

This Old House

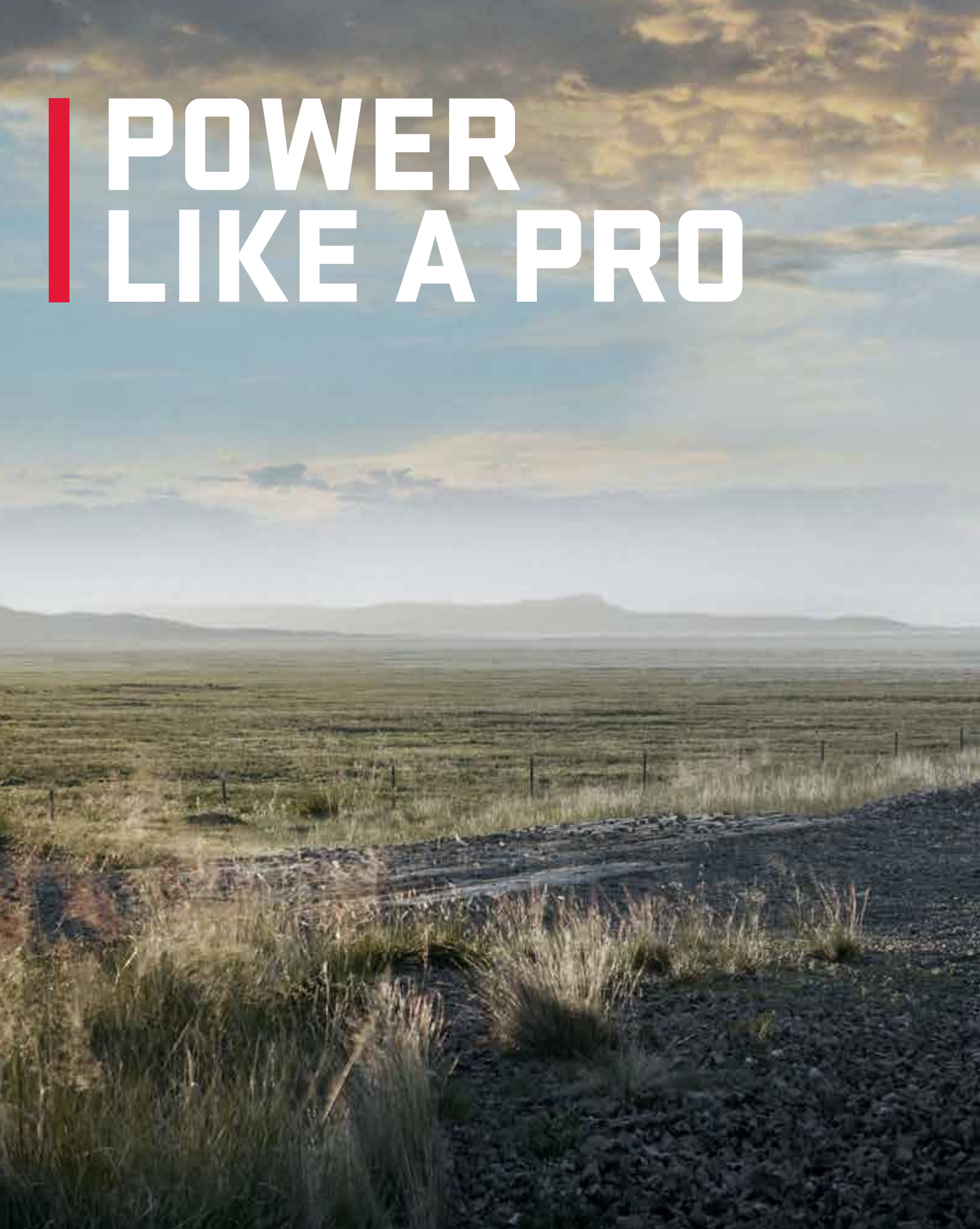
Cozy Up to Fall

- Pretty paint ideas
- Charming period details
- Warm wood finishes

TOH
TOP 100
Best New
Home
Products

Simple wall paneling
DIY shadow box
Vintage-look LEDs
Clever bath upgrades
Leaf-free gutters

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private island.

SEKTION / VOXTORP
kitchen

\$3399*

*Based on a 10'x10' kitchen

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A dream kitchen should be a luxury that everyone can afford – a complete kitchen with a beautiful island, all the storage you'll need, and unique solutions that fit your budget. Because no matter what you do, who you are, or how much you make, you deserve to make the dream yours.



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SEKTION kitchen with VOXTORP light beige high-gloss drawer fronts, VOXTORP walnut effect doors, drawer fronts and MAXIMERA soft-closing drawers. SEKTION cabinet frames in white melamine foil. VOXTORP doors/drawers fronts in high-gloss foil finish and foil finish. MAXIMERA drawer in powder-coated steel and melamine foil. Shown with PERSONLIG quartz frosty carrina countertop with eased edges. IKEA-USA.com/kitchen

Requires assembly. *The total price includes cabinets, fronts, drawers, door dampers, interior shelving, hinges, toe kicks, legs, and cover panels. Your choice of countertops, sinks, faucets, knobs and handles, appliances, and lighting sold separately. See IKEA store for limited warranty, country of origin and 10'x10' details. Valid in US stores only.

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PHOTO: JOHN GRUEN

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STONE, TIMBER, AND
TENACITY

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Cover Photograph by
JOHN GRUEN
Styling by ANNA MOLVIK



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DESIGNED TO HANDLE THE TOUGHEST PANS AND THE HOTTEST RECIPES



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The new, extra-large Quartz Luxe farmhouse was created to stand the test of time—and look good doing it. Heavy pans. Scalding-hot pots. They're no match for its durable quartz material. And with its nonporous, stain-resistant surface and the edgeless design of the Perfect Drain®, food and germs won't stick around either. So make a mess. Experiment with your favorite recipes. Quartz Luxe is ready for whatever is on tonight's menu. **Elevate Everyday.**

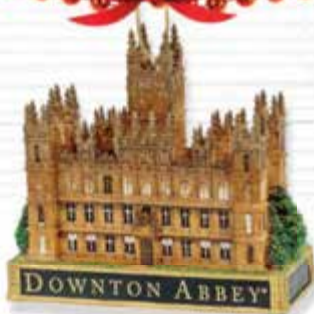
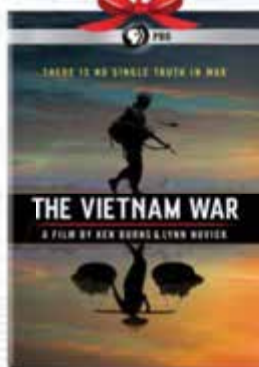
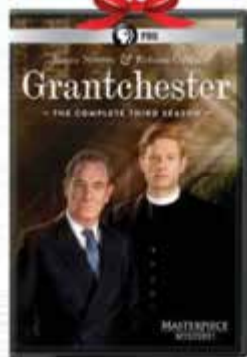
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Here's to a few of my favorite things

Christmas always comes early here at *This Old House*. Specifically, it rolls in around the middle of July. That's when we first begin considering the products that will wind up in the TOH Top 100, our annual roundup of the best new home products.

There are only two rules: It must be really good, and it must be new (in this case, launched sometime in the past year). Our editors comb through hundreds of products in six different categories for the first pass. Many they've had a chance to vet earlier at trade shows and press events. To evaluate others, we ask manufacturers for actual physical samples, if they aren't too large to travel (tile, yes; refrigerators, no). Once they get here, we lay them all out on the big conference table and argue.

Every year, there are more than a few items that cause me to start making my list and checking it twice. This year, the cook in me is coveting Electrolux's 30-Inch Electric Single Wall Oven with IQ-Touch Controls (No preheating! Steam cleaning! Plus, it can sous vide!). The practical me, who actually enjoys doing laundry, would love to throw it all into Samsung's FlexWash and FlexDry, with separate mini-compartments that let you wash and dry your delicates up top while your sheets whirl below.

The engineer in me admires General Tools' Laser Tape Measure (so easy to measure large expanses solo!) and the iSP8 SmartPlug from iHome, which turns any old appliance into a smart one. Remember The Clapper on TV? This is its modern equivalent. And the hedonist in me is pining for Kohler's Real Rain shower panel, which measures a generous 19 by 19 inches. Of course, if we got one of those, I might never see my husband, who likes a long soaking even more than I do. But still.

I know, because you've told me so, that many of you shop this feature, too. So turn to page 91 and get started. Happy hunting from all of us at *This Old House*!

SUSAN WYLAND,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
susan@thisoldhouse.com



This unbearably cute Japanese cat-in-a-house dress kitchen sponge came from the MoMA Design Store. She lives on my desk now.



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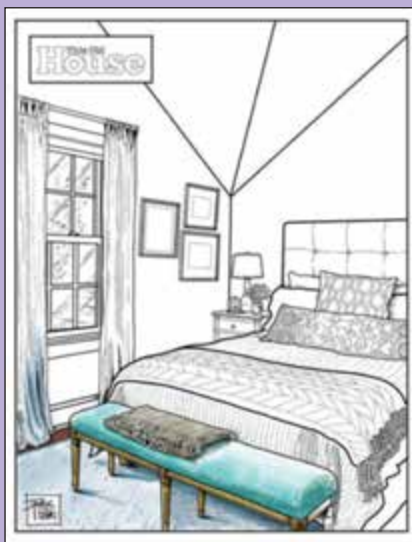


ILLUSTRATION: DOUG ADAMS

A Restful Room

- You're sure to wake up refreshed in this peaceful room, with its watery-blue walls, soft, gauzy drapes, and lovely light linens. Would you use a similarly serene palette, or pack this room with a colorful punch?
- Download your template now at thisoldhouse.com/TOHcolorcontest
- Grand Prize Winner will receive \$500 cash and a \$200 gift card; three runners-up will each receive a \$100 gift card!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Purchasing does not improve your chances of winning. The COLOR YOUR OWN... Contest, Part (7) of (7), begins 12:01 A.M. ET on Friday, October 13, 2017, and ends 11:59 P.M. ET on Thursday, December 7, 2017. To enter and view Official Rules, go to thisoldhouse.com/TOHcolorcontestRules.



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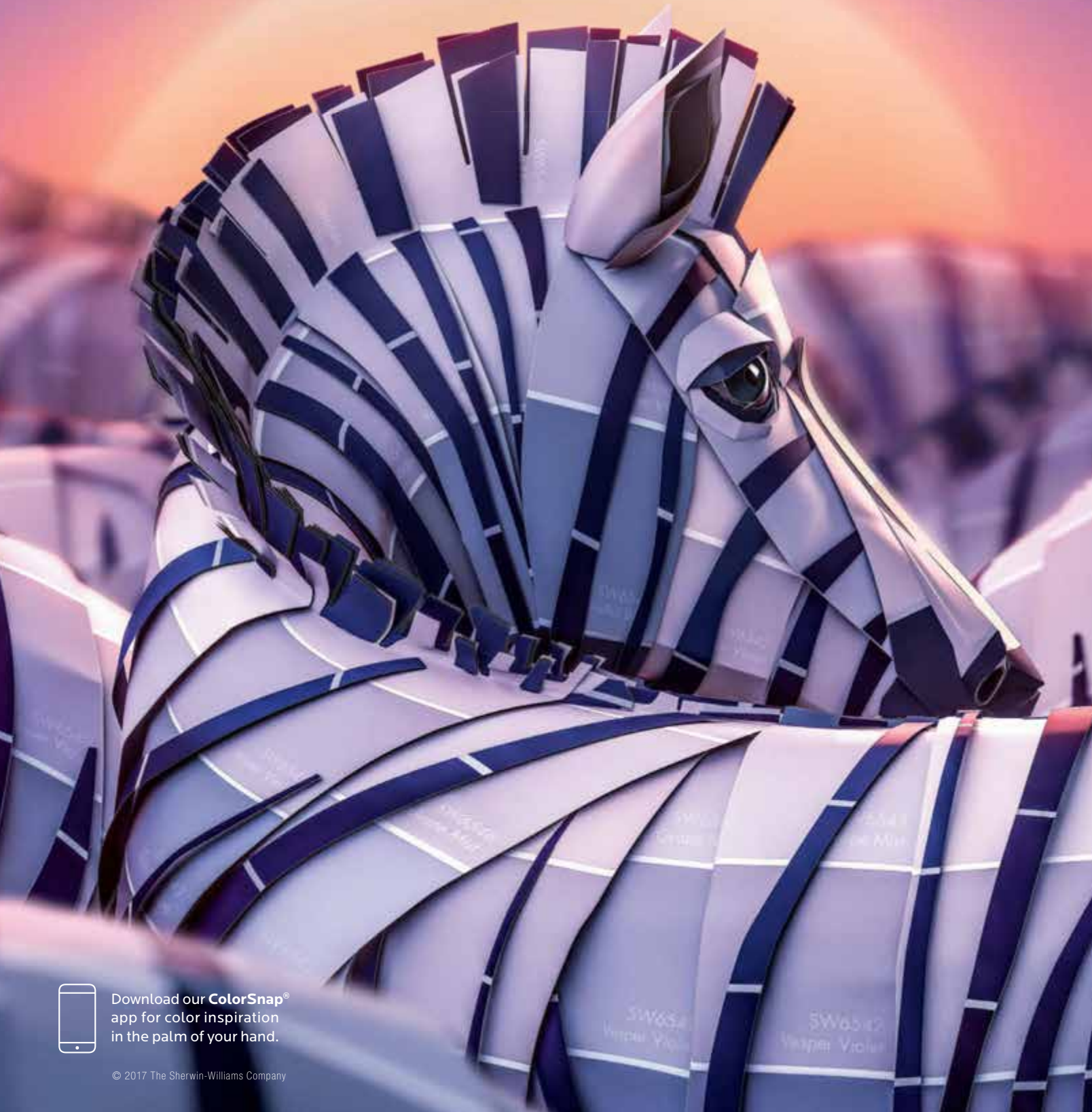
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Crew-Built Shadow Box Sweepstakes

Presented by Gorilla Glue



Enter to win it!

We're giving away this crew-built shadow box—as featured on this season of *Ask This Old House*—signed by the Ask TOH crew and filled with extra goodies. For your chance to win, go to thisoldhouse.com/gorillasweeps. Enter daily through November 25th!

Want to build it yourself?

Turn to page 50 now for step-by-step instructions.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Purchasing does not improve your chances of winning. The Crew-Built Shadow Box Sweepstakes begins 12:01 A.M. ET on Friday, October 13, 2017, and ends 11:59 P.M. ET on Saturday, November 25, 2017. To enter and view Official Rules, go to thisoldhouse.com/gorillasweepsRules.



SEEING WHAT YOU DO *with the ideas, tips, and how-tos on our pages never gets old. We love hearing how a project turned out, what paint color worked, or how you finally fixed a tricky problem. We hope you keep sharing with us—we read every letter and e-mail!*

Color cues from the past

I loved the article “Brush with History” [September 2017]. I’m a big fan of period architecture, plus I realized that the warm tones in the Craftsman color scheme would be perfect for my den. Thank you for the inspiration.

—ANNE SORRELLS, ACWORTH, GA

Numbers game

I laughed out loud when I read the reader question about tape measures [Ask This Old House, September 2017]. I’m left-handed and have to use almost every tool upside down or backwards. I never gave tape measures a second thought because the numbers are right side up for me!

—BETTYE CAMPBELL, PARKVILLE, MD

On its way to a happy ending

I wanted to follow up with a thank you and an update on the Wolcott House in Wolcottville, Indiana [Save This Old House, June 2017]. You will be happy to learn that thanks to that feature, we sold the house. The buyers have started renovating and are making future plans. It will take some time before there is an “after,” but thank you for your help—you can mark this one off as “saved.”

—TODD ZEIGER, INDIANA LANDMARKS, SOUTH BEND, IN

How to reach us

E-mail the editors:
TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com

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

READER PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Pallet barn door

—DEREK CONRAD, GOESSEL, KS

I really wanted a barn door, but prefab ones looked too bland to me. I found the sliding barn door how-to on your website after I signed up as a TOH Insider. I mostly used pine and cedar, but got a few cast-off pallets from my local lumberyard, too. I underestimated how rough pallets can be, but they have a great rustic look.



THE PROJECT IS DONE.

Now lose the *paper trail*.

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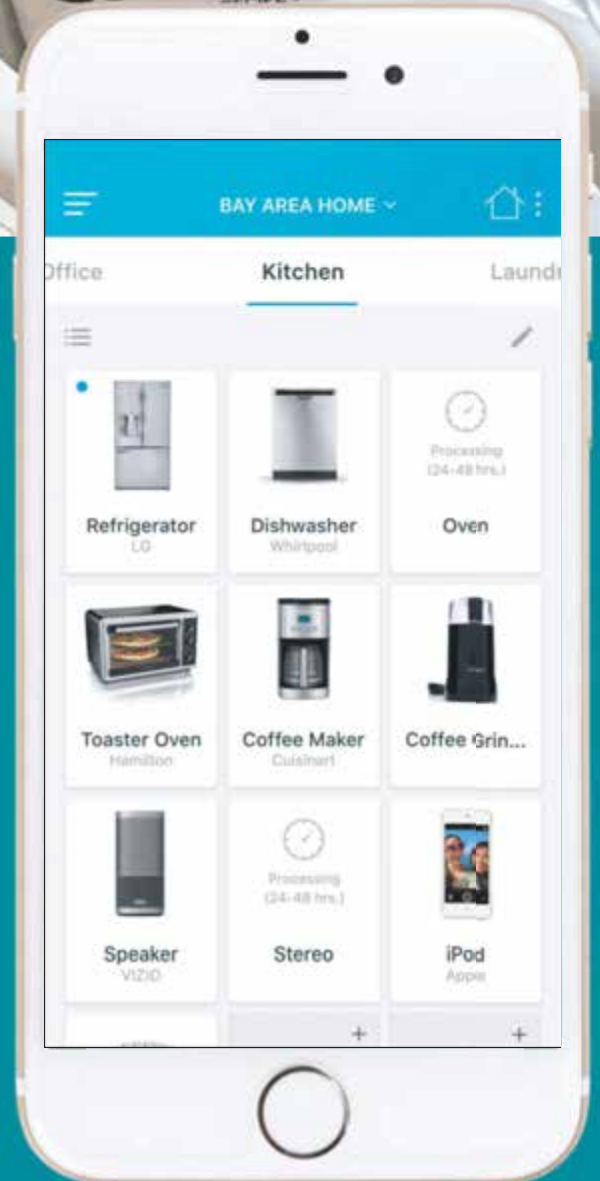


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home solutions

Edited by Mary Kate Hogan

INSIDE

DRAFT FIXES

OVEN CLEANING

HOME SAFETY

BETTER LEDS

MORE

Stylish log rack

Stay-warm-by-the-fire season just feels cozier when you have plenty of wood on hand. A built-in firewood niche can do double duty as a storage solution and a design element. One with an opening 4 feet wide, 2 feet high, and at least 18 inches deep is ideal, enough to hold a quarter of a face cord (a 4-foot-high, 8-foot-wide pile). It will give standard 16-inch logs room for air to circulate, preventing mold. Choose well-seasoned or kiln-dried hardwood for insect-free logs that will burn efficiently. Since logs stored outside can get damp, line your niche with a moisture-proof material like copper, which adds a layer of protection—and a warm glow of its own.



PHOTO: THOMAS KUOH. DESIGN: WWW.NICHEINTERIORS.COM

Mind the window gaps

Winter's coming. If you can feel a breeze around your closed windows, consider these quick-and-easy ways to block drafts. Such stopgap measures eliminate air leaks by sealing sash perimeters from indoors. Come spring, add or replace weatherstripping for a longer-lasting fix.



ROPE CAULK

This clay-like ribbon comes in gray or brown. Peel off as many of the 1/8-inch strips as you need to fill a gap, and press them in place. They leave no residue, but aren't reusable. The unused portion has a four- to five-year shelf life. Mortite Weatherstrip and Caulking Cord, about \$6 for a 90-foot roll; frostking.com

FOAM BACKER RODS

These closed-cell polyethylene rods come in a range of diameters, starting at 3/8 inch. They aren't sticky—you press them into place, out of sight—and they're reusable, if not deformed from being jammed too tightly. Poly Foam Caulk Saver, from about \$3.50 for 20 feet; mdbuildingproducts.com

REMOVABLE CAULK

Using a caulk gun, squeeze a bead of this sealant into cracks up to 1/4 inch wide. The clear, rubbery bead stays put until you pull it off in the spring and toss it. One tube covers up to 56 feet. Seal 'N Peel Removable Weatherstrip Sealant, about \$5.50 for a 10.1-ounce tube; dap.com —THOMAS BAKER



Is your oven holiday-ready?

