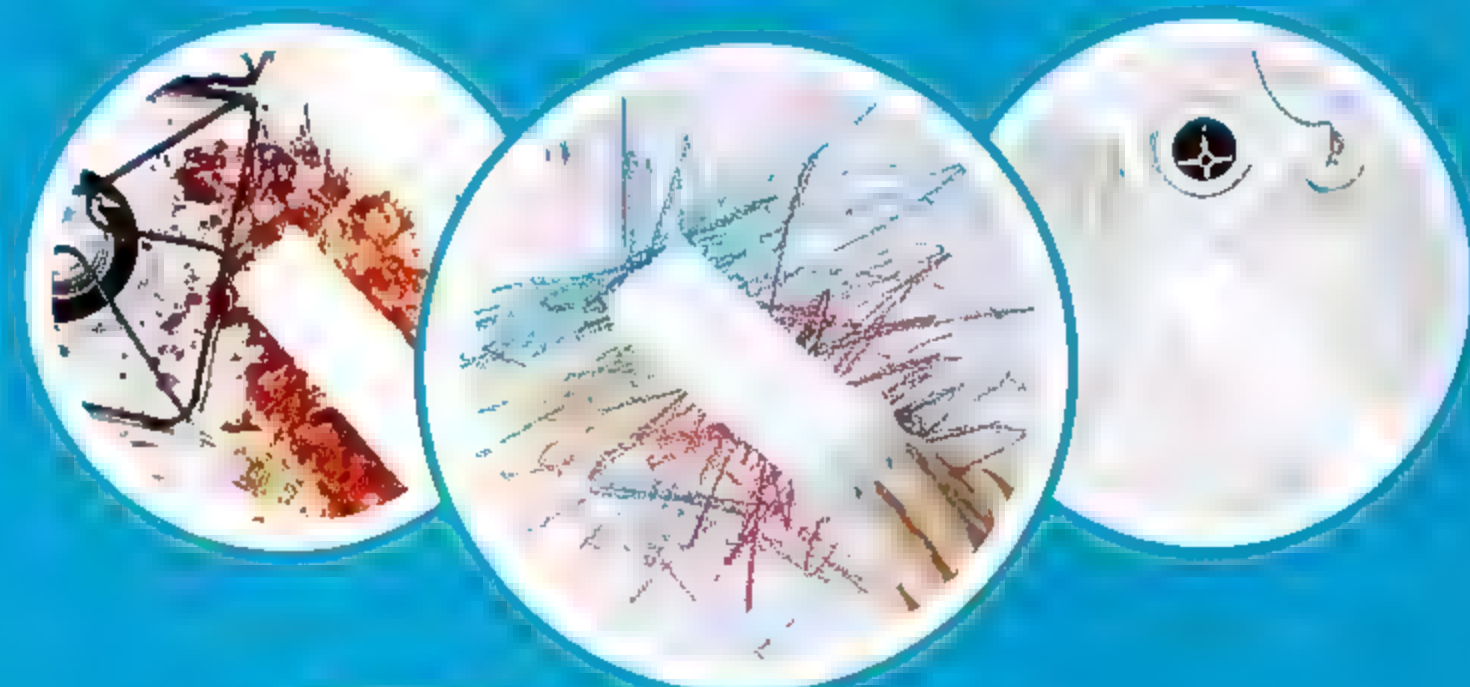
Mini roller Use one to dust metal and vinyl blinds, or load it with soapy water to de-grease range hoods, shower surrounds, and other broad, hard-to-reach surfaces.



Fine-grit sandpaper It can help scour away surface stains in grout. For more precision, wrap the paper around a stir stick before using the slim edge to file. When you're done, be sure to reseal the grout to prevent any future discoloration.

PHOTOS (RIGHT) TOP TO BOTTOM: TED MORRISON; PIKHOCK/GETTY IMAGES; TED MORRISON; TWISTED40/STOCKPHOTO; ALISON COHEN ROSA; ANDREW MCCAUL

HE FIGHTS DIRTY *no matter how dirty* DIRTY IS.



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



Bookcase dress-up

Looking for an unexpected dose of color and texture to bring a ho-hum bookshelf to life? We found these faux metal backsplash panels (\$20 per 18-by-24-inch sheet, fasadeideas.com), designed to look like embossed metal ceiling tile, but much easier to work with. Compared with the real thing, the lightweight plastic sheets (we chose a shimmery coppery finish) are a breeze to cut—no razor sharp edges!—and stay put with just a bit of double-stick tape on the back. For a more permanent installation, you could use panel adhesive instead. The result: all the appeal of charming vintage tiles, no tin snips needed. —MICHELLE BRUNNER



Plumbing under pressure

You don't need to be a pro to handle a plumbing emergency (though it's smart to keep the number of a good one on hand). These quick fixes will buy you some time until help arrives.

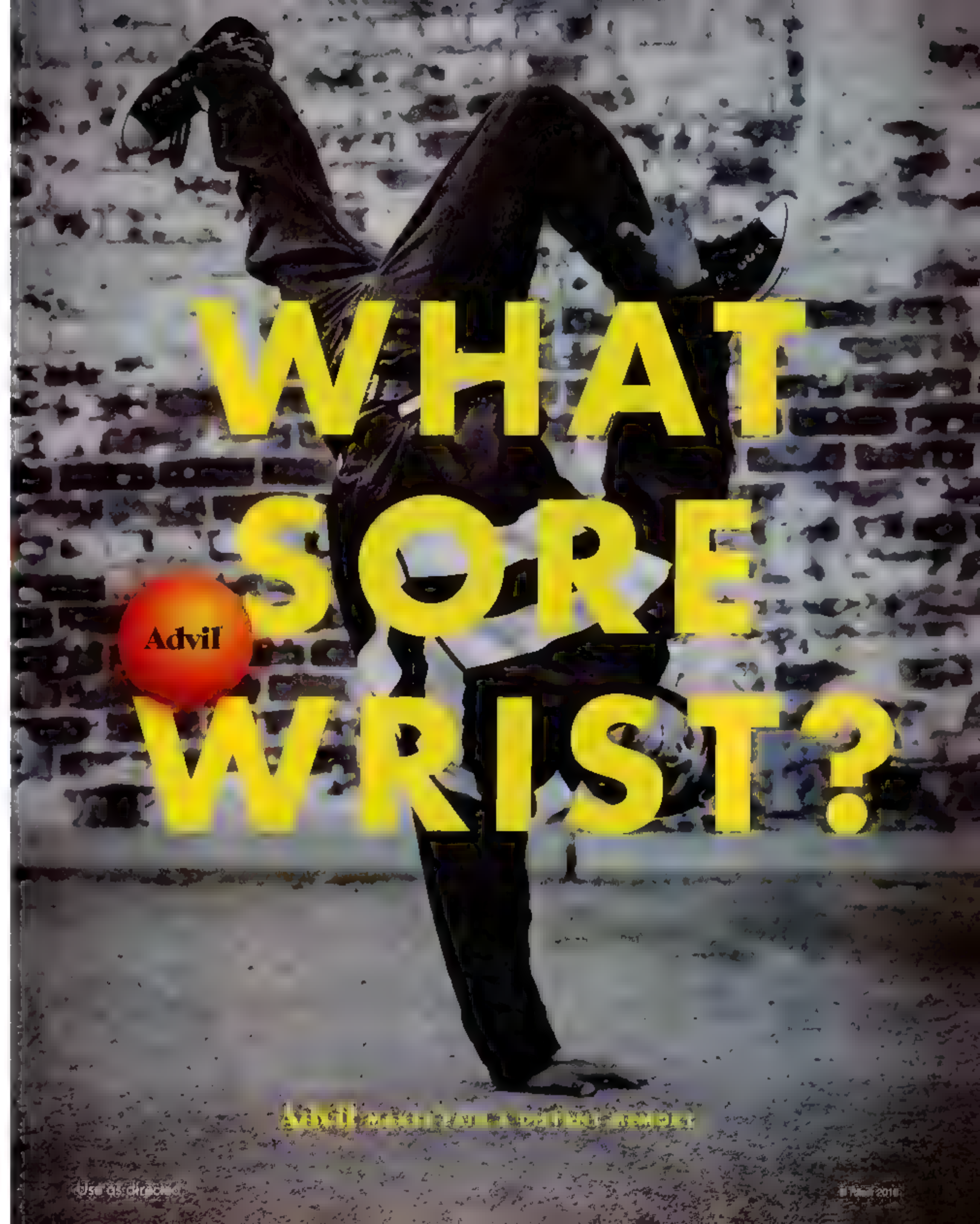
—SAL VAGLICA

PINHOLE LEAK When a nail gun misses its mark on a wall or ceiling, it can lead to a big mess. The long-term fix: Replace the damaged section with new pipe. But if you can locate the leak now, you can temporarily stop it by driving a self-tapping screw into the hole through a rubber washer.

CLOGGED DRAIN The first line of defense is a plunger, spread petroleum jelly around its rim for a better seal. In double-bowl sinks or with drains that have an overflow, stuff a rag into the opening you're not plunging. For serious clogs, try a toilet auger, which has a rubber boot that won't scratch the porcelain.

LEAKING TOILET When water pools at the base of the toilet, it's often the result of a failed wax seal underneath. To be sure, dry the floor around the toilet and wait to see where the water leaks from. If the tank isn't sweating, and the gasket between the bowl and tank is intact, try using a wrench to tighten the bolts on either side, turn a bit at a time so as not to crack the porcelain.

PHOTOS (LEFT) ANDREW MCGAUL (2) (RIGHT) ORLANDO/STRINGER/GETTY IMAGES



Sophisticated master bath for \$788

A couple of DIYers take on every square inch of their master bath to create a luxurious escape

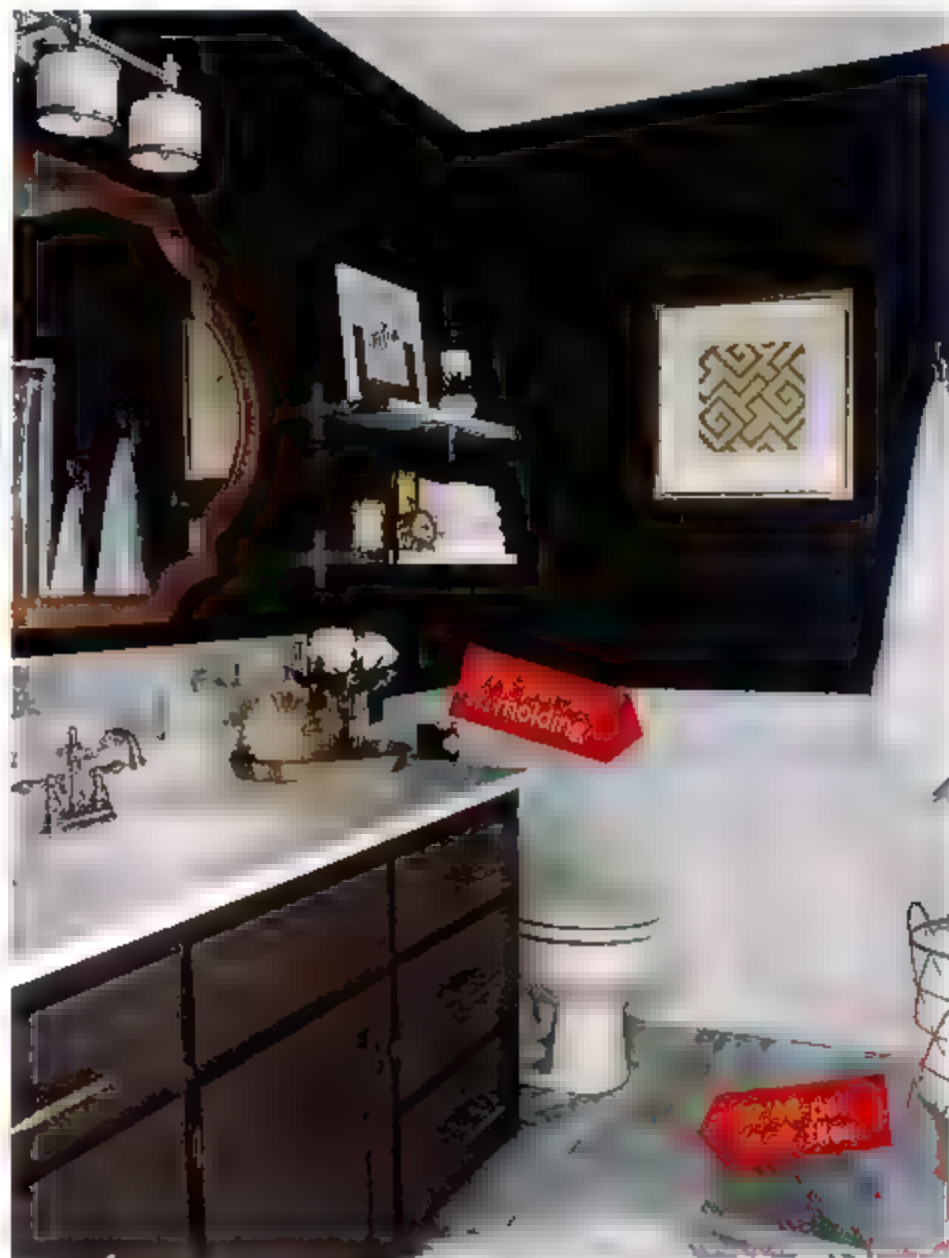


BEFORE

BEFORE The bathroom was in fine shape, but lacked oomph.

AFTER An elegant color palette, mixed metal finishes, and marble-look tiles add up to a high-end result. The homeowners cut costs by tackling all the labor themselves.

UPGRADES IN ONE room often set off a domino effect in the rest of a home. After redecorating the master bedroom of their Rochester, Minnesota, house, homeowners Angela and Alex Nelson realized their master bath looked sad by comparison. Hoping to create a luxury-hotel experience more on par with the rest of their redone master suite, the couple started from the ground up, removing the old tile and laying down a marble-look porcelain floor. For a shortcut wainscot, Alex nailed up a chair rail and frames made from base-cap trim, then painted the assembly white. Dark gray on the upper walls and on the existing vanity coordinates with an accent wall in the adjoining bedroom. The couple swapped out the old cream-colored vanity top for a bright-white solid-surface counter from a discount building-supply store and installed a framed backsplash of marble subway tile. A new gold and chrome faucet helps tie together the rest of the finishes, which include a new mirror, a light fixture, shelves, knobs, pulls, and accessories. Now the master suite is the elegant retreat the homeowners hoped for. "It feels like we're staying in a fancy hotel," Angela says. "I still can't believe it's in my own house!" KATELIN HILL



THE PROJECT TALLY

Tore out old ceramic tile and laid a new marble-look porcelain floor **\$195**

Created faux wainscot on the lower half of the walls with picture-frame and base-cap molding **\$40**

Swapped the old vanity light for one with a sleek, updated design **\$125**

Replaced the countertop with a new solid-surface one, then added a marble-tile backsplash **\$125**

Installed a new chrome-and-gold faucet **\$100**

Used leftover paint to coat the walls, and bought just a pint for the cabinetry **\$15**

Traded the vanity's cottagey bin pulls for mid-century-inspired bar pulls they spray-painted gold **\$37**

Fitted out the bath with a new mirror, shelving, wall hooks and a basket for towels **\$151**

TOTAL \$788

ARE YOU THRIFTY?

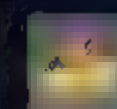
Show us how you pinched a penny for a chance to appear in our October Reader Created Issue visit soldhouse.com/yourTOH

SPONSORED BY

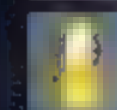


PHOTOS: ANGELA NELSON/WWW.THEBLOOMINGHILLYARD.COM

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Apply down to 35°F



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Introducing Olympic Maximum stain with Weather-Ready™ Application.

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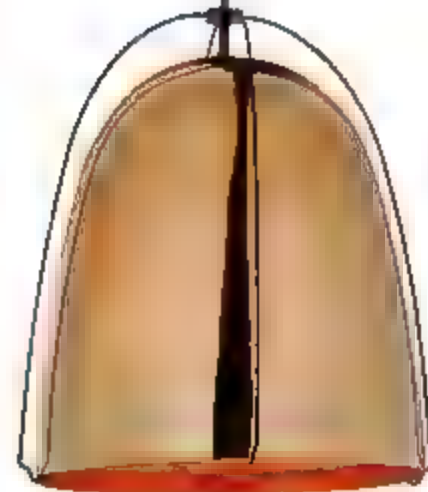
ADVERTISEMENT



Kristina Crestin
KristinaCrestinDesign.com
@KristinaCrestin

History Made Hip

Interior Designer Kristina Crestin shares fresh ways to incorporate vintage finishes into your remodel. A bold floor of cement tile—handcrafted as it was centuries ago—sets a modern vibe. Timeless copper pendants and a matching sink accent the deep blues of this graphic pattern, and add a touch of shimmer. To complement the warmth of the copper, like the Delta® Trinsic® Faucet in a handsome matte black. It's a strong statement piece that feels at home in spaces both old and new.



Haleigh wire dome 12" pendant lamp



Ceramic nut bowl
by Anthropologie



Bentley copper farmer's sink

Delta Trinsic Faucet
featuring Touch₂O®
Technology



West Elm matte black flatware

BlueStar 48-inch
platinum range

Diamond Twist cement tile by CléTile

Show us your remodeled kitchen for a chance to win \$10,000 cash or prizes courtesy of Delta Faucet!

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FOR THE UP-ALL-NIGHTERS
AND THE UP-ALL-NIGHTERS



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Touch it on. Touch it off. With Delta® Touch₂O® Technology, tap anywhere on the faucet to turn your water on and off. To learn more about this innovation for your kitchen and bathroom, visit deltafaucet.com/touch.



Something old, something new

Undertaking the gut renovation of her forever kitchen, a seasoned home cook holds fast to two kitchen keepsakes

BY CAROLE BRADEN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX HAYDEN

NOT EVERY REMODEL has to fully hew to the adage “out with the old.” When Patti McCall tapped Seattle’s JAS Design Build for her kitchen redo, she had no intention of giving her log-sided 1910 home—built as a hunting lodge, or so the story goes—a blast of 21st-century sleek. “I wanted to honor the house’s history,” she says, as well as her own. A passionate cook, Patti insisted on incorporating two beloved items: a vintage freestanding maple butcher block and a large pine hutch. For designers Mike Freeman and Kim Clements, the challenge was to keep those elements while making everything around them work harder. To upgrade the chopping block, they would add a cabinetry base to hold pots and knives. The hutch, refrigerator, and range would relocate to improve the flow and allow more counter and storage space. A small porch off the kitchen would become a laundry room with the bonus of wall-to-wall pantry storage.

The renovated cook space, with a mix of painted and richly grained walnut cabinets, blends the best of old and new. And it’s just what she had hoped for, says Patti, “a dream cook’s kitchen that respects the house.”



BEFORE The previous remodel, circa 1990, felt dowdy and dark.

AFTER The butcher block remains central in the updated space, which features painted and wood-grain cabinets, soapstone counters, vintage-style lighting, and metal accents.

Pendants: Rejuvenation. Other lighting: Visual Comfort



BEFORE

Open cubbies for pots and pans flank knife drawers in the vintage butcher block's new cabinet base. Victorian-inspired hand-shaped clips hold towels—and cover existing holes. Island paint: Farrow & Ball's Studio Green No. 93



An apron-front sink, antiqued-brass bin pulls, honed soapstone, and a mix of painted and wood cabinets create a homey, rustic-modern mix. The designers boxed in an existing ceiling beam, adding a soffit and a faux beam for balance. Range: BlueStar

ISLAND STYLES
Find lots more kitchen island design ideas at thisoldhouse.com/may2016



Panels painted to match the cabinets give the counter-depth French-door fridge a furniture feel. The cherished hutch is nestled alongside. Refrigerator: Liebherr

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000

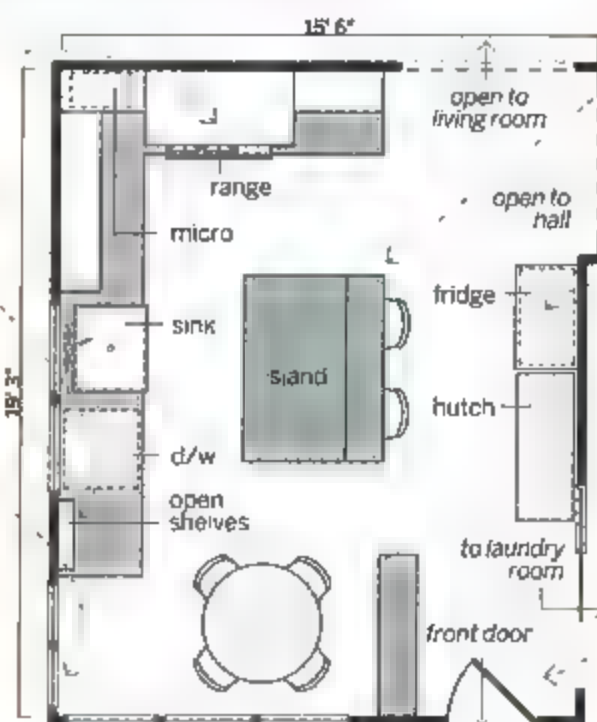
Share your kitchen or bath redo in the Search for America's Best Remodel Contest for a chance to win a \$1,000 Delta prize package and appear in our October issue. Visit thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

SPONSORED BY
DELTA

after

Squaring off what's now the fridge wall allowed for relocating the front door and turning the porch into a laundry with pantry storage.

1. Shifted the range out of the corner, slid the microwave in, and moved the fridge for more counter space
2. Lightened up one side of the sink with open shelves in place of upper cabinets
3. Swapped picture windows for double-hungs, adding two more on the sink wall, opted for a space-saving round table



4. Fitted the old butcher block with a cabinet base, wiring for outlets, and a bar with seating for quick meals
5. Moved fridge opposite the island seating alongside the hutch to free up space in the cooking zone
6. Removed a closet to relocate the front door; converted the porch to a pantry-lined laundry



homeowner tip

PATT MCCALL, WEST SEATTLE, WASH.
"If you have a lot of knives, store them in drawers. We just added cork inserts to protect them, and it's perfect! No chipping, nice sharp edges."

