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The Color Issue

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PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS
STYLING: JESSICA HARRIS, L.A. PHOTOGRAPHY

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LAUNDRY ROOM

on the cover



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Letter FROM TOH

My color-shy past

For almost a decade and a half years, I lived in a house in which almost every room was painted Benjamin Moore's Navajo White. It was a very old house (built in 1842, to be exact), but it had been renovated in the late '80s, when Navajo White was the "it" color.

I kept it for a couple of reasons. First, it was a mellow, creamy off-white that was easy to live with. Second, it was the trim color in most of the rooms that were covered in wallpaper I never would have chosen.

After my husband and I had lived there for a few years, I screwed up my courage and hired someone to take it all down, skim-coat, and paint. Two cheerful guys showed up and started in the bedrooms, then moved on to the master bedroom and dining room. Antelope they were finished with those five rooms, I could never get them to come back. There was reason, I learned, why you don't apply wallpaper to drywall without preparing the surface correctly.

And so my default philosophy became paint it white. I scored in addition territory a few times. For the dining room, located partially below grade, I chose a sunny yellow (success). For my husband's office, the island-tablet green was replaced by a soft sage/seafoam (also successful), but when it was clear time—a pale apple green that came out screaming yellow—in the bedroom, my husband, someone to issue edicts, said it had to go. He's giving me a nightmare, he said (you feel).

So Navajo White it was, until we sold the house last summer and the wallpaper became someone else's problem.

I'm telling you all this because this is our natural color theme—the place where we share the vibrant colors whose pictures we most adore. Just looking at Kristin Berni's dining room (page 82) gives me a thrill. It would never occur to me to pair the colored walls with a color-colored ceiling, the unfortunate (with high-shine green molding. Or to choose pink and gray for a kitchen (page 93), much as I love Viet Cong/lemon.

I hope that as you turn these pages you'll be inspired to get out your brushes and collect some new swatches. Take a few chances—perhaps always paint it over. Just we do act for that Christmas.



Navajo White
Benjamin Moore



Wetland Blue
Benjamin Moore



Persimmon Green
Benjamin Moore

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PHOTO: STEVE GRANITZ; GUY OTTAWA/GETTY IMAGES; JAMES HAMILTON/GETTY IMAGES; JAMES HAMILTON/GETTY IMAGES



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

WE KNEW YOU SHARED our love of houses with a rich history, but we were delighted to discover your fondness for taking a look back at your own—whether by recalling a long-forgotten laundry chute or by passing along anecdotes from the Pinewood Derby. Plus, one reader's DIY solution for protecting an outdoor herb garden.

Thanks for the memories

I laughed when I read "Let's bring back..." [Home Solutions, July 2016]. Our mid-century modern house never had a laundry chute in a hall closet that emptied into an unfurnished basement area. Back in the '60s, our work friend tried to slide down it and got stuck. I remember seeing feet dangling from the basement ceiling and the boy's fingers clinging to the opening. We closed up the chute after that, much to our kids' regret.

—KATHY KROCH LITTON, CT

Enjoyed "Let's bring back..." in the July issue. Growing up, I lived in a farmhouse with a clothes chute that went from the second floor down to the basement furnace and laundry—yep, a real furnace and a washer going round! Right beside the

clothes chute was a coat closet with a cabinet door at floor level that we'd sweep dirt into. I don't remember how often I was cleaned, but I do recall not knowing what a clothes was for some time.

—LINDAMAR PARKINSON, ID

Derby day nostalgia

"Lessons of the Pinewood Derby" [July 2016] brought back memories of a joint father-son project about 40 years ago. My son participated in his troop's derby, but I told him I would only supervise and offer limited advice; he would be responsible for the design and build. When he was done, it looked like a boxer with bad teeth had carved out the car, and during the test run, the front wheel fell off, but he showed it off proudly. Most of the other Cubes had well-wooded cars; their dads had apparently made. My son took a lot of heat from his friends—until his car won the event. He still has that car and the trophy. I was proud of his efforts and the fact that it was his project, not Daddy.

—THOMAS OTHER, MAINEFIELD, VT

I just read Neri's piece on the Pinewood Derby. I'd begun to hear about his experience in bowling. I have been in scouting for more than 30 years, and back when I was a Cubmaster, the derby was the most-fond event in the pack. Now, as a Scoutmaster, I dismiss it. However, I am a collector for the woodturning and wood carving interest badge. It gives me great joy to work with young men and teach them new skills.

—BO PRITCHARD, BURMAN, IL



Vertical garden

—STEPHANIE DENNIS, KANSAS, MO



Our herbs always get eaten by rabbits so the "living wall" from a past issue looked like a perfect solution. We managed to build the boxes! [PVC Planter with a Cover from Look...] and attach them to pieces of lattice [Using Wall Vertical Garden] on the house. The result is an awesome piece!

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

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*Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia
†Formulary data are provided by Maxumod Insurance Select & Technology, LLC (MST) and are current as of February 2018. Because formulary data change and many health plans offer more than one formulary plan, please check directly with the health plan to confirm coverage.

Fig. 10

What Is DPMI 0.96BT?

WARNING: FALPALTIN is an epidermal desorption medicine called a PSORALEN. FALPALTIN is used along with the long wavelength UVA light therapy in adults with severe, chronic, localized hyperkeratosis (an inherited condition that causes high levels of DL cholesterol) or severe chronic skin problems who need additional lowering of LDL cholesterol. The effect of FALPALTIN on heart problems such as heart attack, stroke, or death is not known. It is not known if FALPALTIN is safe and effective in children.

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

How should I use DIAL/DIAT?

- **Read the detailed "Instructions for Use" that comes with PALLANT** about the right way to prepare and give your PALLANT injection.
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- PALLANT comes as a single-dose (1 time) pre-filled pen (syringe), or as a single dose pen filled syringe. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the type and dose that is best for you.
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- PALLANT is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously) 1 time every 2 weeks.
- Do not mix PALLANT together with other medications at the same injection site.
- Always check the label of your pen or syringe to make sure you have the correct needle and the correct dose of PALLANT before each injection.
- If you forget to use PALLANT 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 not put you back on your original schedule. If the missed dose is not given after 7 days, wait until your next scheduled dose is to start PALLANT. This will keep you on your original schedule. If you are not sure when to restart PALLANT, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you use more PALLANT than you should, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
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What are the possible side effects of 29-AL-00017?

PHOSPHORUS AND SULFUR DEFICIENCY IN MAIZE

- **allergic reactions:** **PRECAUTION:** may cause allergic reactions that can be severe and require treatment in a hospital. Call your health-care 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.

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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 PIVALUENT. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

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General information about the safe and effective use of PPM-1000/1

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What are the ingredients in PIVALUGOLIT?

- Active ingredient: aluminum
- Inactive ingredients: Nitrocellulose, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and water for injection

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home solutions Edited by Deborah Baldwin

Edited by Deborah Ashworth

INSIDE

NOPS WE LOVE

WARM NEW FINISHES

COLORFUL APPLIANCES

NCT0184

Lacy DIY lanterns

Nothing is lower in a late-summer evening than a fire burning brightly in a fireplace—nothing is more inviting than a warm glow from the flames. We got out early in the morning and went to a local market to buy some of the best firewood available. The wood was cut and stacked in neat piles, ready for use. The fire was lit and the flames were burning brightly. The fire was lit and the flames were burning brightly.



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Dress windows in layers

Heat that goes out the window accounts for up to a quarter of heating bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. No need to cloak panes in winter woolens (though that might work). Cut your losses with stylish layers instead.

- 1. Cellular shades** can reduce heat loss by up to 50 percent if they are installed correctly. They come single, double, or triple or laminated to increase more insulation. Hang cellular shades inside the window frame, a half-inch from the glass, with gaps of only a quarter inch each on either side. Fold and lower them with the sun to take advantage of solar heat gain. Wipe down any condensation that forms overnight.
- 2. Sheers** bring on a double not-so-dirty privacy and some light control (80 percent resistant) when shades are raised to regulate temps.
- 3. Drapes** just by themselves cut heat loss by about 30 percent—and look nice, too. Choose ones with tightly woven frame walls lining. To get the best energy savings, hang curtains about an inch from the window, as close to the wall as possible, with a 4-inch overlap at the center.
- 4. A cornice or valance** can bring up windows even more by trapping air along the top of the window. These draft blockers seal leaks—they prohibit convection heating, after all. —ANNA FISHER



Grills that really smoke

You can buy a single-purpose smoker to bump up your brisket and ribs, but why not retrofit the charcoal or gas grill you already own? Choose high-tech, or go with wood chips in a box or plan old tin foil.



Place a smoker box over a 16-hour or glowing coal bed. This version holds about an hour's worth of wood chips. Stainless Steel Smoker Box, \$25; www.com

FOR THE SUPERCHIEF

While piloting the CyberQ (1330), barbecue connoisseurs insist of this work. Just drill a hole in the side of a kettle charcoal grill and attach the fan. Use a temperature probe to the grill, and place another one in the meat. Then add wood chunks to the burning coals. Punch in a temperature—pork shoulder should be slow smoked at 225°F—and the fan will keep the heat steady for 12 hours if you use Wi-Fi controls to the yard. You can monitor all this work from afar.

FOR THE HANDS-ON COOK

At an expense of metal smoker box made of steel or cast iron can go right on top of the grill grates as shown at left. Fill with wood chips sold for smoking; these range from mild, flavored apple and hickory to robust mesquite. Chunks will smoke sooner if you preheat the box when you light the grill or use a temperature probe that fits between burner and grate. Refill it as needed while you monitor the grill's temperature.

FOR THE LOW-SUCH GRILLER

Fast aluminum foil is a quick, sealing two sides. Fill the pouch with wood chips or smaller wood smoking pellets, crimp it closed and poke a few holes in one side with a knife. This method should last just long enough to deliver a quick blast of smoke. For longer, low and slow smoking sessions, toss your bulk-size wood chunks directly onto the charcoal. You remembered the fatty BBQ sauce, right? —GUY FARR



Spray-paint tips

It's arguably the easiest way to transform any object, but there's still a lot to know about getting a flawless finish when using spray paint.

> Set up a workspace. "For larger pieces, I build what I call a stage to keep the piece at working height," says Amy Howard, whose anonymous DIY line includes spray-painter. Think workshouses for small items, a hayrack for the big.

> Watch the weather. "Make sure the temperature is above 40 degrees," says Vito Wang, a graffiti artist in New York who does commercial work. "When it's colder than that, the pressure in the paint can drop." And you know don't by fog when it's about to rain.