If you're prepping for host duty and notice baked-on spills in your oven, you may be tempted to set the self-cleaning cycle and walk away. Think twice if your appliance is past its prime, say the pros. The high-heat setting can trigger a service call on an older oven near the end of its life span (13 years, on average). So don't wait until the day—or week—before a holiday cook-a-thon to clean it. What to do instead? Try Easy-Off Fume Free Oven Cleaner followed by a thorough wipe-down with a diluted white vinegar solution, suggests one appliance expert. Be aware that your owner's manual may warn against spray cleaners for liability reasons, because some people overuse them and some products produce toxic fumes. Applying a paste of baking soda followed by a final swipe of diluted white vinegar can work, too, but expect to use a lot more muscle. —M.K.H.

Detector check

Don't know the last time you tested your smoke and CO alarms? They're overdue for your attention.

SMOKE ALARMS On the first day of each month, press the test buttons to ensure they're working properly. Alarms need replacing every 10 years—the date is printed on the back. Opt for new ones with 10-year batteries, and you never have to change them; otherwise you need new batteries every year. Install detectors on every level of your house, including in the basement, in every bedroom, and in outside sleeping areas.

CO ALARMS These sense the odorless but deadly gas created when gas or wood burns without enough oxygen. Place detectors everywhere you have a smoke alarm. And take these precautions: Don't warm up cars in the garage (even with the garage door open), and be sure the vents for gas-powered dryers and ovens don't become blocked by snow. —M.K.H.



A NEW
YEAR
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NEW
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An old-timey look for LEDs

Fixtures that show off Edison-style bulbs are everywhere these days. Now you don't need to sacrifice energy efficiency for style, thanks to a new crop of fancy "filament" LED bulbs with diodes configured in arcs, spirals, and other decorative designs. The bulbs' lower price and softer glow means no more excuses—it's time to ditch those old incandescents.



1 > Switcheroo Give packaging a close read. "Replacement bulb" refers to wattage only. Many LEDs can't be used in enclosed fixtures—this one can. *Philips 60W Equivalent Vintage Soft White A19 Dimmable LED Light Bulb*, \$8.82; homedepot.com

2 > Getting warmer It's counterintuitive, but bulbs with lower temperatures give off warmer light. An amber tint like this bulb's also helps create a softer glow. *IKEA Lunnom LED Bulb E26 400 Lumen*, \$13; ikea.com

3 > Easy fit Bulbs come in many shapes, and most—including the ones here—fit a medium base. But there are filament-style candelabra-

base bulbs, too. *Feit Electric 6.5-Watt Soft White (2150K) G25 Dimmable LED Clear Vintage Style Light Bulb*, \$12; homedepot.com

4 > Watts up We tend to equate wattage with brightness, but the numbers refer to energy usage. On par with a 40W incandescent, this LED uses just 2.5W. *Kichler 40W Equivalent Dimmable Amber T9 Bulb*, \$9.98; lowes.com

5 > Staying power Edison's early bulbs burned for 1,200 hours. LEDs can easily last 10 times as long; this one is expected to glow for at least 15,000 hours. *Ferrowatt LED 1W Vintage Edison Medium Base Bulb*, \$22; shadesoflight.com —KATE WOOD



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DIY fire starters

Here's an easy way to light a fire using what Mother Nature leaves on the ground. Tie a length of twine or candle wick (available at crafts stores) to the base of a dry pinecone, wind it between the scales, then snip it off at the top to create a wick. A basketful makes a nice seasonal display on your hearth or mantel. —K.W.

Keep gutters uncluttered

Scaling a ladder to dislodge clumps of dirty, decaying leaves isn't anyone's favorite chore. Cross this nasty task off your autumn to-do list for good with gutter guards that keep out leafy debris—while you stay safely on the ground.



FOAM FILLERS

These inserts nestle invisibly inside gutters; moisture flows through the porous foam, but solids can't collect. Look for fillers with a UV-resistant coating and a multiyear warranty. Shown: Filter Flow XT Gutter Filter, from \$16 for 4 feet; guttersupply.com



MICRO MESH

Stainless-steel mesh filters out small particles like loose shingle grit; supportive edging screws on neatly to prevent sagging while staying discreetly out of sight. Shown: Gutter Guard by Gutterglove, \$7.97 per 3' x 5" piece; homedepot.com



CURVED MESH

Rainy climates call for gutter guards that can stand up to a downpour. S-shaped ridges disrupt water tension to handle heavy rain and runoff; EPA-approved zinc strips deter moss and algae. Shown: Valor Moss Away, from \$16 per foot installed; valorgutterguards.com

—K.W.



Beats a smelly sponge

Even with regular microwaving, sponges get funky fast while harboring germs and food debris in their grooves and plastic scrubbie sides. No wonder neatniks avoid using sponges for dishwashing and toss them almost as regularly as paper towels. Our grandmothers didn't need them, and neither do we. Augment your elbow grease with easy-care cleaner-uppers like the ones at right.

A. STAY CLEAN SCRUBBER This cheerful scrubbie has thousands of heat-resistant, debris-shedding silicone bristles—too soft for crusty pots, but great on dried egg, nonstick coatings, and sticky clots of dough. It's dishwasher-safe, too. \$8 each; kuhnrikonshop.com

B. CM SCRUBBER Loops of stainless steel remove gunk on cast iron, stainless steel, enameled iron, and some aluminum; food bits rinse right out. \$20; cmscrubber.com

C. FLOUR SACKING Keep a clean stack of thin cotton-muslin towels on hand to mop up spills and buff countertops; hang to dry. Eco-friendlier than microfiber, they go right in the washer and dryer. From \$1 each at hardware, cookware, and big-box stores. —DEBORAH BALDWIN



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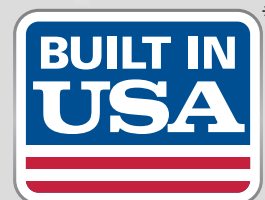
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Heather Jones | Assembly / Blowers

Over the years, we've seen extraordinary growth – expanding from 50 employees assembling one chain saw to 2,100 employees producing over 275 models of handheld outdoor power equipment. By combining proven German engineering with advanced American manufacturing, our facility in Virginia Beach currently produces and exports products to over 90 countries. And while many of our competitors choose to move manufacturing overseas, we remain committed to creating more jobs in America.



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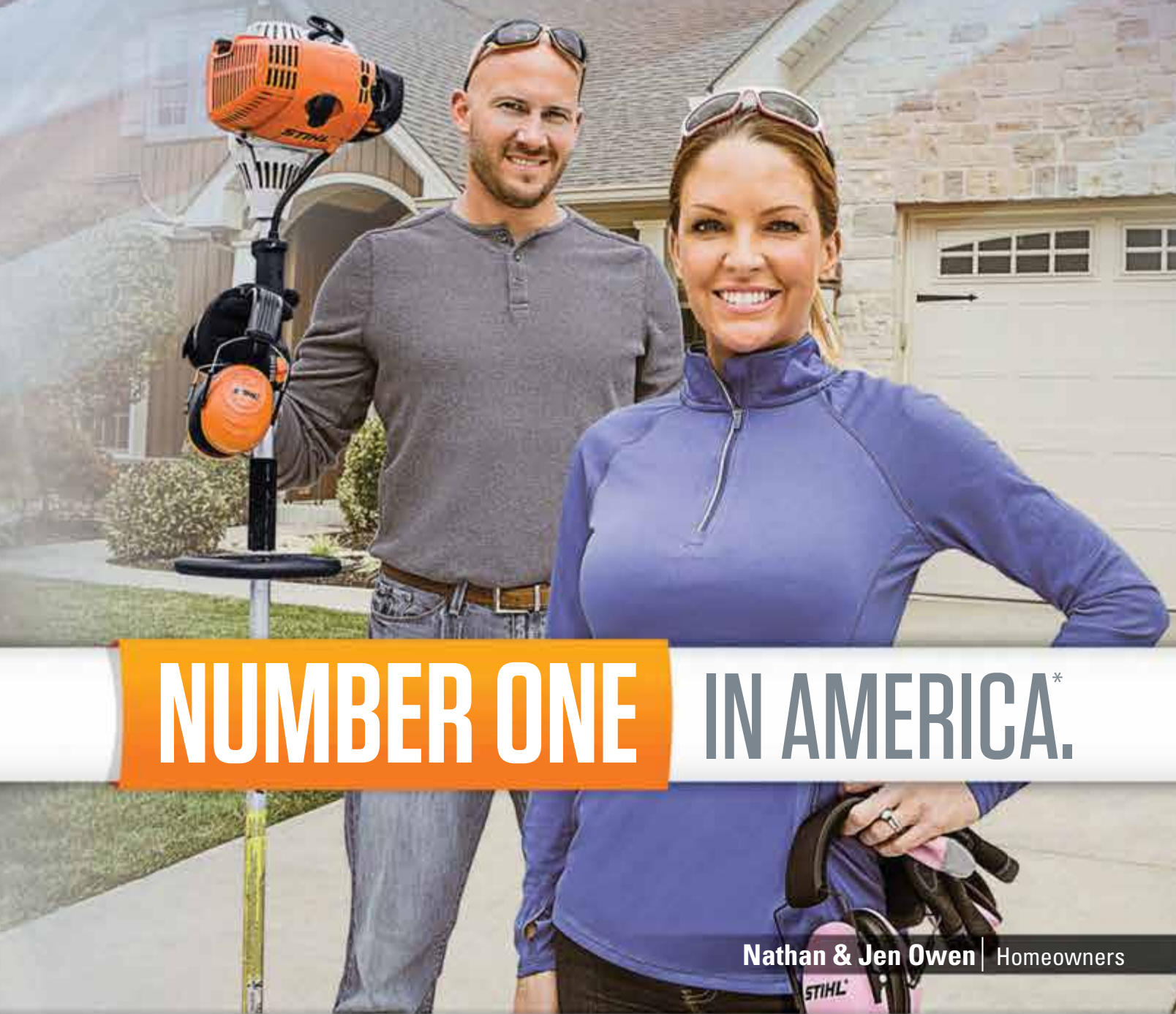
Jeremy Hart | 3rd Generation Logger

Our commitment to quality manufacturing and superior service has done more than help us sell equipment – it has helped us earn a reputation among America's hardest workers. From those who maintain the integrity of our forests and the beauty of our landscapes, people choose STIHL when it matters most. Because at the end of the day, there's no substitute for reliability.

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Nathan & Jen Owen | Homeowners

Our loyal customers have made us the number one selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment in America*. In today's marketplace, we know people have many choices, so to be chosen more often gives us an enormous sense of pride. We respect all those who care for nature, and we sincerely thank all the nation's homeowners, landscapers, loggers, and contractors who proudly use STIHL equipment.

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*"Number one selling brand" is based on syndicated Irwin Broh Research as well as independent consumer research of 2009-2016 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category combined sales to consumers and commercial landscapers. ©2017 STIHL

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A close-up photograph of a STIHL chainsaw bar. The word "STIHL" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font on the side of the bar. To the right of the word is a registered trademark symbol (®). Further to the right, the word "Made" is partially visible, followed by a small square logo. The bar is positioned diagonally across the frame, and the background shows a rough, textured surface, possibly a log or a piece of wood.

The STIHL brand reflects a culture that transcends generations. People who use STIHL share our company's beliefs – a belief in unwavering quality, a belief in the value of technical service, and a belief that the equipment should be as dependable as the people who use it. STIHL Strong is more than a motto; it's a way of life. After all, staying strong by setting ourselves apart and refusing to compromise has always been the STIHL way.

Thank you America for making STIHL Strong!



*A majority of STIHL gasoline-powered units are built in the United States from domestic and foreign parts and components.

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STIHL®

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STIHL®

Going for flow

Three cramped, poorly configured rooms become one seamless space for prepping and enjoying meals, as well as tackling the laundry BY NINA MALKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DYER



➔ **WHEN IT COMES TO** the number of rooms in a house, more isn't always merrier. Take Barbara Kridl's 1926 Craftsman-style bungalow in Oakland, CA, where a warren of three small rooms—for cooking, breakfasting, and doing laundry—impeded flow to the backyard and home office. Plus, the kitchen itself was badly laid out. “The countertop, sink, and stove were on one side, while the drawers and cabinets were on the other,” Barbara says. Not to mention that the space had its last cosmetic upgrade when she bought the house 32 years ago.

Designer Cillesa Ullman's solution was to gut all three rooms, gaining an open footprint of 280 square feet. A center island holds the

cooktop for meal prep opposite a breakfast bar with stool seating, with the sink, fridge, and wall oven just steps away. For laundry duty, slim stacked washer and dryer units take the place of side-by-side machines and are set behind nifty retractable doors that open up the work zone. A banquette offers space-saving seating for the table and basks in light from two windows. Sleek appliances, including a glass-and-steel vent hood, are softened with pale-gray cabinetry, apricot walls, and a tile backsplash of soothing blues.

“For the first Thanksgiving in this kitchen, ten people were maneuvering around comfortably to prepare the meal,” Barbara says. “It was wonderful!”



BEFORE

BEFORE Peeling paint and wallpaper, plus curling vinyl flooring, made the cramped cook space look shabby.

AFTER Updated and warm, with a practical open work zone, the kitchen features a center island topped with azurite granite and white oak flooring that matches the floors in the rest of the house.



Blue, a Siamese-tabby mix, accesses her litter box in private, thanks to a cutout cat cave. The cabinets have traditional out-swinging doors so the litter box and other pet supplies are within easy reach.

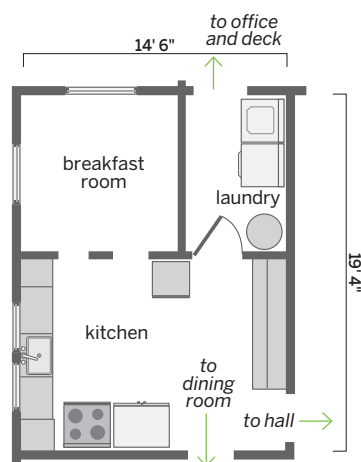
A slimmed-down vertical washer-dryer combo, the ideal size for a single person, saves space. Doors swing open and slide back to keep the work area unencumbered.

Washer and dryer: Bosch



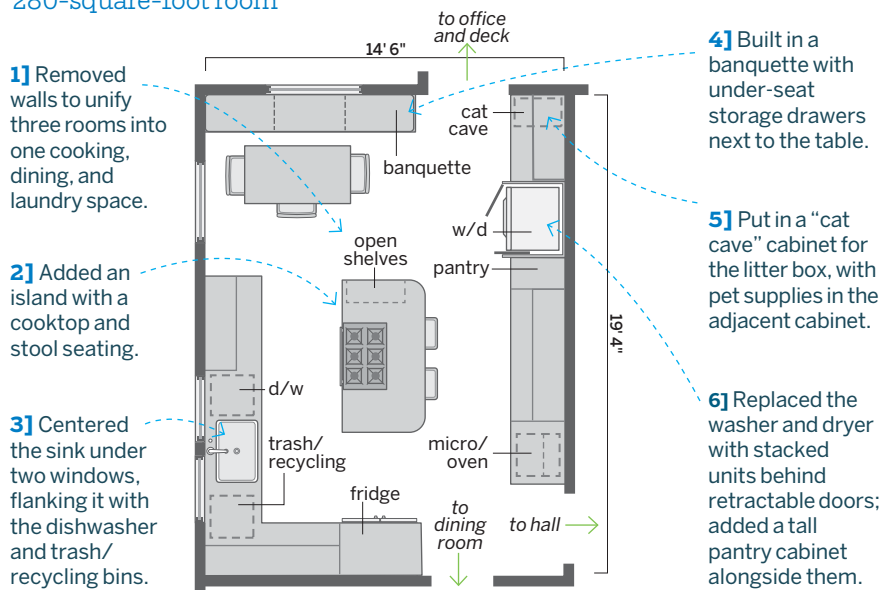
before

Three separate rooms impeded traffic flow, and old appliances wasted space



after

Work flows around a multipurpose island in the middle of the now open and airy 280-square-foot room





homeowner tip

BARBARA KRIDL,
OAKLAND, CA

“Make accidents happy! The opening for my wall oven was inadvertently cut too large, so the cabinet-maker built a drawer under it that’s perfect for my extra oven rack.”



Undercabinet lighting illuminates a black granite countertop and makes the blue-glazed-tile backsplash glisten. *Tile: Sonoma Tilemakers*



Lavished with light from two windows, the corner eating area seats six—eight in a pinch. The table, built by the homeowner’s woodworker brother, can be moved to squeeze in extra guests and access storage beneath the built-in bench.

Large, flat items like trays and linens are stored in the base of the banquette. The bench cushion is covered in no-nap microfiber ultrasuede. “It’s claw-proof!” says Barbara.



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*American
Standard*

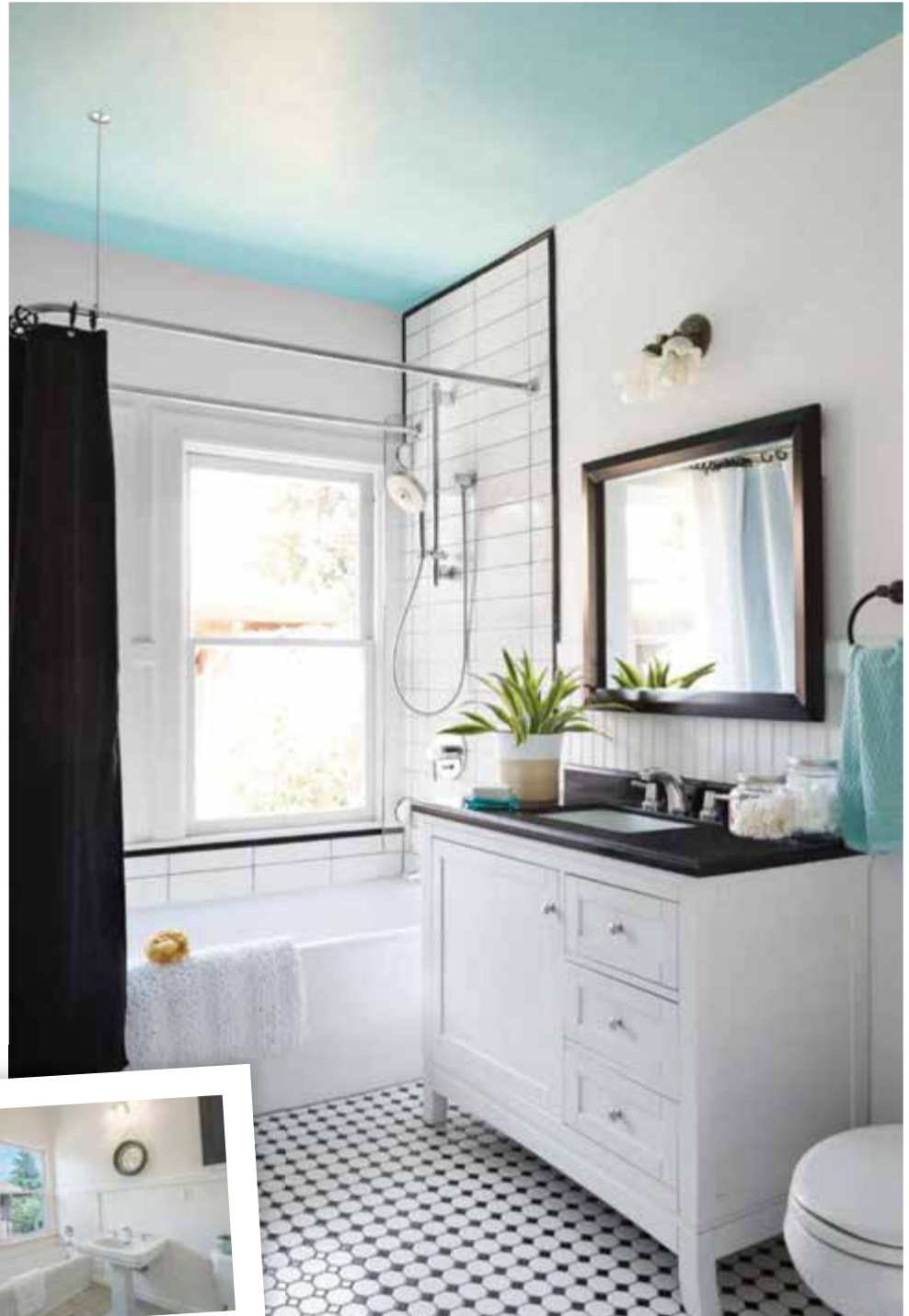
BORN IN PORCELAIN VALLEY

*Than standard bowls. Source: Test Report No. 109-141486-002, comparing VorMax® against conventional under-the-rim-dispersal toilets from major retailers. LYSOL® is used under license to American Standard. © 2017. All rights reserved.