New windows were stained to match the original door, now on view in the kitchen. V-groove wall paneling, and rosette-trimmed window casings painted the same pale green as the cabinets, echo those elsewhere in the house.



The 1910 home is dotted with Victorian-era touches, including fluted brackets the homeowner chose for the blackened-steel breakfast bar. Brackets: Federal Brass





Grown-up getaway

Relocating the master bath away from the kid zone allows for a spacious, light-filled master-suite retreat

BY MICHELLE BRUNNER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIANNE WILLIAMS

A MASTER BATH should be a place to escape and unwind—especially when you’ve got two kids under age 4. Designer Alys Protzman and her husband had that in mind while redoing the upstairs of their 1880s North Carolina farmhouse. Tucked into their bedroom, which was across the hall from the kids’ rooms, the old master bath had an awkward layout, no tub, and no actual door. So, working with architect Erik Van Mehlman, they decided to start fresh, bumping out the back of the house 15 feet to

allow for a new master suite. Both children’s rooms would be in the front of the house, and dressing closets would add a buffer zone between adult and kid spaces. For an updated look that respects their house’s vintage, they lined the bath with white shiplap, flanking a freestanding tub with twin vanities and placing the steam shower and toilet enclosure on the opposite wall gives the room good flow and an open feel. Says Alys, “It’s such a luxury to have this much space—not to mention peace and quiet!”

BEFORE The old bath had an odd layout, dated finishes—and no tub.

AFTER Light-filled and inviting, the newly built master bath features farmhouse-appropriate shiplap walls, a focal-point soaking tub, and separate vanities.



BEFORE

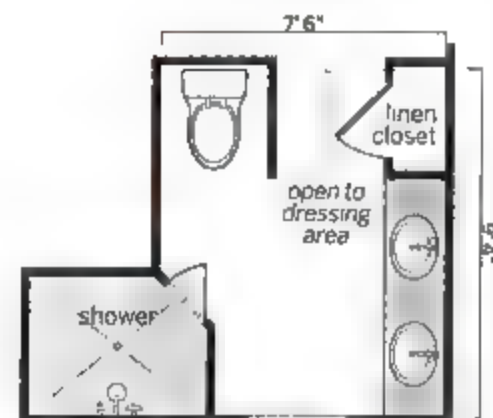
homeowner tip
A. YS PROTZMAN
PITTSBORO, N.C.
“Leaning the sink mirrors on the wall creates welcome cover for electrical outlets.”



Wood details warm up the space. The sink ledges were cut from an old beam salvaged during the renovation.

before

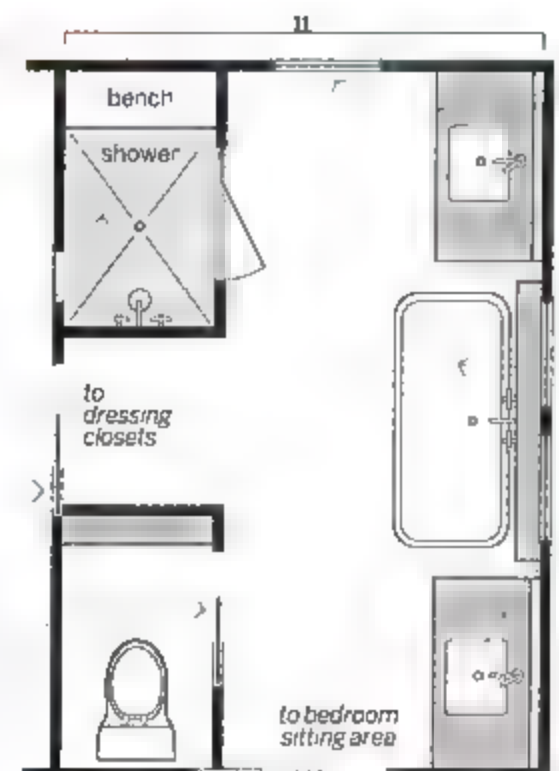
The master bath, located inside the bedroom, had a cramped layout and no tub—or door.



after

The relocated bath can be accessed from both the bedroom sitting area and the dressing closets.

1. Built a 3-by-6-foot shower with a bench on the interior wall at the far end of the room.
2. Added a mirrored pocket door to dressing closets opposite the tub.
3. Boxed out an enclosure for the toilet, accessed via a pocket door.



Vintage hooks hold towels outside the steam shower. Hex floor tile lends vintage charm—and modern comfort, thanks to radiant heat. Floor tile: Daltile. Floor heat: SunTouch.

The toilet is tucked discreetly behind a pocket door fitted with privacy glass. Door: TruStile.





Stop House Fires Before They Start

How a simple, inexpensive upgrade can help protect your house and family



Electrical malfunctions are responsible for starting nearly 48,000 house fires each year.¹ According to the

Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than half of these fires can be prevented with arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) technology. The temperature of arc faults, which often occur behind walls, can exceed 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit and ignite surrounding materials before a smoke alarm can detect them.

The risk is even greater for owners of older homes with aging electrical systems and for remodelers who may inadvertently drive nails, screws, or staples into wiring. Thankfully, today there's an innovative technology that's proven so effective at mitigating arc faults that the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) mandates its use for most rooms in new construction and major remodels.

AFCI Outlets and How They Work

Arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) outlets help protect your home from electrical fire by interrupting power when a potentially dangerous arc fault is detected. The internal circuitry of an AFCI continuously monitors current flow in an attempt to distinguish between normal arcing (for example, the arcing

that occurs when a mechanical switch is opened or closed) and unwanted, potentially fire-inducing arcing. Once an unwanted arcing condition is detected, the control circuitry trips the AFCI outlet, de-energizing the circuit to avoid a potential fire.



SmartlockPro® Outlet Branch Circuit (OBC) AFCI Outlet

Inexpensive, Easy to Install, and Safe

Just a few years ago you would have had to hire an electrician to install AFCI protection at the circuit breaker panel. But Leviton has introduced the SmartlockPro® Outlet Branch Circuit (OBC) AFCI Outlet, the first commercially available AFCI outlet that's as easy to install as a regular outlet.

You may not need more than one per room, placed in the first outlet on a branch circuit. SmartlockPro AFCI Outlets will help protect all wires and every device downstream from that location. If the AFCI outlet trips, an arc may have occurred somewhere in the circuit. If that happens, unplug all appliances and cords within the AFCI-protected circuit—one at a time—to identify the potential culprit. If after

resetting, the LED power indicator remains on, the circuit's safety should be restored. If not, the problem is probably behind the walls, and you should call an electrician for diagnosis and repair.

Additional Preventive Measures

More ways to minimize your risk.

- Inspect all exposed wires and fixtures plugged into outlets, looking for loose electrical connections and cracked cords.
- Use extension cords only temporarily.
- Be careful not to pinch cords against walls or furniture or run them under carpets or across doorways where they can become split or damaged.
- Plug in only one heat-producing appliance per outlet.

The High Price of Inaction

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reported that in 2011 electrical fires resulted in:



418 DEATHS



1,570 INJURIES



\$1.4 BILLION IN
PROPERTY DAMAGE

To learn more about how Leviton DIY-friendly AFCIs can protect you and your family, visit Leviton.com/AFCI

LEVITON.

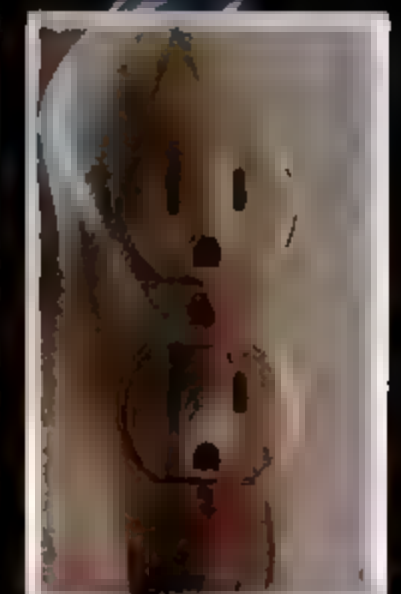


1. National Fire Protection Agency

Know the Warning Signs

Call an electrician immediately if you experience any of the following signs:

- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- Problems with fuses or circuit breakers that blow frequently
- Sparks from an outlet
- Tingling feeling when you touch an appliance
- Burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights



Colorful white-washed bedroom

Warm up 2016's favored neutral by adding bright touches. The result: a soothing space that's anything but vanilla

BY MICHELLE BRUNNER • PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID TSAY

WITH PAINT COMPANIES touting white as the color of the year (yes, it's a color!), it may be time to try it on your walls once more. It's the ultimate clean slate, after all. But how to ensure the room doesn't feel too plain-Jane? Design pro Emily Henderson says it's all about balance: "Too much white and you feel like you're in a hospital; add too many colorful pieces, and the room feels busy." This eclectic bedroom from her new book *Styled* shows one sure way to do white right. To start, Henderson wrapped the room in a warm hue, creating a foundation that allows brighter and darker accents to step forward. A blue velvet headboard and a multicolor kilim take on starring roles, while the grounding grays of the metal sconces, side tables, and windows prove to be great supporting players. To tie disparate furnishings together, look for common ground, suggests Henderson; here, the tasseled linens repeat colors in the rug and the bed. "It will help your room feel more put together and less thrifted," she says. Read on for more ways to create a light, bright mix.



kilim rug

The multicolor flatweave at right was rolled up in the homeowner's garage—imagine! This rug has a similarly vibrant geometric pattern. 5-by-7-foot rug, \$389; urbanoutfitters.com

French bench

Clean lines and neutral hues make the vintage Louis XVI-style stool a goes-with-anything bedroom addition. With fluted legs and a flax-colored cushion, ours would fill the bill nicely, too. Madeline stool, \$175; wayfair.com



PHOTOS (RUG, ARTWORK, PILLOWS, ANDREW MACAUL; PAINT, DAES); TED MORRISON



double sconce

Below, high-end two-light sconces bookend the bed and provide a nice ambient glow. We found a nearly identical brass version at a great price and gave it a quick coat of oil-rubbed bronze spray paint. Lancaster sconce, \$85; build.com



paint scheme

Henderson chose a creamy off-white to warm up the walls. Windows painted deep charcoal add dramatic contrast and architectural character—and frame the view. Swiss Coffee and Evening Hush by Behr, \$28 per gallon; homedepot.com

curvy side table

The sculptural base of the metal side table pops against the white walls. This wood-topped model has a similarly slender silhouette. \$187; lexmod.com



blue velvet headboard

The custom upholstered bed at left echoes the curves of the table and sconces. The model at right is a close match, underscored by nailhead trim. Queen headboard, \$227; wayfair.com



abstract artwork

The small painting of a rural scene that hangs above the bed is a vintage score. This colorful landscape by artist Megan Leong has the same painterly vibe. Framed giclee prints, from \$29; minted.com



ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000

Share your bedroom, living room, or dining room redo in the Search for America's Best Remodel Contest for a chance to win a \$1,000 Delta prize package and appear in our October issue. Visit thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

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Well coordinated

Brighten a hand-me-down and its surroundings with the same stripe design. BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MCCAUL



→ NOTHING INTERRUPTS a smooth flow of color and pattern like a clunky piece of furniture. To help this one fit into its new surroundings, we painted it to match the wall for a seamless look that also provokes smiles. First, we primed the wall and dresser and put down a base coat of soft blue on each. Then we made a “story stick” to save us the trouble of repeated measuring: Simply wrap bits of painter’s tape around a yardstick to indicate 1- and 3-inch-wide white stripes separated by 2- and 11-inch fields of blue. Placing the stick on the wall horizontally, we lightly marked the stripes’ boundaries, then used a level vertically to draw the stripes. We taped them off, sealing the tape by running a putty knife down the edges. After positioning the dresser against the wall, we marked and taped it off, too. Both sets of stripes were achieved with a 1-inch brush and a small foam roller. (Find the step-by-step at thisoldhouse.com/may2016.) Simple white furnishings, grounded by dark floorboards and enlivened by discreet accent colors, complete the pleasing picture. ■

WE LOVE PAINT

Enter your creative paint idea for a chance to appear in our October Reader-Created Issue. Visit thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

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STYLING: LAUREN SHIELDS/HALEY RESOURCES



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MARQUEE

ONE COAT COVERAGE GUARANTEED
THE MOST ADVANCED PAINT

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Read this before you buy a refrigerator

It works nonstop and sees more traffic than your trophy stove. So why is the mayo always AWOL and the lettuce left there to die? A new fridge just might solve some of your problems. Find one that's right for you with these tips **BY DEBORAH BALDWIN**

Latest upgrades

Here's what's hot in fridge land

BETTER BEVERAGE CENTERS

Water dispensers with sensors allow you to walk away while the carafe fills, or they hide discreetly inside. You can also get sparkling water, ice that's shaved or sized for water bottles, even hot water and—no kidding—fresh coffee.

FLEX-TEMP CHAMBERS

These compartments and drawers have their own thermostats. Some can switch between fresh and frozen; others give proteins the meat locker treatment.

LUXURY LININGS

For those who shun plastic, there's stainless steel. And if white seems passé, some makers offer platinum gray or obsidian black.

MORE THAN ONE COOLING SYSTEM

Separate compressors prevent dry air from traveling from the freezer to, say, the produce drawer, where it would wilt the lettuce.

ADVANCED AIR FILTERS

These can keep the Camembert from corrupting the French butter. One type of filter, borrowed from NASA, even removes fruit-spoiling ethylene gas.



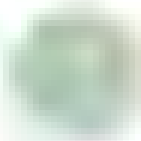
\$5,999*

UPDATED FINISHES

While stainless steel tops the most wanted list, other sexy choices are delivering high-end looks and practical pluses, too.



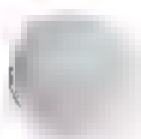
black stainless steel looks stylish and resists smudges



stamped metal in jadeite green channels your vintage style



ruby-red acrylic is cheery and easy to clean



slate gray is matte to hide fingerprints



white glass stays silky-shiny with a spritz of window cleaner

Getting smarter

Look for **app-enabled features**, like those in Samsung's 2016 Family Hub. A Wi-Fi-connected panel keeps a calendar, notes, recipes, and grocery lists (natch). At the store and can't remember if you need OJ? Use the app to call up images snapped by cameras positioned inside. This wizard can even channel a nearby smart TV. On top of all that, it keeps your food cold.

PERSONALITY TYPES



RETRO LOVER Charmers like this Smeg look old but act new. Just don't expect an in-door ice dispenser—that would be so wrong.



TOP CHEF Crowned by their compressors, models like this Sub-Zero mimic commercial refrigerators; some even have glass fronts.



PARTY GIVER At 36 inches wide, big guys like this GE gladly accommodate a pizza box, a birthday cake, and 2 gallons of milk.

Consider how it's configured

1. Top-mount

No need for an in-door ice dispenser when there's ice aplenty right at eye level. Offers ready access to the frozen peas, too.

2. Bottom-mount

Keeps the emphasis on fresh food over frozen. To reach the ice cream you have to bend.

3. Side-by-side

Helpful in narrow kitchens, and the freezer is easy to organize, though a challenge if you want to slide in a large platter.

4. French door

Also good for tight spaces. Double doors up top allow for full shelf visibility as well as a party platter.

5. Four-door

Some have a unit for fresh and two below for frozen, one of which can go either way.

6. Two-door, two-or-more-drawer

The waist-high flex temp drawers give you more options for storing this week's groceries.

7. Separate units

One is for fresh food, one for frozen, so you can devise the best layout for your kitchen.

8. Door-in-door

An outer door opens to reveal shallow shelves. Handy (and energy saving) for frequent retrieval of cold drinks.



*List price; as with most appliances, you are likely to pay less.

GETTING THE RIGHT FIT

Major source of buyer's regret: failure to measure—not only the alcove but also the path that big box has to travel before it can park. Other key attributes to keep in mind:



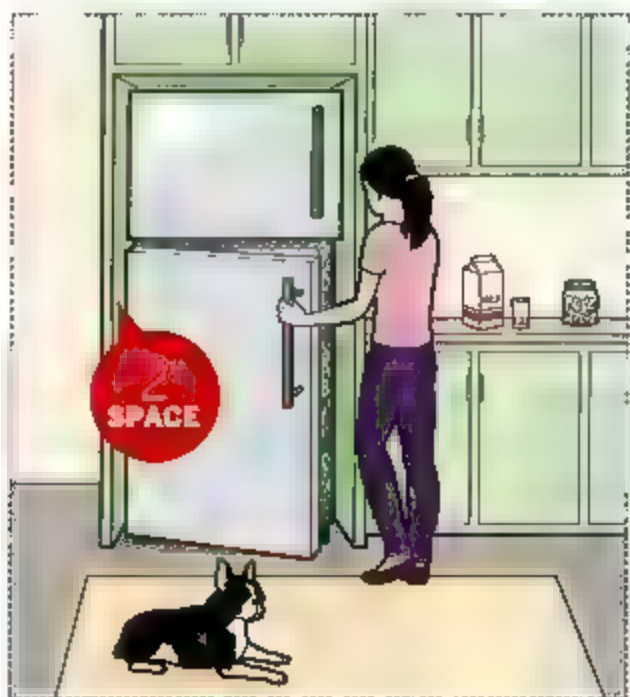
WIDTH Typically 30 to 48 inches, but can be up to 60. The wider the door, the more space you need for it to open all the way, not to mention for allowing everyone else to get around the one person who likes to stare inside for hours looking for... what? French doors can help.



DEPTH "Standard" is 30 to 36 inches. "Counter depth" may be 24 inches, the depth of a stock fridge cabinet, but that will not include the door, with hinges unobstructed so they can fully open, or the handle. Then there's the plug, and maybe a water line in back. Check the maker's specs.



HEIGHT Petite models are about 60 inches high, and most full-size ones are about 70 inches add an inch or so for the leveling feet. Some fridges rise to 84 inches, possibly to compensate for being unusually narrow. These skinny scrapers are chic, but could require a step stool.



BREATHING ROOM Some models need an inch or more along the sides for ventilation, and some need extra side space for hinges: consult spec sheets for requirements. Many doors can be hinged on either side, so choose the swing that best serves your workspace.

Talk like a pro

Go ahead and research options online, but be sure to shop in a showroom where you can find an informed staff and a range of touch-and-feel options. Terms you'll want to know before you hit the floor:

► Cubic feet

Shorthand for how much stuff you can cram in. Allot 4 to 6 cubic feet per adult. Divide it between fresh and frozen, adjusting the fresh up if you subscribe to more than one food magazine and down if you can't remember what you ate yesterday.

► Dual-compressor

Separate refrigeration systems allow humidity to rise in the fresh-produce zone and decrease in the frost-prone freezer. This arrangement cuddles tender greens and keeps stale freezer air out of the butter.

► Built-in or integrated

For a flush look, there are refrigerators so shallow, they line up perfectly with lower cabinets, special articulating hinges allow them to fully open. So-called integrated models are paneled to match cabinets. Fridge? What fridge?



Super storage

Organizers have come a long way since the flip-top in-door butter saver. Here, novel features now offered to keep your fare fresh

1. WIDE BODY

This one has a 42-inch waistline, the better to display the goods.

2. SOFT-CLOSE DRAWERS

A peacekeeping feature borrowed from cabinetmakers.

3. SEE-THROUGH IN-DOOR BINS

New systems allow you to move bins around to accommodate items that are tall or bulky.

4. FREEZER DRAWERS

Pullouts provide easy access to items

stashed in back and help organize frozen foods.

5. CLIMATE-CONTROLLED BINS

Adjustable temperatures help preserve perishables. Air is filtered to keep fruit from over-ripening.

6. SLIDING SHELVES

They pull out, easing the hunt for small items.

7. CAN HOLDER

Keeps soda and the like in a single, easy-access rack.



OTHER COOL EXTRAS TO SHOP FOR:

8. HERB KEEPER

A slanted shelf positions fresh parsley and friends with their feet in water and their heads angled above.

9. SHEET PAN DRAWER

Wide enough to hold a commercial sheet pan. Helpful during high cookie baking season.

10. SOFT-FREEZE BIN

Eases the scooping of ice cream—in case you're in a hurry

11. SPLIT SHELVES

Lets you stagger shelf heights: Adjust half of a shelf to create vertical height for bottles. Got a turkey? Lower both halves for more headroom

12. WINE RACK

Keeps your bottles horizontal, as your vintner intended them to be.

13. FREEZER SPACE MAKER

Shelves and drawers can be removed to create extra space for a bulky item.

Price pointers **\$\$\$**

Refrigerators are like cars—you can spend a fortune (\$11,225 for the latest 42-inch-wide model from Sub-Zero), but you may be fine with a classic white box (\$579; Frigidaire). Standard-depth stainless-steel French door fridges, popular right now, start at about \$1,100 and climb to \$5,000 and up. Comparison shop: Sales are frequent and many dealers price-match.

Ask around first

It pays to check if friends have had problems with specific models. Things like:

► Touchy ice makers

Their moving parts can break, and lines can spring leaks. Also, ice can defrost in French doors and leak out.

► Hard-to-open doors

High-power gasket magnets can make pulling the door open a challenge, especially right after you've just closed it, when moist air from outside hits cold and contracts. Ask if magnets can be adjusted.

► Installation issues

Built-in models require anchors so they don't tip over when you yank the door. With others, the plug requires room in back, which makes the fridge stick out. A recessed "clock" outlet can help; or create a flush look by framing the fridge with extra-deep custom cabinets.

► "Lemon" models

Rare, but at least one has inspired a class-action suit.

► Temperature swings

A thermometer, either built in or bought separately, can help document a problem.

► Upkeep issues

Water filters need replacing to the tune of \$50 to \$100 a year, and some condensers require periodic vacuuming.

KEEP IT NICE

Remove mildew from gaskets with a toothbrush and a solution of one part bleach and four parts water, then rub with mineral oil. Got smelly cheese? Try an odor-eater, such as those made by Moso.



IT PAYS TO BE GREEN

Fridges run 24/7, accounting for almost 10 percent of household energy use, so look for one that consumes wisely. Top-mounts in the 16-to-22-cubic-foot range tend to be the most efficient, though any model with an Energy Star label is going to save you money—if you get rid of your old one. Those outdated fridges lurking in garages cost \$110 to \$150 a year to run full-time. Some utilities are so eager to reduce waste, they offer bounties. Find out more about the Flip Your Fridge campaign at energystar.gov.