> Prep attention to prep. Spray paint, a glossy finish highlights imperfections, so before priming, sand down, rinse, and dry thoroughly. Says Ace Hardware's Jerald Davidson: "For vibrant light colors, like yellow, Vint recommends a spray-on primer."

> Go slow. "Spray in long, even passes," says Howard, "and overlap your last pass for good coverage." To avoid drips, instead of painting the nozzle at the surface, position it about 8 inches away and sweep it across. Finally, says Davidson, "Spray the entire object, let it dry, and apply a complete second coat. Don't do one half, then the other half." —KATHY HILL

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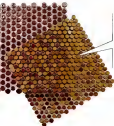


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Warming trend

While gleaming silver finishes have reigned for years, warmer hues like yellow gold, brass, and even rose gold are rising in fact. Along with their rich, lustrous glow, these new tones can give classic designs, like those shown here, a whole new look. —MICHELLE BLANKEN



Making cents

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Modern Pewter (Pewter Antique Gold) for \$100 about \$10 per square foot and Pewter (Pewter Antique Gold) for \$100 about \$10 per square foot. Available at: www.pewter.com



Polished up

A classic 1950s retro chair—recently hand-painted in a warm, metallic finish—looks sleek and modern.

Available at: www.pewter.com



Tradition with a twist

A classic brass faucet with a modern-style porcelain basin suggests new and old, which only gains character as time goes by.

Available at: www.pewter.com



Shawn, Emma, and White, Northside, 1990

Thinking of adding a colorful appliance?

We asked Dave Burcher, a kitchen designer in New York City, to weigh in.

A single work surface like the island-style fridge shown above can be the centerpiece of a new or existing kitchen. Here, Burcher suggests strategies for pulling it together with the rest of the room.

► KEEP THE WHOLE PALETTE IN MIND

Let's say you want a soft orange in a classic blue or tan range. Take a look at the color of the island-style fridge shown above. If you're looking for a color that would look good with it—these things can provide a contrast for your accent color. An island-style fridge might suggest pairing a blue range with a modern, brown cabinet to play with colors and create a contrast.

► CONSIDER WHITE AS A BACKDROP

It's a simple solution, and of course white cabinets and walls would allow the appliance to stand out.

► ANOTHER OPTION: BLEND IT IN

If you are incorporating an appliance in a color like sage green, consider painting the walls and cabinets to match. It's especially worth thinking about if the kitchen is open and you want to highlight a color without the space seeming busy.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/SHAWN, EMMA, AND WHITE, NORTHSIDE, 1990

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Made to order

This kitchen cooks as good as it looks, thanks to a high-functioning layout, smart storage, and a walk-in pantry that's a second prep-and-cleanup zone.

BY CHARLOTTE BARNARD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIANNE WILLIAMS

STORAGE TOPS A LOT of homeowners' kitchen wish lists. For Lee and Mike McIsaac, this was to address health concerns as much as organizational ones. Two of their three teen follow special diets due to food allergies, making extra storage and prep areas a must. When the family moved into their home in Fort Mill, South Carolina, the eat-in kitchen featured builder-grade cabinets, a bi-level island, and appliances crowded into one corner. While it was spacious, it didn't really meet their needs.

Working with designer Mary Loeffler, they set about maximizing space with a larger storage island that also fits the cooking needs of a couple of adults. Custom cabinetry put away each of the teen's space to work. But the most innovative solution: a separate butler's pantry carved out of the small adjacent dining room, which allows extra meal prep for kids who have to avoid certain ingredients. Quartz counters, white tile, and wood floors warm both spaces, as do splashes of bright orange, Lee's favorite color. "This setup makes everything so much easier," says Lee. "Everything has its place. And the place makes sense."

BEFORE A bi-level island hampered the cook and provided insufficient prep space. Without remodeling clutter, a dark palette reinforced the drabness.

AFTER A square island with cabinets and shelves so three dishes complemented minimalist storage built in new wall cabinets. To maximize order.



BEFORE



Glass-front upper cabinets help the owner keep dishes organized on sight.



homeowner tip

LORENE PORTER, 32
 "A square island really lets you maximize storage, while allowing a cooktop that faces whoever's around."



Nice for spices

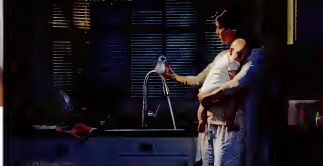
The subjects on the cook's side of the island are among Lori's favorites: "I use garlic what I need without leaving the stove." She organizes from top to bottom by used frequency. Pals and pens are stored in the island drawers under the cooktop. (Find jewelry.) *Benjamin Bloom is Full Mermaid*

Command central

Lori feeds a family of five, and entertainers often, too, so she requires lots of storage for cookware and serving dishes. Drawers and cabinets in both walls and the island keep what she needs right where she needs it, including chips. The island also features a stainless steel vent, so no call for a hood/overhead Appliances Kitchen



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



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Open yet unseen

The author's pantry includes a sink, a dishwasher and a fridge so the most prized items are made with ingredients that are kept secret. Open shelves also hold stacks that help themselves to dishes. It looks a big mess, the pantry acts as a catchall for dirty dishes hidden from view. *Stark Coast*

before

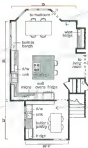
The 120-square-foot cook space was jammed into one corner, and stock cabinets didn't tap every inch.



after

Turning a small dining room into a butler's pantry allowed for a separate prep space.

1. Left the sink and dishwasher in place, added a built-in bench with storage under the seat at the end of the cabinet run.
2. Kept the fridge location, swapped the design for wall ovens and added a nooktop to the new island.



3. Improved flow by leaving a clear swing and tucked the table into the bay, replaced a desk with a bar and serving counter.
4. Built a square island with storage on three sides and a nooktop.
5. Gave up half the pantry closet for a cast-down in the entry.
6. Made the small dining room into a separate prep space and cleanup zone, lost the layer access.

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Neat and tidy

A simple rearrangement of task areas takes advantage of vertical space to make cleanup easier for both two- and four-legged family members

BY BERNADETTE SACZINSKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BICKY HADZIC

EVEN A LAUNDRY ROOM that's fully functional can be improved to accommodate a family's evolving needs. In the case of Barbara and Edward Marshall of Akron, Ohio, their mastiff-based dogs, Rony and Edie, dictated changes by claiming the 610-by-110-foot laundry room as their master suite. The pair, who like to get muddy on the Marshall's large property, needed dog-wash bathing, which involved Rony or Edie lying the dogs on the room's small utility sink. The dogs also liked to sleep in the middle of the room—which has separate entries to the kitchen, garage, and deck—so everyone had to step over them.

Barbara knew she needed a shower stall for the dogs, and contractor Ken Perrin was brought in to make it happen. Installing a stacked washer and dryer freed space for a shower with a commercial hand sprayer to regulate water flow. The shower is also used for cleaning muddy boots and gardening tools, and for hanging the granddaddy's overalls. The dogs' bed is now tucked into the middle cabinet under the dryer. "Ken measured the dogs to be sure they'd fit," says Barbara. "Now the room works for everyone."



BEFORE Appliances, cabinets, and a usability-sink-lined one wall, the awkward setup forced the owners but to lift dogs to bathe them.

AFTER Tapping vertical space on the same wall made room for a shower stall and a dog bed where dogs relax. Above: dryer. Same-day: Perrin. Shower: Perrin's. Dog bed: (w/eds) CR Gray (pawprint)

homeowner tip

BARBARA AND EDWARD MARSHALL

"In a tight space, it comes down to inches—measure carefully so there's room for all the functions you need."

Anytime you quartz counter is used for folding clothes, this upper cabinet offers support for loading the dryer holes (see photo). Counter top: Corian



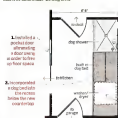
before

These entries to the laundry room limited appliance placement



after

A stacked washer and dryer frees the utility sink stand from up space on the wall for the shower and built-in dog bed



1. Installed a pocket door, alternating a door swing to free up floor space
2. Incorporated a dog bed into the recess below the new countertop

3. Created a shower with a handheld sprayer mounted on the rear wall
4. Added an upper cabinet, leaving clearance for a folding counter
5. Demanded the sink to install a space-saving stacked washer and dryer



BEFORE

PHOTOGRAPH BY BICKY HADZIC

Who says home renovation is no fun?



Share the last laugh with our crew as they complete the restoration of an 1895 Victorian.



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Branching out

Create a whimsical drop-off zone with a delicate stencil and a band of bold color

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MCGILL

HARDWORKING mudrooms and entryways deserve a focal point that goes beyond hook bags and run gear. In this Hoboken, New Jersey, rowhouse, a large lock-off bench became a pulled-together outdoor scene, complete with a lively, eye-level avian assortment—plus resting places for our wear—made possible in part by a purchased stencil and live shades of paint.

We started by smoothing and priming the bench and walls and putting down base coats of white and green (Benjamin Moore's Perennial), both in a satin finish. Then, armed with a large stencil called Birds in Trees Allover (345; cuttingsdesignstudio.com), we crapped out an airy replicant that called for staggering the heights of the trees and circumcising some of the branches and birds. A level and some gentle twisting of those delicate limbs kept our forest scene looking tidy. (Tip: Create a touch-up kit with small jars of the paint, just in case.) Today, in season, it helps keep a well-used entry tidy—and cheerful to boot.



FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS, TURN THE PAGE →



Shirley hooks breathe natural patterns for coats, bags, and riding umbrellas.

STEP-BY-STEP



1) Tape off a neckline and roll on the second color. Use a paint tray and a roller (cover with a No. 5) to put down the second base color. Peel up the tape before the paint dries.



2) Repeat a design. After playing with the stencil a position and the number of repeats, outline to edit out some of the limbs and branches. A clip-on stencil (32) and a paintbrush (33) can help keep your lines straight.



3) Stencil paint. Spray maskable adhesive on the back of the stencil and press in place. To reduce bleeding, run a foam roller through just 2 tablespoons of paint, then over a folded paper towel before applying the paint with light to medium pressure.



4) Go back in for the birds. Put dollops of paint (see used a brush from other projects) on a foam plate and dab them with a stiff stencil brush—one per color. To reduce bleeding, make a few circles before rubbing on more paint on a folded paper towel. Pounce on the paint.



5) Remove the stencil and touch up any bleeding. Gently peel up the stencil as soon as you're finished painting. Stipple the birds, redness and repair any gaps with white artist's touch.