Room to grow

An architect lets his house's period style influence design choices for the kids' bath, with a surprise twist overhead BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTORIA PEARSON

➔ **A KIDS' BATH** should feel fun, but youthful design choices should be undoable on a dime. Before Adam and Jill Sharkey purchased their 1905 Craftsman home in Santa Barbara, CA, the family of four had been sharing a single bathroom. "I foresaw some serious tension if we didn't give the kids their own space," says Adam, an architect. He wanted the new house's second bath to be one the kids could grow into without it looking too childish later on. He also needed to add a shower to the tub, without risking water damage to the windows alongside it. The custom double shower-rod system Adam designed lets the curtain and liners pull around three sides of the tub when the shower is in use; they pull to the side of the windows at the end of the tub when it's not. A vanity adds storage and fits into the overall palette of classic black and white—except for the ceiling, which received a pop of bright turquoise. Now, Adam says, mornings are easier on everyone, and the kids love how the space is tailored for them. "It looks traditional until you walk in and look up," he says. "It's got hidden pizzazz."



BEFORE

BEFORE The bland white bath lacked a shower and storage.

AFTER Now it has a new shower over the tub, a vanity in place of a pedestal sink, smart black-and-white finishes, and a fun hit of color on the ceiling.



The homeowners installed double towel bars at two heights, so the children can reach the lower set now and grow into the higher set. A hamper that plays off the beadboard walls helps the kids keep things tidy on their own. The wood medicine cabinet above it was already in place. *Towel bars: Marmolux*



homeowner tip

ADAM SHARKEY, SANTA BARBARA, CA

“Rather than risk a woefully outdated space later on, use temporary tricks like paint colors or your kids’ artwork to make a space youthful yet easy to change as they get older.”



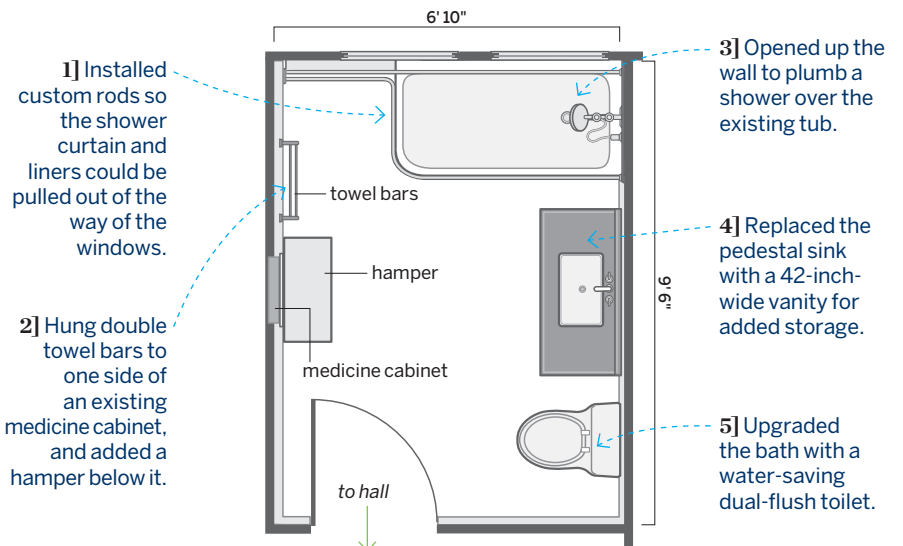
A custom rod system allows the shower curtain and liners to be pulled to one side of the windows to avoid obstructing natural light. When the shower is in use, a liner protects windows from moisture. The ceiling paint was color-matched to towels the homeowners had on hand. *Custom rod system: J. Sharone’s*

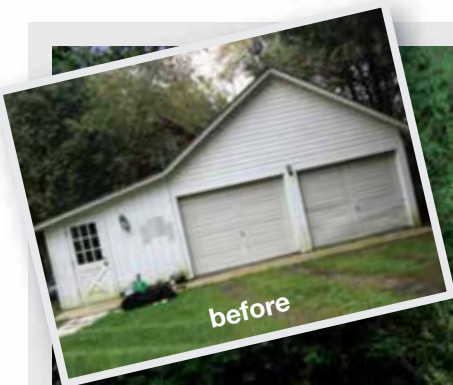


Tucking a curtain liner behind a custom glass fin protects the wood windows from water damage. Narrow 4-by-12-inch tiles look even more modern installed in a stacked bond pattern. *Shower fittings: Grohe. Tile: Tileco*

after

The bath gained vanity storage and a shower, thanks to a window-saving curtain-rod system, without changing the room’s footprint or layout





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America's Favorite Garage Doors®

From disastrous to delightful

A once-charming 1920s house, now saddled with an out-of-balance facade, gets a makeover inspired by its setting

BY KATE WOOD • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.

A small shed dormer, centered above the trio of windows on the right, softens the roof's steep pitch.



BEFORE

→ “WE LOVE the location, the interior, and the yard, but the exterior is really an eyesore,” says Mila Vaskov of the 1920s home in Quincy, MA, that she shares with her husband, Nat Wales, and their two children. So we turned to Hickox Williams Architects for advice on how to improve it. Their team would start by adding eave extensions on the left that match the original roof’s steep gable, giving the boxy second-story addition the look of an oversize shed dormer. A front porch with a smaller roof gable and an arched ceiling opens up the entry and allows for a window above it, creating balance. Colonial- and Federal-inspired architectural details, including cornice trim and window pediments, give the house a sense of place. “I love the idea of a distinctly New England vibe,” Mila says, “and the new porch and entry are beautiful!”

WANT TO SEE YOUR HOME HERE?
To be considered, submit photos to redo@thisoldhouse.com



finishing touches

A creative mix of Colonial and more contemporary finishes completes the new look



paint

Bright-white trim with steel-blue siding looks sharp; the door pops in red. Moonlit Snow (trim), Freedom Found (siding), Apple-A-Day (door), from \$21 per gallon; olympic.com



entry light

A factory-inspired hanging fixture draws the eye up to the entry porch’s wood ceiling. Brisbane Industrial Cord Hung Pendant, from \$169; barnlightelectric.com



house numbers

Generously sized numbers add a bold design element for not a lot of money. Dark Aged Copper Floating House Numbers, from \$5.64 per digit; homedepot.com



window trim

Weather-resistant PVC trim highlights the window openings. Southern Colonial Window Trim, from \$100 per window uninstalled; royalbuildingproducts.com

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BATTERY SYSTEM™



The STIHL Lightning Battery System™ is designed to get more out of every charge. Our AI, AK and AP series include over 20 pieces of equipment and give you multiple battery solutions. Whether you're an experienced professional or a demanding homeowner, you'll get just what you need – the power of STIHL in a battery.

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THE LAB



TO
THE LAWN

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Integrated batteries make this series perfect for smaller yards and condominiums.

| INTEGRATED BATTERY |



HEDGE TRIMMER



BLOWER



TRIMMER

AK SERIES

With multiple battery options, this series is ideal for maintaining suburban yards.

| BATTERIES | AK 10 | AK 20 |



HEDGE TRIMMER



BLOWER



CHAIN SAW



TRIMMER

AP SERIES

More power and longer run times make this series great for a wide range of properties.

| BATTERIES | AP 100 | AP 300 | AR BACKPACKS |



HEDGE TRIMMERS



BLOWERS



CHAIN SAWS



TRIMMERS



EXTENDED
HEDGE TRIMMERS



POLE PRUNERS

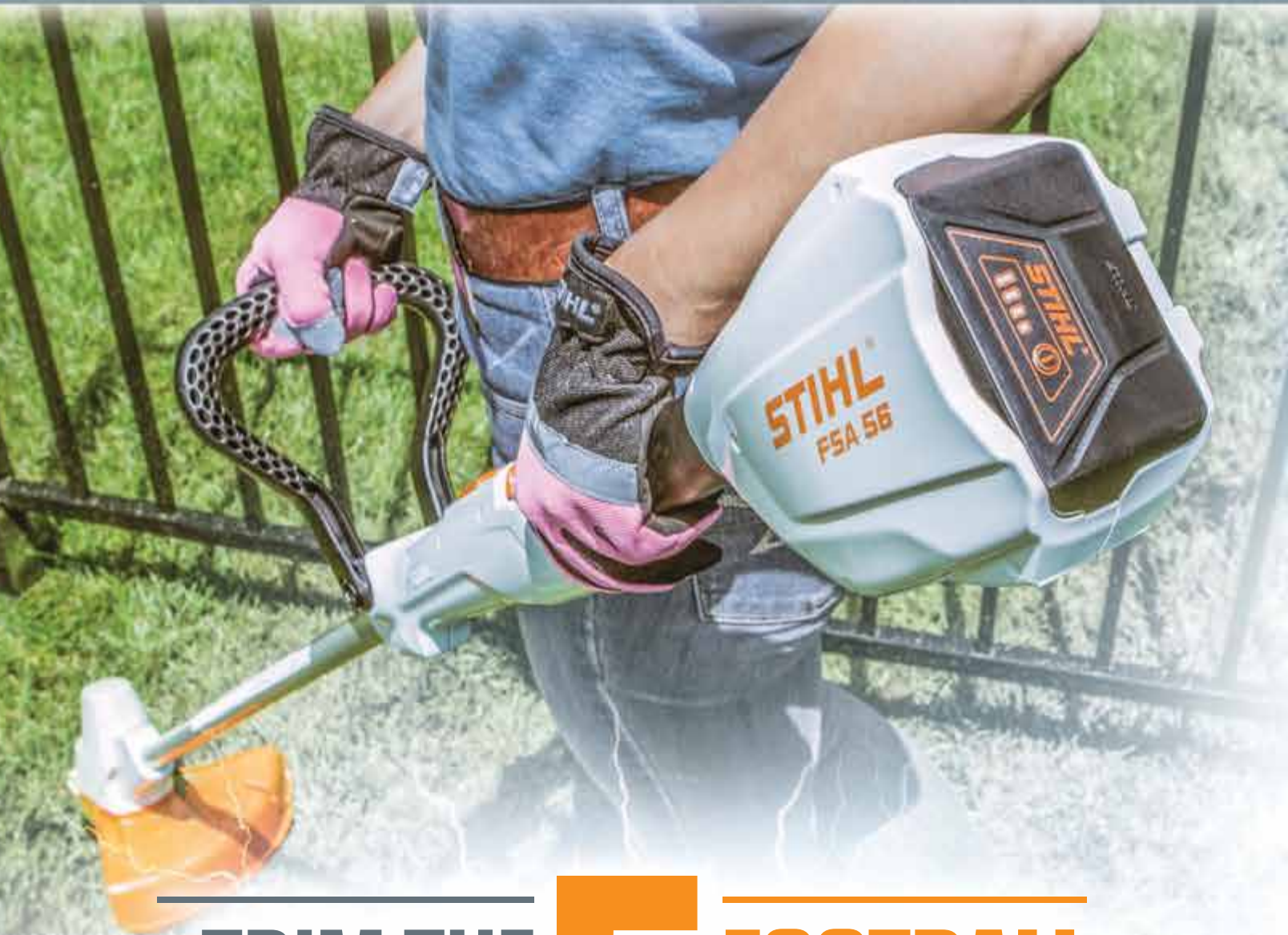


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FIELDS*

• ON A SINGLE CHARGE •

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Whether you're a homeowner or a professional, you'll appreciate the power and convenience of STIHL Lightning Battery System™ trimmers. They're great for the environment, producing zero exhaust emissions and great for your wallet, requiring nearly zero engine maintenance. STIHL Battery-Powered Trimmers are lightweight, start instantly and run quietly – ideal for noise-sensitive areas.

AI
SERIES

FSA 45



AK
SERIES

FSA 56



AP
SERIES

FSA 65



AP
SERIES

FSA 85



AP
SERIES

FSA 90 R



INTEGRATED



AK 10 | AK 20



AP 100 | AP 300



AR 900 | AR 3000



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STIHL batteries are based on STIHL Lithium-Ion technology, hitting the sweet spot of performance and weight. They're also custom engineered by STIHL to include a host of advanced features.

They're designed to last – even after 500 charges, the battery retains over 80% capacity. Our batteries include specialized voltage monitors and temperature sensors to help ensure optimal operation and a long service life.

QUICK CHARGE GUIDE

		CHARGERS				
BATTERIES		AI	AL 100	AL 101	AL 300	AL 500
	AI	210-300				
	AK10		80	80	30	30
	AK 20		150	150	45	45
	AP 100		90	90	50	35
	AP 300		250	250	75	35
	AR 900				250	130
	AR 3000				300	160

MINUTES TO FULL CHARGE

AL 101



CHARGER



AL 100 | AL 300 | AL 500



CHARGER



WHAT CAN **YOU** DO ON A SINGLE CHARGE?

CHAIN SAWS



MSA 120 C-BQ
MSA 160 C-BQ



Make around 100 cuts through a 4" log.

RESULTS USING **AK 20**



Make around 200 cuts through a 4" log.

RESULTS USING **AP 300***

** AP 300 is an upgrade on some models*

TRIMMERS



FSA 45
FSA 56
FSA 65



Trim 1,312 linear feet.

Based on trimming 10.5" swath of grass

RESULTS USING **AK 10**



Trim 1,640 linear feet.

Based on trimming 10.5" swath of grass

RESULTS USING **AP 300***



Trim 2,559 linear feet.

Based on trimming 10.5" swath of grass

** AP 300 is an upgrade on some models*

BLOWERS



BGA 45
BGA 56
BGA 85



Blow 2,153 square feet.

RESULTS USING **AK 20**



Blow 6,458 square feet.

RESULTS USING **AP 300***



Blow 10,333 square feet.

** AP 300 is an upgrade on some models*

HEDGE TRIMMERS



HSA 45
HSA 56
HSA 66



Trim 262 feet.

Based on trimming 18" wide hedge top

RESULTS USING **AK 10**



Trim 918 feet.

Based on trimming 18" wide hedge top

RESULTS USING **AP 300***



Trim 1,673 feet.

Based on trimming 18" wide hedge top

** AP 300 is an upgrade on some models*

*Run time may vary based on battery type, charge level and capacity, model, operating style and conditions.

The STIHL logo is positioned at the top center of the page, above the text 'Download the STIHL App to'. It consists of the word 'STIHL' in a stylized, orange, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white square with rounded corners. The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of a concrete sidewalk and a patch of green grass with some dry leaves.

Download the STIHL App to

TRIM LIKE LIGHTNING

1

DOWNLOAD APP

2

SCAN THIS PAGE

3

WATCH THIS PAGE **COME TO LIFE**

Count petals, not sheep

Blossoms strewn across a wall, bed, and lamp, as if blown there by the wind?

Sweet dreams... BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY GEMMA COMAS

➔ **IT'S NOT HARD** to imagine how ordinary this space might seem without tumbling petals and stems. Or how flat it might look if their path had stopped short of the headboard, never mind somewhere other than the lampshade.

The scheme begins with a serene base coat (like Benjamin Moore's Fort Pierce Green). Things get interesting with a burst of blossoms in three sizes colored a midnight blue (like Benjamin Moore's Indi Go-Go). Notice that under that blue is the same impression in a lighter shade to add dimension; letting the blossoms fall at a boundary-defying diagonal makes the whole tableau come alive.

The easiest way to do this is with oversize stamps. Ready-made ones this size are rare, but you can make your own: Find and trace three images and press the outlines on craft foam before carving them out and gluing them to a block. Use a sponge dabber to apply latex paint to the stamps, starting with the lighter color and cleaning the sponge between colors. After practicing on paper, move to the wall, then the headboard and lamp—add textile medium (available at crafts stores) to turn latex into fabric paint—spacing and varying the angles of the blossoms, as shown. Overlaying a dark blue on pale blue or white not only adds depth but also helps fill in any gaps. Use a small artist's brush to add centers to some of the blossoms or to sharpen any blurred outlines. Not that the effect is supposed to be exact—think more along the lines of dreamy. ■



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PHOTO: CARL TREMBLAY

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Wall-mount pot fillers

Save time (and your back) with a foldable faucet that nixes trips from sink to cooktop and fills your largest pots with aplomb

BY KATE WOOD • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BURCU AVSAR AND ZACH DESART

➔ **UPDATING YOUR KITCHEN**, or even just replacing your backsplash? Now's a good time to consider adding a pot filler. These handy faucets need their own water supply, so if you're already tearing into your walls, it's a perfect opportunity to install one.

Filler faucets save the labor of carrying pots of water from sink to burner, no small task if you need to boil enough H₂O for a lobster feast or supply the pasta for a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser. But a pot filler eases everyday tasks, too. A gallon of water weighs more than 8 pounds; all those stockpots of bone broth and bean soup add up to a surprising amount of lifting. Today, even lower-priced models are made with a brass body and ceramic valves—including the ones shown here and on the following pages—so this cook's luxury doesn't have to be a major splurge.

Here, 10 fabulous fillers.



1 > new twist

KOHLER

Size: 12³/₈"H × 27⁷/₁₆"L

Highlights: This polished-nickel filler's spout can rotate 360°, providing extra clearance in a pinch.

Cost: \$770; kohler.com

2 > dark star

PIONEER INDUSTRIES

Size: 9⁵/₁₆"H × 24¹/₁₆"L

Highlights: Hints of copper peeking through this faucet's dark-bronze finish show off its shape.

Cost: \$396; pioneerind.com



3 > off the hook

FRANKE

Size: 9"H x 29½"L

Highlights: This filler's oil-rubbed bronze finish and shepherd's crook spout, reminiscent of a Victorian-era faucet, give it vintage appeal.

Cost: \$895; franke.com

4 > champagne taste

DELTA

Size: 10¼"H x 26⅝"L

Highlights: This bubbly hue is a fresh take on the warm-metal trend; the finish is made to resist scratches and stains, too.

Cost: \$614; deltafaucet.com

5 > high speed

MOEN

Size: 8¾"H x 27⅞"L

Highlights: Able to fill at a rate of up to 5½ gallons per minute, or more than twice as fast as most sink faucets, which top out at 2.2 gallons per minute.

Cost: \$728; moen.com

6 > in the black

DANZE

Size: 8⅞"H x 24¼"L

Highlights: While the shapes of the joints and handles look quite traditional, this pot filler's black-satin finish gives it a modern feel.

Cost: \$620; danze.com



7 > gold mettle

WATERWORKS

Size: 8"H x 22¾"L

Highlights: Details like the curved spout and porcelain-topped cross-handle distinguish this French-country-inspired faucet.

Cost: \$1,802; waterworks.com

8 > brush up

KINGSTON BRASS

Size: 10¾"H x 24⅞"L

Highlights: This especially substantial piece sports a vintage-style brushed-brass finish that won't show smudges.

Cost: \$495; kingstonbrass.com

9 > shine on

BRIZO

Size: 8¾"H x 22⅞"L

Highlights: With a peak flow of over 4 gallons per minute, this polished-nickel style can make short work of large vessels.

Cost: \$860; brizo.com

10 > penny wise

SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Size: 9¾"H x 28"L

Highlights: Artfully compact when curled up against the wall, this copper-colored filler still boasts a long reach.

Cost: \$320; signaturehardware.com 🏠

Updated vanity nook for \$75

A thrifty homeowner turns to materials she has on hand to overhaul an awkward space **BY KATELIN HILL**



BEFORE

BEFORE The sink area had gotten a cheery paint job but still didn't reflect the aesthetic of the home.