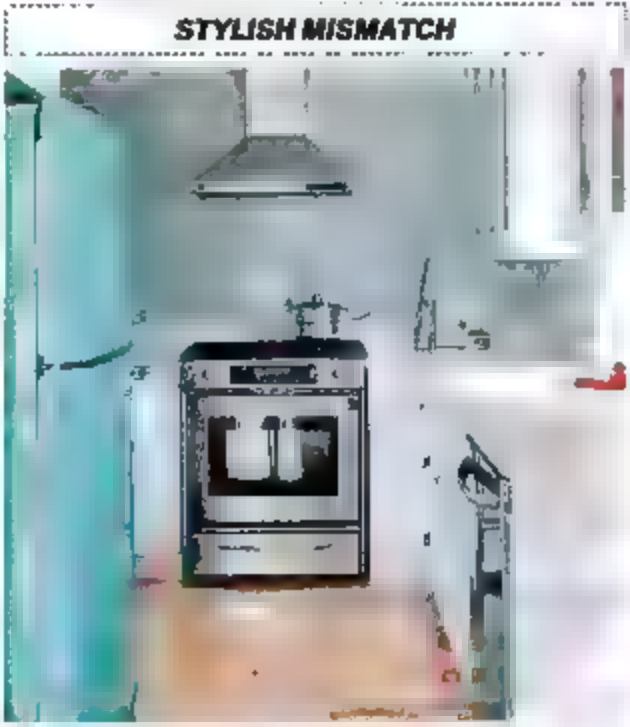
Should you buy an appliance suite?

To match, or not to match That is the question—whether you're swapping in a single appliance or planning a gut renovation. No one wants all stainless-steel appliances in competing styles, but when one or two are stainless and a third adds a dose of color or hides behind panels, the effect can be pleasing. Some finishes, like gray- and black-tinted steel, are designed to mix comfortably among stainless brethren—they often come with stainless-steel handles to help unify the look. Another thing to keep in mind: When you mingle brands, you can shop for what you want in each category, whether it's a fire-breathing range or a round-shouldered fridge that harks to the 1950s.



SLEEK SUITE

Fridge: KitchenAid



STYLISH MISMATCH

Fridge: Elmira

PHOTOS: (LEFT) SARAH DORR; (RIGHT) JAMES NICOLAY; STYLING: (LEFT) NIK PAPADOPOULOS

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and a place to enjoy it together.



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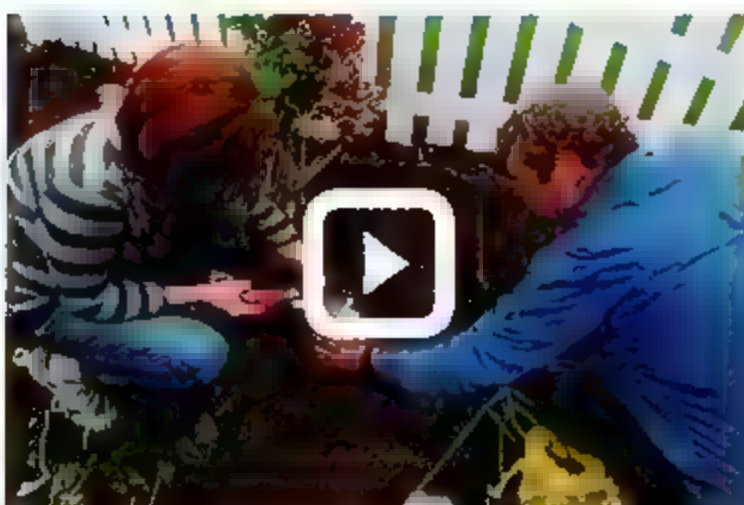
> Hang a kitchen wall cabinet



> Practice chainsaw safety



> Install a rain gutter



> Maintain overgrown perennials

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Summer-blooming bulbs

Get these in the ground now, and they'll achieve full size and peak color in just weeks, putting on a show right through the hotter months ahead

BY THOMAS CHRISTOPHER



→ **WHILE SPRING'S** tulips and hyacinths, dug in last autumn, are just now breaking ground, consider planting another batch of flowering bulbs for a second wave of color that can continue all summer. Maturing in a matter of weeks, and tolerant of occasionally dry soil, these summer-blooming bulbs offer a range of colors and heights—some up to 5 feet tall—making them an easy way to boost borders, foundation plantings, and patio containers

Just as foolproof as the more familiar spring-blooming varieties, these bulbs don't need the winter chilling period to flower. Most require full sun—and can take the heat thanks to their underground energy stores—though some are

equally happy under a leafy tree. As with all bulbs, well-drained soil is a must, so avoid planting them in muddy, low-lying areas. It's safe to get them in the ground at around the same time as tomatoes, when the soil reaches about 60 degrees F; in cold climates they can be started earlier indoors, then transplanted. Another bonus: Most naturalize readily, filling beds with drifts of new plants within a few years. When borders overflow, divide plants to spread around the garden—or the neighborhood.

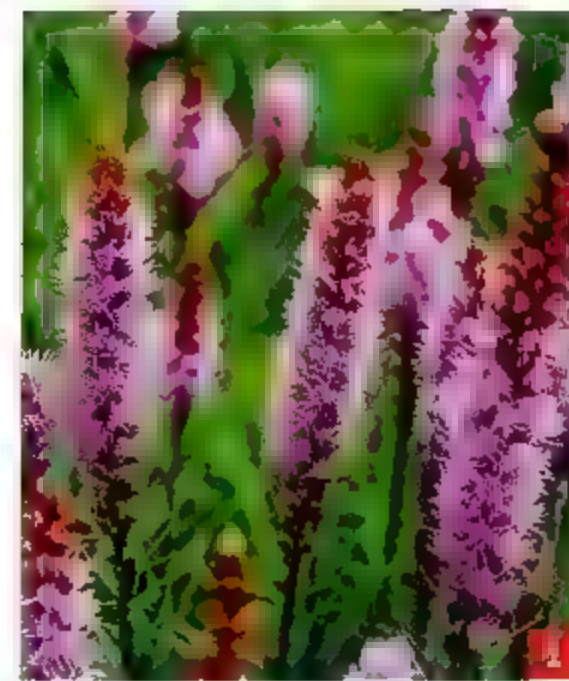
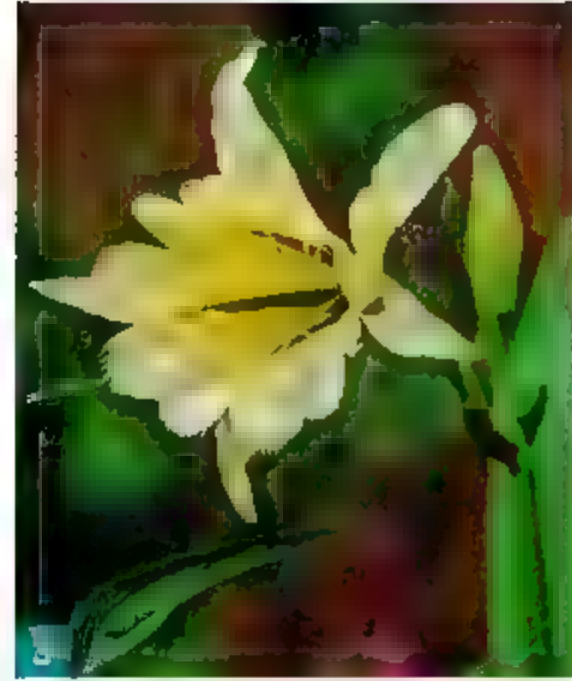
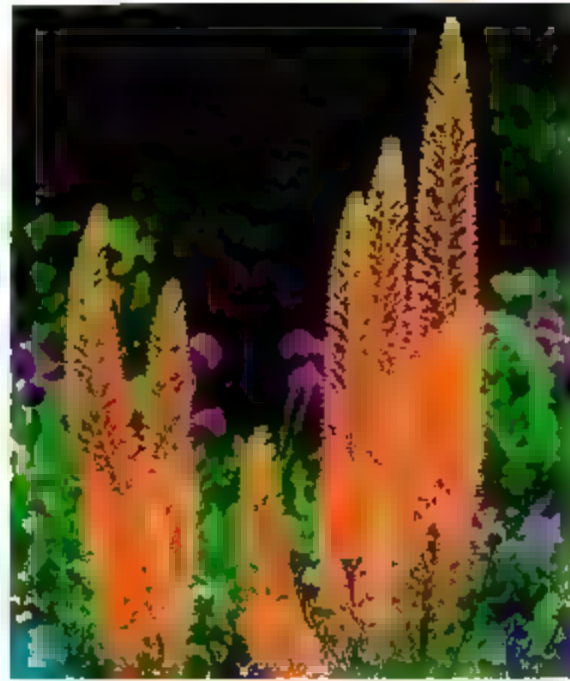
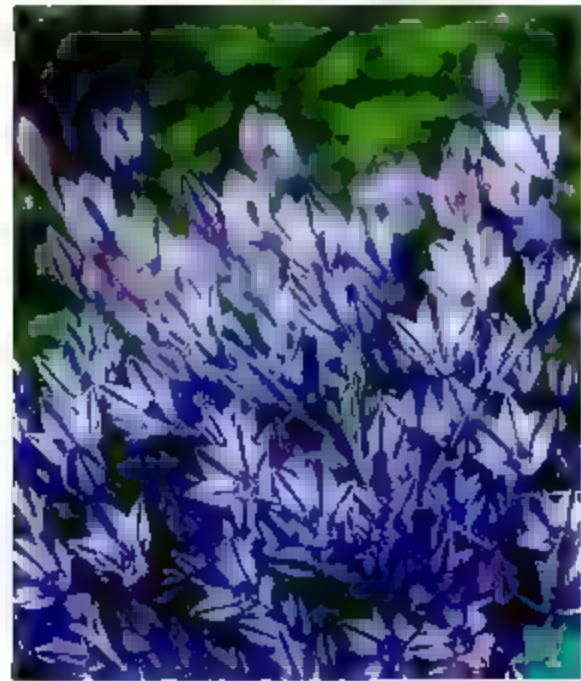
Though lesser known, these bulbs aren't hard to find; search them out at well-stocked nurseries and garden centers, or in mail order or online catalogs. Read on for 10 robust bulb choices that are sure to make for a more colorful summer.

NOT A GARDEN?

Show us the transformation for a chance to appear in our October Reader-Created Issue. Visit thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

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PHOTO: JONATHAN BUCKLEY/GAP PHOTOS



Early risers

Planted right after the ground thaws, these flowering bulbs start sending up shoots just as daffodil blooms fade

1. STARFLOWER (*Triteleia laxa*)

This shade-tolerant California native produces clusters of pale- to deep-purple, funnel-shaped flowers from late spring into early summer. 'Rudy' (shown) outblossoms the species with up to 25 white-and-purple flowers per stem and grassy foliage that fades away in summer. It grows up to 2 feet tall and 16 inches wide, naturalizing in Zones 5–9.

2. FOXTAIL LILY (*Eremurus stenophyllus*)

Striking spires covered with hundreds of dark-yellow, bell-shaped flowers shoot up over grayish-green leaves in early summer. 'Cleopatra' (shown) naturalizes with burnt-orange petals marked with red ribs. It grows up to 5 feet tall and 2 feet wide in Zones 5–9.

3. PERUVIAN DAFFODIL (*Hymenocallis narcissiflora*)

In early summer, this shade-tolerant species blooms with up to five white, sweet-smelling flowers on each 24-inch-long stem above dark-green leaves. 'Sulfur Queen' (shown) has six soft-yellow flowers, each with a green throat and a citrus scent. It grows up to 2 feet tall and 1 foot wide in Zones 8–10.

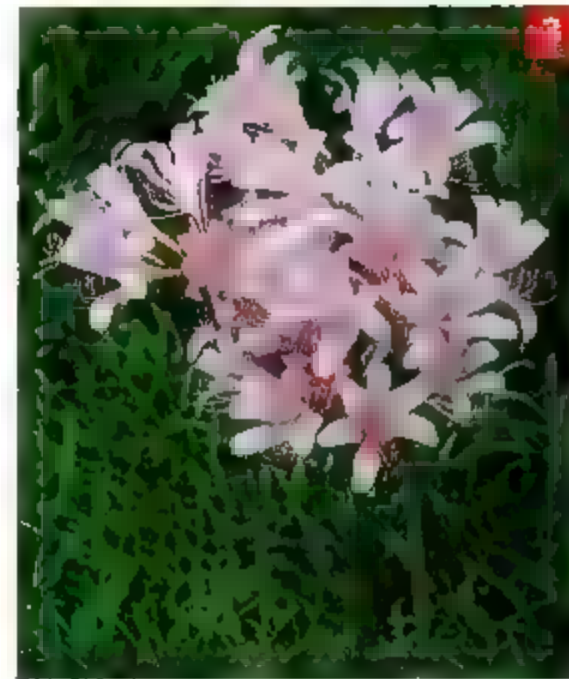
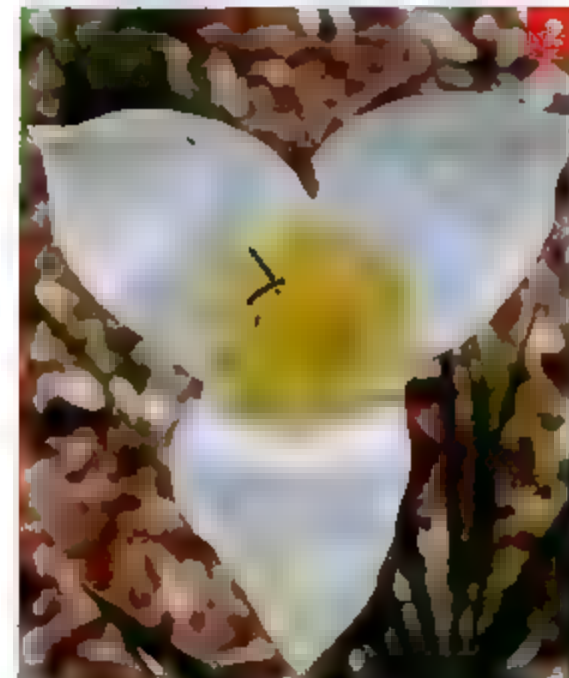
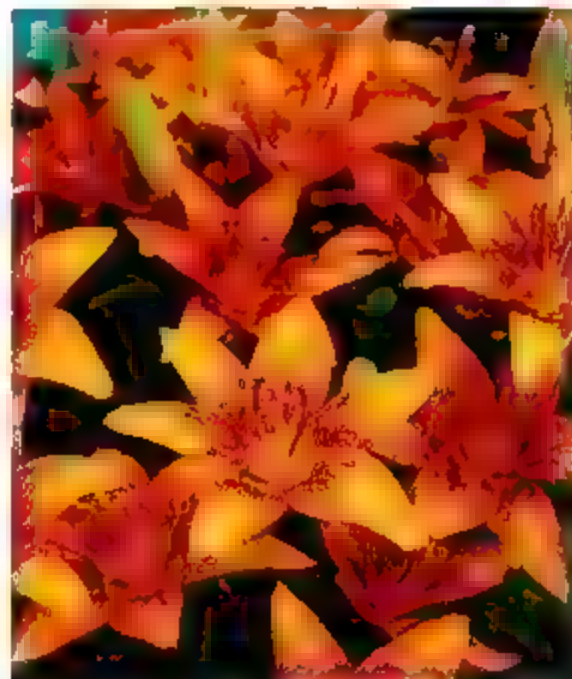
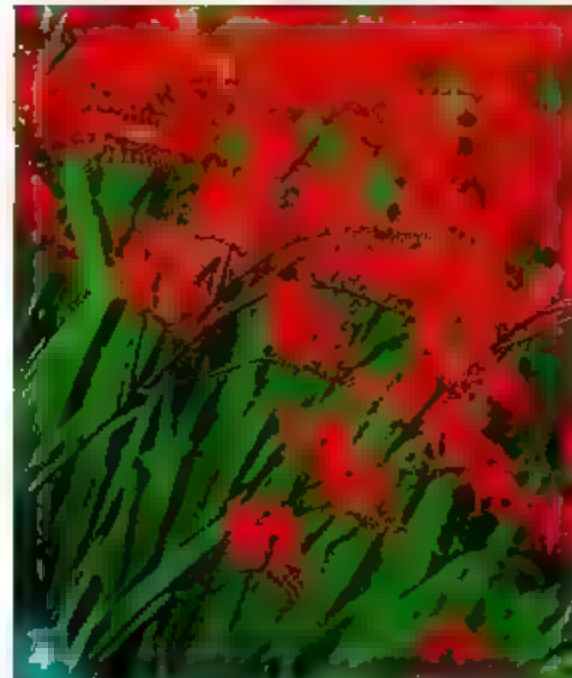
4. MONTBREZIA (*Crocasmia masoniorum*)

From midsummer until early fall, this bulb produces orange-red flowers and tolerates partial shade. Heat-loving 'Lucifer' (shown) has pleated, strappy green leaves with scarlet-red blooms that face up on arching stems. It grows up to 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide, naturalizing in Zones 6–9.

Avoid *C. x crocosmiflora* hybrids, which can become invasive.

5. DWARF ASIATIC LILY (*Lilium* hybrids)

Like most lilies, these bloom white, pink, orange, or red from early summer to midseason. Compared with full-size Asiatics, however, these dwarfs are easier to fit into smaller gardens. Originally grown for containers, 'Tiny Orange Sensation' (shown) stays short with a sunburst of orange and maroon. It grows up to 16 inches tall and 1 foot wide in Zones 3–9.



Late bloomers

Plant these flowering bulbs near early-summer bloomers as a way to disguise the latter's fading spent foliage

1. BLAZING STAR (*Liatris spicata*)

This North American native produces densely packed 18- to 28-inch-tall spikes of pinkish-purple or white flowers over grassy foliage. Compact 'Kobold' (shown) doesn't need staking and has deep-purple flowers from July to August. It grows up to 30 inches tall and 1 foot wide, naturalizing in Zones 3–8.

2. PEACOCK FLOWER (*Tigridia pavonia*)

Starting in midsummer, iris-shaped flowers up to 6 inches wide in orange, pink, yellow, red, or white appear above lance-shaped foliage. Shorter, shade-tolerant 'Alba Immaculata' (shown) has large white flowers with yellow centers and mid-green leaves. It grows up to 30 inches tall and 6 inches wide in Zones 7–9.

3. SURPRISE LILY (*Lycoris sprengeri*)

Smaller than other lycoris species, these pink flowers with blue tips last from August to September. The offshoot Resurrection Lily, or *L. squamigera* (shown), pushes foliage out in early summer, before returning weeks later with fragrant rose-colored flowers with gold centers and blue to purple veining over strappy green leaves. It grows up to 28 inches tall and 16 inches wide in Zones 5–9.

4. GIANT CHINCHERINCHEE (*Ornithogalum saundersiae*)

Similar to an allium, the 7-inch-diameter flower head on this species has tiny white or cream star-shaped blooms with black centers on tall, stiff

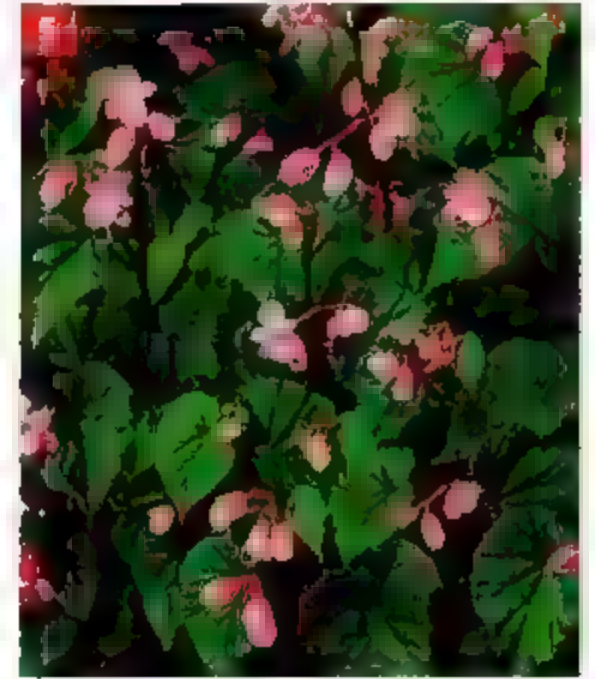
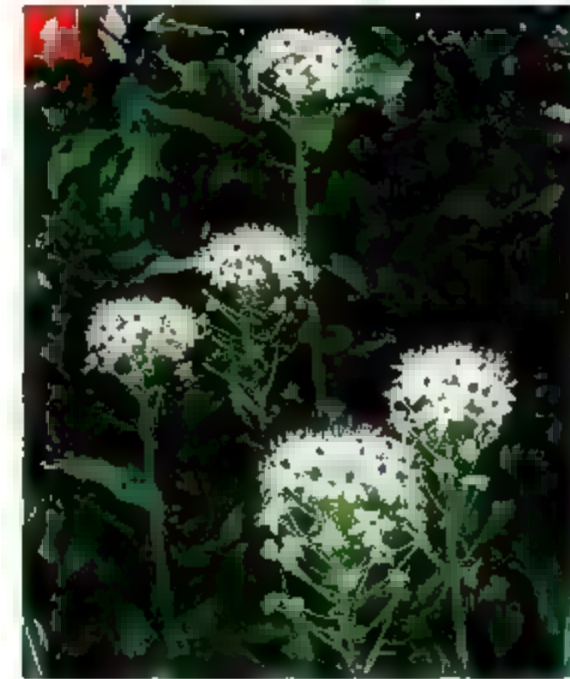
stems in midsummer. At home in partial shade, it makes an excellent cut flower. It grows up to 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide, naturalizing in Zones 7–10.

5. HARDY BEGONIA (*Begonia grandis*)

Starting in late summer, this bulb sprouts dark green to red leaves topped with fragrant white or pink flowers in partial to full shade. 'Heron's Pirouette' (shown) has larger, more abundant clusters of flowers than the species, with deep red stems. It grows up to 18 inches tall and 2 feet wide, naturalizing in Zones 5–9.

GET PLANTING!