6) Add birds. When the stencil colors are completely dry, make birds at different levels, using the correct anchors for drywall or plaster. Nail on a nail or two in the branches and enjoy the scene. ■

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A NINETEENTH-CENTURY LANDMARK

A Twenty-first Century Story

Steps away from Harvard University and surrounded by a centuries-old neighborhood, The Edward Wood House serves as a cornerstone of local heritage. For the restoration of this expansive Queen Anne Victorian, Architect Frank Shirley partnered with Marvin Windows and Doors to exceed modern-day standards while proudly retaining the home's history. You can view the full restoration in an exclusive video created by This Old House.

SEE THE COMPLETE STORY AT WWW.THISOLDHOUSE.COM/TRANSFORMATIONS

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Colorful kitchen for \$335

A cheery paint scheme and clever stencil work turn a drab cook space into one that's warm and inviting **BY KATHLIN HILL**



THE PROJECT TALLY

Removed a couple of cabinet doors to create open shelving... **\$0**

Painted cabinets and painted outback with a primer of distressed, 'cottage' paint and finished with white paint of bright white... **\$35**

Stenciled the open space below the painted cabinet and the lower half of the painted wall with a floral pattern using leftover paint... **\$50**

Refreshed the kitchen floor with a new coat of paint... **\$250**

TOTAL \$335

• AFTER YEARS OF RENTING, rose new homeowners are more than ready to put their personal stamp on their first place. When Haleigh and Grant Dellacher bought their duplex in Bensenville, Wyoming, the kitchen's generic square footage and out-of-the-box functionality made it an upgrade from their previous rentals, but no sacrifices did not. To inject a little of the couple's personality into the room, Haleigh had the house painted with an open mind and found a gallon of distressed green paint on the "cage" shelf. Deciding it was the perfect color to transform the dark wood cabinets, she gave them a single coat, then removed a couple of doors to display cookbooks and dishes. The couple had planned to replace the laminate butcher block countertop, which didn't go with the old cabinetry, but changed their minds after seeing the cabinetry's new transformation, among hundreds. Next, to make the triangle of bare wall above the cabinetry less awkward and more of a focal point, Haleigh unstuck on a floral pattern, achieving the look of the wallpaper she had on graciously wanted but couldn't justify splurging for. New engineered hardwood, which the couple had themselves throughout the first floor, adds the kitchen with the rest of the rooms. Haleigh, who blogs at overconquers.com, loves the impact the bright new kitchen has made on their home, adding, "It has changed the mood of the entire house!" ■

BEFORE The kitchen had a decent amount of storage and functional layout, but looked like it had been updated in the 70-plus years since it was built.

AFTER A handful of cosmetic upgrades, including a new floor and white-painted cabinets, brightened the space—and the whole thing was in the home's own concept first floor.

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Butterfly hinges

Try these symmetrical, surface-mount hinges on inset cabinet doors in need of a style metamorphosis

BY JEREMY LANGE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW MCCALL

NAMED FOR THEIR ornate, L-shaped, or wing, butterfly hinges have been slowing everything from cupboards to shutters to trunks—anything with a door or a flap or a lid—to gracefully swing open and closed for centuries. “While these hinges enjoyed a peak in popularity from the 1670s to the 1930s, some forms can be traced back as far as medieval England, or more recently, to colonial America,” says hardware historian and architectural consultant (to ballrooms) Today they are a quick way to give kitchen cabinets and other built-ins a decorative boost and a shot of vintage style. Here, 10 we like upon that are sure to please.



scalloped edges

HARDWARE HUT
Made of steel with an oil-rubbed bronze finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This decorative scallop shape is available \$2.23 per pair
hardwarehut.com



squared away
WAX DYE'S RESTORERS
Made of steel with an antique copper finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This angular style resembles a Craftsman interior \$7.07 per pair
sandykay.com



serpentine

SHARPLESS HARDWARE
Made of steel forged from with an ebony finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This serpentine style brings behind the look of hardware of metal \$7.05 each
sharplesshardware.com



primitive appeal

HARDWARE RESTORERS
Made of steel with an antique brass finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This wing style hits just the right rustic note \$4.06 each
sandykay.com



to the point

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE
Made of steel with a brass finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 1 3/4" H
Highlights: Decorated leaves give this fruitful reproduction distinctive flair \$4.25 per pair
houseofantiquehardware.com



winged beauty

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE
Made of steel with a black finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This simple flared design recalls the hardware used on the back of a door knob \$4.06 per pair
houseofantiquehardware.com



sharp lines

HARDWARE HUT
Made of steel with an oil-rubbed bronze finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: Pointed leaves add distinction to this sleek 1800 model \$2.03 per pair
hardwarehut.com



ornate appeal

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE
Made of lacquered cast iron
Size: 2 1/2" W x 1 3/4" H
Highlights: This hinge is a fleur-de-lis decoration in pure Victorian \$7.07 per pair
houseofantiquehardware.com

wrought look

SHARPLESS HARDWARE
Made of cast iron
Size: 2 1/2" W x 2 1/4" H
Highlights: This shapely style with ears in the Middle Ages looks dramatic sculptural \$6.25 each
sharplesshardware.com



pin-size

WAX DYE'S RESTORERS
Made of steel with an antique copper finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 1 3/4" H
Highlights: This delicate model would complement a small scale door \$5.39 per pair
sandykay.com







2



3



4



5



6

STEP-BY-STEP

1) Pull the nails These square-edged deck boards were face-nailed to the joists. To remove a board, Tom looks for a better row of nailheads, then uses a cat's paw to pry out each nail in the board. If another row is held, he uses nail-pulling pliers. As shown.

2) Remove the broken board With the nails gone, Tom pins a pry bar under the break, lowers up one end of the board, and pulls it out. He does the same at the other end. Scoring the paint along the joint on the board's edges eases removal.

3) Make the cleats To support the ends of the new board, Tom cuts a pair of cleats out of the cracked boards, making each three times longer than its width. He squares the cleats with a square on the ends of the unpainted face, as shown.

4) Drill in the cleats Tom snags a cleat, attaches side up under the neighboring boards, and drills pilot holes through the deck and into it. He secures it with shims he shims from hard-wood, as shown. The cleat at the opposite end goes in the same way.

5) Cut and fasten the new board Tom uses cedar Douglas fir because it's more stable and holds paint better than a cheaper wood. He cuts a single board to length, beds it on adhesives at each end and dead, and secures it at these locations with two hot, dip-painted 3d nails, placed 1/2 inch from the edges.

6) Set the nailheads Using a mallet, Tom taps the nailheads a hair below the board's surface. They'll be invisible after the wood gets a coat of oil-based exterior primer and two coats of deck paint. ■



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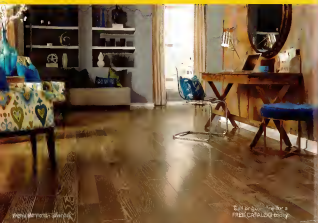


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• photoshop redo

Perking up a plain Cape

A gabled-topped entry porch and a new dormer help give a flat facade major curb appeal. BY MICHELLE BRUNNER • ILLUSTRATION BY DRINKWATER INC.



BEFORE



A gabled-out triangular addition with a new dormer adds structural bonus.

"HELP US make our house more exciting," wrote Susan Cornelius, who lives in this 1939 Cape Cod in Omaha with her wife, Cathy, and their two daughters. So TOW turned to local architect Jackson Martin for some ideas.

"With no roof trim or overhangs to give it depth, the house looks flat," says Martin. His remedy: Extend the main roof to create a true front porch. A gabled portico over the front door makes the entry more welcoming, as does increasing the stairs toward the street. The addition of a dormer balances the new facade. Double-height windows, a carriage-style garage door, and a lowered vent duct at the main gable peak add carriage charm. Replacing the concrete-block foundation with painted stucco gives the exterior a cohesive look. Says Susan, "Wow! We love the new porch and roofline—it's exactly what the house needs!"

finishing touches

Updated decor, modernisms and a pleasing palette dial up the charm.

42
673



house numbers

These stainless-steel digits stand up to direct sunlight, thanks to a durable, UV-resistant powder coating. **Whitefit**, from \$12 each

paint

Deep blues and creamy whites bring out the details of this Cape's yellowish accents and punch. **Glossy's Farm Sky Blue**, **Milkup Blue** and **Flaxseed** \$34 per gallon

screen

Decorated with swirls, seashell glass, and an Edison bulb, give this modern metal screen a warm, industrial look. **Low \$69**

garage door

With flat panels and a top row of windows, this weathered-look offers carriage styling and modern convenience. **Closey** starting at \$1,400

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 16

SEPTEMBER 2006 [THISOLDHOUSE.COM](http://www.thisoldhouse.com) 43



A farmhouse for the future

A fresh take on a traditional style, our 2016 Idea House combines classic charm with 21st-century sustainability **BY JILL CONNORS**

THE FARMHOUSE is having a revival, and it's easy to see why. With its simple lines and casual elegance, it has a timeless, no-place-like-home appeal. To capture that spirit and combine it with leading building technologies that maximize energy efficiency, The Old House has teamed up with **NOW Communities** and **Union Studio Architecture** to create The Farmhouse at Emerson Green, a sustainable house in a forward-thinking development in a deconsecrated army base in Denver, Massachusetts. The 1,300-square-foot home will average less than half the energy use of a typical house of similar size. Even better, it features low-maintenance materials and an open interior ideal for family living.

Building community

TCO's Idea House is one of the first houses to be built at Emerson Green, a mixed-use development designed to offer an easy possible living in a walkable neighborhood filled with traditional architecture. It comes from the same developer: architect team that created Concord, Kovenick at Concord, Massachusetts, an award-winning urban development of small-footprint houses. "These kinds of compact neighborhoods reflect how people want to live," says Union Studio Architecture's Dan Powers. "It's great to see Emerson Green coming to life with houses that meet so many goals for energy efficiency, modest square footages, and a strong sense of community."

ABOVE: Working under tight 2016 LEED certification, TCO's 2016 Idea House, now built at Emerson Green, is a mixed-use development designed to offer an easy possible living in a walkable neighborhood filled with traditional architecture. It comes from the same developer: architect team that created Concord, Kovenick at Concord, Massachusetts, an award-winning urban development of small-footprint houses. "These kinds of compact neighborhoods reflect how people want to live," says Union Studio Architecture's Dan Powers. "It's great to see Emerson Green coming to life with houses that meet so many goals for energy efficiency, modest square footages, and a strong sense of community."