AFTER The sophisticated mini-makeover was a low-cost update that is giving the homeowners time to plan a bigger bath renovation.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted the walls and trim white and the cabinets dark gray, using leftover paint from other rooms in the house..... **\$0**

Made a DIY light fixture by assembling parts ordered from a lighting-supply store..... **\$41**

Upgraded the baseboards to measure 5 inches high with scrap left over from other rooms.... **\$0**

Replaced the existing vanity hardware with brass-finish hinges and pulls.... **\$29**

Purchased a new hand towel, and accessorized using other pieces already on hand..... **\$5**

TOTAL \$75

➔ **IT'S EASY TO MAKE** awkward spaces blend in with the rest of your house when you stick to using materials from your previous home-improvement projects. That's exactly what Ashley Mayes did to make the vanity area of her master bath, which is visible from the bedroom, more cohesive with the rest of the Springfield, MO, home she shares with her husband and son. After beefing up the minimal baseboards, Ashley painted the walls the same bright white as the bedroom and the vanity a dark slate gray, which she had left over from painting her kitchen cabinets. She installed brass hinges and pulls, playing off the

brass accents she used elsewhere in the house. Then Ashley designed a modern exposed-bulb sconce to echo her dining room chandelier, using know-how she'd picked up doing similar projects. She bought individual pieces—black sockets, brass tubing, and a black baseplate—from a lighting-supply store, threaded them together, and added the wiring. In order to stay within her budget of \$100, finishing touches were borrowed from other rooms, with the exception of a new hand towel. Says Ashley, who blogs at biggerthanthethreeofus.com, "Now the bath feels like an extension of the house, instead of an odd duck." 🏠

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IN AMERICA

A decorative flourish consisting of two symmetrical, flowing lines that meet at a central point, with a small star positioned below the center.

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STIHL[®]

Shadow box

Tom Silva and Kevin O'Connor put together a custom case for displaying heirloom collectibles and curios

BY THOMAS BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIEULI



WIN IT!
This box could be yours. Enter the sweepstakes at thisoldhouse.com/gorilla_sweeps

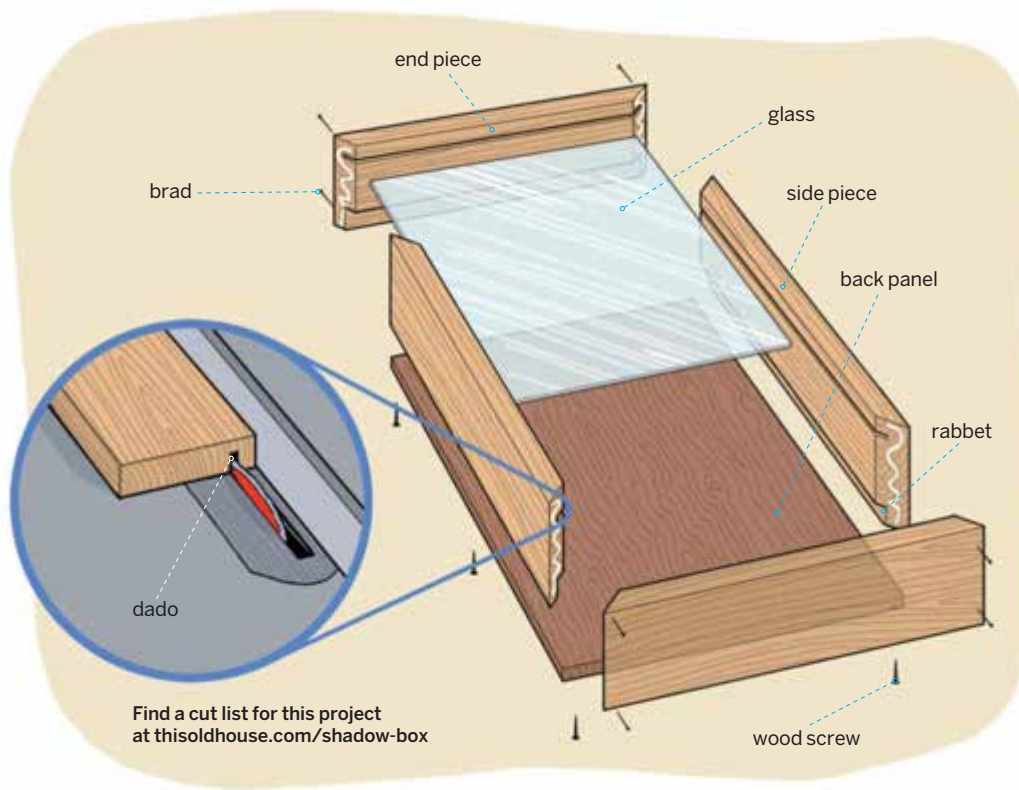
On display
TOH general contractor Tom Silva and TOH host Kevin O'Connor proudly present their latest project, a glass-fronted shadow box. Filled with valued objects, such as those below, it keeps the keepsakes safe and makes them easy to admire.

➔ **PRECIOUS OBJECTS FROM OUR PAST** have an unfortunate habit of ending up squirreled away in the attic or basement, neglected and forgotten. With a glass-fronted shadow box, however, those collectibles can have a worthy display space, safe from dust and dirty, clumsy fingers.

Here's a simple box that Tom and Kevin fashioned, fittingly, from pieces of an old salvaged fir door. Doors like this were often made from beautiful knot-free wood with a tight, straight grain. When oiled it turns a warm honey hue. Yet Tom also made sure to leave behind unmistakable clues about this wood's origins: See the spots where the hinges were attached?

On the following pages, we'll show you how to cut down an old door and assemble this project. Plus, you'll find useful tips for plugging holes and cutting glass. Then, with any luck, you may uncover the right salvaged door at the right price, and after a few hours in your shop, you'll have a vintage shadow box of your own.





TOOLS

- > circular saw with rip fence
- > table saw
- > random-orbit sander
- > knife
- > miter saw
- > spray bottle
- > bar and strap clamps
- > 18-gauge brad nailer
- > drill/driver and screwdriver
- > glass cutter and gloves

MATERIALS

- > salvaged door
- > wood glue and hybrid glue
- > sandpaper, 180 and 220 grit
- > oil-varnish blend finish
- > tack cloth and lint-free cloths
- > 1/8-inch float glass
- > glass-cutting oil
- > 2-inch, 18-gauge brads
- > No. 6 1-inch wood screws

FINISHED SIZE:

14³/₄"W × 20³/₄"L × 3³/₄"D

STEP-BY-STEP

Shadow box



1] Find an old door A clear finish, like this door has, makes it easier to assess wood quality. Lead isn't an issue with clear finishes, but it can be with paint. If the paint tests positive for lead, take appropriate safety precautions and strip the door down to bare wood before proceeding.



2] Cut it up Using a circular saw with a rip fence, or fingers with a steady grip on the saw's shoe, cut off the door's hinge-side stile, as shown. (This stile doesn't have doorknob holes to fill.) Also cut along the other stile and rails to free one of the door's flat panels.



3] Clean off the old finish Check for hidden screws, then square up the sides of the stile with a table saw. Tom then quickly shaved the old finish off the stile's faces with four light cuts, as shown. That saved lots of sanding.

STEP-BY-STEP



4] Rabbet and dado Run the clean board through the table saw two more times to make a ½-inch-by-½-inch rabbet in one corner. The box's bottom panel will fit into this rabbet. On the same face, ¼ inch from the side opposite the rabbet, use the saw to cut a ⅛-inch-wide, ½-inch-deep dado to hold the glass.



5] Sand Using a random-orbit sander and 220-grit sandpaper, smooth all sides of the stile. Save the sawdust for the next step. Then sand the finish off one face of the panel, as shown. Start with 180-grit sandpaper, and finish with 220.



6] Plug the holes Whittle a scrap piece of wood from the stile into a stick narrow enough to fit in the holes left by the hinge screws. Squeeze wood glue into the holes, insert the whittled stick, and slice it off flush with a knife, as shown. Use the sawdust saved in Step 5 to color the glue, as described in the Tip at right.

TIP



Hiding holes

• **Save the sawdust.** To disguise plugged holes in a piece that will get a clear finish, retrieve a scoop of the fine sawdust that you saved in Step 5, and mix it into the wet wood glue with your finger, as shown above. The powdery dust will tint the glue the same color as the wood. After the glue hardens, sand the repair smooth.



7] Apply the finish Wipe the stile and panel clean with a tack cloth; then, using a lint-free cloth, apply a penetrating finish to all sides of the stile and the sanded face of the panel. Here, Kevin rubs on an oil-varnish blend. For this finish, wait 5 to 10 minutes for it to soak in, wipe up the excess, and toss the cloth in water to prevent it from catching fire spontaneously. The pieces will be dry enough to handle in 10 hours.

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STEP-BY-STEP



8] Cut the miters When the finish is dry, use a miter saw to cut 45-degree miters into the ends of all four pieces, to the lengths specified on the cut list. When making these cuts, place each piece against the saw's fence with the dado and rabbet facing out, as shown.



9] Cut the back panel to size Measure the box's length and width from inside the rabbets. Subtract $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from both dimensions, to give the panel room to move when the seasons change. Using a table saw, trim the back to those slightly narrower measurements, as shown.



10] Apply the glue Squeeze glue onto both miters of a short end piece, as shown, and spread it evenly with a cloth. Repeat on the matching miter at one end of each long side piece. A PVA wood glue would work here, but Tom chose instead to use Clear Gorilla Glue, a hybrid, non-polyurethane adhesive.

TIPS



Working with a hybrid glue

• **Wet the wood.** Like a polyurethane glue, this kind of hybrid cures by reacting with moisture. To speed curing, dampen wood with a squirt from a spray bottle, then apply glue.

• **Clamp it.** Secure joints together for at least 2 hours as the glue cures.

• **Clean it.** If any glue squeezes out, wipe it up right away with a dry rag, followed by one dampened with rubbing alcohol. Unlike polyurethane glues, hybrids don't foam up or stain skin.

• **Store it.** Unopened, this glue has a two-year shelf life. Opened, it may skin over, but the glue underneath will be usable.

11] Fasten the miters Fit the glued miters on the end piece against the glued miters of the two side pieces. Make sure the dados and corners line up, then clamp the pieces in place with two 2-inch brads, shot through each side of both corners.



SEE IT BUILT

Watch Tom and Kevin assemble this project at thisoldhouse.com/shadow-box



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STEP-BY-STEP



12] Score the glass Using the box's back panel as a template, mark the glass with a felt-tip marker. To use the panel as a guide for the glass cutter, reposition it so the cutter's wheel is centered on the marks. Now, wearing gloves, dip the wheel into cutting oil and pull the cutter in one firm stroke along the panel, as shown.



13] Snap and fit the glass Line up the score mark on the glass with the edge of a table. With gloves on, lift the glass where it overhangs the table and drop it straight down. The glass will snap at the score, leaving a clean, straight edge. Repeat Steps 12 and 13, if needed, then slide the cut sheet into the three-sided frame, as shown.



14] Attach the last side With the glass in place, glue the remaining end piece to the frame. Hold the piece in place with a strap clamp and a bar clamp, then shoot two brads on each side of both joints, as shown.

TIPS



Cutting glass

• **How it works.** Glass cutters don't actually cut through glass. They score its surface with a tiny diamond-shaped wheel. That weakens the glass enough for it to break cleanly when it's snapped away from the score.



15] Fasten the back panel Turn the box glass side down, then drop in the back panel. Using a $\frac{5}{64}$ -inch bit, drill three evenly spaced pilot holes through the back, angled slightly into the box's frame. Each long side should have three holes; each short side should have two. Drive a wood screw into each pilot hole. Because the glass in this box is fixed in place, you get to the inside by unscrewing the back. ■

• **Lubricate steel wheels.** Glass cutters have either steel or carbide wheels. Steel wheels need to be lubricated with cutting oil before use to ensure that they make a clean, continuous score line. Glass cutters with carbide wheels need no lubrication.



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ask This Old House ▶

Q Can you explain the different types of sandpaper to me? I don't know which kinds to use for which purposes.

—PAM NAGEL, TEMPE, AZ

A Most sandpapers, sanding sponges, and belts use aluminum oxide, the man-made version of the stuff that sapphires and rubies are made of. You can sand most surfaces with this type of grit. But if the abrasive is black, like the sanding sponge at left, then the grit is probably silicon carbide, a synthetic mineral that wears out quickly on bare wood. It's best used to hand-smooth finishes while lubricated with water.

—THE EDITORS

62

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

PHOTOGRAPH BY
BURCU AVSAR

Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host



“Boil-water” alerts, lead in water pipes, PCB contamination: I don’t think the filter on my kitchen-sink faucet could do the job. Do I need a filter system for the entire house? —SUSAN SLACK, PITTSFIELD, MA

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES:

You might be surprised to know that there are faucet-mounted filters that can remove lead, PCBs, nasty bacterial cysts such as giardia or cryptosporidium, and even pesticides and pharmaceuticals. If you just want to upgrade your existing faucet filter—your least expensive filtering option—then look for one certified to meet NSF/ANSI 53 and 401, the most stringent standards for removing heavy metals and trace contaminants from water.

The good thing about these point-of-use filters is that they purify water only for drinking or cooking, not washing clothes and dishes, flushing toilets, or irrigating the lawn. But you do have to be diligent about replacing filters fairly frequently—every 100 gallons or so.

For a less obtrusive filtering setup, consider one that mounts under the sink. The extra space there means these point-of-use filters can be bigger, more specialized, and won’t need changing as frequently. Most deliver water through a dedicated faucet. Look for filters that meet the 53 and 401 standards and that have a 0.75-gallon-per-minute (gpm) delivery rate through their faucets. That’s not the high flow of a standard faucet, but it’s 50 percent faster than 0.50-gpm filters.

If you want water that’s chemically pure, with every possible contaminant removed, an under-sink, reverse-osmosis (RO) filter will do the job. Such purity does have its drawbacks, however: a high up-front cost, expensive replacement filters, wasted water due to back-

Richard Trethewey inspects a top-of-the-line, whole-house filter installed at the TOH TV Detroit project house in 2017. It includes a descaler, two carbon filters, and an ultraviolet light that kills bacteria.

DIY
SMARTS



Kevin O'Connor uses his smartphone to make sure his Nest Cam Outdoor is streaming video and that it's aimed correctly. Outdoor cameras are best placed under overhangs that keep rain or snow from obscuring the lens.

Q Eye on the outside

I'd like to install security cameras outside, but the more research I do, the more confused I get. Can you help?

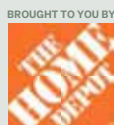
—TONY KENYON, NEW BEDFORD, MA

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: There have been huge improvements in outdoor security cameras in recent years, making them both easier to use and easier to install than the clunky cameras that had to be hooked to a security system and a service contract. The new generation of security cameras simply link to your smartphone, without the need for a monthly contract. But if you want specialized enhancements like continuous recording, optional subscriptions are available for about \$10 a month.

The biggest difference among these new cameras is where they get their power—from batteries or through a plugged-in cord. Battery-powered cameras can be mounted anywhere, but then you have to be diligent about changing or recharging the batteries if you want the camera to remain functional. That's not an issue with a corded camera, like the Nest Cam Outdoor (\$199; nest.com), shown above. You just need a covered GFCI-protected outdoor receptacle within 25 feet of where you want to mount it.

When comparing different outdoor cams, look for useful features such as night vision, high-definition resolution (the Nest Cam has 1080p), motion activation (so it's not constantly recording), and a microphone that allows you to listen and talk to people arriving at your house.

Whichever camera you choose, mount it 7 to 10 feet high, overlooking a place that has high activity, such as the front door, the driveway, or the back door. Come to think of it, you'll probably need more than one camera to get all the coverage you need to feel safe.



OUTDOOR CAMERA

Join Kevin and Tom as they examine the Nest Cam Outdoor at thisoldhouse.com/security-cam

flushing—about 3 to 5 gallons go down the drain for every gallon used—and the extra space taken up by its storage tank. Because RO filters work so slowly, the tank enables a faucet flow of 0.50 gpm. Also, water that comes directly from an RO filter doesn't taste very good, so get a system with a remineralizer that puts calcium, magnesium, and potassium back into the filtered water before you drink it.

But if a point-of-use filter under the kitchen sink doesn't seem to offer enough protection, a whole-house filtering system certainly is an option, provided you have the budget to make it happen.

Before you begin, though, have your water tested. You want to know exactly what kinds of problems your water has so that the system can be customized to handle them. The free annual reports from your municipal water authority—assuming that's the source of your water—give a snapshot of the quality of the water leaving the treatment plant. But the water coming out of your taps may be picking up pollutants on its way from the plant. That's why it's important to gather water samples *in your house*. You can find a state-certified water-testing laboratory by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or going to epa.gov/safewater. Such tests, I'm sorry to say, are not free.

When comparing whole-house systems, look for a flow rate of at least 15 gpm, and find out how often filters need to be replaced and how much that will cost. Regular upkeep is the key to making these systems function the way they're supposed to. If you're not committed to that task, sign up for a service contract.



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Q How to cut through metal lath and plaster

I have a bathroom leak, and a hole needs to be cut for the plumber. If I cut it, it's a \$50 visit. If he cuts it, it's a \$300 visit. The problem is that the plaster walls are as hard as cement and reinforced with metal lath. What's the best way to cut through this armored wall?

—CHRISTOPHER LIMON, BALTIMORE

TOM SILVA REPLIES: Metal lath certainly is more difficult to cut than wood, but with the right tools—a 1-inch carbide-tipped hole saw chucked into a drill and a reciprocating saw fitted with a carbide-tooth blade—you should be able to make your

What is it?

A
Rebar stand

B
Pipe spacer

C
Funnel

D
Lock for extension cords

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 64



own access hole, no problem.

Before you start cutting, make sure you know what size the hole needs to be for the plumber to do the work. You only want to cut this hole once. You also need to know where the studs are, and whether pipes or wires are buried in the stud bay. Stud finders have a hard time seeing through this type of wall, so drill a hole with the hole saw and explore the bay

with a stiff wire and a flashlight.

Once you establish where you can safely cut, take a piece of cement board or drywall and make a square-cornered patch that's the size of the hole you want. Hold it up to the wall where the hole will be, and trace around it with a pencil. This ensures that the patch will match the hole perfectly. Also, draw a pair of marks across the top edge of the patch and onto the

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wall. They'll show you how to orient the patch when you put it in.

Using your hole saw, make a hole just inside each corner of the box you traced on the wall. Now, holding the reciprocating saw as close as you can to the wall, insert the blade into a hole, and pull the trigger. Keep the saw close to the wall as you guide the blade along the line to the next hole; that low cutting angle minimizes vibration, which can crack the surrounding plaster, and reduces the chance of nicking a wire or pipe that might have escaped notice.

After the plumbing is fixed, cut two 1x4 furring strips about 6 inches longer than the height of the hole. Insert one strip into the hole; hold it vertically against the

back side of the plaster, an inch or two from the side of the hole and centered top to bottom. Fasten the strip with two screws driven through the wall, sinking their heads slightly below the surface. Do the same with the other strip.

These strips provide the backing to screw the patch into place. But because the plaster is likely to be thicker than the patch, you'll probably have to shim the strips or the patch to bring its surface flush with the wall.

When the patch is ready to be inserted, align the marks, attach the patch, and apply fiberglass mesh tape to the edges. That's your insurance against future cracking. Then smooth on a coat or two of joint compound.

Q How to tile over tile
I'm going to install 18-by-18-inch ceramic tiles over tiles on my basement floor that were installed in the '50s. The old tiles are secure, but do I need to use a special primer or thinset to set the new ones?

—JIM BELLER, VIA E-MAIL

MARK FERRANTE REPLIES: Have you already determined that there will be enough headroom after the new tile goes in? In some basements, a loss of even ½ inch or so could present a problem.

Mark Ferrante is the owner of Ferrante Tile in Woburn, MA, and has laid tile in dozens of This Old House TV project houses.



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It's good that the old tiles are still securely attached to the basement slab; a solid, stable base is essential for any tiling project. Even so, take a few minutes to give each tile a tap with a rubber mallet, just to make sure that none of them are loose. Mark the ones that make a rattling sound, and if there are only a few of them, chip them out and fill the recess with thinset. But if there are a lot of loose tiles, you should probably remove all of them and start fresh. Also, make note of any long cracks that indicate that the slab has shifted. You'll deal with those later.

Now, if the old tilework is staying in place, roughen its surface with 60-grit sandpaper to ensure a good grip for the new tile. A rented floor

What is it?

C Funnel

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sander can quickly cover large areas. Use a belt sander or random-orbit sander along the edges where the floor sander can't reach. Next, remove any loose or moldy grout, either with an electric oscillating tool fitted with a grout attachment, or by hand, with a carbide-toothed scoring tool. Vacuum up the grit, wash the surface with a no-rinse cleaner like

Spic and Span, and let it dry.