Find more growing tips for summer-blooming bulbs at thisoldhouse.com/may2016



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT): JOSHUA MCCULLOUGH/PHOTOPHOTO; FREDERIC DIDILLON/GAP PHOTOS; ROB CARDILLO; JAN SMITH/GAP PHOTOS; (OPPOSITE PAGE) CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: REX MAX/ALAMY; COURTESY OF BRENT AND BECKY'S BULBS; (2) COURTESY OF SUNLREST NURSERIES; FRANK KRAMER/GETTY IMAGES

Ground rules

Dog-friendly flooring needs to be durable, easy to clean, and attractive too. Here's what you need to know if you have four on the floor

BY KATHY BARNES

OF COURSE, you want Fido to feel comfy, but you also need a tough, easy-care surface underfoot that will stand up to nails, dirt, hair, and, er, wet spots. Here, the lowdown on what to put down, whether you want all new floors or are redoing one room.

Porcelain tile 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

The ultimate in durability, this nonporous surface has a big upside, says Jason Cantin, owner of the Flooring Guru in Tampa, Florida. It won't scratch or stain, it can be made to look like stone or wood, and since it's moisture-proof, cleanup is easy. Other ceramics work well too; just skip porous stone tile, which needs periodic sealing. Concrete has similar advantages. Epoxy grout (tile) or an epoxy finish (concrete) minimizes upkeep. Dogs will enjoy their coolness in summer; radiant heat can warm them up in winter. One downside: These floors are hard.

Hardwood 🐾 🐾 🐾

Prefinished wood floors with a factory-applied aluminum oxide top coat resist scratches and dings best. A matte penetrating-oil finish can disguise scuffs and is less slippery—just touch up nicks with a stain pen or putty. Stick to harder species such as oak, hickory, or Brazilian cherry. Its major plus: Wood can be repaired. Says Cantin, "If something goes very wrong, you can cut out and replace a whole section." Bamboo, a grass, can perform—and look—much like hardwood today, especially if it's strand woven.



Vinyl and linoleum 🐾 🐾 🐾

Glued down as sheets, planks, or tiles, both are durable, clean up easily, and are low maintenance—though linoleum should get a yearly polishing by a pro. But frequent pet accidents can be an issue with glued-down flooring. The ammonia in urine and acids in vomit can seep into seams and degrade glues over time, so sheet materials stand up best. Those chemical compounds can also degrade the fiberboard core of floating click-together versions.

Cork 🐾 🐾

This cushy natural material can be good for senior dogs or breeds with joint issues, especially if it's glued down. But both glued and click versions can be vulnerable in the same ways as vinyl and linoleum.

Laminate 🐾

Floating planks made from coated fiberboard, laminate is tough to scratch and inexpensive, but it, too, can suffer moisture damage. Plus, it can be slippery and amplify the sound of clicking nails.

Carpet and rugs 🐾

Since staining is a concern, Gary Blasco, of Pro Floor Gurus in Brielle, New Jersey, says to look for color-fast solution-dyed fibers. A moisture-proof synthetic backing and a moisture-resistant pad also help. Dog nails can snag on loop styles, so go for cut pile. Indoor/outdoor rugs are another solution for softening up the floor—simply clean them with a hose. A pricier option: modular carpet tiles. If a square gets ruined, you can just pull it up and replace it. ■

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This Old House is Brand New!



Photo: Kevin O'Connor

Tune in this month as the crew begins work on a built-from-the-ground-up farmhouse that combines state-of-the-art engineering with traditional expert craftsmanship.

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This Old House

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Train-style towel racks

Keep bath essentials organized and at the ready with one of these railway-inspired shelves

BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK LUND

AS TRAIN TRAVEL really picked up speed in the late 1800s, so too did the design of passenger-car interiors—luggage accommodations included. In day coaches, ornate wire-basket like shelves hung end to end above operable windows, keeping coats and hats out of the stream of soot and cinders that would blow in from the coal-stoked engine's smokestack. In sleeping cars, perforated metal shelves were mounted above sinks to hold combs, hand towels, and hatboxes.

With their marriage of style and functionality, it seems inevitable that these storage solutions would find their way into the home. Many are directly inspired by historical designs; some swap out hooks in favor of a towel bar, but all retain a bit of train-era romance. Next stop: nine of our favorites.



PHOTO: (INSET) NATIONAL PHOTO COMPANY COLLECTION/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; STYLING: VAUGHAN GLIDDEN



Made of:

Size:
Height:



2 > clean lines

RESTORATION HARDWARE

Made of: Drop-forged brass with an oil-rubbed bronze finish
Size: 19"W x 5½"H x 10¼"D
Highlights: Sized to fit even in tight quarters, this shelf can still hold a full set of linens. \$289; restorationhardware.com

3 > clear winner

ANTHROPOLOGIE

Made of: Acrylic and aluminum with an antique-silver finish
Size: 24"W x 9"H x 12½"D
Highlights: Transparent acrylic rods offer a fun update and a lightened-up look. \$198; anthropologie.com

4 > faithful repro

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE

Made of: Polished brass
Size: 29"W x 10"H x 11½"D
Highlights: Angled shelves like this one kept luggage in place. \$183; houseofantiquehardware.com. Get 15% off! Find details at theoldhouse.com/deals

5 > practical patina

MOEN

Made of: Zinc and stainless steel with a brushed-nickel finish
Size: 27"W x 6½"H x 10¾"D
Highlights: The spot-resistant finish holds up to fingerprints and damp conditions. \$127; homedepot.com

6 > enameled accents

SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Made of: Brass with a brushed-nickel and porcelain finish
Size: 25¼"W x 5¼"H x 9¾"D
Highlights: White porcelain enamel on the backplates and finials gives it a period look. \$80; signaturehardware.com

7 > on the hook

THE KINGS BAY

Made of: Steel with an antiqued gray finish
Size: 21"W x 9"H x 8¾"D
Highlights: A rustic, weathered style with a surplus of movable hooks for hand towels and accessories. \$60; the kingsbay.com

8 > raise the bar

SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Made of: Solid brass and zinc with a brushed-nickel finish
Size: 19¾"W x 5½"H x 10"D
Highlights: Compact and convertible, this shelf flips up when not in use. \$61; signaturehardware.com

9 > tall order

VANDYKE'S RESTORERS

Made of: Polished brass
Size: 20½"W x 12"H x 10¼"D
Highlights: The shape of the hooks is a nod to old-school hat racks. \$299; vandykes.com. Get 20% off! Find details at theoldhouse.com/deals

Fixing a muddled facade

Unified siding and a friendlier entry transform a tired two-story BY MICHELLE BRUNNER • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



BEFORE

"OUR HOUSE has a great floor plan, but the outside is so homely!" says Molly Bryan, who lives in this Chicago home with her husband, Kyle. So we asked local architect David Ogden to come up with some ways to right the facade's wrongs.

His biggest concern: "The materials used on the first and second stories don't complement each other at all." The house was originally a 1950s one-story; the second level was added in the 1980s. Ogden proposes re-siding the second story with thin brick veneer and painting the whole house to unify it. Replacing the first-floor roof with a shed-roof extension off a new gable-topped portico creates a more inviting transition between house and street. Traditional windows, a paneled door, wood brackets, and a window box amp up the charm.

Molly's reaction? "I love it! Kyle and I can't wait to get started on these changes." ■

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO?
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New divided-light windows help give the house a traditional look.

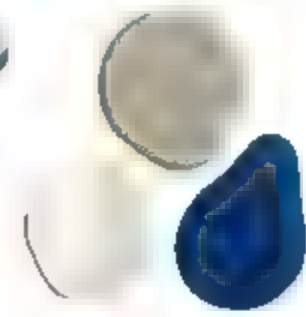
finishing touches

Craftsman-style details and warm paint colors help the house fit into the neighborhood.



bracket

Simple supports embellish the new roof; made of polyurethane, they won't rot like wood versions. Fypon, \$51, wholesalemillwork.com



paint

Earthy taupes and deep-teal accents warm up the exterior and draw attention to the details. Grassland, Nonchalant White, and Oceanside by Sherwin-Williams; from \$42 per gallon



lantern

The simple lines of a bronze-finish Mission style pendant echo the pilasters on either side of the door. Vaxcel Mission pendant, \$109; build.com



stone risers

A nice upgrade for a concrete stoop, this fieldstone veneer has the look of local bluestone. \$6 per square foot; eldoradostone.com

PHOTOS (PAINT DABS): TED MORRISON



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TIME Two days

DIFFICULTY Easy Assemble this unit with basic butt joints and mitered molding.

A HARDWORKING LAUNDRY ROOM centered around a pair of smart, efficient appliances makes life easier, but at a cost. Modern washers and dryers can clean up to 20 pounds of clothing in a single wash—a pain, literally, to load and retrieve. Pedestals raise the machines to a comfortable working height, but those from manufacturers are spendy. We built our basic lumber box with storage for baskets to keep colors sorted, and wrapped it in beadboard and molding to create a furniture look. *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers shows you how to use standard building materials to up your washing and drying game. Disclaimer: This project will *not* help you find runaway socks.

Appliances: LG Ultra Large Capacity with Steam Technology washer, \$750, and Ultra Large Capacity SteamDryer, \$850, both in Wild Cherry Red. lg.com
Vinyl flooring: Luxe Plank Limed Oak in Chateau Gray, starting at \$5 per square foot, armstrong.com
Lumber, panels and molding: homedepot.com

TOOLS

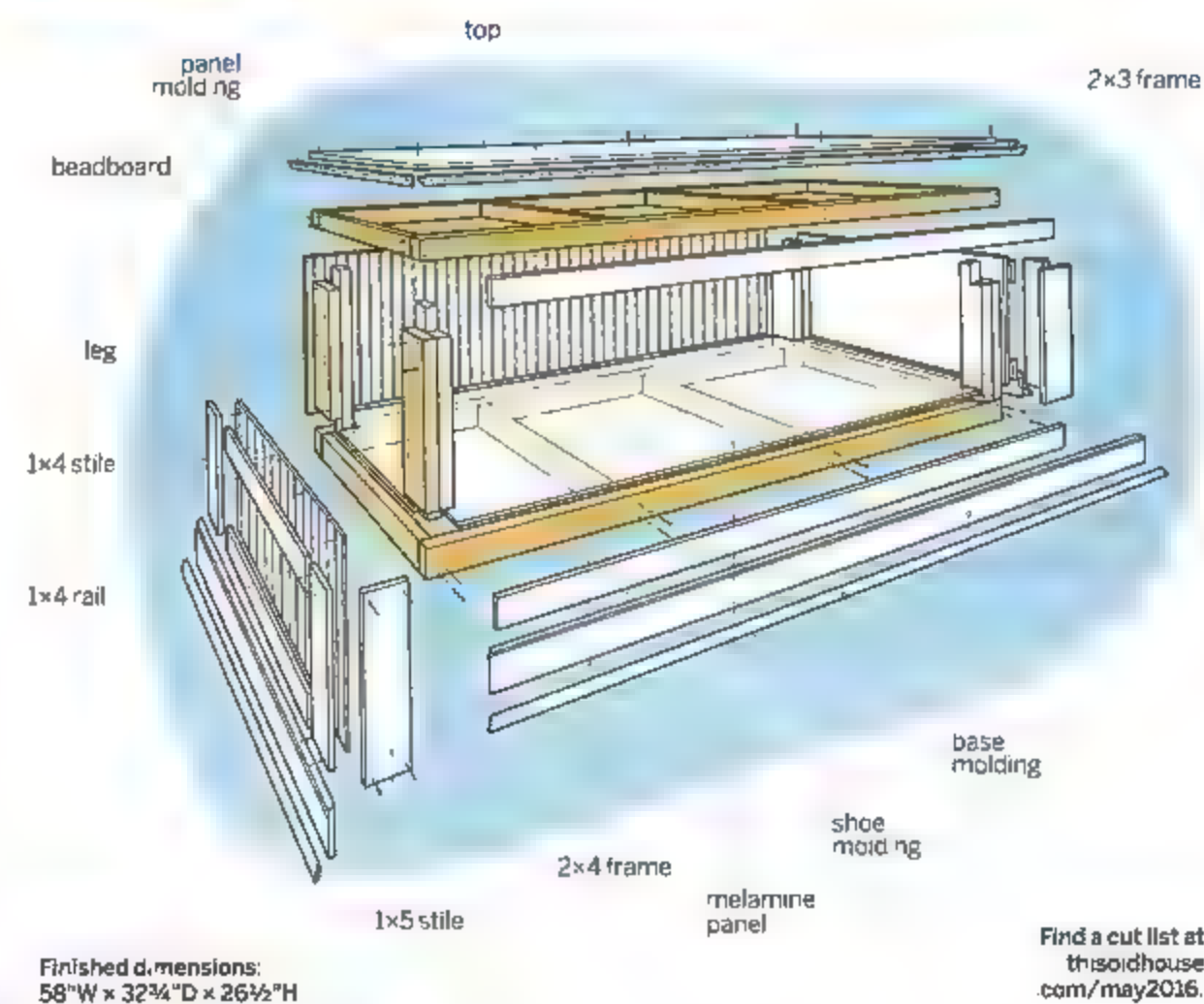
- > tape measure
- > pencil
- > miter saw
- > jigsaw
- > drill/driver and bits
- > caulk gun
- > circular saw
- > straightedge
- > clamps
- > 18-gauge nailer
- > paint roller or brush

MATERIALS

- > **1x4** Get four primed 8-footers
- > **1x5** Get one primed 8-footer
- > **2x3** Get four 8-footers
- > **2x4** Get five 8-footers
- > **3/4-inch melamine** Get one 4-by-8-foot panel
- > **3/4-inch beadboard** Get one 4-by-8-foot panel
- > **3/4-inch plywood** Get one 4-by-8-foot sanded sheet
- > **base molding** Get two primed 8-footers
- > **shoe molding** Get two primed 8-footers
- > **panel molding** Get two primed 8-footers
- > **3-inch deck screws**
- > **2 1/2-inch deck screws**
- > **1 1/4-inch deck screws**
- > **2-inch 18-gauge nails**
- > **construction adhesive**
- > **paintable caulk**
- > **spray paint-and-primer-in-one**
- > **latex primer and paint**



SATURDAY Build the pedestal and add beadboard (Steps 1–3).
SUNDAY Add the top and moldings (Steps 4–5).



Find a cut list at thisoldhouse.com/may2016.



ILLUSTRATION: GREGORY NEMEC

1 Make the frames

A) Cut and assemble the frames. Add at least 2 inches to the combined length and width of your washer and dryer, and build two frames that size. Use 2x3s for one and 2x4s for the other. Then cut two supports to fit inside the frames, dividing the space roughly into thirds. Attach the parts with a pair of 3-inch deck screws at each butt joint, as shown.

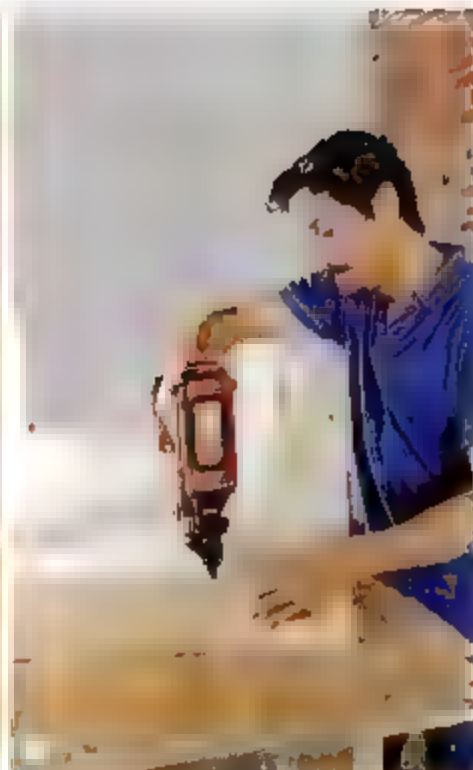
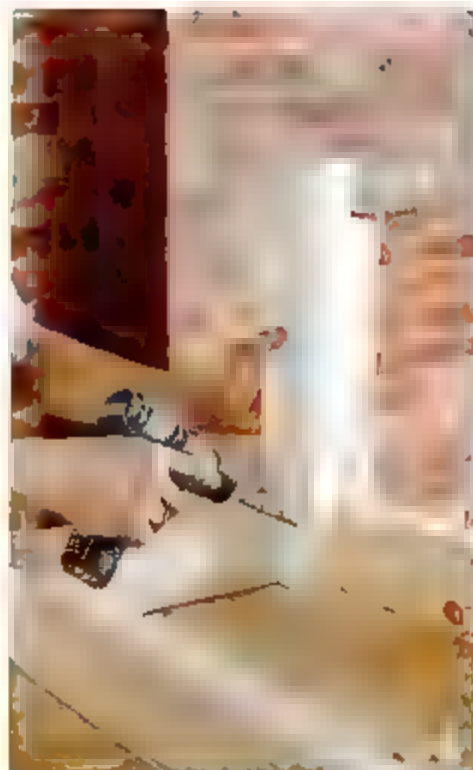
B) Cut the legs. The legs need to be tall enough to allow your baskets to fit between the frames. Measure the baskets, add about an inch to the height, and cut a 2x4 to that measurement. Cut another piece 6 inches longer, and spray it with paint-and-primer-in-one for a finished look. Once that dries, trace a notch on one end to fit over the 2x4 frame and a second notch on the other end to fit over the 2x3s. Cut the notches with a jigsaw, as shown. Repeat the process for the other three corners.

2 Assemble the pedestal

A] Make the legs. Use 2½-inch deck screws to attach the shorter legs to the longer ones between the notches creating legs for each corner with the painted portion facing inside the pedestal. Add construction adhesive to the longer notch and place the leg in a corner so it fits over the 2×4 frame. Drill pilot holes through the leg, then attach it to the frame with 2½-inch deck screws, as shown. Repeat with the remaining legs.

B] Attach the lower shelf. Using a circular saw and a straightedge, cut the melamine panel to the dimensions of the lower frame. Screw two scraps of 2×4 together and use them to mark notches at the corners of the panel so that it will fit around the legs. Cut the notches with a jigsaw. Drop the panel in place, then fasten it to the frame with 2-inch finish nails every few inches along both sides and the back, as shown.

C] Add the upper frame. Apply construction adhesive to the notches at the tops of the legs. Then fit the 2×3 frame in place, as shown. Screw through the outside of the frame and into the legs with 2½-inch deck screws.

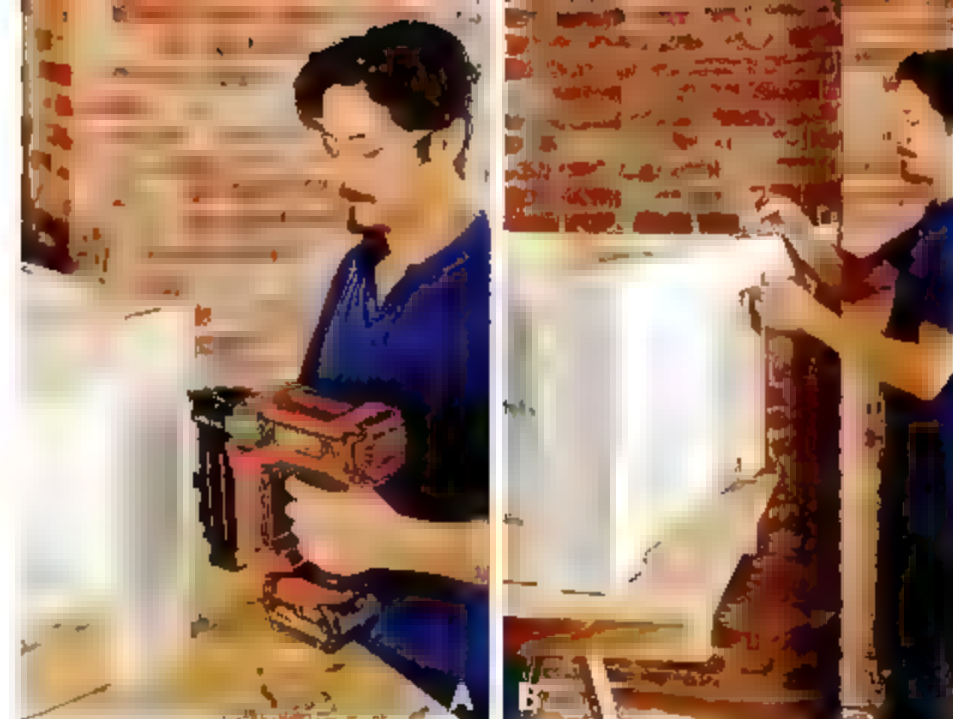
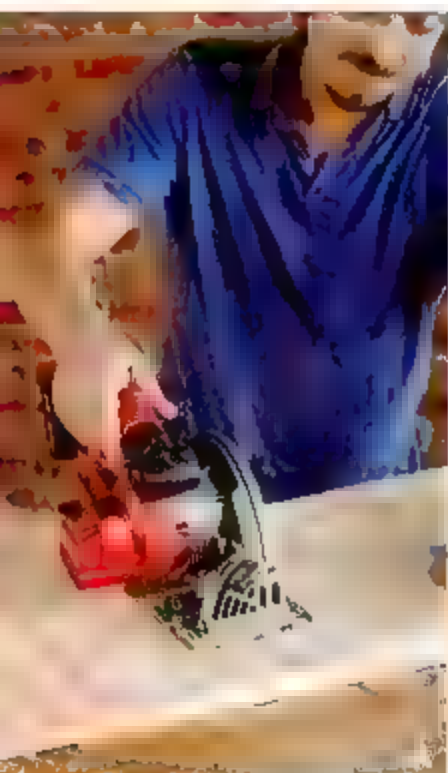


SEE HOW IT'S DONE
To watch an instructional video of this project, go to thisoldhouse.com/may2016

3 Clad the pedestal

A] Prep the parts. Measure the length and width of each side, then use a circular saw to cut beadboard pieces to fit. Cut two pieces for the back the same way, then prime and paint the beadboard. Let it dry.

B] Attach the beadboard. Use clamps to hold a piece of beadboard on the back, flush with the top of the frame and a corner, so the pattern faces in. Attach the panel with 1½-inch deck screws every few inches. Butt the second back panel next to the first and attach it the same way. Repeat the process for the sides with the beads facing out, as shown.