COURTESY: UNION STUDIO ARCHITECTURE

Sustainable design

Materials and techniques used in building the house are designed to create a structure with a House Energy Rating System (HERS) tally of 35 or less, which means the home will use on average 45 percent of the energy of a conventional house of similar size. "The exterior wall construction is a great example of how energy efficient the building envelope is," says project architect Christina Carlson. An advanced framing technique minimizes thermal bridging—the heat transfer that occurs when wood studs touch both the exterior sheathing and the interior drywall—by using rigid insulation on the exterior to isolate the studs. Triple-pane windows maximize the energy savings, as do high-performance electric water heaters, an air-sourced, high-efficiency, multizone heating and cooling system, supplemental radiant heat, and LED lighting. In addition, a photovoltaic array on the south-facing portion of the garage roof will produce a third of the house's electricity via solar power.

Sustainable design also means using long-lasting materials that conserve resources, with the bonus of lower maintenance. To that end, the house features fiber-cement siding and metal, cellular PVC decking and trim, vinyl windows, and Slingless exterior doors.

Modern look and feel

Adding to the appeal of the house is the interior design, which emphasizes comfort and a casual lifestyle. "This is a modern farmhouse that is respectful of New England tradition but has a fresh energy, with updated finishes, some lots of strong color, plus the kind of open layout families want today," says interior designer Denise Knight. The main staircase, for instance, evokes traditional board-and-batten wall cladding with a modern steel-cable rail system. Enhancing the entire house are the open air spaces, a rear deck and courtyard for private outdoor living, and a nook-and-crack porch as front-door perfect for a chat with passersby. As the big reveal in our next issue will show, this farmhouse feels like a home that's right for today—and for years to come. ■

• idea house preview

The team



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Editor at Large
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This Old
House
The Farmhouse
at Emerson Green

Denver, MA

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Add a little mood lighting to your deck

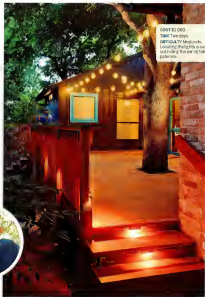
Use energy-efficient LEDs to cast a warm glow on the deck, stairs, and trees, and you can extend the party (safely) into the night

BY SAL VAGLICA • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW MAJORS

DECKS ARE USUALLY built with summer days in mind, but the evening doesn't have to drop when the sun goes down. Installing outdoor-rated LEDs can illuminate your space in a way that promotes both safe footing and a pleasing ambience—without the harsh shadows you get from a spotlight on the house.

"Low-voltage lighting is very DIY-friendly," says Scott Corne, master electrician for Ask This Old House. "The main thing is easy to hide on or under the deck." In addition to going up festive string lights, he installed three kinds of LEDs on this deck in San Antonio, allowing the homeowners to enjoy their Lone Star coverage. For your own project, start by deciding where to place the transformer, which steps the power down to 12 volts. It needs to plug in to a standard 110-volt outlet, and all your wiring goes back to that point. Follow along as Scott shows you how to upgrade your outdoor space.

Postlight: 202 LED waterproof light, 12V, up/down light, \$22.95, all-in-one, from Focus Industries, focusindustries.com



COST \$1,080
TIME Two days
DIFFICULTY Moderate
Installing string lights is easy, but hiding the wiring takes patience.

TOOLS

- pencil
- tape measure
- drill/driver
- 1/4-inch paddle bit
- wire snips
- 1/4-inch pilot bit
- 2 1/2-inch-diameter hole saw
- wire strippers
- hex screws
- fourth or third gear
- tapeless level
- nail-in wire protector

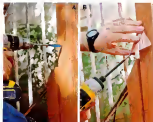
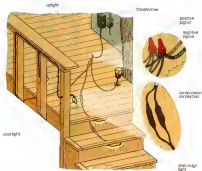
MATERIALS

- low-voltage wire stringing
- 2x2 pressure-treated pine subdeck: Get one for each board
- 2-inch-wide screws: Get four per board
- polyurethane sealant
- post lights: Get one for each post
- string lights: Get one for each board
- uplights: Get one or two per tree
- low-voltage compression connections: Get a pair for each below
- 120-volt transformer
- 14-gauge wire: Get a length that will reach from the transformer to the farthest light
- heat-shrink tubing
- water-proof wire nuts: Get two pairs

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Install the lights (Steps 1–3)

SUNDAY Wire the lights to the transformer (Steps 4–5)



1 Install post lights

A) Drill a hole for wiring. Mark the center of a post about 12 inches below the deck—high enough for the light to illuminate the decking but not so high that it will blind seated guests. Use a paddle bit to drill a 1/4-inch-diameter hole through the post, as shown. Repeat for every post.

B) Secure an post light. Fish the LED wire through the housing and flush hole. Attach the fixture to the post with supplied screws, as shown. Secure the wire to the back side of the post with low-voltage staples. Continue stapling every few inches, carrying the wire to the next fixture by tucking it under the handrail or the deck's framing (you'll wire it later).

2 Add stairway lights

A) Build out the base. The stairway lights mount to the boards over hanging the steps. If your board is as in 1 have an overhang of at least 1 inch. Add one with 2x2 pressure-treated pine baluster. Measure the width of the board cut the piece to fit with a circular saw. Evenly spaced pilot holes along the front edge of the baluster for 2-inch deck screws. Attach the baluster to the middle of the base for with supplied screws, as shown. Then repeat the process on the remaining boards.

B) Drill a pass-through. Drill a 1/4-inch-diameter hole in the base just below the board to accept the baluster wire. Push the loose end of the wire into the hole, as shown. Repeat the process on the remaining boards.

C) Fasten the baluster in place. Add a bead of polyurethane adhesive to the baluster. Then screw the baluster to the board, as shown, or sand with the LEDs facing the step below. Repeat the process on the remaining boards, then run the balusters to attach the deck.

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crafters on DVD
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this project at
diyshow.com/deck-lighting

3 Drop in uplights

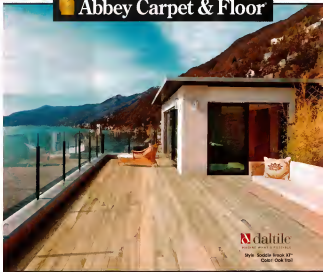
A) Cut a hole. Locate uplights in the center of deck boards about a foot from the free edge to create the look and the canopy. Use a 2-inch hole saw to cut a hole for each light.

B) Add lights. Thread the wire into the hole, then press the light in place.

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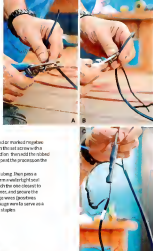
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4 Wire the lights

A3 Strip the wires: Use 14-gauge wire-feeding snips to strip the lights of their wire-type logs. Then—pool lights to pool lights, for example. To start, use wire strippers to remove about an inch of insulation from the wires attached to the light farthest from the transformer. Measure the distance between the light and the next one, and cut a length of 14-gauge wire to that length. Strip the 14-gauge wire about three of its difficult ends.

20. Add compensating connections: Insert the first light-colored or marked negative wire into one end of the brass compression connection and tighten the set screw with a hex wrench, as shown. Slip the heat shrink tubing over the connection; then add the ribbed 34-gauge wire to the other end of the connection and tighten it. Repeat the process on the smooth or unmarked positive wires of the same fixture.

C Shrink the wrap Cover the connection with the heat-shrink tubing. Then pass a torch or heat gun over the wrap, holding it at arm's length, away from the water-filled seal as shown. Continue sliding the shrink tubing in the series and you reach the one closest to the transformer. Add enough 14-gauge wire to reach the transformer, and secure the connection with water-proof wire nuts. Now join the three 14-gauge wires (ground together and negatives together) and add another section of 14-gauge wire to serve as a pigtail. Hide the wire under the block or secure it all with staples.



A) Mount the box. The bottom of the transformer must be at least 3 feet off the ground and within 3 feet of a standard 1/2-in. wall outlet. We placed ours inside the house to keep the wires easily accessible. First use deck screws to attach the mounting bracket to the wall, checking for level with a bubble level. Attach the transformer to the bracket

B) Wire the box: Bring the signal to the box and feed it through the knockout in the bottom, as shown. Use a small flathead screwdriver to lighten the negative wire into the terminal labeled "common" and the positive wire into the 12.5 volt terminal. Plug the inline fuse into the 12.5-volt outlet; then flip the switch to test the lights. Set the power and install the cover. ●

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READ THIS BEFORE YOU

Paint your kitchen cabinets

The right prep, primer, and paint can transform the look of your cupboards—and your entire cook space—without busting the budget BY SAI VADGA • ILLUSTRATIONS BY BROWN EDITIONS

IF YOU'VE saved the cost of new appliances, countertops, and cabinets, it's no surprise that refinishing a kitchen is one of the most expensive remodeling projects. While few homeowners find ways to boost the look of a dated refrigerator or tiled backsplash, transforming a kitchen by freshening the cabinets that make up most of the room's visual space is utterly within reach. But there's more to the job than buying a gallon of your favorite color.

The saying that a successful paint job relies on diligent prep work is true: Given finishing previously coated cabinets (called drywall, cabinets are made out of a variety of materials—from wood to metal—that are then covered with a range of finishes, from oil-based paint to plastic). But armed with the right primer, and dry paint, the process, and a long weekend, a DIYer can overhaul a kitchen without going over budget.

A wall of dark painted cabinets can be stark, but the soft, almost matte finish on this navy blue doors and drawers in this freestanding kitchen helps bring the background, letting the gleaming stainless steel appliances be shown through.



NEW KITCHEN ON A DIME

Cabinets can account for nearly 40 percent of a kitchen's cost. Here's how three common cabinet upgrades stack up: In an average 10-by-10-foot kitchen, repainting would cost less than \$200. Adding new drawers and doors runs about \$1,300, while upgrading to ready-to-assemble cabinets starts at about \$1,630.



Prep timeline

Creating a finish durable enough to withstand the heat, oil, and drips in a kitchen requires some care. Before popping the top on a can of paint, follow these steps to ready the surfaces.



Clean

- Sprinkle degreasers, such as Spray Nine, onto a cloth or absorbent kitchen scrub sponge and wipe all the cabinet surfaces to remove any oil—critical for the primer to stick.
- Clean all six surfaces of each drawer or cabinet door as well as the face frames and exposed sides of the boxes.
- Pay particular attention to the cabinets around the cooking top and hood, which are often coated with grease.