While it's drying, use a long straightedge or level to check the floor for dips and humps. It doesn't have to be level, but it should be flat. Otherwise, you'll have a heck of a time getting the edges of your 18-by-18 tiles to line up. The Tile Council of North America (TCNA) specifies that tiles larger than 15

PHOTO: MEG REINHARDT

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inches on a side require a subfloor that doesn't vary more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch over 10 feet. If your existing floor meets that criterion, and has no cracks, you can start tiling.

If only a few low spots need to be filled, use a cementitious floor patch that can be troweled to a feather edge. But if lots of filling is required, and the floor is fairly level, then mix and pour a cement-based, self-leveling underlayment over the entire floor. As its name implies, this type of underlayment will flow to the lowest level, and the more a floor slopes, the more underlayment you'll need to pour. For those areas where you don't want the underlayment to go, put up dams using 2x4s and construction adhesive. The big payoff for all this

extra effort will be a perfectly flat and level surface, which will make laying your tiles much easier.

Now is the time to deal with cracks, if there are any, in the original floor. The way to do that is with a crack-isolation membrane, such as Bostik's GoldPlus (bostik.com), which stops cracks from propagating through to the new tiles.

Once all the dips and cracks have been addressed, tiling can commence. This is a job for polymer-modified thinset, the kind you mix with water. Ready-mix mastics have no place here. For your large tiles, I recommend that you butter thinset on the back of each one before setting it into the thinset on the floor. That way, there'll be no worries about tiles coming loose.

One last thing: Lining up the edges of a big tile won't be easy, but giving extra attention to them is critical. You don't want a floor plagued with misaligned edges, a.k.a. lippage. Using edge-aligning devices like Tuscan SeamClips (tuscanleveling.com) can be a big help here because they eliminate lippage, and speed up installation.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

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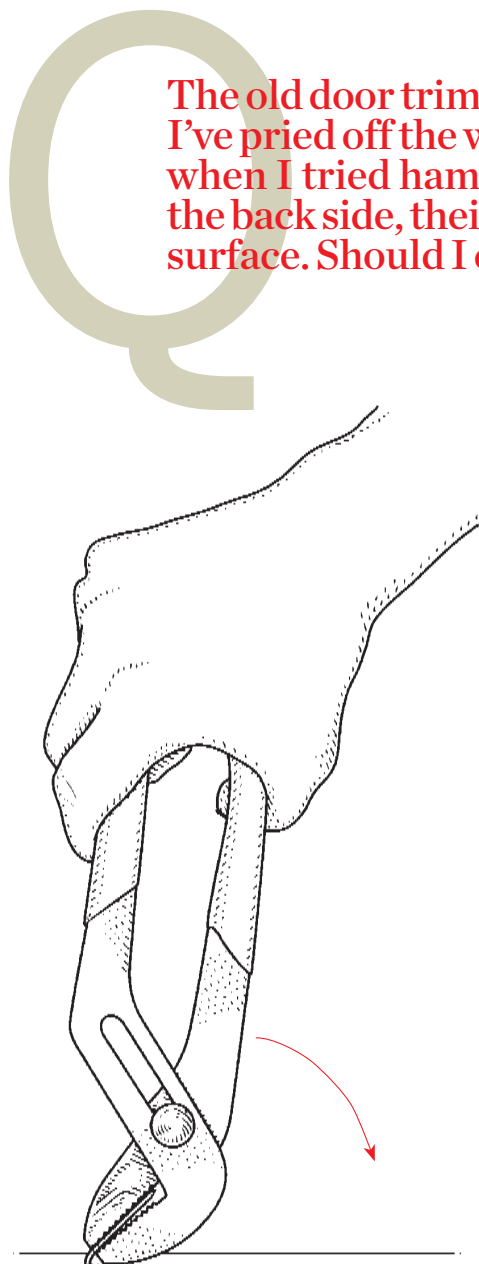
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Norm's tricks of the trade

The old door trim and baseboards that I've pried off the walls are full of nails. But when I tried hammering them out from the back side, their heads splintered the surface. Should I cut them off instead?

—NANCY JOHNSON, BLAKESBURG, IA



A I'm glad to hear that you're trying to save your trimwork. It's next to impossible to find new trim that matches the thickness and profile of the original material. But salvaged trim typically has lots of nails with slightly recessed nailheads hidden under putty. And, as you discovered, when a recessed head is backed out, even if it's a small finishing nail, it will take some wood with it.

The trick to keeping your trim intact is to *pull* the nail out from the *back* side of the trim. The head will splinter that side on its way out, but that has no effect on the trim's appearance.

My favorite tool for this task is a pair of tongue-and-groove pliers—commonly known by the brand name Channellocks. Just grip the nail shaft with the tool's serrated jaws as close to the wood as you can get, and rock the tool back on its curved upper jaw. If a long nail doesn't come out on the first pull, simply reposition the jaws on the shaft near the wood, and rock the tool back again. The pliers' long handles provide more than enough leverage to remove even the most stubborn nails safely and easily. ■

PHOTO: WENDELL T. WEBBER; ILLUSTRATION: HARRY BATES

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THE INSIDE STORY

Meet some members of our new club for TOH superfans



MATTHEW DORMAN • Brookfield, WI • Intern architect

An interest in architecture as a child prompted Matthew Dorman, 30, to start watching *This Old House* with his dad; today, watching old episodes “brings back wonderful memories.” He and his wife hope to buy a house one day, but for now Matthew justifies tool additions while building his 2-year-old daughter a dollhouse.



JOSH SHERRICK • Greensboro, NC • Arts and events superintendent

Having access to all the old episodes of *This Old House* lets Josh Sherrick, 37, catch the “classic Norm” action that he loves. Josh says that he and his wife suffer from “multiple project syndrome”; he has three projects under way: adding electricity to the backyard, redoing the master bath, and adding a door to the kitchen.



YSA HAMMOND • Wheat Ridge, CO • Fiber artist

As she adds insulation, cork floors, and new windows and doors to an old shed to create a workspace, Ysa Hammond, 38, gets a hand from her 3-year-old son. “He’s been dragging tools around to help on projects ever since he learned to crawl.” For ideas, Ysa binge-watches *This Old House*, or tunes in to the Live Q&As.



FRANK ARIETA • Cincinnati • Engineer

Turning to the expert advice offered during Live Q&As has helped Frank Arieta, 43, on his outdoor projects, which include planting blue spruce shrubs and groundcover beds and creating an area for his sons’ Arbor Day seedlings. An all-around guy, Frank also recently repointed the mortar on a 100-foot-long stone wall.



KEN LA HONTA • Danville, CA • Planning and finance executive

Access to Live Q&As and previous seasons of *This Old House* has given Ken La Honta, 61, many ideas for his complete remodel, now in its 15th year. Re-siding, painting, and landscaping are the current projects, viewed by his family as standard operating procedure. “They’d be worried if something wasn’t torn apart!”



CINDY BECKNELL • Bellevue, KY • Contracts paralegal

With an 1894 Italianate house, Cindy Becknell, 65, appreciates all the advice that the *This Old House* experts share during Live Q&As. She is putting the tips into action in her kitchen remodel, which has included such old-house challenges as dealing with a heavy trap door to the basement. “We are almost finished!”



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PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) CARL TREMBLAY; SARAH CHASSE (2); COLLEEN MCQUAID

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STONE, TIMBER, AND TENACITY

A handsome centuries-old house with a history of haphazard improvements meets its match in a family of determined DIYers

By **Deborah Baldwin** • Photographs by **John Gruen**
Produced by **Nicole Esposito-Polly** • Styling by **Anna Molvik**

All hands on deck...one pair holding his brother's ankles?

When Kim Kimble and Tom McEntee looked up one day during the endless renovation of their family's 18th-century relic, they were pleased to see their two grown sons getting ready to shingle the roof. It had been years since the whole-house reno had gotten under way, they were all tired of living in chaos, and

word had gone out: Everyone, please help!

Kim, who had done time on the roof herself, nonetheless did a double take when she looked more closely. One of the boys had decided to nail a bracket in place by lowering himself over the ridge—headfirst.

Not to worry, Mom: His brother was holding his feet.

From the beginning, this renovation has

OPPOSITE: The homeowners commissioned a dining room mural in the 19th-century itinerant-painter style. It tells the story of the house as it evolved over 220-plus years, **ABOVE.** The table is a favorite spot for board games and sees serious action during annual gatherings known as Happy Merry Thanksgiving.





been a family affair, starting with the moment Kim and Tom first took a hard look at the place, a charming bag of bones in historic New Paltz, New York. They hadn't planned on it, but were visiting former neighbors with one of their four kids when the house, called Thornwood, "reached out to us," Kim says—despite its long stint as a college-town crash pad. (Response of said kid: "You're buying that?")

Of course fixing it up would be hard, but the couple had lots of energy and the house had lots of bedrooms, so they figured they could camp in one area while making repairs in another, doing the reno bit by bit, with everyone's help, over time.

A lot of time, as it turns out.

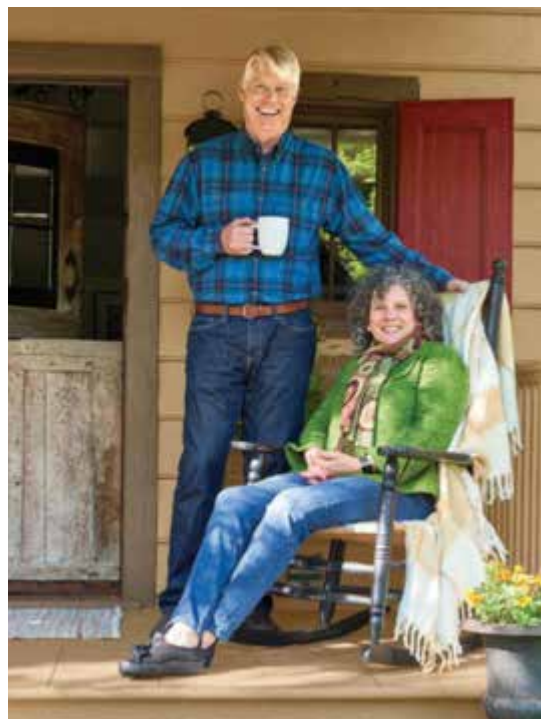
Tom, an airline pilot, was game to improve his DIY skills, and Kim, who swears she has learned to love wielding a nail gun, was up for the challenge too. It felt good, after all, to salvage a place that has at times been a serious contender for landmark status.

Digging around in historical documents, Kim traced the house back to the town's founding members, known as the "Duzine"—a dozen French Huguenots fleeing old-world Catholics and the annoying new-world Dutch by making their own land grab along the Hudson River. After clustering in what is now downtown, the men ultimately divvied up the rest of their vast tract among their descendants,

ABOVE LEFT: An unusual blend of stone and wood frame, the house predates 1800. During its latest reno it gained three dormers, two porches, and a two-story wood-frame addition.

ABOVE RIGHT: The addition holds a family-size kitchen with cork flooring, soapstone countertops, and two dishwashers. Nine-over-six windows match the originals; a layer of joint compound on the drywall gives the look of plaster.

RIGHT: Tom McEntee and Kim Kimble on a new porch with an original Dutch door. The siding was beaded, distressed, and installed unevenly to make it look old.





FLOOR PLANS

Originally 3,102 square feet, with six bedrooms, two baths, and a kitchen in what is now the game room, the house gained 1,156 square feet—a kitchen with dining space, a mudroom area, and a half bath below a master suite in a side addition. On the second floor, two bedrooms became a sitting room, and a bath was rebuilt. The first-floor bath was also rebuilt and its door relocated to create a guest suite, and the door between the dining room and library was shifted for better traffic flow. The house also took on two front porches and a screened porch.





one of whom built the original one-room wood-frame house. The exact year is unknown. The two-room stone addition was documented by a town assessor in 1798 and is believed to predate 1781.

Down through the decades the house tumbled, with walls added and subtracted, its rooms reassigned, and periodically suffering from what Tom politely calls “deferred maintenance.” One previous owner ran a dress shop on the first floor. Another, who dropped by late in life to reminisce, paused before the same room, now a guest bedroom. “This is the parlor,” she informed Kim. “We only used it to lay out the dead.”

To one side sat a 1970s kitchen, with a medley of five doorways and flooring stacked atop patched flooring like lasagna. Tom pulled up six layers only to reveal damaged planks and a dramatic gap under the doors. The beams had been decoratively painted, but the space felt cramped. “We brought in a kitchen

ABOVE LEFT: The homeowners preserved the decorative painting on the game room beams and unified the room with a coordinating trim color.

Paint: Benjamin Moore’s Dark Beige (trim) and California Paints’ Bayberry Wax (floor)

ABOVE RIGHT: Formerly the kitchen, the game room held on to old built-ins, one with a new blackboard front for kids to scribble on.

OPPOSITE: An 18th-century foyer-closet door was flipped to reveal the paneled side, and wallpaper remnants left visible over the stairwell.

designer to try to figure it out,” Kim says, “and that’s when we realized we had to add on.”

They already had a skilled crew, led by old-house whisperer and general contractor Brian Kennedy. But with a mind-numbing to-do list unfurling before them, the couple weren’t sorry when visitors asked if there was anything they could do to help. Kim recalls her stepfather working on a door that needed re-hanging—nothing in the house was plumb, nothing was level—and another set of grandparents being charged with hitting knotholes with extra primer and helping to paint replacement windows. Tom had already reglazed countless old ones. “We call it the House of a Thousand Panes,” he deadpans.

To stay on budget, he hit the road, zipping down to Connecticut to save shipping costs on interior storms, custom made to conform to windows with out-of-whack dimensions, and collecting cedar roof shingles offered at a huge discount as long as you



picked them up—in Arkansas. When subcontractors arrived, Tom apprenticed with them, mastering skills like wiring and carpentry. He consulted timber experts who tried but could not pin down the species of the old-growth trees that went into the house. And he still remembers dealing with the ancient, nonfunctioning chimneys. One had to be relined, for a wood-burning stove off the kitchen, and another was so ready to be demolished that “bricks were falling down faster than we could catch them.”

“Everything in the fullness of time,” Tom and Kim kept saying, quoting the dress-shop owner, whose son confided that his mother never stopped renovating or repeating this phrase. It was that kind of place.

The couple hired an architect, Paul Varanouskas, who brought in a structural engineer to see if those out-of-plumb windows and doors indicated more than a period-perfect sag. “A lot of structural stuff



had failed,” Tom says, “and the rear wall was four inches out of plumb.” The sill beam that sat on the foundation had to be replaced, and reinforced. Then the original structural supports were reinforced with a gaggle of concrete piers and pressure-treated posts in the basement.

The stone foundation had to be repointed before Tom could put in gutters and a French drain. And the house still needed drying out. Radiators gave way to forced air, with air handlers in the basement and attic and registers in ceilings and floors to reduce the need for wall-busting ductwork.

Plaster was patched and preserved, even as chunks fell here and there; ceiling joists were exposed, two baths were redone, and an addition was grafted onto a gable wall. Varanouskas’s plan was to have the addition step back, but Kim made a case for enlarging and extending it to be flush front and back, and Kennedy made it work, yielding a 1,156-square-foot wing that balances the 18th-century wood-frame original at the other gable end.

Adding on allowed the old kitchen to become a game room. Another room became the library, with a paneled, period-style “bed box” (a.k.a. Murphy

ABOVE: Dark trim and a walnut-stained ceiling in the living room set off restored plaster walls that were finished with a tinted skim coat. Paint: California Paints’ Bayberry Wax (trim). Skim coat pigment: Benjamin Moore’s Vanilla Ice Cream

bed). The TV hides out in the living room.

The addition replaced an old screened porch, which itself replaced an “out kitchen” that can be seen in a 1908 snapshot. Because the addition has a second floor, Kennedy had to work to meld roof-lines, but the payoff was a bonus room upstairs and a roomy kitchen with a roofline-accommodating, varied-height ceiling, open to a gathering spot large enough for informal dining and a foldout sofa.

“Our goal was to sleep 15,” says Kim. “When I was growing up, every year siblings and spouses and kids would descend on my mother and stepfather for what we called Happy Merry Thanksgiving—two holidays rolled into one. After he died and she moved to a smaller place, we wanted to do it here.”

The couple put out welcome mats in the form of two front porches, one leading to a mudroom area in the addition. A new screened porch felt like a no-brainer, especially one within reach of the kitchen.

The bonus room began as a playroom for the two youngest kids, then became a dance studio, complete with wall-mounted barre, for a daughter who taught ballet. When she flew the nest, Kim and Tom turned the studio and its closet into their master bedroom



ABOVE: The guest room once served as a dress shop and before that was a formal parlor. The wide floorboards are believed to be eastern white pine.

LEFT: The guest bath was gut-renovated and set up for two. Vanity: Brookhaven. Wall paint: Benjamin Moore's Hazy Skies



and bath, freeing their first-floor bedroom for guests.

Of which they have plenty. Thornwood has become so popular among friends that Kim and Tom have started staging storytelling sessions inspired by *The Moth Radio Hour*. When the house is full, there's spillover space in the barn—naturally, the house came with a barn, and naturally, these irrepressible fixer-uppers couldn't leave it alone.

That project got done about four years ago, at which point you might assume the couple's labors were over. But not quite. Next came replacing the septic, laying a new patio, and rebuilding the pond that also came with the house. Tom plans to get to one "last" finishing touch—reclaiming a pile of old shutters—soon, early next year if not this weekend.

Time that's passed, so far? Almost 15 years, or long enough for one of those roof-shingling sons to have a son and a daughter of his own.

Luckily, when they come to visit they don't have to sleep on the floor. "I'm excited about creating memories here with my grandchildren," says Kim of the house whose needs and joys never quit. "It is our hobby and passion—and it also happens to be a great place to gather our growing tribe." 🏡

ALL
ABOUT

Interior Wall Cladding

From shiplap to salvaged barn board, simple wood wall treatments are making a comeback, giving rooms a style and texture boost, plus a dose of rugged charm. Here's how to choose and use them **BY KATELIN HILL**

WOOD WALLS HAVE A LONG HISTORY. In early colonial times, boards and shingles that skinned over a house's skeleton often formed the interior surfaces as well. Planks made up the partition walls. Later, vertical boards were nailed to studs, often with a decorative bead or chamfered V along their edges. Walls that were not plastered were often paneled. While the wealthy had fancy woodwork, most homes featured flat-backed claddings similar to those used on the exterior—usually boards with interlocking “lapped” or tongue-and-groove joints to keep out water and cold winds. When factory millwork became available in the Victorian era, decorative beaded boards routinely covered walls in utility areas such as kitchens and baths.

Simple, practical, and attractive, such wall claddings are back in demand once more. Lumberyards and home centers are offering products that ease installation, and designers are specifying them everywhere from formal manses to industrial spaces to simple cottage interiors. Coming up here and on the following pages, *TOH* helps sort through the options.

“SHIPLAP HOUSE,” so named for this 1815 shed addition to an early-18th-century house in Annapolis, Maryland, showcases a well-preserved historical example of the flush, flat-backed siding. At the time, clapboards were the norm, their beveled profile designed to shed water. Shiplap boards had interlocking lapped joints along their edges to seal out the weather.



Painted pale blue, horizontal shiplap gives this farmhouse bedroom a serene feeling.

VITALS

HOW MUCH? Individual boards can cost under \$1 per linear foot for unfinished pine, and up to \$20 per linear foot for the reclaimed stuff. A standard 4-by-8-foot MDF beadboard panel runs about \$30, while individual beaded pine boards go for about \$2 per linear foot, unfinished.



DIY OR HIRE A PRO?

A good project for experienced DIYers. The biggest challenges are starting off perfectly level (or plumb) and working around obstacles such as windows and doors. Doing a ceiling? You may want to go pro.

WHERE TO BUY IT?

Home centers sell a variety of manufactured-wood and MDF products, sometimes as kits. You'll find higher-quality wood cladding at lumberyards, though it may be a special order.

HOW LONG-LASTING?

As long as wood cladding has been properly installed with sufficient room for expansion, it should last the life of the house. MDF may be more susceptible to dings and moisture damage.

PHOTOS: GRIDLEY + GRAVES; (INSET) PHILIP SCALIA/ALAMY; (RIGHT) KOLIN SMITH

Pick a style

Here's a look at some of the most popular types of cladding—how simple or detailed the profile is, and what type of finish you choose, all influence the overall effect



SHIPLAP actually refers to a type of joint, rather than a decorative cladding treatment. Horizontally laid boards are rabbeted along their sides to interlock for a tight seal. Today it is common to have them milled with a “nickel gap” of about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch along the top edge to create a shadow line that highlights the individual boards. DIYers often install lauan or MDF strips on the wall with space in between to suggest shiplap.