4 Trim out the pedestal

A] Make the stiles. Cut two 1×4s and four 1×5s to the height of the pedestal. Position a 1×4 along a side with its edge flush with the front corner, and fasten it with nails. Next make a corner board by nailing a 1×5 on the front face of the pedestal so it covers the flush edge of the 1×4. Repeat the process for the other front corner, then add a 1×5 to the back edge of both sides.

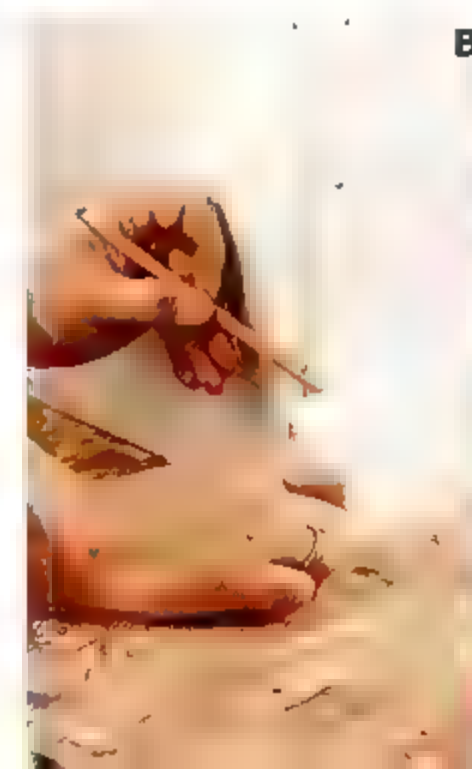
B] Add the rails. Mark each of the 1×4 side rails to fit between the stiles, as shown. Cut them to length and attach them with nails. Repeat the process for the two front rails and install the lower one so it covers the edge of the melamine panel. The exposed frame under the lower rail will be hidden with molding in the next step.

5 Add the top and moldings

A] Cut the plywood. Place the plywood top on the pedestal and scribe outlines using the face of the trim, as shown. Remove the top and cut it with a circular saw. Drive 1¼-inch deck screws through the plywood and into the upper frame.

B] Mark the base molding. Hold a strip of base molding across the front of the pedestal, overlapping both ends. Mark the locations of the 45° outside miter on the back side of each end and cut them with the miter saw. Attach the piece with nails. Cut the two side pieces with a miter at the front end and a straight cut at the back. Nail them in place. Repeat the process for the shoe molding.

C] Add the panel molding. Mark, miter, and install the front and side pieces of panel molding flush with the top of the plywood. Fill all joints, nail holes, and screw holes with paintable caulk. Prime the plywood top, then paint the pedestal. Call in a strong buddy to help lift the machines in place. To watch a video that shows how *This Old House* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey hooks up a washer and dryer, go to thisoldhouse.com/may2016. ■



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DELTA

Bright + airy



The 1887 house, OPPOSITE, had held onto its original clapboard siding along with the foyer's stained-glass windows, stamped-bronze ceiling, herringbone floorboards, and bronze radiator enclosures. BELOW The new owners cleaned and polished the ornate stair railing and let the stained glass guide the choice of paint colors for the free-flowing first floor. Paint: Sherwin-Williams custom blend (siding) and C2's Bristle (foyer walls).



by Deborah Baldwin
photographs by Nat Rea
produced by Tisha Leung
styling by Tracy Parkinson

At the ripe old age of 377, Newport, Rhode Island, has seen its share of architectural fads. It is chockablock with flat faced 17th-century colonial buildings, sustains a collection of chic Greek Revivals, and, thanks to the Gilded Age, when folks like the Vanderbilts threw up one little getaway after another, boasts Victorian-era "cottages" like The Breakers, which comprises 70 rooms and 125,339 square feet.

This is a story about a Newport house that transcends time and location. Built in 1887, the clapboard Queen Anne, at a mere 4,200 square feet, practically qualifies as modest. More interesting, each first-floor room opens to the outdoors, with windows and doors designed to maximize air and light. "It's a feature of the South," notes Gale Goff, who first saw the house after her husband, Peter, a voracious reader of real estate listings, suggested they take a look. "Southerners built big openings because they had to ventilate without air-conditioning."

Described by the local historical society as having been designed by a local architect for a local merchant, the house may have borrowed its flavor from others built nearby in the 1830s, when Southerners headed north, bringing along their breezy style.

Whatever its inspiration, the Queen Anne, with its free-flowing layout, has a surprising openness, which Gale, an architect, and her daughter Kirby, an interior designer based in nearby Providence, reinforced during a thoughtful top-to-bottom redo.

The two, who both trained at the Rhode Island School of Design, say it was mainly a matter of channeling the Queen Anne's true spirit. "All the rooms connect, and there's something very welcoming about that," Kirby says. "If you fling open all the doors you are on the porch or in the yard, which also makes the rooms feel bigger."

Unlike the 19th-century new-money crowd that made Newport famous, the Goff family has deep roots in the state. In one symbolic twist, when the couple needed floorboards for their Newport kitchen, they went to a mill that had salvaged heart pine from a warehouse in Providence—previously owned by Peter. The wood went full circle.

But that's getting ahead of the redo, which began

"My mom is a doer. When we were growing up, Dad would come home and she would have knocked down a wall."



The kitchen island has a marble top and tanky legs made from salvaged pilasters, two of the legs hide gas and electric lines. Cabinet fronts: Maple Craft USA. Pulls: Brass Works. Cooktop: Miele. Faucet: Danze. Paint: C2's Archival (cabinets).

Homeowner Gale Goff, RIGHT, designed the 9-foot-plus island with function in mind. Subway tile and an industrial-style pendant light fixture evoke 19th-century workspaces. Tile: Daltile. Pendant: Restoration Hardware. Stools: Wisteria.



PHOTOGRAPHS

During the redo of the 4,200-square-foot house, the homeowners took down a tacked-on sunroom and rebuilt the porch. They merged three rooms to create a kitchen, turned the first-floor bath into a powder room, and annexed one of four bedrooms to make a master suite. An existing third-floor apartment, not shown, was also renovated.



with a family walk-through shortly after the house changed hands. The rooms were ghostly, with windows cloaked in heavy velvet and trim the color of dead beetles. The wiring was 19th-century knob-and-tube. To reach the sunroom, you had to climb three steps over a radiator, then through a window. It sounds unbelievable, but there are photos.

"We all happened to be in Newport at the same time," recalls Kirby, one of four grown kids, so they trooped over together. "It was very, very dark. My nephew, who was 6, was terrified—he thought it was creepy."

Two family members knew differently. "My mom and I kept looking at each other; we knew this was a phenomenal house that just needed a lot of love," Kirby says. "We immediately started talking about how we wanted it to look."

When they got outside, Gale says, they realized they had almost missed the "very small, dark, and incredibly antiquated" kitchen in back. The second floor held four bedrooms and a single bath, but no master suite. A separate apartment on the third floor needed work.

But "my mom is a doer," Kirby points out, not easily daunted when she sees, for example, one room replacing two. "When we were growing up, Dad would come home and she would have knocked down a wall—she's very hands-on and knows what she likes!"



The couple sold their former, smaller place nearby, and could have had an affair with the rangy, rundown Queen Anne just long enough to give it new life. Most empty nesters, after all, opt to scale down. Now it looks like they'll never leave.

Helping to make this turnaround possible was Ed Lacross, a seasoned GC who had worked with Gale on other projects. Asked about his first impressions, he recalls the exterior as an intense evergreen, with a wrap-around porch that had lost half its girth during a tree-tossing storm—it would have to be rebuilt. Lacross laughed when asked about the slapdash sunroom hanging off the back, saying, "It was the first thing the bulldozer took down."

The kitchen and a first-floor bath would need major surgery too. Upstairs, Gale had in mind converting two bedrooms to a master suite, and the third-floor apartment would have to be renovated. But the infrastructure was sound, Lacross says, right down to many of the

"My daughter knows me pretty well. There were minor things that we debated, but for the most part I gave her free rein."



French doors opening to the outside enhance the sense of space in the living room, ABOVE, and the den, BELOW RIGHT. The house's original stained glass drove the palette for the dining room, LEFT, which plays pink off gray-brown. The dining set is a family heirloom. Living room: Sofas: Pottery Barn; Paint: C2's Sierra (walls), Dining room: Paint: Pratt & Lambert's Tobacco; Rug: Madeline Weinrib; Artwork: Natural Curiosities.



pipes and much of the woodwork, save its worn finish. He also took note of an amenity that had been rare for Newport when the house was built: central heating. The cast-iron radiators worked fine; two were tucked inside lovely old marble-topped bronze enclosures.

One notable challenge was the kitchen, which would soon have more period style, along the lines of the hard-working white-tiled cook spaces you see in historic mansions, only with fewer game birds and more natural light. "We were inspired by the big scullery kitchens in Newport, with huge tables and walls clad with tile," says Kirby. "They were made for working, but they are still beautiful in their utilitarian honesty."

To bring in needed light, and to connect the kitchen and backyard, Gale punched openings in the south-facing exterior wall; to gain space, she took down walls

—no surprise—to merge three small rooms, making way for a worktable-like island nearly 4 feet wide and more than 9 feet long. It's big enough for more than one cook plus guests to gather around. In a genius move, Gale had Lacross ream out two of its legs and fit them with gas and electrical lines, allowing a cooktop embedded in the island to appear magically unmoored.

The cabinets are an artful mix of artisanal and ready-made. One set incorporates doors pulled from the original pantry. Lacross built others “on the wall,” as Gale puts it, as would have been done in the 1880s, but in this case with prefab doors, drawer boxes and face fronts, and glides ordered on the Internet.

Once construction was well under way, Kirby began commuting from Providence, paint colors and fabric swatches in hand. “She basically came up with a general scheme—it was her idea to carry colors from room to room—and then we narrowed it down,” Gale says, adding, “She knows me pretty well and she knows what I like. She definitely proposed what she wanted, and there were minor things that we debated, but for the most part I gave her free rein.”

If you're wondering where Peter was during all this, he was saving his energy for finishing touches, a subject



ABOVE: The new master bath has back-to-back vanities and built-in medicine cabinets made from salvaged glass doors. Tile: American Ocean. Faucet: Sigma. Paint: C2's Salt Water (walls).

LEFT: Soft shades of blue, yellow, and ivory help warm up the master bedroom. Paint: C2's Noodle (walls).

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he has strong feelings about, Kirby notes. At one point the two women decided the yellow they'd picked for the dining room should really be a dramatic dark brown, so they climbed ladders and did the job themselves. “Dad kept coming down the stairs saying, ‘No no, I don’t like it!’ He was threatening to call the painters!”

But it ended well. Once curtains were hung, rugs unrolled, and furniture arranged, Peter could see how the palette reinforced the natural flow, one of his favorite things about the house. “When it was all done, I loved it, and I understood how it fit in with the overall design scheme,” he says. “They know what they’re doing.”

ABOVE: The front porch was rebuilt with rafters and floorboards matched to what was there. A double set of French doors keep the house snug. Ceiling light: The Home Depot.

It took nearly a year, or “seven months of mooching off kind friends and carting clothes in laundry baskets on the backseat,” as Gale puts it—but with a nice payoff. The house turns out to be perfect for family reunions.

“It’s a great summer house, and a great Christmas house,” says Kirby. “As big as it feels, it has cozy nooks. If you need quiet you can retreat to the second floor—it works so well for every generation.”

“Dad always said, ‘I want all my kids to come back,’” she continues, “and now he’s managed it.” The old Queen Anne may have seemed forbidding at first, but today, Kirby concludes, “we’re all psyched they found it.” ■



GARDEN COLOR THAT DOESN'T QUIT

Minimizing flowers in favor of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses, a homeowner weaves a tapestry of green, gold, and purple foliage on her small urban lot

BY JEANNE HUBER | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PERRY

This Seattle garden has a long season of showstopping color, thanks to vibrant foliage. From left: Mugo pine, 'Rose Glow' barberry, zebra grass, a twin-spire 'Bead Pole' yew, yellow-gold 'Gulf Stream' mandarin, spiky 'Bronze' New Zealand flax, light-yellow santolina, 'Blue Haze' euphorbia, and, in center front, purple sage.



Strolling through the garden, cup of coffee in hand, is a morning ritual many homeowners relish, especially in springtime, when mornings are bright and temperatures are comfortable. Deborah Ellman cherishes this routine in her Seattle garden, too, but there's a twist: She isn't strolling a private path. She's on the sidewalk, which wraps around the east and south sides of her corner lot.

Deborah lives in a neighborhood where the planting strips between the sidewalk and the street are unusually wide—12 to 13 feet. By ripping out lawn and using the space on both sides of the sidewalk for trees, shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers, she has essentially turned the whole expanse into a garden filled with long-lasting color.

Her secret? "I'm not a flower person—I like form, movement, variety," says Deborah. So instead of emphasizing beds of annual or perennial bloomers that have one or two flushes of color and need lots of attention to look tidy, she focuses on plants that offer interesting foliage colors and textures. As she found herself drawn to varieties with varying shades of purple and green, she enhanced that striking combination by choosing similar paint colors for the house. And she avoided the temptation to plant one of this and one of that, which would



TOP: In May, passersby ooh and aah over the white Chinese wisteria draped across the garage. Earlier in spring, a star magnolia between the garage and the house pumps out a showy cloud of white blooms.

ABOVE: Looking down the sidewalk, lower-level plants provide color. On the left, toothy-leaf cardoon contrasts with Rose Glow barberry, ground-hugging 'Blue Haze' euphorbia, and lollipop-shaped alliums. On the right, purple-blooming scabiosa mingles with fuzzy silver lamb's ear, with heather and foxglove behind them.



LEFT: In the sidewalk border leading to the garage, a turquoise pot holds 'Goldfinger' libertia, with leaves striped in green and gold. Blue 'Walker's Low' catmint and rosy daylilies provide a burst of color in front of masses of variegated zebra grass.

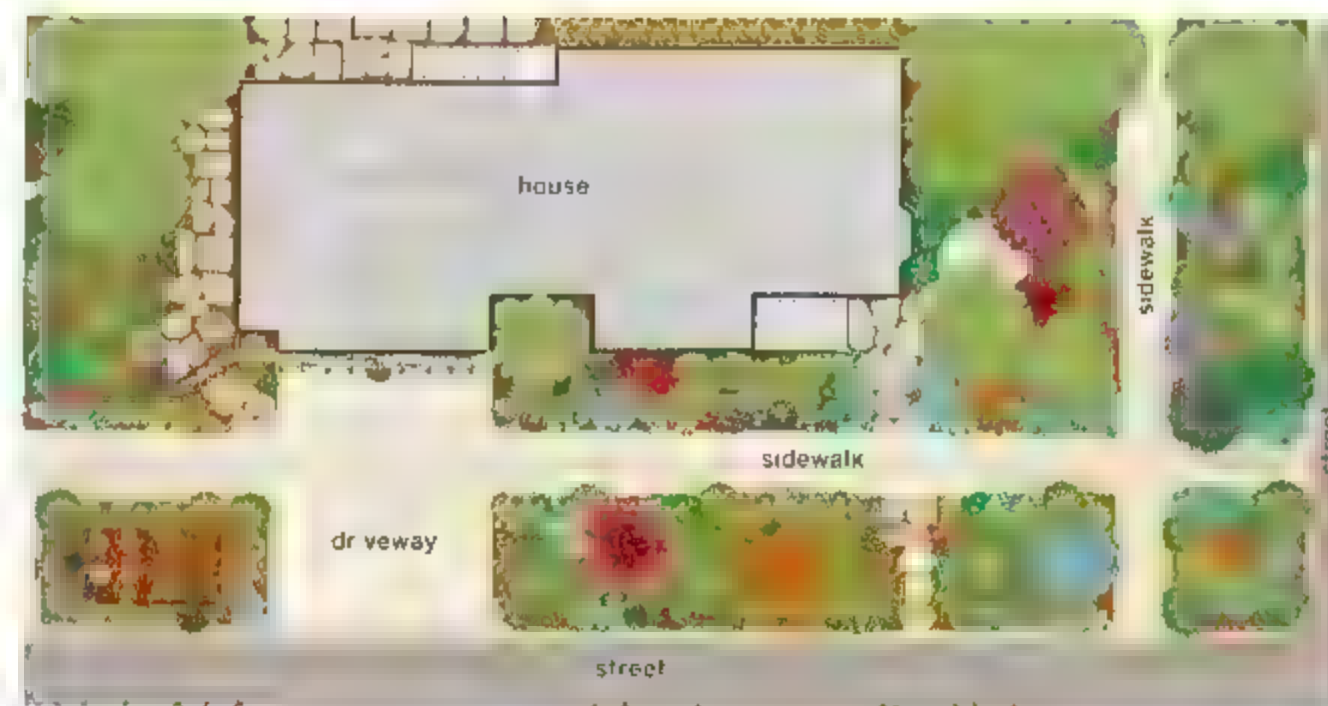
have given the garden a scattered, amateurish look. Instead, she repeats plants throughout her garden but combines them in different ways. As a result, the garden looks planned but still holds lots of surprises, delivering fresh delights daily to her and her neighbors.

Deborah was already an experienced gardener when she and her husband, David, bought the 100-by-40-foot lot and its 1914 bungalow almost 20 years ago. To develop a plan for the garden, she studied books and magazines and collected ideas from other Seattle gardens. A few years in, she worked with a landscape designer to plot out a basic strategy that would save a few specimen trees and get rid of what was left—a pair of butchered junipers, some nondescript shrubs, and lawn. A gardener with a truck and chains came to yank out the junipers; someone with a sod cutter removed the lawn. Deborah had a load of good soil delivered and shoveled into subtle berms to add dimension, and a drip irrigation system was installed to help new plants get established.

About eight weeks after the first of the hired helpers arrived, Deborah took over. Rather than ordering plants en masse, she selected them a few at a time. She visited nurseries, bought what caught her eye, then drove home and figured out where they would work best. To ensure she picked varieties that would thrive in Seattle and have room to grow, she consulted regional gardening guides and relied on plant-tag information.

THE PLAN

Four years after buying the Seattle property, Deborah Ellman yanked out everything but a few key specimen trees, brought in fresh soil to create subtle contours, and started adding plants, bridging both sides of the sidewalk along the front and side of the house. Three years later, she and her husband enlarged the house, which required moving some plants. The newest additions are the vegetable garden in one of the street-side beds and the flagstone patio in the side yard. Like all gardeners, Deborah is still tinkering, having recently swapped out a forsythia she didn't love for a spiny acanthus near the driveway.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Japanese forest grass looks especially vivid next to Spanish lavender's purple wands and the blue spires of carpet bugleweed. With purple centers, cardoon's huge thistle-like flowers make 'Rose Glow' barberry seem almost neon pink and purple. The pale-yellow button flowers of santolina are a bright counterpoint to the golden flowers of 'Angelina' sedum, whose foliage turns orange in colder climates. With or without its chartreuse flowers, 'Blue Haze' euphorbia is a dramatic partner for 'Rose Glow' barberry.



with the seasons. When it came time to choose the house colors that would reinforce the landscape, however, Deborah needed to select specific hues. She collected paint strips, ultimately going for custom colors that were in between those on the paint chips. Most of the house trim is deep purple, set off by areas of light olive green and a gray-green body color, plus the natural brown of the cedar shingles.

Despite the rich tapestry Deborah has created, her garden is also relatively easy to take care of. From early spring through June, she spends the equivalent of one day a week tidying up and spreading mulch, plus an extra day in the 12 by 20-foot raised-bed vegetable garden, located in a sunny spot between the sidewalk and the street. The rest of the year, tending the garden takes just a few hours a week, if that. While out for her morning stroll, she might pull some weeds or spot plants ready to be divided and shared with neighbors.

But she makes no effort to keep the garden looking as precisely manicured as some of those cared for by professionals. She thinks these often lack soul. "I look at my garden more as an expression of how I like plants and like being out in the garden and talking with people who stop as they pass by and share ideas," says Deborah. "It's personal and comfortable, and it has made a big difference in our enjoyment of our home."

TOP In the side yard, bushy Mugo pine and taller Hinoki cypress on the left are balanced by a towering Leyland cypress on the right. The garden gets lower-level interest in part from strappy-leaved crocosmia (not yet in bloom), billowy Mexican feather grass, a Coppertina ninebark, and clumps of Japanese forest grass.

ABOVE: A flagstone patio just 7 feet wide and within view of the sidewalk is sheltered by the dense purple foliage of a Japanese maple and other plants, including Mellow Yellow spirea on the left.

GOT A GREAT YARD?

Show us the transformation for a chance to appear in our October Reader. Created issue 7.11. thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH

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The plants drove the design, she says, but at the beginning she did not have a color scheme. "I found the colors as I bought the plants," she explains. Buying ones that provide green may seem a no-brainer, but Deborah's garden has unusual pizzazz partly because it features such a rich mix of shades, from the deep green of columnar 'Bean Pole' yew and Hinoki cypress to nearly chartreuse ground huggers, such as low-growing junipers and bird's-nest spruce. For purple, she planted Coppertina ninebark, 'Rose Glow' barberry, smoke bush, 'Purple Emperor' sedum, purple sage, catmint, and cardoon (a purple-flowering ornamental artichoke), among others.

Mixed in are accents of yellow and gold, plus occasional hits of bright blue and wine red. Zebra grass

features dramatic spots of yellow on otherwise green blades. Plum Passion nandina contributes leaves of intense purplish red. 'Blue Haze' euphorbia features blue-green leaves all year, punctuated by bright chartreuse-to-golden flowers beginning in late spring. Alliums, santolina, and 'Angelina' sedum also add yellow when they bloom. Lacecap hydrangea in the side yard provides the blue. A few wine-colored daylilies and a dark red peony—among the few exceptions to Deborah's lack of interest in flowering perennials—draw attention with rosy blooms in early summer.