Sand

- Use a palm sander fitted with 100-grit sandpaper to remove the finish from cabinet doors, drawers, and boxes.
- Next, hand-sand the molding sections and the areas where finish details meet the panel. You know you've removed the finish once the sheen is gone.
- Then use a dry paintbrush or a wet/dry vac to remove the dust before wiping the surfaces with tack cloths.



Prime

- Use a 2½- or 3-inch wide angled sash brush to apply primer to the cabinet door.
- Start in the room where the panel meets the molding along all four sides. Then move to cover the rest of the panel, before focusing on the stile and rails that make up the door's frame.
- Check out the jig on the next page ("DIY Paint Station"), it will make the priming and drying process easier.



The multisurface primer

A top coat of paint will probably flake, first without a good primer beneath it. And while most DIYers are familiar with the primer used on walls that's not for hard plastics, cabinets are designed to fit the purpose in drywall, allowing the paint to form a mechanical bond," says Rich D. Heit, president of Heitman's Painting in Hudson, MA. "Cabinets wear have pores, so use a primer that grips chemically." These special coatings, called bonding primers, hold like glue to nearly any cabinet finish, from the varnishes that cover many painted and stained cabinets to the vinyl or thermoplastic and plastic covered melamine. Shown: XIM UMA. \$39 (retail) on Amazon.com.



FAMILY MATTERS

Painting your cabinet is means taking a vital room completely off-line. Plan ahead: Set up a kitchen in a nearby room with a hot plate, a toaster oven, and a cooler to serve as a fridge during the project. Oh, and use paper plates.

Tools and materials

The right brush and high-quality paint go a long way toward adding a factory-like finish that will wow for years.



PAINT
Look for a paint designed for trim, often labeled enamel. The higher the sheen, the more durable the finish—high gloss will stand up better than satin.

ROLLER
Use a 4- or 6-inch foam roller to cover the sides of cabinets and their face frames.

SQUARE BRUSH
The straight end of a 2- to 4-inch wide brush makes short work of large, flat panels.



ANGLED BRUSH
A synthetic angled brush in the 2½- or 3-inch range helps you get paint into corners of doors with molding, and can cook door frames in one pass.



HVLP SPRAYER
Not into the hand-brushed look? Spraying on a top coat is the easiest way to get a smooth, factory-like finish. High volume, low pressure sprayers are versatile enough to spray cabinets, trim, panels, or exterior trim.



DIY PAINT STATION This make-shift jig provides access to all sides of a cabinet door to reduce downtime during drying. Span a pair of 2x4s at eye level between two ladders. Screw eye hooks into one end of a 2x4, where doors will be painted, and at the other end, screw hooks into both 2x4s to hang painted doors from. Add corresponding hooks to the top edges of upper cabinet doors and the bottoms of lower doors and drawers, where the holes left behind won't be visible.

TOUGHEN UP

Latex paint is easy to work with and clean up, but on abuse-prone cabinets it could use some added muscle. Mix this additive with water-based paint (52 ounces treats 2 gallons of paint), and the ceramic beads inside bond to the resins in the paint. The result is a water-based paint that protects like an oil-based coating, with improved hardness that resists dings, scratches, and chips.



Shown Hard Coat: \$25. Interponet.com

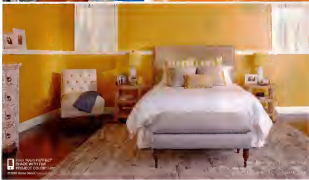


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COLONIAL RENAISSANCE Drawer pull with tapered oval brass. \$7. restoration.com



COLONIAL RENAISSANCE Ringed cabinet knob in polished brass. \$9. restoration.com



CRAFTSMAN Metal pull and backplate in black. \$7. lifestylehardware.com



FARMHOUSE Antique brass cabinet knob. \$25. houseofantiquehardware.com



TUDOR Oval pull with black powder-coated finish. \$35. houseofantiquehardware.com

COLOR PLAY

Choosing a new cabinet color is a big commitment. Here are four ways to put your next kitchen color to work



MATCHING OLD Sell against white countertops and a backsplash, these blue-green cabinets have an aged, hand-brushed look. The color is a calm background to the shiny brass cabinet hardware.



TOP TO BOTTOM An easy way to unify the look of a kitchen is to use one color for cabinets and trim. Here, the same cherry yellow on the base cabinets extends up the wall to the casings and trim, contrasting with darker windows.



FRESH FACE Short on time? You can make a dramatic impact by changing the color on a few doors and drawer fronts. Choose cabinets that are grouped together, as seen here, to avoid a patchy effect.



INSTANT AGE Kitchens in older homes, evolving over time, often have mixed hues. Evokes that vintage feel by introducing a paint color that, like the gray-blue seen on this island, which also has been put over all the furniture.

The Old House blueprint

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ask This Old House

Q How do I clean up a nice, high-quality brush with dried latex paint on it?

—JENNIFER PIERCE, KNOXVILLE, TN

A Latex paint takes about a week to cure, so if it's not too late, try this home remedy: Soak the brushes for a few hours in a dish soap like Dawn. Once the paint softens, gently tease it out with a brush comb, and scrub out any remaining particles with a Scotch-Brite scouring pad. Rinse and repeat until the brushes are clean. But if that doesn't work, a stronger cleaner, like Krud Kutter's solvent-free Brush-Wash (rustolium.com), may save you from having to buy a new brush. —MICHELLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY TED MORRISON

57

tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
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Host

Is it okay to transplant a shrub in the fall? I'm worried that the shock of being moved will hurt its chances of surviving our frigid winters.

—DEE MACDON, DREHAW, MI



ROGER COOK REPLIES: Fall is a great time to transplant shrubs. The days and nights are cooler, so the soil doesn't dry out as fast as it does in the summer. The air temperature may be chilly, but the ground is still warm, which encourages root growth later in the season. I also find it much more comfortable to do all the necessary digging and lifting when the weather isn't so hot and sticky.

Whenever you relocate a plant, the goal is to minimize the shock of the move by keeping as many roots intact as possible. Here are the rules I follow to ensure a successful transplant:

First, you need to define the root ball diameter. To do that, multiply the trunk diameter by 18. For example, a shrub with a 2-inch trunk should have a 36-inch root ball. Scratch a loop of string equal to the radius of the root ball around the trunk, and use a stake

Roger Cook spreads a layer of mulch around the base of newly planted trees and shrubs. He keeps the mulch 3 inches away from the trunk to discourage the growth of girdling weeds.

at the other end to mark the perimeter of the ball. Use a spade to slice through the roots vertically along the circle. Turn the spade backward, that makes it easier to keep the hole straight up and down.

Once you've severed the roots, dig a trench about a foot wide and 12 to 15 inches deep outside the perimeter, then work under the ball until it's free of the surrounding soil. Take care not to rock the plant or otherwise disturb the roots in the process.

Now, in the shrub's new location, excavate a straight-sided hole twice the diameter of the ball and 2 inches shallower than its depth. You want the top of the root ball a bit higher than the surrounding grade so that the roots aren't buried too deep.

If the ball isn't too big and unwieldy, you might be able to slip a tarp under it and drag the shrub to its new spot. Otherwise, wrap the ball tightly in burlap and carry it to the hole on a hand cart or wheelbarrow. Fill around the ball up to grade, then water thoroughly and cover with 2 inches of mulch. Don't stamp on the backfill; roots can't grow well in compacted soil.

Water your shrub regularly until the first frost. The better a shrub is hydrated before winter, the better its chances of getting off to a good start come spring.

Noisy pipes

We have a problem with pipes banging whenever I run the dishwasher. The plumber installed what he called an arrestor, but it's just a short,



What is it?

- 1 String-line reel
- 2 Ladder offset
- 3 Outfeed roller
- 4 Grout-sponge cleaner

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capped pipe that sticks up from one of the horizontal pipes. It doesn't seem to help. Is there a way to stop the banging?

—GLORIA LONG, MERRICK, PA

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: You have a classic case of water hammer, which happens when a valve, like the one in your dishwasher, quickly shuts down water flow. That sudden stopping temporarily causes a big local spike in water pressure, which then dissipates throughout the plumbing system, rattling in loose drains and striking or eroding loose pipes. Besides being annoying, all that shaking and banging is not a good thing for the joints or the fittings.

Plumbers used to—and apparently still do—embed their own water hammer arrestors in the field by attaching a short, capped pipe to an upright fitting on the offending pipe, just as your plumber did. The idea was to capture a slug of air that would cushion the shock when the

valve is shut. It actually works—for a while—but eventually the capped pipe fills with water and no longer absorbs the shocks.

Here's a better solution: Install a water-hammer arrestor with an internal diaphragm that keeps the water and air in separate chambers. The compact Min-Trol arrestor (retail cost) works well for most residential applications.

Have your plumber install one as close as possible to the source of the hammering—the hot water line to your dishwasher. Then have him secure any pipes that the hammering may have loosened. That simple fix should restore peace and quiet to your plumbing system.

Dying pines

Several years ago, we had white pines planted along the driveway to screen it off from the house. Now, on the driveway side, six of the trees are brown and dying. Can you explain why this is happening?

—MELISSA SHOFER, MONTICELLO, VT

ROGER COOK REPLIES: Judging from the photos you sent, the main problem with your trees is insufficient sunlight, due to the



These white pines are doing well because they aren't getting enough sunlight.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HALL, AN EXPERT PHOTO FOR LANDSCAPE ARTISTS

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sealing, then scrub the siding with a scouring pad and a mild-baking soda cleaner like Bonux (translucent cone) mixed with water and bleach. Work from the bottom up, and make sure to rinse the cleaned areas thoroughly before they dry.

"You can speed up the cleaning process by using a pressure washer with a wide fan tip to spray on the bleach and house-cleaning solution. Just make sure to always hold the spray wand at about a 45-degree angle to the surface, with the wand nozzle below the handle. If you don't follow those precautions, the high-pressure spray could dent the metal and force water up behind the siding. It can also break glass, so take extra care around windows."

"Once the siding is rinsed and dry, apply a coat of acrylic-latex primer followed by two top coats of 100 percent acrylic exterior paint."

Muddy basement

The basement of our 1967 house is finished, except where there's an enclosed storage area with a dirt floor and an exposed foundation wall. The area is very damp and makes the entire basement smell musty. How do we fix this problem without losing the storage space?

—JOHN HODGE, INDIANAPOLIS

YONSELVA REPLIES: A dirt floor in a basement creates ongoing moisture problems and a nuisance, and encourages the mold that causes musty smells. Your best

bet for keeping the humidity down is to cap the dirt with a poured concrete slab at least 3 inches thick; it is better.