BEADBOARD is traditionally “stick built,” using 2½-inch-wide strips of wood with a beaded edge milled along the tongue side and a matching rounded (or a chamfered) edge on the groove side to hide the joint. These fit together to form one continuous wall covering. Today wider planks with multiple beads, and plywood or MDF sheets with rows of beads milled in, replicate the look while saving installation time.



V-GROOVE boards are milled with chamfered edges on both sides, forming a V shape when the tongue-and-groove (or shiplap) joints come together. V-groove planks in varying widths were a common wall cladding in colonial-era homes, often given a matte-paint finish. Like square-edged shiplap, they are prized today for their modern simplicity. Available in wood, MDF, and synthetic materials for various applications.



BOARD-AND-BATTEN is traditionally built as a series of vertical boards overlaid with strips of 1× material, or battens, covering the joints. When it serves as siding, the lumber is often roughcut. Today plywood may be used indoors, with 1× strips installed every 8 to 10 inches, covering joints as they occur. A popular DIY shortcut is to adhere battens directly to the wall, then unify the assembly with trim paint.



DROP SIDING is a historical type of shiplap, typically featuring a cove along the top of the board to encourage water shedding. (Square off that curve and you have channel siding.) Because it is a flat-backed siding, it easily makes the transition to interior use, unlike beveled styles, such as clapboards. Millwork shops can add a bead along the bottom or any other custom detail that you like.



RUSTIC PLANKING can be anything from barn boards to pallet wood to common lumber made to look old through a finishing process. Planks can be nailed up with little to no space end to end, but pay attention to staggering the joints. Boards may not have milled edges to conceal gaps, and will need space for expansion. Painting the wall black before installation will keep another color from showing through.

CHOOSE YOUR MATERIAL

Most cladding is made from one of these; here's what to consider with each option



WOOD/PLYWOOD

You can find solid-wood tongue-and-groove or shiplap boards in a range of species, from budget-friendly pine and poplar to pricier woods like redwood, cedar, and cypress. Since wood expands and contracts over time, it's critical that it is given room to move during installation. It may be heavier than manufactured products, so it needs proper fastening and likely another pair of hands to install. Thin plywood sheets milled with bead or V details, and lap joints at the ends, are more stable, less pricey, and go up fast.

FINISHING TIPS:

Ask for a stain-grade clear wood that's smooth and free of knots for the optimal paint job—and for staining, of course. Otherwise, knots need to be filled, sanded, and primed before painting. You can leave wood bare, but it will be susceptible to dirt and stains. A coat of water-based polyurethane or wax will protect it, while highlighting the natural color.



SALVAGED WOOD

Reclaimed wood boards can be found in a variety of species and dimensions, whether rescued from old barns or factory floors. The wood is unmatched in character and saves trees from being cut down, but it won't always be in ready-to-use condition. Salvaged boards should be cleaned, planed so they lie flat on the wall, and ideally kiln-dried by a dealer; otherwise, they may warp. Kiln-drying also eliminates any insects hiding inside. May be prefinished and/or milled into any style of wall cladding you want.

FINISHING TIPS:

Reclaimed wood is a good candidate for a distressed or weathered paint finish, or a stain that doesn't completely hide the wood grain. Often, reclaimed wood is left as-is, but old paint could be lead-based, so make sure to seal it with a water-based polyurethane or shellac before working with it.



FIBERBOARD

Milled sheets of MDF are a popular choice among DIYers, since they are budget-friendly, and manufacturers are able to achieve a convincing bead or groove. MDF is also more stable overall than wood during swings in temperature, but if it gets wet it can soak up moisture like a sponge, swell, and crumble. Some companies offer moisture-resistant MDF for wet-area installations. Standard MDF also off-gasses formaldehyde when new. For wall cladding, MDF is most commonly used as battens or sheets.

FINISHING TIPS:

Smooth MDF takes paint beautifully, and since it cannot be stained, it typically comes preprimed. If you're priming it yourself, be sure to use a shellac primer on all six sides, paying special attention to any cut edges; avoid water-based primers, which can cause cut edges to swell.

INSTALLATION ADVICE

Things to know before you begin, whether you DIY or hire a pro

Wood needs room to move > Always leave at least a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch gap for expansion along all four edges of a wood-clad wall: That means above the baseboard, where it meets the ceiling, and at both corners where the adjacent walls begin.

Construction adhesive is your friend > It can provide up to 30 percent of the bond, so you need fewer nails. With lightweight material, it may be all you need.

Start with a flat surface > On uneven plaster or masonry walls, begin by hanging a grid of strapping, shimmed as needed to make a completely flat surface. Nail vertical boards to horizontal furring strips or plywood.

The first board must be level, or plumb > Don't rush installing that first board; if it isn't level (or plumb), you run the risk of every piece after it being crooked. If walls aren't plumb or floors level, you may need to scribe the board to fit.



TOH general contractor Tom Silva puts up beadboard using high-tack panel adhesive.

Wet-area options

What to use when moisture is an issue

On bathroom and even kitchen-sink walls, wood planks and plywood sheets stand up to moisture better than standard MDF, which can swell with water. Vinyl beadboard made for wet areas isn't convincing, though painting it can help. Solid-surface versions made for bath and shower enclosures are too costly to cover full walls. While there is water-resistant MDF, *TOH* senior technical editor Mark Powers prefers to stick with wood where walls could get wet. "Any wood cladding will fare fine with a coat of paint or water-based polyurethane," he says. A new product with promise: Boral's TruExterior Beadboard siding, made of polymer-bound fly ash. The material is lightweight and easy to work, inexpensive, impervious to water, and doesn't off-gas. From about \$2 per linear foot; boralamerica.com for stores



DIY MADE EASIER

Off-the-shelf products save time, money, and installation headaches. Here are a few to consider



PREFINISHED PINE These shiplap boards have a distressed red finish reminiscent of old barn wood. Six 8-foot-long pine planks come in each pack, so all that's left to do is trim them as needed and glue and tack them up. UFP Edge 1" x 6" x 8' Barn Wood Red Shiplap Pine Board, \$72 per pack; homedepot.com



PREFAB PANELS These interlocking reclaimed-wood panels are meant to cut install time by 90 percent. The maker claims a typical 8-by-10-foot accent wall can go up in about an hour. Prefab Wood Wall Panels in All Natural Pallet Wood, \$12 per square foot; sustainablelumberco.com



PLANK KIT The kiln-dried boards in this kit come in random shades and lengths up to 2 feet. Each pine plank comes with its own unique markings, without the hassle of prepping salvaged wood. Nuvelle Deco Planks in Picket Fence Sun Baked, \$99 for a 10-square-foot case; homedepot.com



PREPRIMED SHIPLAP If you plan to paint your cladding in place, primed boards get you there a bit faster. And these pine planks have a nickel gap already milled into the joint, so you don't have to fuss with spacers. 1" x 6" Shiplap Paneling Nickel Gap, \$1.89 per linear foot; stonewoodproducts.com

Design ideas

There's more than one cladding to suit any space: It's all in how you work it

1 > COTTAGE APPEAL White battens pop against sunny-yellow walls, adding texture and dimension, and accentuating high ceilings. Running a couple of horizontal bands saves them from looking like stripes. Similar to shown: 1" x 4" x 10' poplar batten, \$9.29; lowes.com

2 > BOLD ACCENT This feature wall of custom-milled nickel-gap shiplap packs a lot of design punch. Though shiplap is often considered rustic, bright-blue paint and sleek furnishings make it feel modern. Similar to shown: Poplar Ship Lap 5/8" x 4 15/16" (1/8" gap), \$2.42 per linear foot; cortlandhardwood.com

3 > AGED PATINA This finish was actually a happy accident: The homeowners regretted painting the natural cypress planks, and started scraping with a putty knife. They liked the distressed look so much, they added glaze to give it depth. Similar to shown: Cypress Shiplap, 1" x 10" x 8' boards, \$22.51 each; follen.com

4 > REFINED PINE Tongue-and-groove boards milled with two beads flanking a cove detail go from knotty to natty with a warm, neutral paint job. Similar to shown: 3/4"-thick Pickwick Tongue-and-Groove Premium Pine, from \$1.29 per linear foot; stonewoodproducts.com

5 > SLEEK LOOK A smooth face gives reclaimed planks a more sophisticated finish, as do cool colors like gray and blue. Using them on one wall creates an eye-catching focal point. Similar to shown: Reclaimed barn wood, \$8 per square foot (unmilled); salvagesolutions.ca

6 > OVERHEAD UPGRADE Extending beadboard onto the ceiling and alternating its direction in squares adds architectural interest. Battens covering the seams create a pleasing panel pattern. Similar to shown: Ultra True Bead MDF Paneling, \$30 per 32-square-foot panel; homedepot.com

PHOTOS: (TOP) TRIA GIOVANI; (OPPOSITE PAGE, NO. 1) RAY KACHATORIAN; (NO. 2) NAT REA; (NOS. 3, 4) DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN; (NO. 6) JUDSON ABTS; DESIGNER: (OPPOSITE PAGE, NO. 6) KITCHEN VIEWS AT NATIONAL LUMBER



1



2



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4



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6

PRO TIPS

Design advice for how to use wall claddings to best advantage

GO WIDE When using shiplap and V-groove, Georgia-based designer Katie DeRario suggests sticking with 10-inch-wide planks so they look more like paneling and less like siding, which is typically narrower. Similarly, with beadboard, she prefers 3 to 4 inches between beads for a more modern look.

EXPLOIT OPTICAL ILLUSIONS As a general rule, running planks vertically adds height visually, while horizontal boards can make small rooms look more expansive. "But it also depends on how you enter the room and what is in your line of sight," says Massachusetts-based designer Jonathan Raith. That means a typical hallway can look extra-long when lined in horizontal planking.

MIX AND MATCH WITH CAUTION With so many styles of cladding to choose from, it's easy to go overboard. Raith suggests keeping it simple. "I wouldn't mix more than two in one room, and I wouldn't do more than three in one house," he says. "And it's critical to use them thoughtfully and proportionately in the space."

LET THEM WORK HARD If you use wall cladding in just one space, a mudroom or a laundry is a great place to put it. "Mudrooms take a lot of wear and tear," says DeRario. "Kids kick off their shoes and backpacks, and wood walls hold up a lot better than drywall." Plus, you can install hooks anywhere that's convenient, rather than planning around the wall studs. ■



THIS PAGE: The living room's original white oak trim came with layers of icky gray paint. The homeowners stripped it and added a matching mantel.

RIGHT: The 1925 Craftsman bungalow gained major curb appeal with a smart new porch; its gracefully tapered columns are echoed by other improvements inside.



Going with the Grain

A meticulous reno brings out the beauty in a 1925 Craftsman, from its quarter-sawn oak to its built-in charm

By **Deborah Baldwin**

Photographs by **Gridley + Graves**

Produced by **Nicole Esposito-Polly**

Styling by **Kelly Shaffer**

Let early adopters rush headlong into a world where everything, including tonight's dinner, is controlled by an app. Sam and Kathleen, owners of a 92-year-old house with decidedly old-fashioned fittings, will be busy enjoying the tactile delight of pressing mother-of-pearl-inlaid push-button switches that go *sproing!* before bathing a room in the glow of period-style lighting. "It's a trip back to my childhood," Sam says. "That character and the feeling you get—it reminds me of the warm, cozy houses my friends had when I was growing up."

Let's you think he is some modern-day Van Winkle for whom time and progress mean nothing, this is the sixth house



he and Kathleen have owned and upgraded. Sam's an emergency-room doctor with a seriously green thumb, Kathleen's a registered nurse who understands interior design, and together they make a formidable home-improvement team with strong opinions and sophisticated tastes.

"We do this for fun, not money, and we're lucky if we break even," Kathleen says with a laugh. "It's our weird idea of a hobby: We start tossing around ideas and the next thing we know we're at Home Depot!"

When they bought their current fixer-upper, in the Cleveland suburb of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, they were not interested in busting it up or building a two-story addition in back. Yes, they did think it might be nice to improve the view from the kitchen sink. And the house had a sad-sack portico that didn't really cut it as a front porch. But things they liked about the house, like its compact size and Craftsman style,

ABOVE LEFT: Custom quarter-sawn white oak cabinets and refrigerator panels warm up the new kitchen. The brickwork emerged during demolition. Pendant lights: Rejuvenation. Sink: Blanco. Microwave: Kenmore

ABOVE RIGHT: The bi-level built-in between the dining room and kitchen cleverly frames the view from the table. Guests see the artful backsplash over the range but none of the dishes near the sink. Art tile: Pratt & Larson. Chandelier: Arroyo Craftsman

compelled them to preserve and restore. Updating the kitchen meant adding style-appropriate white oak cabinetry, while opening up the room and installing modern appliances, of course.

The house would not be theirs at all if Kathleen hadn't been walking around the neighborhood one spring day some years ago and noticed "this little white cottage with an odd, undersized front porch half buried by an overgrown garden." At the time, they were busy raising two kids and renovating house No. 5, another needy 1920s find that happened to be nearby. But Kathleen stopped long enough to spot a small pond through the ragged undergrowth, surrounded by rhododendron and hemlock, oak, and white pine trees.

The whole lovely, neglected scene reminded her of *The Secret Garden*, one of her favorite books. "It had a picket fence around it, and that made it even more secret," she now recalls.

If you know the book, you know why she could not walk away. Says Sam, "She was already building a future for us there. 'That will be the house we retire in,' she said. *Yeah, right*, I thought—we had just finished renovating the one we were in! But I did start to take notice of the garden...."

When the two met in high school, in a town near-



ABOVE LEFT: The master bedroom, a previous addition, has a lofty new cathedral ceiling. Rug: Overstock. Sconces: Wildwood Lamps. Wall paint: Sherwin-Williams's *White Hyacinth*

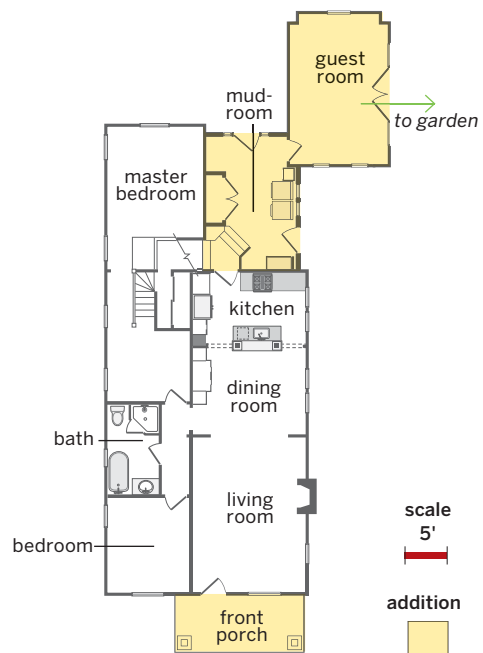
ABOVE RIGHT: The house came with only one full bath, which the couple enlarged with a sliver annexed from a second bedroom. Floor and wall tile: Pratt & Larson. Wall paint: Sherwin-Williams's *Light French Gray*

RIGHT: Homeowners Kathleen and Sam on the new porch.



Floor Plan

The one-story house gained 380 square feet during the reno, for a total of 1,460, with the addition of a mudroom, a sitting room—guest room in what was formerly a detached garage, and a finished basement (not shown). The homeowners also replaced a portico with a front porch, opened the kitchen to the dining room, and remodeled the one existing bath.





by, they would make day trips to Chagrin Falls to poke around the river and its steep falls. A village that grew up around industrial mills in the 19th century—how it got its name no one knows—it has since gained a “Norman Rockwell-ish” charm, as Sam puts it.

After doing time on the East Coast, the couple migrated back, drawn in part by a love of the Midwest and its slower pace, and in part by a country-road commute to the hospital where Sam now works. While redoing their first house in Chagrin Falls, they dipped into the local talent pool and came up with the renovation equivalent of gold: an expert team headed by an 80-something trained structural engineer and general contractor named Sal Cicirello.

The house with the secret garden stayed in fantasy territory until it was handed down to a new owner who planned to renovate but got cold feet, so to speak, after an April ice storm. Feelers went out. “Before we knew it,” Sam says, “we were the owners of the little cottage up the street.”

For a number of years they simply rented it out. But when they drew closer to empty-nestdom, they put out a second SOS to Sal Cicirello and his crew of seasoned carpenters. Could they come take a look?

ABOVE LEFT: Original stained-glass windows add a graceful note to the mudroom-laundry area.
Washer and dryer: Maytag

ABOVE RIGHT: New custom exterior (and interior) white oak doors with leaded glass give the home a hint of Prairie style. Homeowner Sam, armed with a 4-inch brush and a wad of cheesecloth, finished the mudroom walls with seven layers of custom-blended paint and glaze. Hardware: Craftsmen Hardware Company

Along with its bleak exterior, the little Craftsman was burdened with systems that were virtually kaput. Quarter-sawn oak was buried under paint, plaster was falling off the walls, the bedroom ceiling was low—these homeowners are tall—and the one full bath was so small it was hard to turn around in.

As for the dirt-floor garage that tilted decidedly south and was stationed just a long arm’s reach from the back door, “Sal said tear it down,” Sam says. “But we said, no, no, we want to connect it to the house.” It was an inventive idea, if impractical; the garage would become a pondside bonus room, linked to the house by a new mudroom-laundry area.

“Then along comes Harry the building inspector,” Sam recalls, “and he says you can’t keep the garage as it is, you have to dig below the frost line.... So we start digging down and I’m watching it teeter back and forth, and I’m thinking, *Oh, I don’t know about this.* Then it rained for 9,000 weeks in a row and I swear I thought it was going to float away.” The crew pumped it out, poured concrete, braced and squared up the listing walls, installed lots of glass, “and that room became one of the most fun things about the house.”



Work was done in waves over several years and included a new roof, windows, and siding, along with improved heating and cooling. The old galley kitchen became a light-filled, shipshape space with a sight line from the sink to the dining room, living room, and front yard. “It’s one cozy space,” says Sam. “When the family’s over we can all sit within earshot.”

Helping to make all this possible was architect George Clemens, who worked closely with Kathleen on design and with master carpenter Jesse Treadway on period-style built-ins. A double-faced room divider—lower cabinets between airy piers—now straddles the kitchen and dining room, replacing a wall without gutting its intent. “You don’t need to open up a wall more than 50 percent to create an open feeling,” Clemens says. Raised on the dining side, the built-in hides cooking clutter from the guests, who can still glimpse the cabinetry and tile-work. And the cook is never cut off from the party.

Sam, who put himself through school as a house painter, chose a soft cream for most of the walls—“It

ABOVE: Barn wood in weathered shades of red and brown lines the sitting room—guest room. The walls underneath it were painted black to obscure the wood’s loose fit. Sliding doors hide a Murphy bed, while glass panels and French doors overlook a “secret garden” with a goldfish pond and shade trees. Windows and doors: Marvin

IS IT A SEARS KIT HOUSE?

Find drawings of the Sears Argyle and more photos at thisoldhouse.com/going-with-the-grain

lets the woodwork and craftsmanship be the stars,” he says—and did all the painting himself, including glazing for added depth in the mudroom. He claims it’s relaxing to paint after a day in the ER, though his wife jokes, “There’s some OCD perfection going on.”

Midway through the work, a neighbor stopped by and said, “You have a Sears kit house there.” They found it did have a striking resemblance to the Argyle model, which was shipped in pieces to towns like Chagrin Falls during the 1920s. “It’s safe to say that if it isn’t an Argyle, it was modeled on it,” Clemens says. Coincidentally, the porch he designed is a near-perfect match to one often found on Argyles.

What surprises others is the way that porch—like so much of what’s new—looks original. The house may now have every amenity from a stylish bath to a paneled fridge, yet what you see is beautifully grained oak turned into hardworking architectural elements by way of old-fashioned craftsmanship.