With plants, it's enough just to generally aim for colors like green and purple. Plants defy color precision because each one is a little different and leaves change

Opening Up

Once a cozy 844 square foot, the original Craftsman bungalow, INSET, was bumped out in back and along one side, then topped with a second story. The design-build firm preserved as much as they could of the first floor's original details, using them as a point of departure for the rest of the facade. Siding: HardiePlank and HardieShingle



A snug 1941 cottage expands its living space downstairs—and gains a second story—without losing its charm

By **Helen Thompson**
Photographs by **Ryann Ford**
Produced by **Tisha Leung**
Styling by **Paige Morse**

Enlarged and rebuilt, the new kitchen offers a wide-open cooking and dining space. To accommodate frequent get-togethers with friends, upgrades include a table that seats eight and an island that can double as a gathering place and a prep station. Custom cabinets. Amazonia. Countertops, Caesarstone. Lighting, Seagull. Vent hood, wine fridge, KitchenAid.





If you find the perfect house—all 844 square feet of it—and buy it on the spot, it's safe to say that coziness and charm pack a powerful one-two punch. When the former Nadia Khan saw the online listing for the pert two-bedroom, one-bath Craftsman bungalow, built in 1941, it reminded the recent Austin transplant of the houses she loved growing up in New York's Westchester County. "I called my Realtor and said, 'That's my house.' " A front-entry porch flanked by two sets of windows and capped with a pitched roof radiated what "house" meant to her. "I was single, and it was perfect for me," she says.

But things happen fast in Nadia's world—within a year, the preschool teacher had married her boyfriend, Aaron Blair, a chef. The following year, the couple had a baby, Townes. As the Blair family expanded, it became obvious the house wasn't measuring up, literally: The living room was minuscule, there wasn't room to seat many guests in the dining room, and the kitchen was too small, especially after

ABOVE About half the kitchen is newly added space. The opening to the dining area is now defined by a row of interior windows that forms a decorative, light-funneling transom. A wall separating the kitchen from the former master bedroom also came down, opening the kitchen to a new family room and making way for the large island. *Stools: Overstock. Fridge: Samsung. Faucet: Waterstone Gantry Range Dacor*

INSET Homeowners Nadia and Aaron Blair with their two sons, Townes and baby Hayes.



THE BLAIR FAMILY

Aaron bought a commercial range. "I wanted to cook on something comparable to what I was using professionally," he says. Space was at a premium outside, too. Aaron had no covered protection for his beloved classic car, an aqua 1959 Chevy Bel Air.

Making the house work for a modern family, while preserving the architectural character that first grabbed Nadia, would be an ambitious project—one that ultimately called for tripling the wood frame dwelling's square footage and building a second story.

The couple began by researching design build



firms. "I liked the idea that one company would do everything," Nadia says. A recommendation from a parent at Nadia's school directed them to CG&S Design-Build. The first meeting with principal architect and design director Stewart Davis, project architect Gregory Thomas, and interior designer Mark Evans was notable for the good chemistry everyone remembers, aided by the just-baked muffins Nadia pulled out of the oven for the occasion.

Davis came up with the plan. "I developed a two-story concept that had all the public spaces downstairs and all the bedrooms upstairs," he says. It addressed the couple's wants: two bedrooms for a

ABOVE LEFT In the laundry room, a stacked washer and dryer allow counter space for folding. A corner clothing rod and an open cubby for baskets help boost the utility of the small space.

ABOVE RIGHT A closet built-in for the boys' room frees up wall space. Pegboard above the dresser/changing table holds baskets for diapers and other necessities.

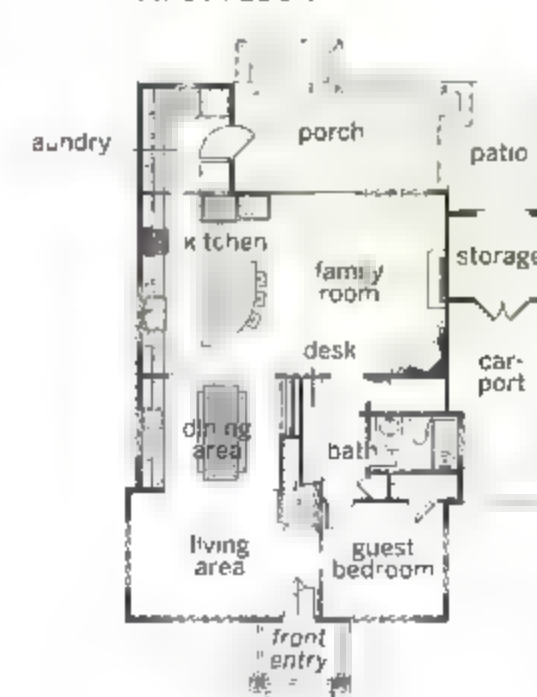
growing family—baby Hayes now makes four—more space to gather in, and more places to put things. Davis's plan bumped out the dining room by about a foot and a half and expanded it into the existing cook space to double the size of the kitchen, then merged it with a family room where the master bedroom had been. Both the family room and a new laundry room off the kitchen lead onto a screened-in porch, and voilà!—parents, kids, and dogs are outside in one slam of a screen door. "It lets the family live large in a modest-size space," says Thomas.

Scrupulous preplanning circumvented the usual remodeling horror stories, but still, there were

floor plans

Originally, the compact 844-square-foot first floor was divided into the kitchen and living spaces on one side and two bedrooms and a bath on the other. The redo expanded the first level to 1,271 square feet, with a new laundry room, a guest bedroom, and a storage area off the family room. Outdoor improvements include a new porch, a patio, and a carport. Upstairs, the new master suite, two more bedrooms, another bathroom, and a playroom complete an additional 1,165 square feet of living space.

FIRST FLOOR

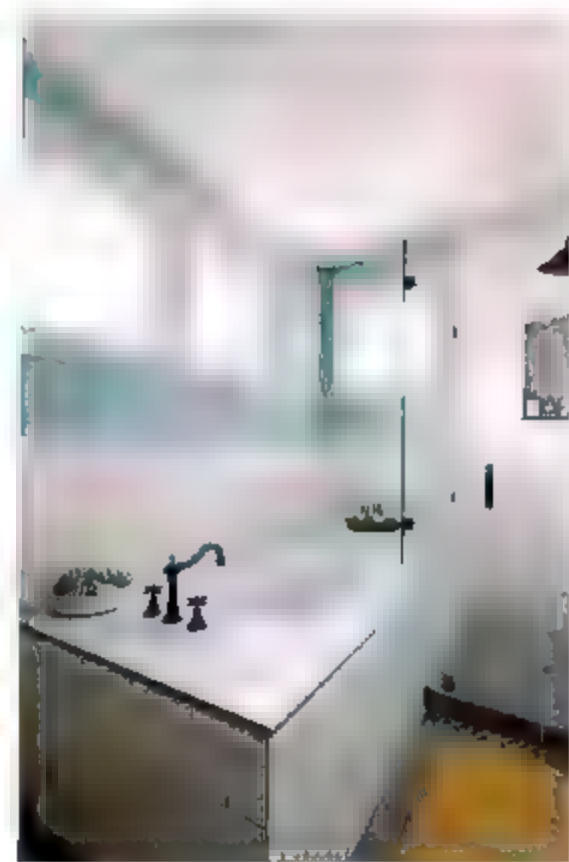
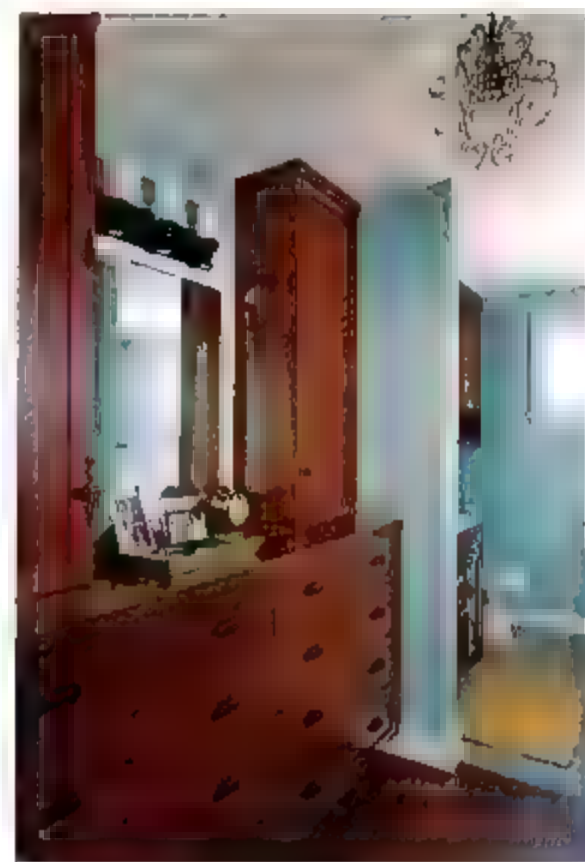


SECOND FLOOR



scale
5'

addition



A home office command center that doubles as a craft area fits neatly underneath the staircase. An oak desktop, protected with glass, echoes the dark-stained floors. Chair: Pier 1. Knobs: Anthropologie. Rug: Target.

surprises. “The previous owner had redone the bathroom,” Aaron recalls. “We walked in one day, and we could see the ground.” A tiny leak—where a nail had pierced the PVC pipe three years earlier, during that bath remodel—had eaten all the way through the subfloor, a discovery made only when the contractor went to remove the tub.

While the previous owner had also had the house’s original cedar post foundation replaced with steel piers, extra support had to be added for the dramatically heavier load of the now two-story structure. In the back, where the grade rises, a concrete slab foundation was poured for the kitchen bump-out as well as the porch, patio, covered storage, and carport. All the plumbing, wiring, and windows were replaced, too.

With the living space enlarged and opened up, the next challenge was to make optimal use of it. “Storage was a design project all by itself,” says Thomas. Built-ins were wedged into every nook and cranny, upstairs and downstairs. Holding court in the middle of the kitchen is the mother ship of storage islands, given a graceful curve. The linchpin of the built-ins campaign, however, is the staircase. Tucked under it on one side is Nadia’s desk. On the other, dining room side, drawers hold linens, cabinets corral china, and cubbies safeguard wine.

Color was also key. While light gray walls and

ABOVE LEFT: Window-seat storage maximizes every available inch in the new master bedroom and adds a touch of old-house charm.

ABOVE CENTER: A built-in bureau opposite the master closet serves the dressing area between bedroom and bath. The chandelier was repurposed from the house’s entry.

ABOVE RIGHT: The shower’s frameless-glass enclosure slides up to the tub in the 7½-by-13-foot master bath. The white subway tile is repeated in the kitchen and the laundry room. Tub: Mirabelle Edenton. Showerhead, faucet: Delta. Tub deck: Siestone.

white trim unify the public rooms, “Nadia also wanted to have fun with color because the kids are still young,” says Evans, who responded by incorporating splashes of aqua throughout the house.

The architects capitalized on one last thing—space underneath the new upstairs bathroom—to provide shelter for Aaron’s ’59 Chevy. A garage wasn’t an option, since any addition would butt right up to the city easement. An open-sided carport built to the precise measurements of the car—down to the tips of its fenders—was the only answer. And even then, to make it work, the chef would have to resort to a skilled parking maneuver to slip his car into its made-to-fit spot. “I have to back in,” he says. “There’s not enough room to open the door and get out if the driver’s side is next to the house.”

Both car and carport fit snugly into the new two-story silhouette of the reimagined house, which is still in scale with the rest of the neighborhood. “We saved the street appeal,” says Davis. “The Blairs were adamant about that.”

In the end, nearly everything in this vintage house has been touched in some way—except, that is, for two features. The entry porch and first-floor windows—the very details that originally captured Nadia’s heart—remain the same. “That’s why I fell in love with this house,” she says, “and that’s why I still love it now.” ■



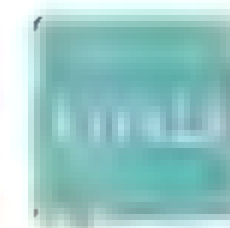
Glass Mosaic Tile

With more shapes, shades, and finishes available than ever before, this glamorous, light-catching cousin to ceramic can transform any space **BY CHARLOTTE BARNARD**

FROM A DESIGN PERSPECTIVE, glass mosaic tiles provide wonderful opportunities to play with color, whether subdued neutrals or bold brights. They show off plenty of special effects, too, from “hammered” metallics to matte sea glass to textural treatments that mimic variegated stone or woven fabric. “Glass mosaic tiles offer so much variety today, you can really put your own stamp on a room,” says Bellavita Tile’s Ryan Fasan, an 18-year veteran of the industry.

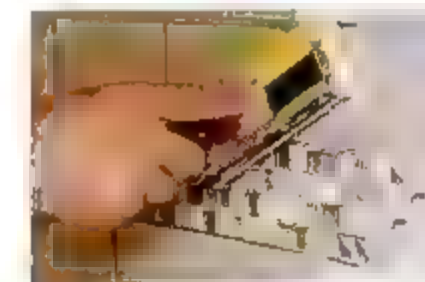
But glass mosaic tile is more than just a pretty face. In terms of performance, livability, and hygiene, it offers an impervious surface that inhibits mold, mildew, and bacteria. And more good news: As demand and improvements in manufacturing have made the style options soar, they’ve also brought prices down. So how do you choose? Shop around, bring samples home, read our guide—and you’re on your way.

BITS OF HISTORY Originally, mosaics were assembled from small, hand-cut pieces of stone, glass, or ceramic set in mortar to create a pattern or picture. Glass mosaics first appeared in Egypt 3,500 years ago, traveled to Greece and India, then on to the Byzantine Empire and the West. Their lustrous beauty was prized for its decorative impact, as shown in St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice.



WHAT'S THE COST? Sold in sheets about 1 foot square, prices start at about \$5 per square foot and can go up to \$90—and higher. But you can find many options for \$15 to \$20 per square foot.

DIY OR HIRE A PRO? A mesh backing or a paper front connects pieces to ease installation. But you may want to leave projects with lots of complex cuts or installation in a wet area to a tile setter.



WHERE TO USE IT? It's popular for backsplashes and in bathrooms, but consider it anywhere you'd use other tile from a fireplace front to an accent wall.

WILL IT HOLD UP? Drop a heavy object on it and it can crack like ceramic or stone. But with care and proper installation, glass mosaic tile will last as long as you want it to.

A floor-to-ceiling expanse of glass mosaic tile makes the cabinets appear to float in this sleek cook space. Shown: Bronx Glass in Grey, \$28 per sq. ft., usontile.com



Is it for you?

Its lustrous beauty belies its more practical properties. But you do need to take care with where and how you place it.



Similar to shown: Opulence Mosaic Tile in Opal, \$22 per sq. ft.; daltile.com for dealers

PROS

> **Whether translucent or opaque,** glass mosaics catch and reflect light to brighten up a space, and they marry well with other natural surfaces, including stone, ceramic, and wood.

> **Countless options for color, shape, and surface texture** let you create a standout effect even with just a little bit of tile, so you needn't bust your budget. A kitchen backsplash or a simple border set into field tile in a bath will ramp up the glamour.

> **It's impervious to moisture and unaffected by UV rays,** so it won't stain from spills or fade from exposure to detergent or sunlight. With a swipe of a damp cloth, it's easy to maintain, too.

CONS

> **Like many other kinds of tile, it can break with heavy impact**—if a cast-iron tub bumps into it on the way to being installed, say, or a pan bangs the kitchen backsplash.

> **Installation can be tricky.** While a mesh backing or paper facing helps the mosaic tile stay evenly spaced, it can be a challenge to keep the many pieces aligned, and to make precision cuts for outlets and other openings.

> **It's pricier than some other options,** like ceramic. If you're covering a large area, skill and patience are required to achieve a seamless effect, so labor can be more costly.

CALCULATOR

Most glass mosaic tile comes in individual sheets about 12 inches square. Measure your project space, round that number to the next highest square foot, then add 10 percent (go up to 15 percent if the installation has a lot of cutouts or corners) to cover waste, cuts, and breakage.

$$\left(\text{SQUARE FOOTAGE} + 10 \text{ PERCENT OF SQUARE FOOTAGE (for waste, cuts, and breakage)} \right) \times \text{PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT} = \text{MATERIALS COST}$$

SHOP SMARTER

Not a glass mosaic tile is alike. Follow these tips to get the best product for your project.

SAMPLES Do your research online, then visit a variety of showrooms to see tile that's installed. Ask for samples you can take with you; many retailers will charge a few dollars for these. If a sample is not readily available, you may have to pay to have one shipped from the factory.

CONTINUITY Get a full-size sheet for a true idea of the color and pattern, and ask the tile store if it's from a dye lot that's in stock. Glass pigments are natural minerals, just like tile glazes, so dye lots can vary from batch to batch. It's important to make sure there's enough tile from one particular lot to cover your project.

LEAD TIME Tile stores and home centers can't stock everything they sell, so delivery of your order can take anywhere from a couple of days to 10 weeks, if the tile you buy is coming from a factory overseas—unless you want to shell out for a hefty airfreight charge.

QUALITY It looks pretty, but how do you know you're getting a well-made product? Ask for a manufacturer's data sheet with information on national standard testing that rates performance with regard to breaking strength, water absorption, and chemical resistance. None available? Then buyer beware.



Shown: Glass Blox in DewDrop/Olive Mist/Deep Sea, \$26 per sq. ft., crossvilleinc.com for dealers

Installation tips

Whether you do it yourself or hire a pro, get familiar with the key aspects of a successful job.

LAYOUT "The surface should be perfect for mosaic tile, freshly skim-coated and perfectly plumb," says New York-based tile contractor Joe Cangialosi. "Glass mosaic should be laid out dry first, to see where the sheets come together and to avoid visible cuts." To cut glass mosaics, use a glass tile nipper (\$13; homedepot.com) or a wet saw for the cleanest line.

ANTI-FRACTURE MEMBRANE As a room settles, shifting can cause any tiles to crack; in addition, glass expands and contracts more than other types of tile, and mosaics have more grout lines. So it's key to install an anti-fracture membrane—mesh sandwiched between two layers of a rubbery waterproof compound—before applying a bed of thinset for the tile.

CONNECTIVE MATERIAL Mesh is the most common, joining tiles in back to form sheets about 12 inches square for quicker installation and easier, more accurate adjustments. Paper facing is used for some transparent glass tiles, so there is no backing that shows through once the tile is installed.

THINSET, GROUT, ETC. Pick one brand of setting materials and use the entire system so you are covered by the company's warranties. If your tile lacks an opaque coating in back—a superthin layer baked on during manufacturing—use white thinset and smooth the trowel marks before installing the mosaic sheets, so no gaps are visible.

To remove a paper facing, blot it with a wet sponge several times; wait 5 to 10 minutes. Once the paper is saturated, peel it off at an angle, starting from an upper corner. Shown: Egyptian Glass in Peridot Fusion, \$42 per sq. ft.; daltile.com for dealers



After thinset is troweled on, place the mosaic sheets along the surface. Slightly rock the sheet up and down to help the tile settle into place.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE! To watch a step-by-step video on how to install a glass mosaic tile backsplash, go to thisoldhouse.com/may2016

Grout

It bonds tiles together and seals out water. It also affects the finished look of your mosaic.

WHAT TO USE A relative newcomer, urethane grout is an ideal match for glass mosaics. It combines the superior water and stain resistance, color retention, and flexibility of epoxy grout with the longer working time and sandy matte look of traditional cementitious grout. It comes premixed, with synthetic polymers that won't scratch glass, and never requires sealing. It is pricier, at about \$60 per 9-lb. pail, but should be virtually maintenance-free.

WHITE OR COLOR? Because it's reflective, glass picks up the colors of the materials near it, including grout. If you want to highlight a mosaic shape, opt for a contrasting grout color. For a blended look, match tile and grout. Know, however, that small glass mosaic tiles can shift while being installed, even when held together with mesh, and contrasting grout may make any spacing irregularities more obvious.



Shown: Palms Collection in Stratos, \$28 per sq. ft.; islandstone.com for dealers

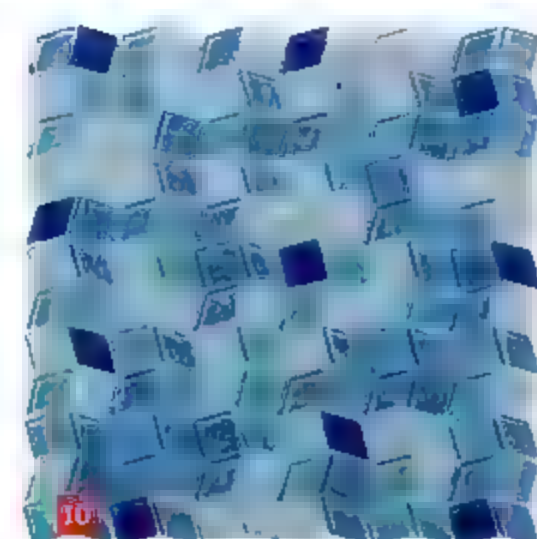
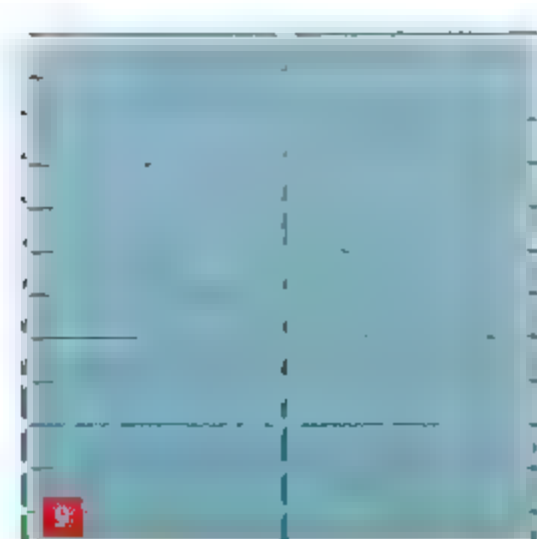
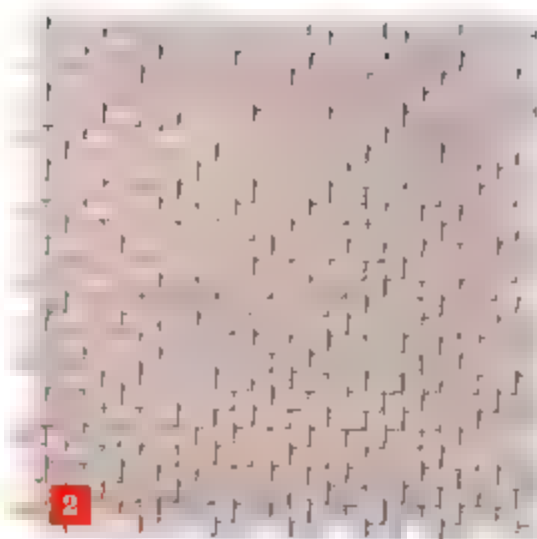
CARE FOR CORNERS Anytime tile meets another surface or material, like a stone counter, fill the joint with a silicone sealant. This allows for their different expansion and contraction rates, to prevent cracking at the joint.