But concrete by itself won't stop water vapor from migrating through the slab. To do that, you need a vapor barrier—a sheet of 5-mil plastic—placed over the dirt before the pour. Along the perimeter, run the sheet a few inches up the foundation and the existing slab. And if it takes more than one sheet, overlap the edges by at least 18 inches. Next, cover the plastic with a 3-inch-thick layer of sand. It provides an absorbent surface that allows the wet concrete to be more workable, and creates a cushion to keep the plastic from being punctured.

While the new slab will stop a big source of humidity, your storage room will probably still be damp in the summer. Raising a fan and a dehumidifier in that room will help keep the moisture in check. Set the dehumidifier to turn on when the relative humidity goes above 50 percent, that's too dry for mold to grow but not so dry that your dehumidifier runs all the time.

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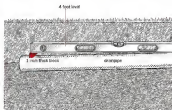


Norm's tricks of the trade

I have to connect my downspout to a dry well. How much should I pitch the pipe that leads to the dry well?

—ALCO BEAL, 13 SMART WASHINGTON, D.C.

A: The standard pitch for most things that depend on gravity to shed water—drainpipes, patios, porch decks, and gutters, to name a few—is 1/8 inch per foot. Another's a trick that makes it easy to determine whether something has that pitch: Just place a narrow 1-inch block on one end of a 4-foot level. Then simply place the block on the lower end of the slope and adjust things until the bubble reads level. The surface that the level is resting on will be at the proper pitch. ■



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SEPTEMBER

What a bore life would be if we lived it in black and white. Behind those doors, a wide world of luscious color awaits. Come on in.

With a lattice fence and an arch above the front gate behind the house, a cute appeal and a sense of privacy for a house that sits right on the street. The gray shingles and white trim were chosen to suggest a New England sea captain's house. Photo by Jeff G. Johnson

OPPOSITE: The original house had no entry vestibule—a detail the owner's installation adding. Wooded helps connect that space to the adjoining living room. Photo by Jeff G. Johnson. 22's Salsbury White Wallpaper Photo by Jeff G. Johnson



Shipshape

A 1903 cottage gets a neat-and-trim makeover inspired by its bayside location

Like many young couples, Alicia and Casey Leach, veterans of San Francisco's tech industry, traded an apartment for a house when it came time to start a family. They fell in love with a 1903 cottage in nearby Sausalito, captivated by its small-town charm and bay views. Lucky for them, the one-story house with an unfinished attic also came with plans for expansion that had already been

by Joanne Furio
photographs by Ken Gutmaker
produced by Tisha Leung
styling by Rachel Stoddy





sponsored by the city. "It felt like it was supposed to be a one-bedroom house," says Alicia, "but over its hundred years it had been converted into a two-bedroom." Within three years of moving in, the couple had back a toddler and a newborn. "The house got really cramped," she says.

The preapproved plans, by architect Whitney Schnitz, would allow the Leathers to convert the attic into living space, expanding the 1,092-square-foot house by 665 square feet, thanks to two shed dormers that would be added to achieve ceiling-upstairs rising from 6'6" to 9' high. In a locale where bay windows are cherished, the house's 3-ft floor height would seem a blemish on the imposed 32-foot limit.

The plans also called for a massive master bedroom near upstairs, which didn't suit the Leathers, who wanted two bedrooms and two baths there. So Schnitz recommended architect Nate Weissman to help the couple on an interior redesign that would address the needs of the young family.

While the plans allowed for an exterior renovation,

ABOVE: The kitchen was reimagined in its original location at the back of the house. Although the previous cook space included an island, the new grill is configured in an efficient island with a La Cornue range as the focal point. *Hardwood: Vent A Hood; floor: plaster; built-in: Zoro Rug; Summer House*

RIGHT: Cabinets added to the ceiling to maximize storage. The entertainment bar/office area sits right off the master and into the beds. *Soft: Simon Original; Paint: Sherwin-Williams*



LEFT: Located at the back of the house, the screen, which also serves as a dining space, connects the family room to a deck. The room gets a lot of sun, so the homeowners chose a saturated blue to play off the window location. Plaster boxes were added to the wall help bring the outdoors inside. *Paint: (walls) Clé's Exposition; Table: Jansen; Heritage Salvage; Hardware: Antiques; Rug: platters: Charles Collette*

they didn't include any curb appeal enhancements. "The original structure looked like a simple story-book house that a lad would draw—a trapezoid on top of a square," says Weissman. She proposed a beachy cottage style to connect the house more closely with its location near the water.

Having lived in the house for three years before moving, the couple knew the drawbacks of the existing configuration. Sometime during the house's 112-year history the kitchen was moved to the front, and a long hallway divided the four rooms. "It didn't flow at all," says Alicia. "You had to go past the two bedrooms to get to the dining room." Because the approved plans did not apply to the first-floor layout, Weissman had to determine for reimagining the layout.

Alicia also asks for a fireplace and an entry hall, requiring additional visits to municipal offices. "We ended up redesigning the entire rear of the house," says Weissman. To assist in the process, she brought in general contractor Russell Calhoun, and Dexter Deering, a structural engineer, a secretary in

Floor Plans

The 1,092-square-foot house gained half again as much space—665 square feet—when the attic was turned into two bedrooms and two baths.



FLOOR PLANS BY ARCHITECT



the earthquake zone. Preparing for a drive-to-the-music renovation, the Leaches moved into a rental.

On the first floor, the stairwell place retained the kitchen to the back of the house, giving a guest bedroom an in-floor spot. The living room stayed put, as did the sun room at the opposite end. Now the living room flows into the family room and the kitchen, then onto the sunroom, which is now the dining room.

To add style, she decided that would reflect the period of the house. Whitman pored over books, including William Radford's *Old House Measured and Scaled Detail Drawings*, *For Builders and Carpenters*. The final inspiration in the open room design came from no blueprint of the early 1900s, and incorporated existing walls and half-columned positions into her design. Upstairs, carving two bedrooms and two baths out of 655 square feet would require some ingenuity. Calhoun had to figure out how to get the white line from the second-floor beds into the bathroom, where it had to connect to the main line before exiting the house. As he eyed plans for the first floor redesign, he found the perfect spot: the cabotage as the family room. There, a half column and a wall above conveniently carried the line. "The column

ABOVE: A wall-to-wall wrapped staircase just off the living room replaced the pull-down attic stairs. It features a portable inspired window, where a small rectangular window features, to capture natural light and enhance the house's muted design theme. *Photographer: Philip Jett*

REPORT: The Leach family of James-Alton and Emily with their daughter, Marc, 9, and son, Wyatt, 8.



wasn't originally designed to hide plumbing, but it worked out beautifully," says Calhoun.

For a major space-saving strategy, Whitman turned to the compact design of boxes. Because the master bedroom would not be large enough to include a dresser, the closed floor-to-ceiling built-in along a wall in the long and narrow master bath, which doubles as a dressing area, with a closet behind a pocket door at one end. Secondly, the cabotage was right above the washer and dryer, hidden in a closet, as Whitman added a laundry chute.

With the layout problems resolved, another, larger one was discussed: behind the wall as work goes under way. Open with revealed balconies from the 19th-century antique corner a skeletal structure that runs the length of the house with one-piece vertical rods—in this case, Douglas fir, half of it round, and most of it cut of planks.

"From the outset, the plan was to sort through of the existing exterior structure as possible," says Calhoun—not out of budgetary concerns, but because the Leaches wanted to retain any original materials they could. But Calhoun's discovery led him

ABOVE: In the family room, the column above the built-in cabinet serves as both an architectural feature and a plumbing chase. Small windows placed high on the wall screen views from the street. Built-in cabinetry offers drawers, doors, and outlets for a variety of storage options. Large baskets hold toys while making them easy for kids to access. *Decor: COLE & BROS.*

to reconstruct things away with the old framing along the line. Alicia, however, was gripped by a sense of stewardship. "This is what has kept the house steady through earthquakes," she says. "I felt very secure with this original wood holding up the house." Calhoun and Daring were not so sure. Ultimately, they reached a compromise: Whenever timbers were not needed would be kept and conventional frames placed inside them, even if that meant less precious square footage. For added strength, the engineer requested that the old Douglas fir frame be clipped to the new walls "so in an earthquake the old frame wouldn't fall off the house," Calhoun says. The framework was altered to take the additional load and modified to meet seismic requirements.

With new, smaller structural members in place, Alicia and Calhoun worked closely on finishes and materials for period authenticity. In the new bedroom and bath upstairs, stone-and-grove photos cover the ceilings in boxes of glass dials in the living room, crown molding and Chippendale inspired built-ins add architectural interest.

What came to the floor, Alicia wanted to retain the original Douglas fir, but there wasn't enough of



LEFT: In the old while 15-by-13-foot master bedroom, tongue-and-groove planking covers the ceiling to add dimension to the small space. While linen drapes cover French doors that lead to a new deck above the dining room, which extends the bedroom's living space.



LEFT: The couple's two children, Ben and Wyatt, share a bunk room in the converted attic. The repurposed ceiling is underlaid with the shed cloments added to the original structure to create headroom for the second floor. (Photo credit: C2 a Green Tree)

OPPOSITE: A wall of floor-to-ceiling cabinets in the master bath, inspired by a ship's stateroom, makes up for the lack of furniture in the master bedroom. (Photo credit: C2 a Green Tree)

it in suitable condition. She sought wood that felt good under her feet. "I was more focused on the look," Casey says. At a salvaged-iron-wood dealer, the couple discovered knoblock from a New York barn that satisfied them both. "It really brings a lot of character to the home," Casey says.

To replicate the original headboard, wainscoting and moldings, Mies like-way took pains to make the right choices. "We might have saved some money going the MDF route," she says. "But wood just felt right." What also felt right was the inclusion heart pine the couple found at another salvage company—planks that had once been a factory floor. A hunk of it now tops the Leach's dining room table.