And that, of course, is just what the homeowners were hoping you’d say. ■

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How does a product make it into the TOH Top 100? Besides being introduced in the past year, it's hard to pinpoint a rule that encompasses the entire list. We're fans of products that cross off household to-dos, like a washing machine that can tackle two loads at once (page 96). Smart DIY solutions, like an easier, faster way to fix cracked concrete (page 104), make excellent finds. And some items? Well, they **simply make life more enjoyable**. Why not cap off a bath remodel with a tub that invites you to indulge in a nice, long soak (page 96)? Turn the page to check out the year's best. >>



Kitchen

01



01. Benchmark Dishwasher with My Way Rack
• BOSCH

Just when you thought there was no way to squeeze in another mug, along comes an adjustable third rack in a line of top-drawer models that allows more headroom. *From \$1,099; bosch.com*

02. No Wiggle Base Cabinet Pullout
• HARDWARE RESOURCES

It takes tough hardware to make a pullout so stable it can handle canned goods without shaking: Go ahead, pull it out all the way. Four

03



03. Barstow 1-Light Pendant • HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE

One part farmhouse, one part factory, this fits-in-anywhere fixture comes in two cool finishes, Buckeye Bronze (shown) and Galvanized Steel. \$319; *houseofantiquehardware.com*

04. 7 Slot Digital Tablet Holder Block
• CHICAGO CUTLERY

Stash your favorite knives in this wood block and park your smart device, too, so

04



05



you can see the recipe while mincing the onions. Goggles not included. \$70; *chicagocutlery.com*

05. Delta Chair
• CRATE & BARREL

This iconic aluminum seat now comes in unexpected finishes like black and brass (shown), making it one of the most stylish guests at the table. \$149; *crateandbarrel.com*

06. Ultimate Faucet Filter • PUR

This Bluetooth smarty, an easy, inexpensive way to remove lead and other contaminants from drinking water, sends a signal

02



07



when its filter needs replacing. Just make sure it's compatible with your faucet. \$45; *pur.com*

07. Crosstown Sink with Water Deck • ELKAY

Forget punching holes for a faucet in that beautiful new countertop—this double-basin stainless-steel undermount, 32 inches wide, comes with a faucet-accommodating deck and predrilled holes. \$975; *elkay.com*

08. 72-Inch Counter-Depth French Door Refrigerator • JENN-AIR

A black jewelry-box lining, an adjustable-temp pantry

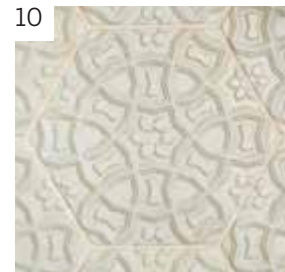
08



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drawer, dual climate controls, and more coddle your salmon, lettuce, and ice cream.

Slides in place like a built-in, no gap overhead. \$4,399; jennair.com

09. Darlana Medium Linear Lantern • CIRCA LIGHTING

For a gathering spot in need of a dramatic touch, here's a lantern-style chandelier fixture that's 41 inches wide. Choose from three finishes—Polished Nickel, Aged Iron, or this one, Gilded Iron—and start pouring the wine. \$1,050; circaighting.com

10. Andalusia Tile • WALKER ZANGER

For a look that plays delicacy off strength, dress a wall in 6-inch-square textured terra-cotta tiles the color of crocheted lace. Suitable for all interior surfaces. From \$20 per square foot; walkerzanger.com

11. Matte-Finish Man-Made Stone • CAMBRIA

You'd have to hone marble or granite to get this look, and honed stone needs TLC—unlike this matte quartz, which comes in 141 designs and will not stain. \$85 per square foot installed; cambriausa.com

12. Atura Faucet with Pull-Down Spray • BLANCO

This sleek, well-priced faucet has a pull-down spray and comes in a polished-chrome (shown) or stainless finish. Its 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch height makes it a good choice for islands. From \$275; blancoamerica.com

13. 10-Speed Hand Mixer • KRUPS

If you make wedding cakes, get a stand mixer. Otherwise, reach for this heavyweight hand mixer, with 10 speeds, a quiet DC motor with splatter-avoiding auto speed adjust, and a timer. \$50; krupsusa.com

14. Watercolor Collection • PYREX

Maybe your open shelves need an accent piece—or two? Get all the function of Pyrex glass bakeware and serving pieces and swirls of deep blue, too. From \$7.99; pyrexware.com

15. Glass Canopy Range Hood Model 1156 • STREAMLINE HOODS

Great ventilation doesn't have to be bulky. This flip-open blower blends in with cabinetry and still sucks up smoke and steam at the rate of 650 cubic feet per minute. \$609; streamlinehoods.com

16. Ashby Pulls • AMEROCK

Deep drawer full of heavy pots, meet your new partner: a sturdy cup pull with period style. It comes in six finishes and will fit existing screw holes 3 or 4 inches wide. \$15; amerock.com

17. 30-Inch Electric Single Wall Oven with IQ-Touch Controls • ELECTROLUX

No preheating, steam cleans—plus “air sous vide”: Two fans and calibrated temps allow vacuum-packed dishes to cook very slowly. Or just roast a turkey; when it’s done the oven automatically kicks to warm. \$2,299; electroluxappliances.com

18. 36-Inch Induction Cooktop • BLUESTAR

Best of both worlds: 12 settings and a burner so potent it hard-boils a gallon of water in 3.5 minutes, coupled with comfy knobs. No more punching a sticky touch pad. From \$2,499; bluestarcooking.com

19. Transform Countertop Overlays • CAESARSTONE

Keep the countertops you have, and let a pro remake them with a thin quartz overlay. No demolition, only the challenge of choosing among 12 stone-look finishes. From \$50 per square foot installed; caesarstoneus.com

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20. Concetto Lavatory Wideset • GROHE

The lever handles on this 1.2-gallon-per-minute faucet make it ADA-compliant; its silky-smooth moves will please all. In chrome (shown) or brushed nickel. From \$329; grohe.us

21. 48-Inch Nellie Farmhouse Sink Vanity • SIGNATURE HARDWARE

Who let the farmhouse sink out of the kitchen? The same genius who incorporated it into a granite-topped 48-inch vanity with bun feet, beadboard panels,

and soft-close hinges. From \$1,400 (faucet not included); signaturehardware.com

22. BASICS Tub MBXFSX5832 • MTI BATHS

A compact 58 inches long and 32 inches wide, this acrylic number has nice edge detailing. Owners of small spaces can also opt for a quick-connect drain (add \$200). From \$2,156; mtibaths.com

23. Real Rain • KOHLER

Rain showerheads don’t always deliver, but this ceiling-mount, a generous 19 by 19 inches, lets you control the size of the downpour, so your face doesn’t have to get soaked. From \$2,150; kohler.com

24. Gutviken Sink • IKEA

This countertop cutie—the bowl’s about 11 inches wide—is ideal for a mini bath. It’s china, like a coffee mug, and did we mention the price (water trap included)? \$60; ikea.com

25. Malibu II • ICERA

Measuring only 28 inches front to back and fitted for a 10-inch rough-in, this ADA-compliant, low-flush toilet nonetheless has a slightly elongated bowl and a skirted base. From \$495; icerausa.com

26. Glacio Knobs • AMEROCK

Seeing is wanting to touch these dainty knobs. In three shapes and five finishes, they’re clear with mirror-topped mountings—and could make a salvaged-wood vanity look luxurious. \$9.99 each; amerock.com

27. Handmade Cement Tile • SABINE HILL

We can’t get enough of the vintage cement-tile look—and now we have these 8-inch-square tiles (.71 inch thick) to pore over. From top to bottom: Flagstaff, Stella, Maize, and Kiva. From \$24 per square foot; sabinehill.com

Bath

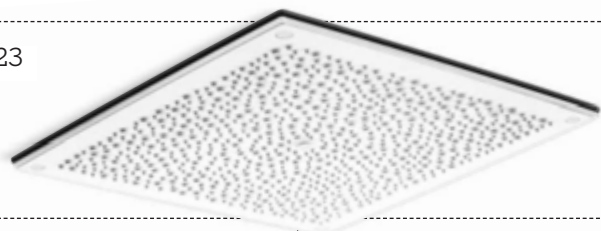
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28. Vintage Ranch Veneer • ELDORADO STONE

The worn-barn-wood look of this cast-concrete veneer is so convincing, you have to touch it to believe it. Much less upkeep than a horse, of course. From \$7 per square foot; eldoradostone.com

29. Clancy 1-Light Wall Sconce • HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE

This steel sconce and its glass shade need only an Edison-style bulb to add a vintage accent in, say, a beadboard-lined bath. In four finishes, including Aged Zinc and Buckeye Bronze (shown). \$100; houseofantiquehardware.com

28



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30. FlexWash + FlexDry

- **SAMSUNG**

Two loads, one machine, no waiting. Each of these front-loaders also has a small top-loader meant for delicates. Give them different settings and imagine all four going at once. From \$1,600 each; samsung.com

31. Cesello 54411 Widespread Faucet

- **GESSI**

Lever handles, imprinted accents, an angled spout, and finishes like warm brushed steel (shown), brushed copper, and brushed black make this high-end, low-flow faucet a standout. From \$1,292; gessi.com

32. Luxury Vinyl Sheet Flooring in Lattice

- **MANNINGTON**

When a budget space gets lots of traffic, consider vinyl flooring. This pattern mimics porcelain basket-weave tile, right down to flattering signs of wear, and comes in three thicknesses. From \$1.50 per square foot; mannington.com

33. Hillcrest Walnut Click Ceramic Planks

- **FELSEN**

Get the look of walnut without felling a tree or inhaling VOCs: 51-inch-long planks are ceramic and certified "low chemical emissions." Easy install—they can float, no grout needed. \$3.49 per square foot; lumberliquidators.com

34. Townsend Water-Saving Shower Head

- **AMERICAN STANDARD**

The challenge: Tighten up water flow without feeling the pain. This 6-by-6-inch showerhead releases a restrained 1.8 gallons per minute without leaving you high and dry. From \$86; americanstandard-us.com

35. Henley Cast Iron Pedestal Tub

- **SIGNATURE HARDWARE**

Here's a 66-inch pedestal tub with smooth lines and a gray finish. It's also double-ended, so choose the best view. And enjoy: Iron is heavy, but knows how to hold warmth. \$1,819; signaturehardware.com

31



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PHOTO: (NO. 33) MEG REINHARDT

Tools

36. Mobile Project Center • KREG TOOLS

Unlike all-plastic worktables, this 40-pound steel version supports 350 pounds with its table up, or 1,100 pounds folded down. The top has a grooved track for clamps and butterfly connectors to daisy-chain centers together. \$160; kregtool.com

37. Laser Tape Measure • GENERAL TOOLS

This 16-foot tape measure has a built-in laser that measures up to 50 feet and is accurate to within 1/4 inch. To operate, just push the red button and read the distance on the LCD display. \$40; thelasertape.com

38. True Blue Digital Box Levels • EMPIRE LEVEL

These are the first digital levels that self-calibrate with the touch of a button, up to the nearest 1/20 of a degree. Set it either for level or slopes. Comes in lengths from 16 to 72 inches. From \$100; empirelevel.com

39. Multipurpose Drill Bit Set • ROBERT BOSCH TOOL CORP.

They look like regular hex-shank masonry bits, but the sharp edges ground into their tungsten-carbide tips also allow them to zip through metal and wood. The five-bit kit ranges from 5/32 up to 3/8 inch. \$20; boschtools.com

40. Ultra Max Cordless Airless Sprayer • GRACO

Boasting tip pressures from 500 to 2,000 psi, it sprays both water- and solvent-based finishes, and needs no dip tube, viscosity cup, or paint cup. That means faster setups and cleanups, plus you can hold it at any angle, even upside down. \$699; graco.com

41. 60-Volt FlexVolt Track Saw • DEWALT

Like all track saws, this 12.5-pound model makes pin-straight, no-splinter cuts more safely than a table saw. But it does so under battery power, eliminating the chance of a cord snagging. \$579; dewalt.com

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42. 8-Gallon Dust Extractor

• MILWAUKEE TOOL

Every 15 seconds, this vacuum's main filter shakes off accumulated dust to maintain consistent airflow. A second, HEPA-grade filter complies with strict OSHA silica regs. It's tool-activated and as quiet as a running shower. \$599; milwaukeetool.com

43. 01 Dimensioning Instrument

• INSTRUMENTS

Roll the end of this pen-size device along any surface; it will send the dimension to your smartphone. Perfect for measuring plans—the app lets you adjust scale—and along curves. \$149; instruments.com

44. M1 Framing Hammer

• MARTINEZ TOOL CO.

This 15-ounce hybrid hammer features a replaceable head bolted to a lightweight titanium handle. The head is made of steel, which concentrates the

swing's impact force where it does the most good. The grip is also replaceable. \$225; martineztools.com

45. Ultra Driver 26inOne Tradesman Screwdriver

• WIHA TOOLS

The handle's pop-out cartridge houses 13 (!) double-ended bits, including Phillips, slotted, Torx, square, hex, and Pozidriv. A locking bit holder securely grips each bit when it's in use. \$56; wihatools.com

46. 18-Volt Cordless Compressor

• RIDGID TOOLS

It's a first! A battery-powered air compressor for shooting nails and staples or filling tires. Fill the 1-gallon tank to 120 psi, then drive up to 1,200 brad nails. Weighs just 19 pounds. \$200; ridgid.com

47. Ai Drill • WORX

This 20-volt drill/driver has one smart chuck. It automatically centers bits being tightened in its jaws, senses torque

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and stops when a screw is perfectly set, and it pulses when extracting damaged or stuck screws. \$120 for drill, battery, and charger; worx.com

48. Tick Tool Tracker • MILWAUKEE TOOL

Attach this 2-inch weather-resistant disc to anything you want to keep track of, and when it's within 100 feet of your phone, the app will pinpoint its location. Tag a tool as stolen, and you'll get an alert when another app user detects it. \$99; milwaukeetool.com

50



49. Straight Flush Saw • CUZ-D

With the functional styling of a Willys Jeep, this 14.3-pound worm-drive saw spins an 8½-inch blade that can sever a 6×6 in two passes, or make flush cuts both vertical and horizontal. \$575; cuz-d.com

50. Flir One Pro Thermal Imaging Camera • FLIR

This tiny camera, which attaches to your smartphone, shows how much heat a surface is emitting so you can find overheated circuits, missing insulation, or dampness. The camera outlines objects for enhanced clarity. \$399; flir.com

51



52



51. 18V LXT Cordless Compact Router • MAKITA

This impressive router has soft-start, variable speeds from 10,000 to 30,000 rpm, and constant speed control. And, thanks to its powerful 5-amp battery, there's no cord to contend with. The kit includes both a fixed and a plunge base. \$400; makitatools.com

52. Furno 750 Heat Gun • WAGNER SPRAY TECH

For safety and versatility, this gun lets you dial in exactly the temperature you want, from 125 to 1,300 degrees F, displayed on the LCD readout. When not in use, the tool sits conveniently nozzle up. \$70; wagnerspraytech.com

Home Tech

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53. Echo Show • AMAZON

Amazon's hit voice-controlled smart speaker gets a 7-inch touchscreen and camera, so now you can ask Alexa to play YouTube videos, show weather forecasts, and make video calls. \$230; amazon.com/echoshow

54. HomePod • APPLE

There's an iPhone-type brain inside Apple's voice-controlled speaker, due out in December, that can self-adapt to maximize room acoustics. \$349; apple.com/homepod

55. Google Wifi • GOOGLE

Simply add one of these mesh-networking devices wherever the Wi-Fi signal is weak in your home to spread a strong signal into every corner. \$299 for a three-pack; madeby.google.com/wifi

56. PLAYBASE • SONOS

This sound bar dramatically enhances your TV audio, even if you're not ready to install true surround sound. Movie rumbles will fill the room. \$699; sonos.com/playbase

57. Spotlight Cam Solar • RING

Just a few hours of sunlight keep this security camera charged, making it right for spots where it's a hassle to run power. The HD outdoor camera has two-way talk, siren, and spotlight. \$229; ring.com/spotlight-cam-solar

58. iSP8 SmartPlug • IHOME

Make your quirky old lamp a smart appliance with this plug adapter that gives you on-off control by app (including Alexa and Siri voice control). Or use the handy remote. \$50; ihomeaudio.com

59. Essie Pulldown Kitchen Faucet with MotionSense Wave • MOEN

Moen's handsome pull-down kitchen faucet can now also be hands-free. Wave your hand to turn water on or off. Great for more-sanitary handling of raw meat. \$289; moen.com

60. Sleep Number 360 Smart Bed • SLEEP NUMBER

Warm your feet to help you drift off, tune mattress firmness, and track your "SleepIQ" quality of slumber through an

60



accompanying app. *Queen i7 mattress* from \$3,499; sleepnumber.com/360

61. Lighthouse Home Security Camera

• LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse's 3-D sensor and machine learning technology make for more accurate facial-recognition and alerts, with plain language commands like "Who was with the dog yesterday around noon by the front door?" \$299, plus \$100 for first year of service; light.house

61



62



62. Roomba 690

• iROBOT

This 2017 update to Roomba's reliable robot vacuum adds Wi-Fi for remote control via the company's smartphone app, plus voice-command potential with Amazon Echo ("Alexa, ask Roomba to stop cleaning"). \$375; irobot.com

63. Roku Ultra • ROKU, INC.

One of the first streaming media players to support the richer colors of high dynamic range (HDR) 4K TVs. The slick remote has voice search, game buttons, and, best of all, a "remote finder" feature that emits a sonar ping. \$100; roku.com

63



64



64. Smoke Gateway

• THERMOWORKS

Many backyard-BBQ folks swear by the Smoke BBQ Thermometer, which already has a 300-foot wireless range for monitoring grilling and smoking. This new Wi-Fi gateway and app adds an Internet connection to "track your cook" from anywhere with temperature alerts and gloriously gratuitous graphs. \$89; thermoworks.com

65. Nanoleaf Aurora

• NANOLEAF

Wall-mountable colored LED lights can be configured in origami-like shapes and programmed for morning-sunrise hues, social-hour cool, and, with the Aurora Rhythm add-on (sold separately), music visualizations. \$200 for nine panels; nanoleaf.me

66. Molekule Air Purifier • MOLEKULE

The "world's first molecular air purifier" claims to destroy allergens, mold, bacteria, and VOCs on a microscopic scale using a process that leaves conventional HEPA air purifiers in the dust. \$799; molekule.com

65



66



67. Precision Brewer Thermal • BREVILLE

Finely regulate the flow and temperature of brew water for specific coffee-brewing recipes, including near-boiling temps often recommended for optimal extraction. \$300; brevilleusa.com

68. Philips Hue White Ambiance Candle Bulb • PHILIPS LIGHTING

Elegant new candelabra bulbs connect to a Philips Hue bridge for control by app and voice assistants. Temperatures range from warm white to cool daylight, with deep dimming. \$30; amazon.com

67



68



69. Pulaski Axe • BAREBONES LIVING

The horizontal mattock blade opposite the steel head makes this smarter than the average axe, plus the threaded rod inside the 21-inch beech handle means zero wobble. \$135; barebonesliving.com

70. 103N All-in-1 Knife, Pruner, Axe & Tool Sharpener • SHARPAL

With a grip big enough for thick work gloves, this compact device conceals blades set at specific angles for pruner,



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71



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Outdoor

axe, and knife sharpening, plus tungsten carbide and ceramic surfaces for honing other tools. \$16; homedepot.com

71. Speedwash 2900 PSI Pressure Washer System • GENERAC

Turn the dial on the wand to choose a setting—car, wood, concrete, soap—and this power-washer automatically adjusts to the right pressure, letting you finish tasks faster and with fewer worries. Color-coded nozzle tips ensure you've got the ideal spray angle, too. \$349; generac.com

72. FlexDIAL ComfortGEL Bypass Pruner—¾ Inch • CORONA TOOLS

An adjustable dial lets you tweak how far the bypass blades open to fit what you're cutting. The ergonomic innovation helps you take on repetitive chores like deadheading without hand fatigue. \$36; coronatoolsusa.com

73. 36-Inch Snow Pusher • TRUE TEMPER

Clearing a snow-covered walkway with a single pass (and no lifting!) may sound impossible, but this 3-foot-wide

74



pusher turns you into a human snowplow. The nylon blade won't scratch surfaces. \$65; true-temper.com

74. AZEK Pergola Kits • WALPOLE

You won't believe something this sturdy is so easy to assemble. With seven styles, up to 10 sizes, and over 140 Sunbrella fabrics for the retractable canopy, these kits let you create a custom outdoor room nearly anywhere. From \$6,125; azek.com/pergolas

telescopes from 7 to 16 feet and an aggressive 15-inch saw blade. A built-in bypass pruner handles smaller branches. Just remember to watch your head. \$100; fiskars.com