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF POSH INTERIORS; ANDREW MCSAUL (OPPOSITE PAGE); TOP: TRIA GIOVANNI/GAP INTERIORS

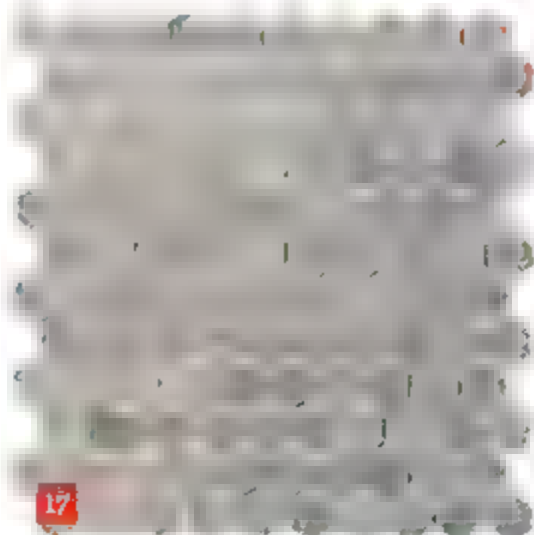
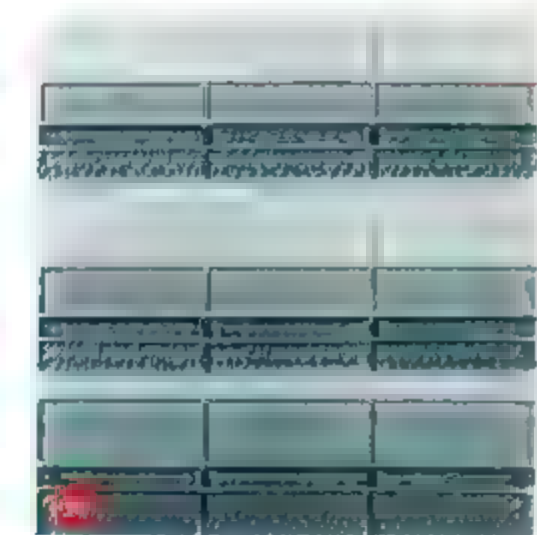
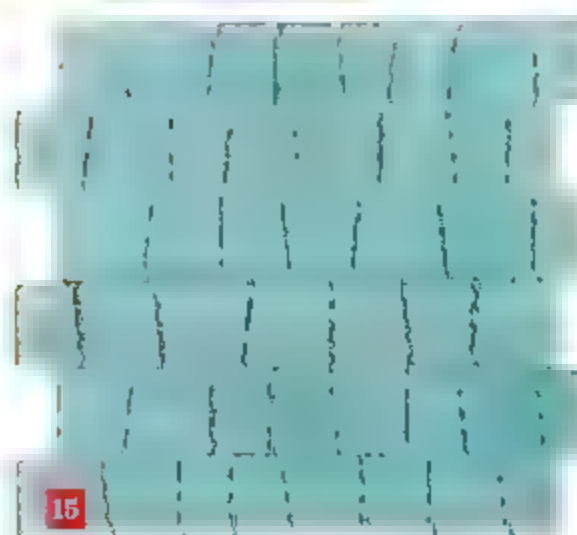
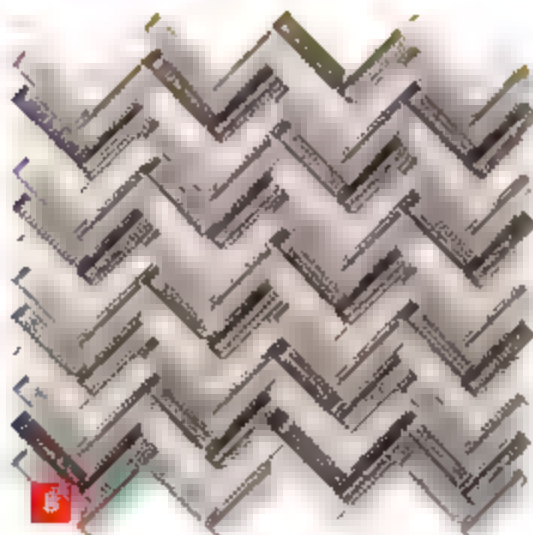
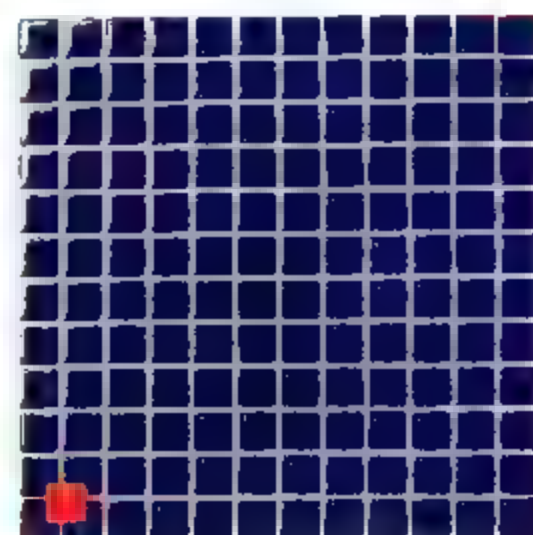
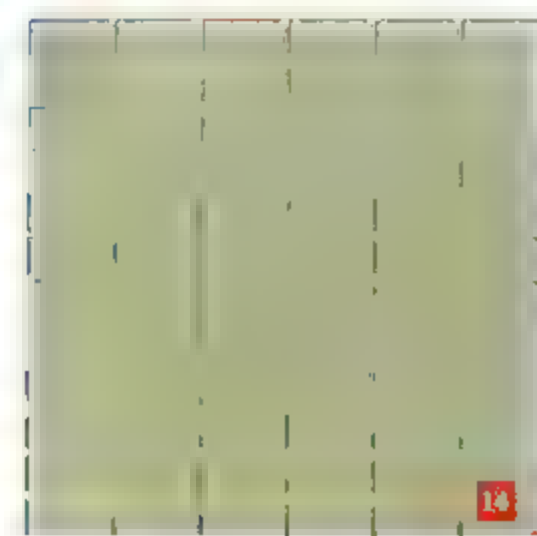
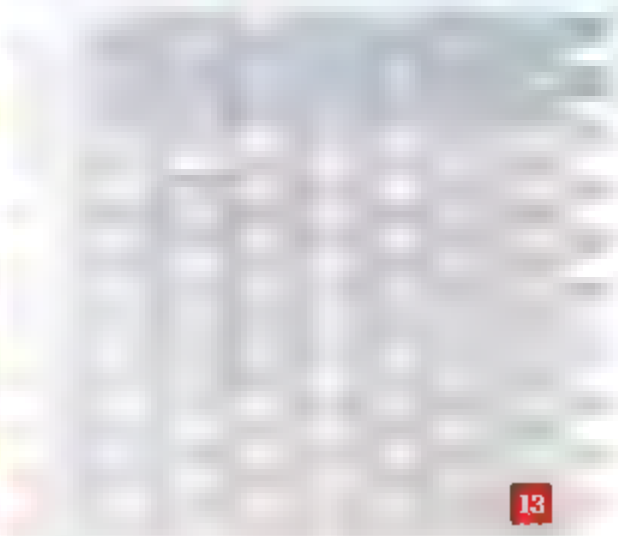
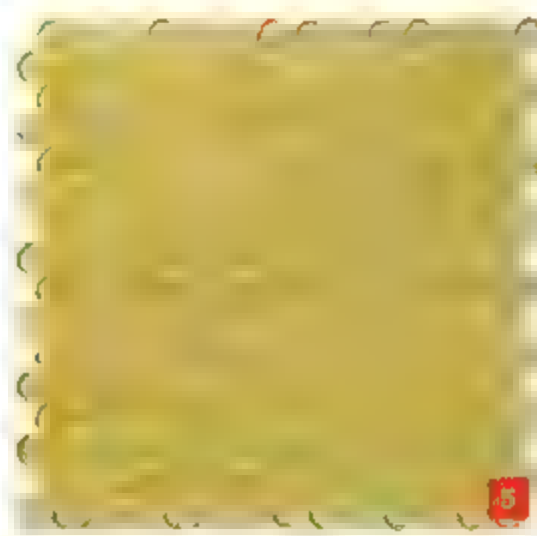
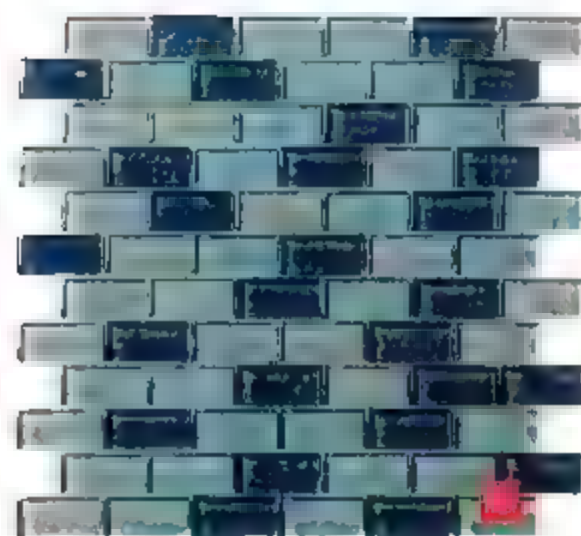
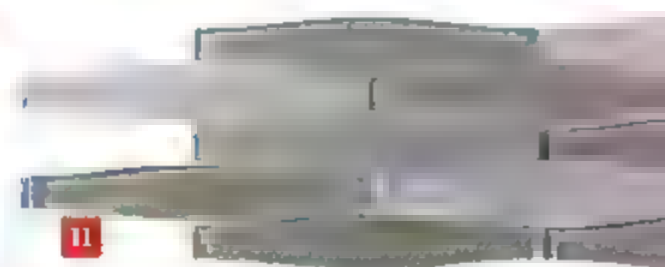


Pick your tile

Glass mosaic tile offers myriad color, pattern, shape, and texture options—and even fun faux effects. Here are some of our favorites



TIP: To get a good idea of how a glass mosaic will look installed, do a mock up: Get a full-size sheet and grout it.



1] PLAYFUL PATCHWORK White, blue, and green 1-inch squares alternate for a carefree cottage look. Spectrum Fresh Square Glass Mosaic Wall Tile, \$6.95 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

2] WOVEN BEAUTY Interlocking gray mosaics in a matte finish have the

textured look of basketry. Verre Collection in Parisian Vintage, \$19 per sq. ft.; hudsonstilesupply.com

3] MINI SUBWAYS This scaled-down classic gets its oomph from a trio of cool blues. Color Wave Brick-Joint Mosaic in Winter Blues, \$30 per sq. ft.; daltile.com

4] SAY SPA Pale-green wedge shapes in a brushed finish create a serene effect. Waveline Mini in Stratos, \$30 per sq. ft.; islandstone.com

5] PERKY PENNY ROUNDS Clear and opaque glass circles alternate, both in vivid yellow. Mata Hari Penny Round Glass Tiles in

Yellow, \$23 per sq. ft.; tilebar.com

6] GRAPHIC GRID Tile triangles in five soft hues have a random repeat. Groove Glass Mosaic in Vogue, \$41 per sq. ft.; crossvilleinc.com

7] BLUE MOOD Still a favorite—small

squares in a deep-blue hue. Cobalt Glass Mosaic Square Indoor/Outdoor Wall Tile, \$10 per sq. ft.; lowes.com

8] SLEEK CHEVRON Three shades of gray zigzag for instant visual impact. Pleasantville Glass Mosaic Wall Tile, \$14 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

9] LINEAR LOOK Cleanly stacked rectangles in a soft blue. Color Wave Straight-Joint Mosaic in Blue Lagoon, \$36 per sq. ft.; daltile.com

10] MAKING WAVES Slanted squares in four watery hues seem to undulate. Crystal Springs Collection in Illusion

Stream, \$12 per sq. ft.; hudsonstilesupply.com

11] GO MOD Sinuous shapes lend retro-modern charm. Pisces Collection in Stingray, \$38 per sq. ft.; bellavitatile.com

12] METALLIC EFFECT A coppery marbled vein imparts shimmering shine.

Vineyard Glass Mosaic Wall Tile, \$4.99 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

13] 3-D EFFECT Luminous "woven" white glass adds texture to walls. Curve Super White Glass Tile, \$25 per sq. ft.; tilebar.com

14] SPRING GREEN A vibrant choice for any

kitchen—indoors or out. Glassique Glass Mosaic Square Indoor/Outdoor Wall Tile in Pear, \$7.82 per sq. ft.; lowes.com

15] SO CRAFTY Irregular shapes in a frosted finish appear hand-cut. Artifact Collection in Spring, \$30 per sq. ft.; islandstone.com

16] TOUCH OF TEXTURE Some tiles with a pebbled surface lend tactile appeal. Tessera Meridian Cirrus Glass Mosaic Wall Tile, \$14 per sq. ft.; homedepot.com

17] FAUX STONE Subtle variations mimic limestone. Uptown Glass in Matte Frost Moka, \$23 per sq. ft.; daltile.com

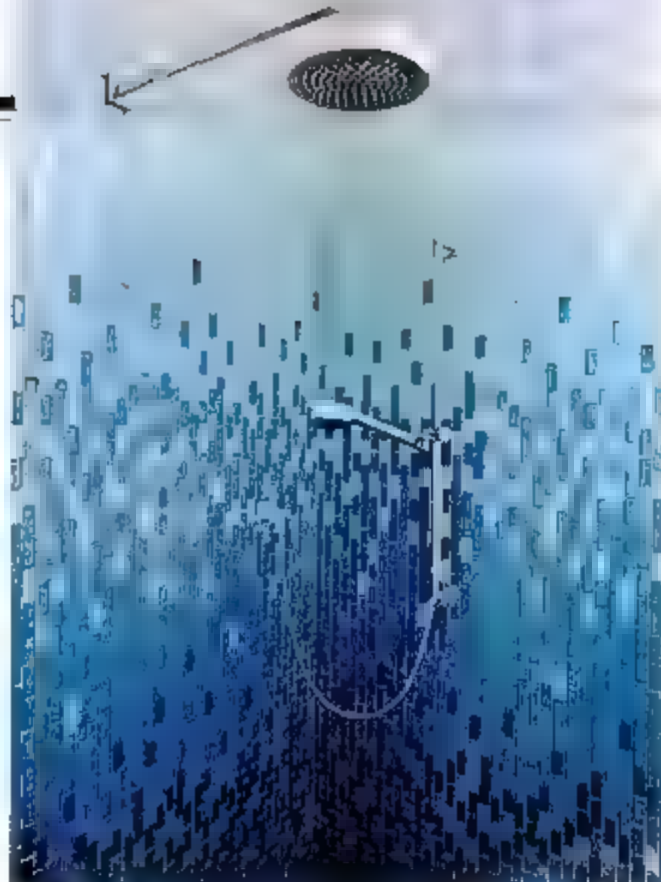
PHOTOS: ANDREW MCGAUL



What about custom?

You can create a look that's yours and yours alone with a little extra time and effort

In search of a one-of-a-kind pattern or color? You're in luck. Some companies will create unique combinations from their product offering with a computer program. If you want to match a color swatch, ask your local tile store whether any of its suppliers will do this. Many manufacturers will produce special colors for a minimum order of 600 square feet at no extra charge, as long as no rare mineral, like gold, is required to get the hue. Texture may also be customizable if you select from the palette of choices available in their tile lines. Allow up to 12 weeks for review, approval, manufacturing, and delivery.

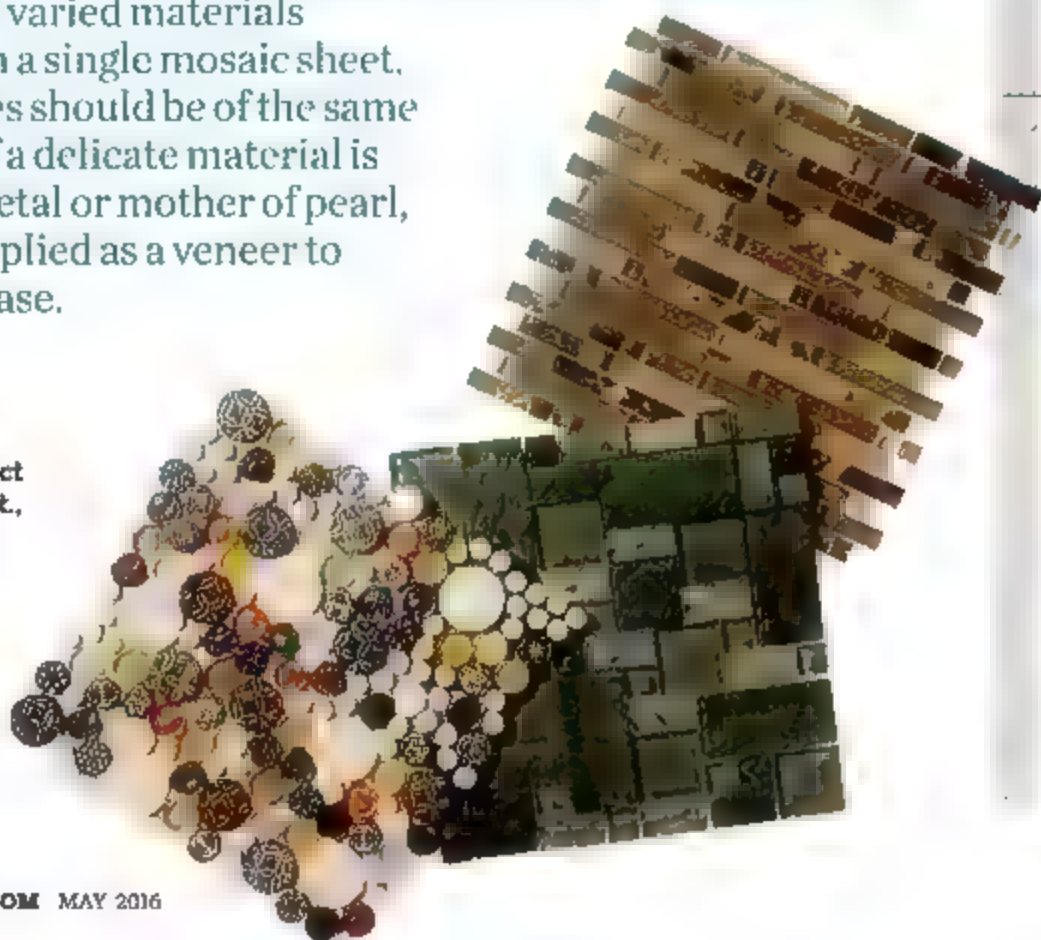


This custom gradient effect is designed with a computer. From \$65 per sq. ft.; glasstile.com for dealers

MIXED MATERIALS

Glass partners well with other natural surfaces, particularly stone and ceramic, to yield beautiful and sometimes surprising results. Recognizing this, manufacturers are doing the mixing for you with varied materials combined in a single mosaic sheet. All the pieces should be of the same thickness; if a delicate material is used, like metal or mother of pearl, it is often applied as a veneer to a ceramic base.

Shown, from left: Netherlands Collection in District Dark, \$30 per sq. ft., hudsonsupply.com. Verdil Slate Glass Mosaic, \$14 per sq. ft., lowes.com. Oasis In Chestnut, \$20 per sq. ft.; bellavitatile.com for dealers



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Though the upkeep is easy, give glass mosaic the regular attention to keep it sparkling

CLEANING Use a soft, lint-free cloth and a nonabrasive cleaner to keep glass gleaming. With cementitious grout, avoid acid-based cleansers, including distilled white vinegar, which can weaken it. In areas like the shower, mineral buildup may necessitate more frequent cleaning.

SEALING Use a Teflon grout sealant on cementitious grout after installation, as soon as it's dry, to protect it from water and stains. You will still need to stay on top of spills and spatters, like tomato sauce on a backsplash, and wipe them up before they have a chance to seep in. If you choose a glass-and-stone blend, ask if the stone is presealed, or if you need to take care of that after installation, then reseal periodically.

REPAIRS As with any tile, if it gets cracked or broken, you can tape off and remove the damaged pieces and setting materials to patch in new tile. Keep a carton of extra mosaic sheets on hand to ensure that the replacements match perfectly. This is especially crucial if the repair involves plumbing behind the tile surface and requires removing and then replacing several square feet of mosaic.

Take it outside

Waterproof, fade-proof, and stain-proof, glass mosaic tile can be a natural for outdoor use, too—consider it for a kitchen backsplash or for trim along the edge of a pool or spa. Since it's even more prone to expansion and contraction with changes in humidity and temperature than other tile materials, be sure the one you choose is made for exterior use. The manufacturer's data sheet will list how it rates for water absorption and frost and scratch resistance.