The slow-to-the-drawing renovation wrapped in 10 months, the Leachs returned to their house with two months left on their rental. They discovered that the new floor plan and carefully selected materials combined to create a much more livable house. "The story gave you a sense of transition from the outdoor space to the indoor space," says Alicia. "It's nice to be able to walk into a house, no matter how small it is." Now, it's finally ready to open its doors. "It's nice to be able to walk into a house, no matter how small it is." Now, it's finally ready to open its doors. "It's nice to be able to walk into a house, no matter how small it is." Now, it's finally ready to open its doors.





green & serene

Sculptural shrubs, verdant groundcovers, and dappled sunlight create the magic in this water-thrifty landscape

By **Joanne Huber** Photographs by **Mark LaHusen**
Produced by **Tisha Leung** Styling by **Sunday Handrickson**

Delve into the history of landscape design, and you see certain ideas over and over: strong geometric forms, idiosyncratic use of contrasting colors, a balance between marginal and wild. There's good reason for the repetition—these ideas work.

Studying pictures of classic gardens while taking landscape design courses at the University of California, Los Angeles, about 10 years ago, exterior designer Joann LaHusen found herself especially drawn to odd, globe-shaped shrubs. She saw them in gardens in France, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal—all of Europe, it seemed, and dating back to medieval times. There were even references to their use at the beginning of the Russian Empire. "These things are just right," Joann concluded. "They stand the test of time." She thought that globe shapes, with their strong structure, would look good almost anywhere.



That's because a well-placed tree, shrub, or lawn can hold the heart of the garden together and leave the rest of the landscape to light. The world's most famous garden, the Palace of Versailles, is a testament to this idea. The garden's design is a masterpiece of the 17th century, and it's still a source of inspiration for gardeners today.



modern gardens, traditional gardens, rustic gardens. And she had the perfect excuse for testing her theory—the 1948 Tudor-style house she shared with her photographer husband, Mark, in Los Angeles.

Back then, the front yard was just a blank lawn, fully exposed to the street. The only plants with any left on the half-acre lot were two mature sycamores, one pepper tree, several eucalyptus, and a large ornamental fig by the front door. The backyard held a kidney-shaped swimming pool. The rear-facing side yard, with its lovely evening light and its view into the canyon below, had only a narrow concrete path hugging the house. Before that, the yard dropped off, too steep to use.

During their early years in the house, the couple added a deck considered out over the hillside and a stone path from the street to the front door. Then, just as Janet was working to expand her design business into gardens, there was a pressing need to build at least a fence to separate the front lawn from the

street. Layered designs of pink and cream-colored and tall by globe-shaped shrubs provide a structured framework in varying shades of green for the 1948 Tudor signposts.

street. Mark and Janet had two boys, then toddlers, plus two Lab puppies. And they all loved to run.

Seizing the opportunity to experiment with some of her landscape-design ideas, Janet set about creating a plan that would enhance the look of the house, which has halfy timber, a steep slate roof, and leaded glass windows that remind her of an English country house. She wasn't committed to planning a traditional English cottage garden, however—too much daisy and daisy, and too many, foliage colors and textures matched her more than flowers do. The cue was by the house in blankets in pinks, cream-colored shrubs, and other native plants. "There are the dry, scrubby hills of L.A.," Janet says. "When I look across the canyon, I see mostly gray-green, with the bright green of new growth."

Inspired by the color palette, but wanting a more structured look, she dug into the perimeter of the lawn and planted pink around the edges, then boxwood inside that, and added wisterias and other



1948 Tudor at the back of the side yard, over the pool and just beyond the entertaining deck, a fire is a quiet spot for looking out over the canyon below.

1948 Tudor The new pool main deck holds a comfortable lounge area with seating for eight. The focal topped posts that secure the deck's railing complement the structure and look of the three railings and matching shrubs in the landscape.



the garden plan

The property includes a formal front garden, a large deck for entertaining that looks out over the canyon, another smaller deck, a hillside garden and a pool in back, as well as a new gravel garden behind the garage.





ough, drought-tolerant shrubs. She also put in several awnings, sword ferns, and hardy geraniums groundcover with pink, purple, and magenta blossoms so they they almost get lost in the foliage. Janet added only a few plants with showy flowers: 'Iceberg' roses, 'Redmondcrest' begonias, and 'Alaska' azaleas, all with white blossoms. Gradually the lower grew smaller and beds expanded with plants that caught Janet's eye, mostly easy-care shrubs that grow naturally in dense rounds, such as 'Gold Ball' kobus.

Last summer, when a record drought triggered water rationing, the lower terrace was finally up. Janet took it out and installed a gravel area in shades of yellow, gray, and brown that blend into a median gray that mirrors the color of the mortar in the flagstone front path. Overhead sweet drought-tolerant specimens and myrtles over, which block the scent of the lawn and leave the garden dripping in sunlight, creating a dreamy, relaxed feeling.

On the west side of the house, the gravel became a path leading to a small deck entered through a double arch. It's just big enough for a couple of people to sit and talk or read. "It was the upper part of the yard," Mark says. "Now it's the outer space."

ABOVE: In addition to the large deck and far entertaining, the couple added a smaller wooden deck. It's a perfect place to read a book or sit with a friend or two. Containers soften the wood structure with succulents and sunflowers, a shade and a final design element in orange and red.

OPPOSITE: Four small trees and shrubs framed in a lattice design mark the entrance to the hidden deck and fence the street of the canyon. They also form a sturdy frame for 'Iceberg' climbing roses.

Beyond that is the 34-foot-long main deck, which guests generally access from inside the house. The Lohman treble is a few years ago, adding 6 feet to the original 16-foot depth. Like the old deck, it has horizontal supports anchored to the home's foundation and vertical supports of reinforced concrete sunk into the hillside.

Over time, the backyard gained a lot of usable space. By excavating for a 93-foot-long retaining wall, the Lohmans pushed the hillside back about 50 feet around the pool, creating a level area in which to plant. Janet added 30 trees, many of them there. She also created a seating area shaded by barches, where one can look out over the canyon, breathe in the scent of lavender, and listen to the hum of bees. The most recent change solved a drainage problem that plagued a flagstone patio behind the garage and turned that area from a catchall for old barbeques, ladders, and bags of potting soil into a gravel garden lined with water-thrifty plants.

Mark had wanted a yard that made it easy to entertain. Janet "one that felt enclosed and private, one that felt safe and secluded and look. "Now, it's abundantly clear, they have both gotten their wish. ■



By Deborah Baldwin Photographs by Gridley + Graves
Produced by Tisha Leung Styling by Brian Carter

AIRCO. Aynette inspired by the Fiddlers House visualizes the cottage style of the house and its open porches. Port Sherwin Williams is Cancer features and additionally Benjamin Moore's different Glaciers (Dove and Dulux Redwood). Dining / Living Porch Products Italy! A water shade of green connects the living room and kitchen and blends the ceiling and adjacent areas. Port Benjamin Moore's Precious Green/Greenish Blue and adjoining two Woodstock (Lace) walls. Anne Sloan Clark Port's Provence/Labrador Bay. Rustic USA





After rejecting trendy whites and grays as “just not right,” Kelsie Barnett chose a more historically correct palette for her family’s 1938 house, in Nashville. “To be honest,” she says of one shade in particular, “it is a little ‘60s housewifery color.”

It takes courage to talk about your favorite color, that way—and the kind of confidence that comes from knowing what you're doing. Most people, of course, would rather whitewash every race than risk creating a living space anything remotely medicinal.

But guess what? It works. There goes Kramer's petting, drawn from the home's original Depression-era bath tile, climbing up the dining room wainscoting onto the window trim before coming to rest on the ceiling [file ceiling]. It then sails north into the living room and keeps going until it reaches the trim at Kramer's home office, where it is joined by a wall color that is called, no kidding, Scrambled Scramch.

Most days, you'll find Kravitz here, where she consults as a palette tuner, an interior decorator, and a "psychological agent" (more about this shortly).

While her blog, *The Decadologist*, provides

strut): The living room sports white-screened porch-turned-sunroom. That leads to a village-chef punches-up a peekle of pale neutrals. First Georgetowners a Prescott drive (walk) and then Drive (drive) ending and coffee (and) Aerie (Dean Creek) First a Providence (denote) (traced) and (Pore) (renewal) (bicyc) . Little (Surrealist) (Gleamed) (Jumps) and (market). Above (Goods)

examples of her work, few projects better distill Kravitz's approach than her own home, an ongoing experiment that involves repeated tinkering with the furniture, light fixtures, eggs, and accessories—to the surprise of not always the delight of her husband. Plus, a corporate events producer when he's not fixing something himself. "Did you move the light switch?" he'd dwell on a point of turning home from a business trip. "Because I can't find it."

The two share a love of fixing up old houses and old things. Picture an armoire that once stood in an uncle's gift shop, spiffed up to serve as a closet for the master bedroom.

When Krass can't enhance her looks, watering clients, or training fellow designers, she handles estate sales, editing, and the mega outlet chain HomeGoods, whose unparalleled inventory plays to her strength as a professional picker.

That edge can cut both ways, as it did when the couple set eyes on their house for the first time.

"When my father-in-law said, 'I found a house you'd love,' I told him, 'We're not married!' We had just finished renovating a house. We had a baby..."

Some reluctant home buyers cave at the sight of



nodding hydrangeas and a crooked stone path, others under the heavy influence of a gleaming ice-burner ridge. For Kneib, it was more about stepping inside and back in time.

Tucked into a pleasant grove of 1960s ranch houses, the five-bedroom, two-bath home—also 2,700 square feet on two floors—felt like a genuine period piece. Completed in 1940, it even had a fan-oven stove, as the couple would later learn. The first owner was the man behind a still legendary delicacy, Vietti Chai, and is said to have cooked up his secret recipe right there at the kitchen.

Naturally, there were things that needed fixing. The couple honed their self-taught skills and set to work. "The day before we moved in, we stayed up all night replacing the kitchen floor," recalls Katic, who couldn't wait to cover over its 1980s beige vinyl. The urgent need for fresh paint on the walls went without notice.

It will require a policy mix and the time to allow

Kristin leans toward historic colors because she finds them warmer and, as she puts it, more interesting than the masses of whites and grays that are so popular.

INTERVIEW The kitchen's waxy laminate counters were speckled with multicolored varnish, stained, then sealed with self-leveling epoxy. Now copper-toned sink fittings and hardware peek in the waxy backdrop. The range is black, allowing it to stand out in the creamy white scheme. *Range hood: Defiant—CE, Fossil; Painter: Vinyl Base Co. Coatings and More*

ABOVE: RUBIN, PHILLIPS and Kristie Barnett, with daughters, Katelyn, 28, and Keri, 22, gather in the sunroom. The rug and a cushion were brought at estate sales. *Winston: Alastair Hirst and Joane; Garden stool: Peter/Clara*

now. To lend cohesiveness to the smaller rooms in older houses, the likes to start with one shade—a "main neutral"—and weave it throughout. Total monotony would be boring, while too many random colors and patterns risk, as she says disarmingly, "walking on the crazy train."