78. 60V 540 CFM Cordless Brushless Backpack Blower • GREENWORKS PRO

This battery-powered backpack delivers a formidable blow. The turbo boost setting gives it the strength of a gas blower, but at under 8 pounds, it's as light as a handheld. \$299 including battery and charger; lowes.com

79. Taylor Bristleless Grill Scraper • FILAMENT BRANDS

Three different scraping surfaces—including ridges that conform to grates—de-gunk every bit of your grill without relying on potentially unsafe bristles. This tool won't scratch more delicate surfaces like ceramic, so it can multitask indoors, too. \$15; amazon.com

80. RM480E Electric Riding Lawn Mower • RYOBI

This 38-inch-deck rechargeable ride-on cuts down on noise and maintenance without compromising power. One charge packs enough juice to trim two acres, though the 16-inch turning radius eases maneuvering in smaller spaces. \$2,499; homedepot.com

75



76



75. Chick Charms Gold Nugget • CHICK CHARMS

This succulent is the first sempervivum—a.k.a. hens and chicks—to turn gold and red when the mercury dips below 70 degrees F. In warmer climes, it stays apple green with maroon shading. \$15 for a 3½-inch pot; gardencrossings.com

76. Timberline 850 Grill • TRAEGER

Cook perfect 'cue from anywhere with this wood-pellet-burning grill. Connect to its WiFire controller to adjust temperature, change the smoke level, and set timers from your smartphone. \$1,700; traegergrills.com

77. Chain Drive Extendable Pole Saw & Pruner • FISKARS

Reach higher and lop bigger limbs with a handle that

77



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81. Blaster Glove
• FLYLOW GEAR

These goatskin gloves' strength, flexibility, and water resistance make them good for winter work; the incredibly warm and undeniably soft PrimaLoft lining makes them great. They're unisex, but you won't want to share. \$100; thegrommet.com

82. Westport Adirondack Chair
• LOLL DESIGNS

Hard to believe such a clean-lined classic was first created in 1903. This contemporary take is U.S.-made from recycled plastics that will stand up to time and the elements. It comes in neutrals, but why not go bright? \$715; loll designs.com

83. Worm Farm Composter • GARDENER'S SUPPLY COMPANY

Odorless indoor composting? Believe it. Red wigglers (sold separately) can manage a family of four's scraps, and this design makes harvesting compost easy, even for the dirt-averse. \$139; gardeners.com

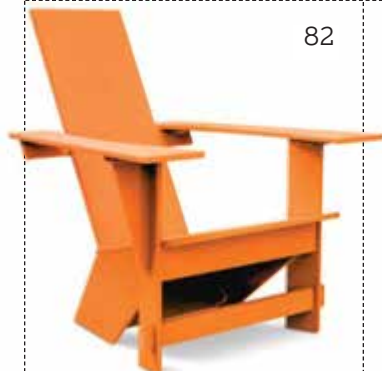
84. Performance Ready-to-Grow Mix • PITTMOSS

Pamper your plants with this peat-moss alternative, previously available only to pros. Made from recycled cellulose fibers (think newspaper), it can be used alone in containers or as a soil amendment in a bed to supercharge growth. \$26 per cubic foot; pittmoss.com

81



82



83



84



Building Products

85. Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel
• SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

It has the easy cleanup and low VOCs of a latex paint, and the smooth hardness and durability of an oil paint. Use it inside or out. Dries in just 2 hours. \$88 per gallon; sherwin-williams.com

86. Concrete Crack Lock
• RHINO CARBON FIBER

Lightweight carbon-fiber bars slip into epoxy-filled slots cut

across cracks in slabs or walls. When the epoxy cures, that crack won't move; these flat black bars resist up to 216,000 pounds of tensile force. \$129 per 20-lock kit; rhinocarbonfiber.com

87. Outdoor Accents Decorative Hardware
• SIMPSON STRONG-TIE

Hot-dip galvanized and powder-coated for maximum rust resistance, these steel pieces are not only handsome but also strong. They look bolted in place, but the "nuts" are actually washers, hiding the heads of structural screws. From \$1.50 apiece; strongtie.com

88. Pryzm Luxury Flooring
• ARMSTRONG FLOORING

These wide, click-together vinyl planks, in 12 realistic wood-look styles, make a floor that's waterproof, easy to install, and virtually dent-proof, thanks to a thermoplastic core that resists pressures up to 1,450 psi. From \$5 per square foot; armstrongflooring.com

89. Drain-N-Dry Veneer-Stone Lath • BORAL

Installing veneer stone just got a lot easier with this one-step, stapled-on barrier. Mortar bonds to its alkali-resistant fiberglass mesh, and its dimpled plastic sheet creates an air gap to keep the sheathing dry. \$225 per 150-square-foot roll; boralamerica.com

90. Intelli-Balance 100 ERV (FV-10VEC1)
• PANASONIC

In warm climates, energy-recovery ventilators (ERVs) exhaust stale indoor air and replace it with fresh outdoor air while lowering its temperature and humidity. But this ERV also has the unique ability to operate in cold climates, using outgoing indoor air to warm up and humidify the incoming outdoor air. Twin DC motors ensure minimal energy use. \$1,583; business.panasonic.com

85



86



87



88



89



90



91



92



91. Kooltherm K12 Framing Board Insulation • KINGSPAN

This foil-faced foam board gets its outstanding R-8-per-inch rating from a closed-cell, phenolic-resin core. That's 41 percent better than everyday polyiso boards. Plus, it's more fire resistant. \$50 per 48-by-96-by-2-inch-thick sheet; kingspaninsulation.us

92. Resolution High-Performance Finish • SANSIN

Create a long-lasting, yacht-grade finish, indoors or out, in two steps: with a UV-resistant penetrating stain followed by a high-solids, low-VOC waterborne oil. Dries in 1 hour; recoat in 6. \$74 per quart; sansin.com

93. FastFix Rapid Patch • SIKA

For quick, no-mess repairs to spalled concrete floors or patios, simply burst the barrier separating the components of this two-part cementitious patch. Then mix them together in the bag and pour. Hardens in 10 to 15 minutes. Drive on it in 1 hour. One bag covers 1 square foot at a ½-inch depth. \$10; usa.sika.com

94. Large-Hole Repair Kit • 3M

In this kit is everything you need to repair drywall holes up to 5 inches across: an adhesive-backed plastic lath, a putty knife, sandpaper, and a one-coat compound that dries overnight without sagging, shrinking, or cracking. \$16; 3m.com

93



94



95. Pure Wool 5825 Loose-Fill Insulation
• PARAGON WOOL PRODUCTS

Tangling wool into pills allows it to be blown into wall cavities or attics and ups wool's R-value by 57 percent, to R-5.825. It's naturally noncombustible and moisture resistant, and absorbs sound and VOCs. \$5 per cubic foot; paragonwoolproducts.com

96. RockSolid Deck Start Wood Primer
• RUST-OLEUM

This clear, water-based primer eliminates the need to strip and sand exterior wood before applying an acrylic solid-color stain. The acrylic formula adheres tenaciously to wood, increasing the longevity of the top coat. \$35; rustoleum.com

97. Wood Corbel with Rib Mounts
• FEDERAL BRACE

These paint-grade maple corbels have a hidden channel routed to accept a ¼-inch-thick, powder-coated steel "rib" that supports an astonishing 375 pounds. Choose from eight solid-wood styles,

such as the Murray corbel bracket (shown). From \$85; federalbrace.com

98. Weathered Wood Accelerator
• VARATHANE

This penetrating finish reacts with the tannins in wood to create a rustic barnboard look in 30 to 60 minutes. The higher the tannin levels, and the longer the finish sits, the grayer the results. \$11 per quart; rustoleum.com

99. SwitchLight Cover Plate • SNAPPPOWER

A three-LED night-light turns on and off automatically, thanks to a photoelectric eye, and uses only 10 cents of electricity a year. Easy to install, it just snaps on to the switch's terminals. \$15; snappower.com

100. Mold Killer • FLO-X

As the only EPA-registered mold killer, this bleach-free, borate-based spray does away with fungi in 5 minutes. It comes packaged for five different uses: indoor/outdoor, HVAC, shower and bath, tile and grout, and paint prep. \$20 each; flo-x.com ■

95



96



97



98



99



100



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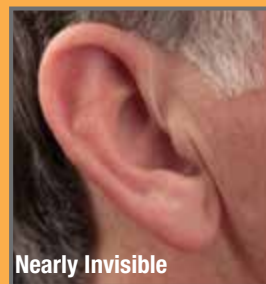
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COVER See the listing for "Stone, Timber, and Tenacity."

HOME SOLUTIONS (pp. 13–18) Stylish log rack > *Thanks to* Scott Salvesson, director, National Firewood Association; nationalfirewoodassociation.org. Detector check > *Thanks to* Jim Narva, executive director, National Association of State Fire Marshals; firemarshals.org.

BEFORE + AFTER: KITCHEN Going for flow (pp. 27–29) **Designer:** Cillesa Ullman, Cillesa Interior Design & Space Planning, Oakland, CA; cillesa.com. **Contractor:** Miguel Garcia, MG Construction, Oakland, CA; mgconstruction.us. **Paint:** Country White (walls), Stonington Gray (cabinets), Montpelier (island); benjaminmoore.com. **Cabinets:** Precision Cabinets, Brentwood, CA; precisioncabinets.com. **Countertops:** Marble Unlimited Inc., Hayward, CA; marbleunlimitedinc.com. **Floor installation:** T&T Floors, Oakland, CA; 510-536-8333. **Cooktop, refrigerator, dishwasher:** Jenn-Air; jennair.com. **Vent hood:** Milano Island; zephyronline.com. **Sink:** kohler.com. **Sink hardware:** Belo Kitchen Collection; brizo.com. **Pendant lights:** Link Low Voltage Mini

Pendant with Blue (Steel) Bubble Glass; hubbardtonforge.com. **Windows:** pella.com. **Window treatments:** hunterdouglas.com. **Knobs:** Bergen; topknobs.com. **Pulls:** Alexander; emtek.com. **Pitcher, juice carafe:** crateandbarrel.com. **Plates:** potterybarn.com. **Canisters:** containerstore.com. **Table runner, napkins, pillows:** westelm.com. **Rug:** target.com.



BEFORE + AFTER: BATH Room to grow (pp. 31–32) **Architect:** Adam Sharkey, Blackbird Architects, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA; bbird.com. **Contractor:** Jose Manuel Mora, Mora's Construction, Oxnard, CA; 805-415-5461. **Paint:**

Similar to shown: Tennis White (walls), Aqueduct (ceiling); sherwin-williams.com. **Vanity:** Ove Decors; homedepot.com. **Custom shower glass fin:** JNL Glass, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA; jnlglass.com. **Shower glass fin hardware:** hafele.com. **Toilet:** americanstandard.com. **Faucet:** grohe.us.

PHOTOSHOP REDO From disastrous to delightful (p. 34) *Thanks to* Garrett Goodridge, Hickox Williams Architects, Boston; hickoxwilliams.com.

SHOPPING Wall-mount pot fillers (pp. 45–47) **Tile:** Jeffrey Court Tiffany May Glass Mosaic Tile; homedepot.com. **Grout:** Custom Building Products SimpleGrout in Bright White; homedepot.com.

BUDGET REDO Updated vanity nook for \$75 (p. 48) **Homeowner's blog:** biggerthanthe threeofus.com.

STONE, TIMBER, AND TENACITY (pp. 70–77) **Architect:** A. Paul Varanouskas, Wappingers Falls, NY; apvarchitect.com. **Contractor:** Historic Housewrights, Inc., Accord, NY; historic housewrights-ny.com. **Plasterwork:** John T. Mortillo

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Construction, Pleasant Valley, NY; 914-388-3988. **Exterior > Paint:** Flaxen Field (siding) and Pettingill Sage (trim), californiapaints.com; Country Redwood (doors and shutters), benjaminmoore.com. **Kitchen > Countertops:** Anaconda Soapstone, M. Teixeira Soapstone, Glen Rock, NJ; soapstones.com. **Range:** fivestarrange.com. **Sink:** elkay.com. **Double sink:** franke.com/us. **Pot filler:** danze.com. **Dishwashers:** bosch-home.com/us. **Dining room > Mural:** Heidi Reagan and Lou Sarra, New Paltz, NY; 845-337-6617. **Downstairs master bath > Cabinets:** wood-mode.com. **Countertop:** durangostone.com. **Faucets:** newportbrass.com. **Sink:** kohler.com. **Radiant heating:** suntouch.com.

Upstairs master bedroom > Flooring: The Hudson Company; thehudsonco.com. **Flooring nails:** Tremont Nail Company, Mansfield, MA; tremontnail.com. **Floor sealant:** Murdoch's Hard Sealer; sutherlandwelles.com. **Fan:** ceilingfans.emerson.com. **Drawers:** drawerdepot.com. **Upstairs master bath > Lighting:** George Kovacs (scones), minkaaire.com; Eden White Pendant Light (ceiling), cb2.com. **Mirrored cabinets:** centurybathworks.com. **Shower niches:** Redi Niche; tileredi.com. **Faucets:** grohe.us. **Sink and toilet:** Toto; totousa.com. **Shower system:** schluter.com.

ALL ABOUT INTERIOR WALL CLADDING

(pp. 78–83) **Thanks to** Jonathan Raith, Jonathan Raith & Co., Nantucket, MA; jonathanraith.com. Katie DeRario, Hart & Lock Design, Milton, GA; hartandlock.com.

GOING WITH THE GRAIN (pp. 84–89) Architect:

Clemens Pantuso Architecture, Chagrin Falls, OH; clemenspantuso.com. **General contractor:** Cross Cut Construction, Thompson, OH; 440-829-8128. **Cabinets and built-ins:** Jesse Treadway, Elk Creek Construction, Thompson, OH; 440-223-5122. **Additional carpentry:** Jason Perry, Triad

Construction, Madison, OH; 440-223-6366. **Floor refinishing:** Kelco Hardwood Floors, Painesville, OH; 440-354-0974. **Exterior > Paint:** Canvas Tan (siding) and Westhighland White (trim); sherwin-williams.com. **Living room > Chair, table, and glass-front cabinet:** stickley.com. **Lamp:** quozel.com. **Rug:** potterybarn.com. **Kitchen > Countertops:** Stoneworks; stoneworksltd.com. **Refrigerator:** kitchenaid.com. **Dishwasher:** Bosch; bosch-home.com/us. **Push-button light switches:** classicaccents.net. **Guest room > Barn wood:** Olde Wood Limited; oldewoodltd.com. **Rug:** GuildCraft Carpets; shop.guildcraftcarpets.com. 🏠

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This Old House (ISSN 1086-2633), Vol. 22, No. 8. Published eight times a year (January/February, March/April, May, June, July/August, September, October, November/December) by This Old House Ventures, LLC, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902. Periodicals postage paid at Stamford, CT, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS (see DMM 5071.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address corrections to P.O. Box 62330, Tampa, FL 33662-2330; 800-898-7237. U.S. subscriptions: \$19.95 for one year. This Old House and the This Old House Window are registered trademarks of This Old House Ventures, LLC. Printed in the USA (GST: 854175130RM0001). Eric Thorkilsen, CEO. ©2017 This Old House Ventures, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

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1. PUBLICATION TITLE: THIS OLD HOUSE

2. PUBLICATION NUMBER: 14603

3. FILING DATE: October 1, 2017

4. ISSUE FREQUENCY: Monthly with combined issues in January/February, March/April, July/August and November/December

5. NUMBER OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY: 8

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$19.95

7. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:

262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

8. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICE OF

PUBLISHER: 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

9. FULL NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE PUBLISHER,

EDITOR, MANAGING EDITOR:

Chief Revenue Officer: Michael Burton, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

Editor: Susan Wyland, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

Managing Editor: Gyna Soucy, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

10. OWNER: TZP Growth Partners 1, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902-7438

11. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES, OR SECURITIES:

Not Applicable

12. Not Applicable

13. PUBLICATION TITLE: This Old House

14. ISSUE DATE FOR CIRCULATION DATA BELOW: September 1, 2017

15. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total Number of Copies:	934,416	867,281
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541:	746,972	669,742
2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541:	0	0
3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS: 33,983		28,415
4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS:	0	0
C. Total Paid Distribution:	780,955	698,157
D. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		
1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541:	119,095	140,283
2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541:	0	0
3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS:	0	0
4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail:	3,279	2,621
E. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution:	122,374	142,904
F. Total Distribution:	903,329	841,061
G. Copies Not Distributed:	31,087	26,220
H. Total:	934,416	867,281
I. Percent Paid:	86.5%	83.0%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November/December 2017 issue of this publication.

17. SIGNATURE AND DATE: Michael Burton, Chief Revenue Officer of
This Old House Ventures, LLC

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9/20/2017

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- GFCI outlets

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Customer Rating **★★★★**

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LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

VIKING **SUPER COUPON**

JUMP STARTER AND POWER PACK

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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ITEM 62749

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CHICAGO **ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS** **SUPER COUPON**

10" SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW

- Powerful 15 amp motor

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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\$84.99

ITEM 61971/61972

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HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

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Customer Rating **★★★★**

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ITEM 62515

66911 shown

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- 2.5 amp hour battery
- Weights 3.6 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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\$99.99

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WINDSOR DESIGN **SUPER COUPON**

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Customer Rating **★★★★**

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ITEM 34102

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LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

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Customer Rating **★★★★**

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ITEM 69505/62418

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CENTRAL MACHINERY **SUPER COUPON**

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Customer Rating **★★★★**

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LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON**

24" CLAMP AND CUT EDGE GUIDE

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

PORTLAND **SUPER COUPON**

1750 PSI PRESSURE WASHER

- 1.3 GPM
- Adjustable spray nozzle

Customer Rating **★★★★**

Compare ~~\$179.33~~

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ITEM 63255/63254 shown

28115135

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

CENTRAL MACHINERY **SUPER COUPON**

UNIVERSAL TOOL STAND

- 500 lb. capacity

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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ITEM 69805

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luminar **OUTDOOR** **SUPER COUPON**

24 FT., 18 BULB, 12 SOCKET OUTDOOR STRING LIGHTS

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

1000 LB. CAPACITY SWING-BACK TRAILER JACK

- Height range: 12-1/2" to 24"

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

Lifetime CARBIDE **SUPER COUPON**

ALUMINUM OXIDE SANDING SPONGES

Customer Rating **★★★★**

Compare ~~\$4.80~~

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ITEM 46751

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ITEM 46752

63915

ITEM 46753

63912

28124217

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/20/18

CENTRAL MACHINERY **SUPER COUPON**

8", 5 SPEED BENCHTOP DRILL PRESS

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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THE HISTORY Built circa 1872, this Italianate is believed to be the oldest house in town. Local lore holds that the home's original owner, Captain William Steers, used the square cupola atop its two stories as a sort of captain's walk to survey his surroundings on all four sides—though in this landlocked location he would have been hard-pressed to spot a ship on the horizon. These days the home is known as the Francisco House, after the family that owned it for much of the 20th century. In the early 1980s, Mary Simon—née Francisco—put extensive work into the property, but the house's most recent owner let it fall into disrepair.

WHY SAVE IT? The 2,660-square-foot house has an impressive symmetrical facade with tall paired windows; a low-pitched, simple hip roof; and wide, overhanging eaves characteristic of Italianates. While that was the go-to style for wealthy Upper Midwesterners of the era, few of the homes still stand. Though some of the house's features, such as the fireplaces, have been lost to time, details including 10-foot coved ceilings, wide-plank hardwood floors, and handsome casings remain intact.

WHAT IT NEEDS Thanks to the 1980s renovation, the mechanicals are in working order, and the windows and roof are upgraded. One of the four bedrooms was converted to a second-floor bath, but the first-floor bath and kitchen need attention, as does water damage in one bedroom. Though the vinyl siding is in great shape, original exterior details—decorative brackets on the cupola and pilaster details at the corners of the house—were removed during its installation. Restoring these could turn this sturdy Italianate back into a showpiece. —KATE WOOD



1. The Francisco House sits on a nearly quarter-acre lot. Though close to the city center, it's on a road with no through traffic.
2. The door, transom, and sidelights date to around 1900, while the elaborate casings are original.
3. A built-in cupboard in the dining room fills an opening that was likely a back door; the kitchen, seen through the door at right, is part of a 20th-century addition that connected the house to an outbuilding.
4. Removing the wall-to-wall carpeting revealed the original wide-plank hardwood floors.

GOT A HOUSE?

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