Where—and how—to use it

Add an artful border, or go all out with an accent wall for a unique focal point

1 > BOLD BAND A simple ribbon of three rows of glass tile adds punch to this classic blue-and-white kitchen. It breaks up the expanse of white above the counter and echoes the base cabinet color. Shown: Tessera 1" by 1" in Fleet Blue, \$35 per sq. ft.; glasstile.com for dealers

2 > FUN FRAME Looking for a special effect, but want to stay on budget? Plan a few pretty touches. Here, a band of mosaic frames a mirror and rings the shower wall, adding a hit of glamour to simple field tile. Shown: Vetro Splash Beige Brick, \$28 per sq. ft., ny.merolatile.com for dealers

3 > FIREPLACE FEATURE Since glass mosaic is fire-resistant, it offers a stylish alternative to brick or stone around a firebox. Here, a lustrous cobalt blue makes the surround glow. Shown: Rainbow Glass in Pisces 8, \$33 per sq. ft.; lunadabaytile.com for dealers

4 > FAUX EFFECT Iridescent aquamarine-colored glass mosaic crisscrosses a marble bathroom floor, staying within its own blue border to mimic an area rug. Shown: Sicis Iridium 5/8" by 5/8" in Hyacinth, \$30 per sq. ft., artistictile.net

5 > LIGHT AND TEXTURE A mixed mosaic of glass and stone on the island's sides and the oven wall brings warmth and unity to a large kitchen. Similar to shown: Venatino Mixed Material (Stone and Glass) Mosaic Random Wall Tile, \$11 per sq. ft.; lowes.com



PHOTOS: (TOP) RAY KACHATORIAN; (BOTTOM) ANDREW McCALL; (OPPOSITE PAGE) MIRO DVORSCHAK; (2) JOHANNA SOPHIA; (3) ERIN BIERMAN; (4) EDNA MOSES; (5) DAN CUTRONA; DESIGNERS: (1) CARLA ASTON; (2) WWW.INTERIORBYNINETE.COM; (3) CHARMEAN WEHART INTERIORS; (4) INTERIEURS TONIE WARD

PROMOTION

Talking Shop with Nick Offerman

Tune in this May when special guest Nick Offerman of Parks & Recreation fame stops by the workshop to talk about his passion for woodworking—and challenges the guys to a lively round of “What is It?”



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INSIDE
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Q Every year the nozzle for my hose leaks and has to be replaced. What's a more durable option?

A How about an old-fashioned adjustable spray nozzle like these solid-brass beauties fanned out below? Simply turning the barrel creates a sharp stream, a gentle spray, or shuts off the flow. This tried-and-true design has been around since at least the 1890s and is still being made today, but even a vintage nozzle from a yard sale can provide years of trouble-free service if you replace the washer and slip an O-ring or two onto the stem.



NOTE: THE NOZZLE IN THE CENTER HAS NO MOVING PARTS; IT SHOOTS A HIGH-PRESSURE STREAM GOOD FOR CLEANING PAVEMENT AND DRIVE.

36
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

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General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating
Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

We'd like to grow pachysandra in a large, shady area that's filled with weeds. How should we go about it?

DIANE DURANT, SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MASS.



Roger Cook transplants a clump of pachysandra into a freshly rototilled bed enriched with compost.

ROGER COOK REPLIES:

Pachysandra, also known as Japanese spurge, is an ideal groundcover where there's partial or deep shade. Given adequate moisture and well-draining, slightly acidic soil, these low-maintenance evergreens will grow into patches so dense that they choke out most weeds. Even better, deer find pachysandra distasteful and will usually pass it up.

To give your new groundcover a good start, strip away the weeds with a grub hoe and rototill compost into the soil about 5 inches down. If you're buying flats at the nursery, spread a 2-inch layer of mulch over the prepared soil, then dig through it to plant the individual sprigs about 5 inches apart. Push the mulch around each one.

Water them twice a week—three times in dry weather—until their roots are established, and pull any weeds that pop up. In about three years, these sprigs will grow into a lush, green mat.

Rain gets by the gutter
Water from our roof's drip edge is going behind the gutter. Should we be concerned?

—BEVERLY AND BROOKS RILEY,
PARKVILLE, MD

PHOTOS: ANTHONY TIEUL (6); OPPOSITE PAGE: ANDREW McCALL



A
Cavity-
inspection
camera

B
Drain
delogger

C
Tankless
water heater
descaler

D
Drip irrigator

FOR THE
ANSWER
SEE PAGE 92



TOM SILVA REPLIES: I see this problem a lot, usually because roofers push the lower leg of the metal drip edge tight against the fascia board. It looks neat, but when it rains, surface tension pulls the water around the bottom edge of the leg and onto the fascia, causing drips behind the gutter.

Drip edge should be installed so there's a gap of about 1/2 inch between the lower leg and the fascia board. Water can't bridge that gap, and the fascia has a chance to dry.

You should fix this. Moisture trapped behind the drip edge and gutter can rot out a wood fascia and attract termites and carpenter ants. But if reinstalling the drip edge isn't in your budget, then block the water's path by sliding metal flashing up behind the drip

edge and place the flashing's lower edge inside the gutter.

Slick brick

My shaded brick walkway is covered with moss and becomes very slippery when it rains. I've poured bleach and vinegar and salt on the moss, but it's still there. Is there a way to get rid of it without harming my plants?

—G. CANNON,
EAST GREENWICH, R.I.

JENNIFER NAWADA REPLIES: I'm pretty sure that your bricks are actually covered with algae, not moss. Algae gets as slick as ice when it's wet, while moss forms a spongy cushion that isn't as dicey to walk on. Moss is also opaque. If you can

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see the brick through a greenish or black film, then you have algae.

You're on the right track with bleach and vinegar. Undiluted white vinegar destroys algae by drying it out. Diluted chlorine bleach is also an effective algicide, but isn't safe for plants. A better choice would be an oxygen bleach, such as OxiClean.

Whichever solution you choose, apply it with a spray bottle or garden sprayer, then scrub with a soft bristle brush. Rinse thoroughly while the brick is still wet. Repeat a second time, if necessary.

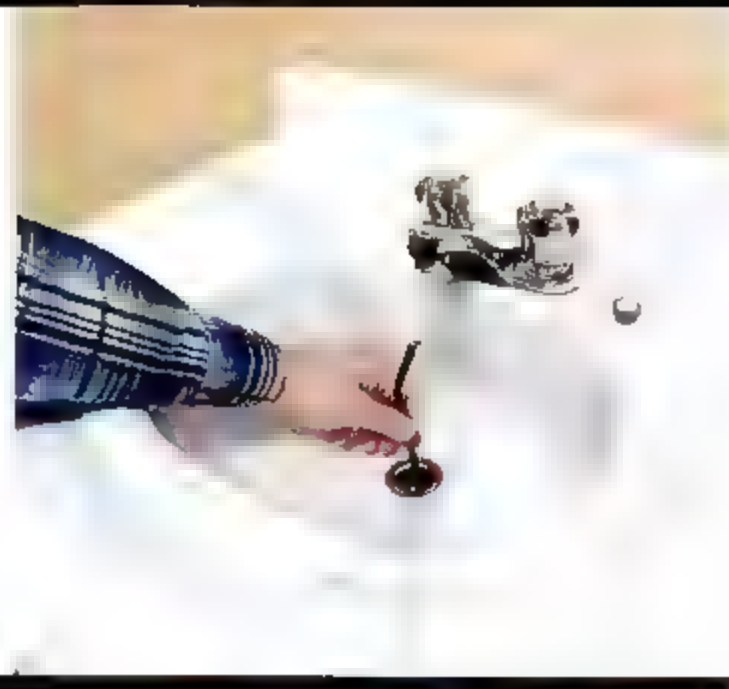
To help keep your walkway

Jennifer Nawada owns Nawada Landscape Design in Boston. She appears regularly on TV episodes of Ask This Old House.

What is it?

B Drain declogger

When attached to a faucet spout, the Drain-FX Sinks directs a stream of water down the drain and into a clog, breaking it apart without the need for chemicals. \$20, drain-fx.com



clean, trim overhanging branches to bring in more sunlight and air circulation and help the bricks dry. The faster they dry out, the longer it will take for the algae to grow back. When it does, just hit it with more vinegar or oxygen bleach.

Low water pressure
Is there any way to increase the water pressure in my house? I'd like the upstairs shower to be more forceful. We're on city water.

— ANDY STEFIK, LOVELAND, OH

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES

Before we get to the shower, how's the water pressure in the rest of the house? To find out, buy a water-pressure gauge—they cost about nine bucks at home centers—and screw it to a hose bib, like the one on an outdoor faucet. The gauge should read between 40 and 60 psi when you open the bib's valve.

If the pressure is in that range, then something is restricting the flow to your shower. First, see if the showerhead is clogged. Remove it and measure how much water flows out of the shower arm and into a bucket in 10 seconds. If you collect between 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 gallons—the equivalent of 8 to 10 gallons per minute—then the head is the culprit. If the flow is less than that, then clean or replace the shower valve.

A pressure-reducing valve controls water pressure for the entire house.



Now, if the gauge shows that the entire house has low water pressure, then try adjusting the pressure-reducing valve. Look on the main supply pipe near your water meter for a conical valve that has a bolt sticking out of the cone. To raise pressure, turn the bolt clockwise after loosening its locknut. Keep an eye on the gauge to make sure the pressure is within bounds, then retighten the locknut.

If that adjustment doesn't help, then the municipal pressure itself may be inadequate. Start by talking to your neighbors. If their pressure is good, then call the water company to check the shutoff valve out by the street.



If you've got a tip that would impress the show guys, share it with us for a chance to appear in our October Reader-Created issue. To post ideas, visit thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH.

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But if your neighbors' water pressure is low too, there's only one thing left to do. Install a water-pressure booster, like the ones made by Amtrol (amtrol.com). It consists of an electric pump that feeds water to a tank that keeps the water at the desired pressure. To see how a booster system is installed, go to th.soldhouse.com/may2016.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

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Or write to: Ask This Old House
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More great stuff

Every month, we discover new tools, materials, and home-improvement products. Here are the latest standouts. —THE EDITORS



Tile over wood

Porcelain tile decking, by Mbrico Tile Decks

For the ultimate in no-maintenance decking, you can't beat porcelain. It doesn't stain or fade, and it's frost-proof and waterproof. These slip-resistant, fiberglass-backed tiles slot into anodized aluminum rails that are screwed to the joists of a standard wood deck frame. From \$20 per square foot; mbricotiledecks.com



Go deep

Sub-surface emitter tubing, by Rain Bird

Burying drip irrigation tubing minimizes evaporation and feeds water directly to roots, but the emitter holes in standard tubing can get clogged by roots and debris. This 1/2-inch tubing doesn't mind being underground. Its copper strips discourage root intrusion, and its self-flushing diaphragms clear the holes of grit. \$20 for 50 feet; rainbird.com

Gas power without the fumes

Power+ 21-inch self-propelled lawn mower, by Ego

Here's a cordless mower with the torque of a gasoline engine, thanks to its 7.5-amp-hour battery—the first ever. There's no cord to pull, fuel tank to fill, or oil to replace. Its no-rust plastic deck has a one-lever height adjustment, and the entire mower can be stored tipped on end. \$599; egopowerplus.com



Watchful eye

Stick Up Cam, by Ring

This easy-to-install security camera allows you to observe and communicate with whoever is at your door. It sends alerts to your phone when it detects motion and has infrared night vision so you can see in the dark. Best of all? There's no wiring; it operates up to a year on a rechargeable battery. Or you can plug it into a dedicated solar panel (\$49) and forget all about recharging. \$199; ring.com



Safeguards eyes and ears

Soundshield safety glasses, by Bench Dog

Most jobs that require eye protection also demand hearing protection. You get both with this shatterproof eyewear, thanks to retractable foam earplugs (with a 25-decibel reduction rating) that stow in the ends of its temples. The polycarbonate lenses also block UV rays. \$20; rockier.com



30 tons of tension

High-tension 12-inch hacksaw, by Milwaukee Tool

The secret to getting good cuts with a hacksaw? Make the blade as tight as possible. This saw's steel-and-aluminum frame and built-in tensioning knob can apply a force of up to 60,000 psi to the blade—four times that of a typical hacksaw. You can mount blades at a 45° angle—good for work in tight spaces—and store up to six blades inside the frame. \$25; milwaukeetools.com

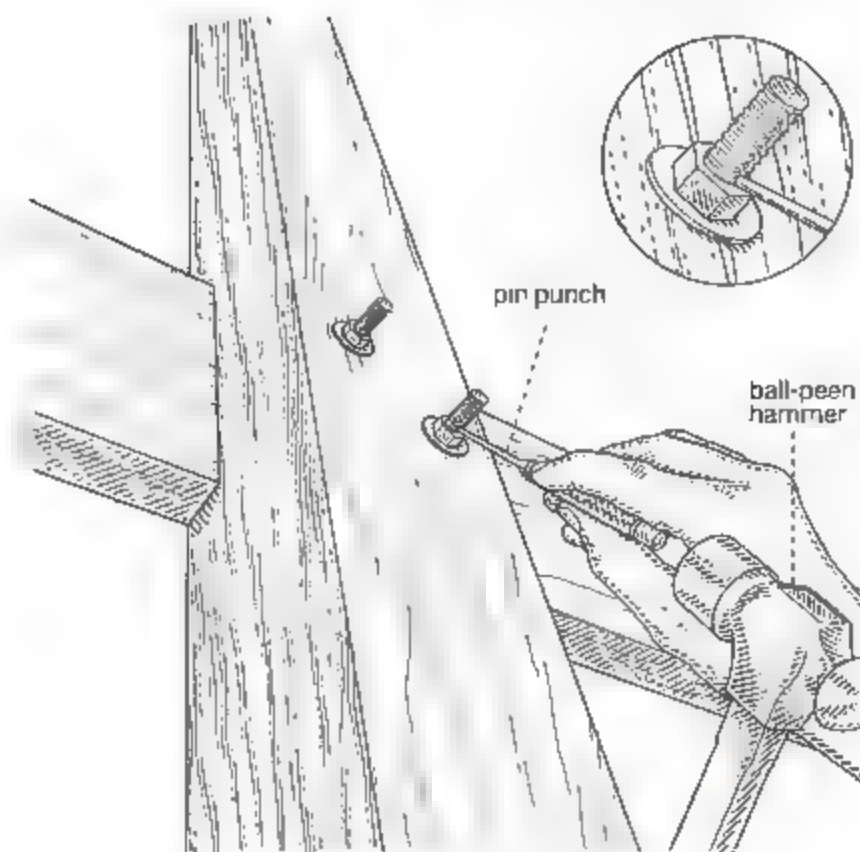


Norm's tricks of the trade

How can I make sure that the nuts holding my deck framing together won't work loose over time?

—ERIC BARROW, COSCUB, CONN.

A There are at least four ways to keep exterior nuts tight. You can apply a thread-locking adhesive, tighten a second nut against the first one, or replace each nut with one that has a nylon insert, commonly called a nyloc nut. Or you can use the method my father taught me, which doesn't cost a thing: Once the nut is tight, rest the tip of a pin punch on the bolt where it meets the nut, then give the punch a sharp tap. That deforms the threads enough to keep the nut from loosening, but doesn't prevent it from being removed later. ■



PROJECT OF THE WEEK

HOW TO PAINT A ROOM



Photo: ianroberts.com

While you don't have to be a pro to learn how to paint like one, there is more to a good paint job than just slathering some color on the wall.

For a beautiful, even finish, prep your walls with a light sanding; some scraping may be required too. Sanding scuffs up the existing surface so the paint grabs hold, and scraping will take off any old bumps or drips. You should also take your time patching holes, caulking gaps, and cleaning dust or grease with soap and water, so you start with a pristine surface.

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

Directory

MAY 2016

COVER See the listing for "Bright + Airy."

HOME SOLUTIONS (pp. 15-22) Three more kitchen-right lights. **Box graters:** Hemma triple pendant cord set. ikea.com. **Enameled coffee mugs:** Enamelware mug. rejuvenation.com. Sekond cord set in red. ikea.com. **Mesh colander:** Sekond cord set in black and white. ikea.com. Budget redo: **Homeowner's blog.** thebloominglydrangea.com

BEFORE + AFTER: KITCHEN DESIGN Something old, something new (pp. 26-29). **Designer-builder:** JAS Design Build. jasdesignbuild.com. **Paint:** James White No. 2010 (ceiling). farrowandball.com. Custom colors (cabinets, trim, and wall paneling). finepaintsofeurope.com. **Sink:** kohler.com. **Faucet:** newportbrassfaucets.com. **Pulls:** whitechapel-std.com. **Handles (dishwasher and refrigerator):** deltana.net

BEFORE + AFTER: BATH DESIGN Grown-up getaway (pp. 30-31). **Interior designer:** Alys Protzman. alysdesign.com. **Architect:** Erik Van Mehlman. buildsense.com. **Paint:** White Dove (walls) and Super White (trim). benjaminmoore.com. **Door hardware:** baldwinhardware.com. **Wall tile:** fireclaytile.com. **Cabinetry:** executivecabinetry.com. **Tub:** duravit.com. **Faucets:** kohler.com. **Sinks:** decolav.com. **Sconces:** artemide.net

READ THIS BEFORE YOU BUY A REFRIGERATOR (pp. 38-42) **Thanks to** Steve Sheinkopf. CEO, Yale Appliance and Lighting. yaleappliance.com

LANDSCAPING Summer blooming bulbs (pp. 45-47) **Thanks to** Jay Hutchins. Brent and Becky's. brentandbeckysbulbs.com. Robert Lawless. Plant Delights Nursery. nc. at Juniper Level Botanic Garden. plantdelights.com

SHOPPING Train-style towel racks (pp. 51-53) **Thanks to** Bo Sullivan. arcadius.com. David Duncan. Pullman Sleeping Car Company. LLC

PHOTOSHOP REDO Fixing a muddled facade (p. 54) **Thanks to** David Ogden. Raino Ogden Architects. ra.noogdenarchitects.com

WEEKEND REMODEL Build a laundry-machine pedestal. (pp. 56-59) **Thanks to** JG Ig.com/JG Baskets. Mercado Baskets in Pewter. serenaandlily.com

BRIGHT + AIRY (pp. 60-67) **Architect:** Gale Goff. galegoff.com. **Interior designer:** Kirby Goff. kirbygoff.com. **General contractor:** Edward Lacross. 401-440-7202. **Kitchen:** Windows. marvin.com. **Flooring:** Northeast Milwaukee. 401-624-7744. **Countertops:** Allied Flooring and Stone. 401-624-4477

Paint: White Mountain (walls). benjaminmoore.com. **Living room:** Rug. mendastudio.com. **Coffee table:** thecollagen.com. **Floor lamp:** visualcomfort.com. **Curtain fabric and patterned pillow fabric:** feschumacher.com. **Curtain trim:** samuelandsons.com. **Den:** Sofa (custom). pjbergeron.com. **Curtain fabric:** dessinfournir.com. **Blinds:** smithandnoble.com. **Dining room:** **Curtain fabric:** fabricut.com. **Sconces and chandelier:** visualcomfort.com. **Master bath:** **Sinks:** kohler.com. **Sconces:** restorationhardware.com. **Master bedroom:** **Bed:** potterybarn.com

OPENING UP (pp. 74-79) **Designer-builder:** CG&S Design-Build. cgssdb.com. **Exterior:** Front step: NLC Masonry. 512-447-2849. **Kitchen:** Knobs on island: anthropologie.com. **Chandelier, table, and benches:** potterybarn.com. **Lighting:** legendastudio.com. **Hardwood floors:** Big D's Hardwood Floors. 512-848-1107. **Laundry room:** **Flooring:** alphaconcrete.net. **Countertop:** caesarstone.com. **Cabinetry:** Amazonia. 512-926-9160. **Paint:** Mindful Gray. sherwin-williams.com. **Hardware:** pushpullpendclose.com. **Laundry baskets, yellow tin, hangers, and wicker basket:** crateandbarrel.com. **Boys' bedroom:** **Bed, crib, and bedding:** potterybarnkids.com. **Rug:** target.com. **Glider:** buybuybaby.com. **Master bedroom:** **Bed and bedding:** potterybarn.com. **Side table, window-seat pillows, throw blanket, and lamp:** target.com

ALL ABOUT GLASS MOSAIC TILE (pp. 80-87) **Thanks to** Tim Bolby. crossvilleinc.com. Joe Cangialosi. Prestige Marble and Granite. 646-235-6740. Ryan Fasan. bellavittale.com. Christine Jacobs. hudsonsilesupply.com. Coulby Lynch. islandstone.com. Gregg Link. daltile.com. **Interior designers:** **Blue kitchen wall and toekick:** Peterssen/Keeler Architecture. pkarch.com. **Is it for you?** Philip Sides Interior Designers. 334-240-3333. **Grout:** Posh Interiors. poshinterioraustin.com. **Bold band:** Carla Aston. carlaaston.com. **Fun frame:** Interiors by Nanette. interiorsbynanette.com. **Fireplace feature:** Charmean Neihart Interiors. charmean-neihartinteriors.com. **Faux effect:** Interiors Finnie Ward. ifwandco.com. **Light and texture:** Roomscapes Luxury Design Center. roomscapesinc.com

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 106) **Thanks to** Carol Peterson. pittsburghhousehistory.org

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THE HISTORY When a young Irish immigrant named Robert Mortland arrived in Pittsburgh, he began a long and lucrative career catering to city dwellers' guilty pleasures—first as a tobacconist and later as a seller of confections. He built this house with his wife, Harriett, around 1888, and the couple raised four children there before eventually buying and moving into the one next door. This house was sold sometime after Robert's death, in 1910, and deteriorated as the city fell on hard times. It has been vacant for the last 20 years, a period during which Pittsburgh underwent a major revitalization. Several other homes on the block that were built in the same style have been restored.

WHY SAVE IT? The charming house blends elements of Stick and Queen Anne styles, with turned porch posts and fanciful trim details, including a sunburst in the front gable. The interior is packed with original features, such as slate mantels, paneled pocket doors, and other handsome millwork.

WHAT IT NEEDS The 2,634-square-foot home needs a new roof (an attic fire left it damaged), all new systems, and extensive updates to the kitchen and baths. The structure is sound, but water-soaked plaster has been removed from many of the walls as a result of leaks in the roof. The house sits in the Fineview neighborhood, a mere four miles from the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. With an abundance of long-standing cultural institutions and new shops nearby, this urban charmer is just waiting for someone to see its potential and restore it for another century of life. —PAUL HOPE



Charming
Stick-style
house near
downtown!



1. The four-bedroom, two-bath house sits on a 4,300-square-foot lot. Similar homes on the block have been restored.
2. A pair of paneled pocket doors separate the living and dining rooms.
3. The house is filled with period millwork, including these folding interior shutters.
4. Original slate mantels are painted to mimic marble versions that would have been found in fancier homes of the era.



GOT A HOUSE?

If you know of an old house that should be saved and is for sale, write to savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com or This Old House, 225 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281.

PHOTOS: DAVID BRYCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 96



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