She applies her favored shade in different spots—on the walls in one room, on the trim in another. “I embrace them but allows each to have its own personality,” she says.

That's particularly true on the first floor, the main focus during the early stages of the renovation. The couple had no desire to alter the fireplace, but they did look for ways to tap into useful space, over time carving out a breakfast nook and taming a screened porch into a sunroom. They moved slowly, which is how Knecht liked it, suggesting it takes time to suss out what works not only for you, but also for the house.

Just last year, with two growing daughters, the couple demolished two wealth creators that didn't





appear to be original, turning a bedroom into a common area between the girls' rooms. After years of scratching their heads over the upstairs bath—a dysfunctional space crisscrossed under the stairs—they rebuilt it from scratch. Subways tile gives the new bath period appeal, while emerald-green walls and black trim give it a contemporary edge.

You need to see colors in context

To help clients narrow their paint choices, Kravitz travels with two huge bagsful of oversize swatches. As part of the window-glassman, she holds them up against finishes that can't be easily changed, like grout, countertops or the tile around a fireplace. "It helps you see the undertones if the grout has a little green in it," she says. "I suggest testing a neutral with a little green in it."

Homeowners often underestimate the impact of wood's undertones, she notes. "When it goes up vertically, like a stair rail or trim, it acts like a color. For example, if it's orange, gray next to it would look like drudge."

Context aside, Kravitz is a firm believer in following one's gut reaction to a specific color. It goes back



OPPOSITE: Soft lavender and crisp white bring out the warmth in the master bedroom's oak flooring and fireplace. **Left:** Third Benjamin Moore's Violet Mist (walls and ceiling) and White Dove (trim). **Bottom:** Marshalls.

OPPOSITE: In this home office, vibrant emerald and jade complement reddish-painted wood. **Top:** walls the open shelving, the dresser, a white-washed vintage piece. **Right:** Benjamin Moore's Steamed Speech (walls) and Porcelain Green (trim and ceiling).

ABOVE RIGHT: The new upstairs bath has luxury touches like marble floor tile and a gold bathtub. **Bottom:** Paint: Benjamin Moore's Steamed Speech (walls) and Black (shower). **Plaster:** Newport Brass Mirror HomeGoods.



to her training, which includes a master's degree in psychology. She is so sure of it, in fact, that she makes people feel comfortable that she has written a book for you called *Psychological Staging*, telling what buyers really want—a home that "represents a fresh, clean start for their chosen lives" and "hints at a lifestyle they would like to have," as she accurately notes.

That background comes in handy when she has to help homeowners navigate an emotionally charged sea like a paint store. "Most designers start with a piece of furniture, or maybe the rug, and see that to create a palette," she says. "But I do the opposite—because if you don't like the wall color, you won't like the room."

Her one exception is the how-to-your-own-lookings rule? Clients under the age of 18.

Kids require a little guidance

"Never let children pick out their own paint colors," says Kravitz. Instead, "show them colors in galleries and ask them which they prefer." By that she means she was galleries drawn from the two-carat-and-chance in the back of her favorite fan decks. Sure, you can always repaint, but generally you want



something that will work for them as they grow—and won't set your teeth on edge as the residents.

For one young client with a crush on the royal garb of a certain Disney prince, "I said, 'Let's do a Euro-pean prince.'"¹ Kratz recalls. So his purple, rose lavender, like the serene shade in her own bedroom.

Kratz may still enjoy moving things around, but basically her family's former home is done. "I like that it is very special but doesn't use modern principles they think it's cool and sweet," she says. She creates micro-topography in rooms that aren't big, "yet keep going."

Speaking of that flow-creating green, peas into the conversation the couple dug into a living room with a floral mosaic of an almost identical green under layers of paint going back to 1990. "I was so excited, I was jumping up and down," Kratz says.

Same thing when Phil was making kitchen improvements and unearthed the original green and black lacquer tile. "I was like, 'Thank you, house!'" says Kratz.

"I love this house, and I feel like over the years it's revealed different things to me—but I was on the right track all along." ■

Adding, it will come down to create this cozy second floor space. Wrapping it in a single light reflecting color added left to the 10-foot ceiling. Phil Benjamin Moore's Marthorne Yellow (walls and ceiling) and Black (trim) and Green (chair) from Sherwin Williams. Phil's Marthorne Blue (walls and ceiling) and Black (trim) and Green (chair) from Sherwin Williams.

Next and opposite: Two shades of blue and white. Another Kratz's husband Phil made the built-in and crafted the floor pattern using a compass and 48-kg. painter's tape and wood shims. Phil Benjamin Moore's Azore (kitchen door) and Faded Blue (walls and ceiling) and Black (trim) and Green (chair) from Sherwin Williams.



paint by numbers

Perplexed by palettes? Fan decks got you flummoxed? Choosing color schemes to refresh your rooms needn't be daunting. Consider the **no-fail, four-color combos** we've gathered here—from muted pastels to bold brights, they're sure to turn any space into a work of art. **BY MICHELLE BRUNNER**



CLAY PINK

This earthy pink is a surprisingly versatile neutral! Here it provides a playful base on kitchen walls, setting off the room's architectural details and tempering their formality. A coordinating dark gray on the island grounds the room and helps make everything around it feel bigger and lighter.

FAVORITE PAINT 1. Dove (Sherwin-Williams)
2. Dandy (Vista) 3. Porring (Farrow & Ball)
4. Kellogg (Benetton)

ON-THE-SPOT: Pale pink also works well with dark brown and other warm neutrals to create a cozy, inviting color scheme.



WALLS
Harmony
Vatop

ISLAND
Sweet Olive
Vatop

CEILING
Slate Fo
Vatop

ACCENT
Lafayette
Vatop



1

2

3

4

LEAF GREEN

Using a bold, mature green as a bedding or entry—a "peekaboo" room—you see only at a glance—is a great way to incorporate high-impact hue in your home. Here a richer, more saturated green makes a statement on the floor and its trim. Contrasting white and black round out this lush evening palette.

Sherrin Williams
1. Garden Spar (wall)
2. Anagole (accent) 3. Extra White (trim) 4. Caviar (accent)

OR TRY THIS:

Pair this vegetal green with similarly intense yellow and blue hues for a vibrant yet harmonious palette of related shades.



WALL
Garden Spar
Olympic

TRIM
Extra White
Olympic



ACCENT
Anagole
Olympic

ACCENT
Caviar
Olympic



PHOTO: ANDREW NEAL



WARM GRAY

Greys are versatile, but can look sober and serious. Not so here. A wide band of pale taupe gray creates an expensive feeling, while a darker hue at window height grounds the room. A high-energy accent line conveys a note of fun and draws the eye upward when used as a border around the room. Warm color on the curtains provides a punchy accent.

Debi 1. Pinstripe View (upper wall) 2. Felt One Run (lower wall, baseboard) 3. Cuckoo (accent) 4. Caviar (accent)



OR TRY THIS: This gray scheme undertone pairs well with darker taupe gray and a deep navy, accented with a pop of terra-cotta.



WALL
Pinstripe View
Gray
Shades

CESING
Sage
Spencer
Shades

ACCENT
Cuckoo
Stone
Shades

TRIM
ACCENT
Avalanche
Gray
Shades



AQUA BLUE

Blues and greens are a foolproof combo because they neighbor each other on the color wheel. Using pale aqua as the dominant color in this dining space makes it easy to layer in bolder colors, such as the deep teal on the floor and trim, plus the bright green incorporated in the floor. Lure accents pick up the gold tones in the room.

Refer: 1. Painted Aqua (wall) 2. Warm Teal (doors and trim) 3. Jade Draper (accent) 4. Gold Leaf Linen (accent)

OR TRY THIS: Aqua can look a little flat or green, much like water itself. Another can't-miss approach: Pair it with rich neutrals in cool gray-brown tones.



WALLS: Muted Aqua
TRIM: Silver Feather



FLOOR: Pale Aqua
ACCENT: Dark Teal



YELLOW GOLD

Cheery and bright, this is also a challenge to get right, since the color can intensify on the wall (ending the sunshine-inspired shade to just an accent wall and windows, as shown here, helped keep from overdoing it). Its deep grounding, if with sophisticated neutrals like warm white, stone gray and beige gray.

Shawn Williams | Play de la (wall, window)
2. Autumnal (wall, ceiling)
3. Black Fox (floor)
4. Raystone Gray (accent)

OR TRY THIS: For a modern farmhouse feel, balance bright yellow with white and neutral neutrals and muted blue accents.



WALLS: Bright Yellow
CEILING: Cream



FLOOR: Warm Gold
ACCENT: Dark Gold



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THE HISTORY When young Civil War veteran Joseph Peacock returned home to North Carolina in the late 1800s, he set out right away to build this Folk Victorian cottage on a large tract of land he inherited outside the town of Goldsboro. While it's unclear whether he and his wife, Harriet, had children of their own, Joseph, a member of the Grand Lodge of the North Carolina Odd Fellows, took to heart the organization's edict to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." To that end he donated a 20-acre parcel for a home and school for young orphaned wards of the state.

In 1919 Joseph divided the rest of his land into six lots, leaving the foundations of Goldsboro as it is today. After his death, the house was sold outside the family. It is now in the care of a restaurateur.

WHY SAVE IT? The locally significant house tells the story of a man more dedicated to helping those in need than to enriching himself. The exterior retains simple clapboard siding and porch spindles. Inside are pine floors, an elegant balustrade, and several wood murals.

WHAT IT NEEDS The 1,676-square-foot house will require a significant amount of work, including putting in all new systems and repairing the roof and siding. Future restoration will be eligible for a state preservation tax credit. While it's a sensible job, saving this gem would create a home base for life in a charming town, just an hour from Raleigh or Durham. —MEL HOFF



GOT A HOUSE?

If you'd like to submit a photo, story, or tip about a house, or to be added to the Myra Gray's list of houses to save, contact Myra Gray at myrags@ncdot.org or call 252-681-6676.

Folk
 Victorian
 with
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 details!

1. The three-bedroom, four-bath house sits on a quarter-acre lot. It retains its original four-over-four windows and historic shingles siding in the gables.
2. A simple wood mantel surrounds a wood-burning fireplace in the dining room.
3. The staircase features an elaborate turned post and turned balusters.
4. One of the two bathrooms is built in well-worn oak and dates from the first half of the 1930s.

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