

This Old House

Kitchen & bath special

- Family-friendly renos
- Smart ways to save
- Best new products

Farmhouse sinks
Top tile trends
Newton project reveal
AC tune-up
Pruning trees
and shrubs



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.



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](https://www.ikea.com/us/en/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.



SEKTION / VOXTORP
kitchen

\$3399*

*Based on a 10'x10' kitchen

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PHOTO: ANTHONY TIEULI

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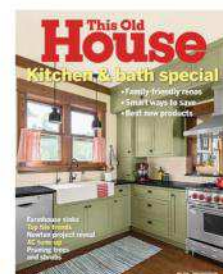
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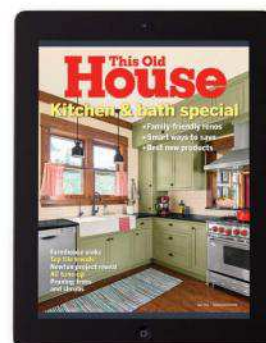
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Help for new homeowners

Remember your first night in your first house? There you were, dropping off to sleep, and something in the basement went *clunk*. What was that noise? Was it the furnace? Did it stop? OMG, is it supposed to stop?

Jenn Largesse remembers. Jenn, who began her career as an editorial assistant at *This Old House* in 2007, has just launched a digital brand for new homeowners and renters. It's called House One, and you can find it at www.house.one.

Jenn describes House One as “a new brand from *This Old House* that offers easy instruction and inspiration.” She and her husband, Dan, are currently renovating their first house. “The problems that face new homeowners are different from the ones that face people who have been homeowners for a long time,” she says. “There is that fear and anxiety of the unknown: What normally breaks? I always say, as a new homeowner, you don’t know what you don’t know. House One will help you figure out what needs fixing, and will give you the skills you need to do it.”

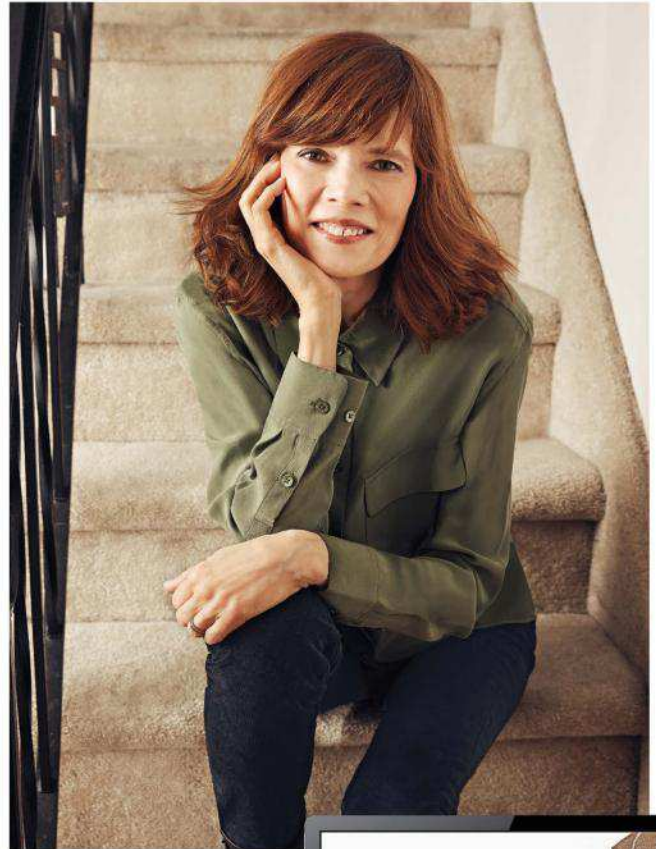
The site will offer instruction on home repairs and upgrades, showcase great DIY design, and feature project and tool tutorials created by Jenn herself, the daughter of a carpenter and an English teacher. She has lined up a core group of experts to help.

“Our *TOH* TV guys are the original influencers, people passionate and knowledgeable,” she says. “So we went out and looked for today’s influencers.”

This means that at House One, you can learn how to clean a dishwasher or build a floating shelf or a pallet-wood coffee table. Unlike many sites geared to millennials, House One will actually show you how to do it, step by step. And if you get stuck, there will always be someone to turn to.

“We’re creating a community,” Jenn says. “If you have a question, or you’re lost, we’re there. You’re going to get a response from somebody.”

I hope that House One inspires you to try something new, whether you’re on your first house or your fifth. Welcome home, Jenn. It’s great to have you back.



House One is a new digital brand from *This Old House*, inspired by creator Jenn Largesse’s own experiences renovating her family’s first home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Susan Wyland'.

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

How Safe Is Your Home's Wiring?

Your home and family may be vulnerable to easily preventable dangers. Read on for ways to protect them.



An Ounce of Prevention

More than half of the 28,000 electrical home fires¹ and nearly 70% of the 400 electrocutions that occur in the U.S.² every year could have been prevented with two inexpensive, DIY-friendly safety devices. And while these devices may look similar, the ground fault and arc fault dangers they prevent—and functions they perform—are vastly different. Here's why you need the protection of both.

The Ground Fault/Arc Fault Difference

Ground faults occur when electricity escapes bare, damaged, wet, or poorly insulated wires and takes a shortcut to the ground. If your body provides the path to that ground, you could be electrocuted. Arc faults happen when electricity crosses a gap between damaged wiring such as loose, corroded, or overloaded connections in walls, appliances, and cords. The resulting high-intensity heat can ignite surrounding materials, including framing and insulation. GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) and AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets detect these faults and instantly break the connection, reducing the risk of electric shock and fire.

Keeping Up with Codes

The National Electrical Code® (NEC®) has long mandated that GFCI outlets be installed in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, outdoors, and other damp locations. More recent code changes require AFCIs in living spaces such as bedrooms and living rooms. In 2014, the NEC introduced additional AFCI requirements for kitchens and laundry rooms; so if you are remodeling or building new, you'll need to have both in place. If you need to upgrade, Leviton's SmartlockPro® AFCI/GFCI Dual Function Outlet offers fire and shock protection in one device and can be used to satisfy NEC requirements for modifications/extensions, replacement receptacles, and, in certain instances, new construction.

Why Choose an AFCI/GFCI Outlet Instead of an AFCI/GFCI Circuit Breaker?

The AFCI/GFCI Dual Function Outlet is a more cost-effective option that works with any type of wiring and can be reset by simply pressing a button on the face of the device, eliminating the need for a trip to the breaker panel.

¹ National Fire Protection Association; Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFi) ² Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFi)

What Goes Where?

Now that you know the difference between the devices, here's where they should be installed in your home.



AFCIs

Living areas such as bedrooms, hallways, and family rooms to help **protect your home from electrical fires.**



GFCIs

Near water sources, such as bathrooms, basements, and garages, and near pools and spas to help **protect you from electrocution.**



Dual function AFCI/GFCIs

Kitchens and laundry rooms or as a replacement option for any ungrounded outlets to help **protect from electrical fire and electrocution.**



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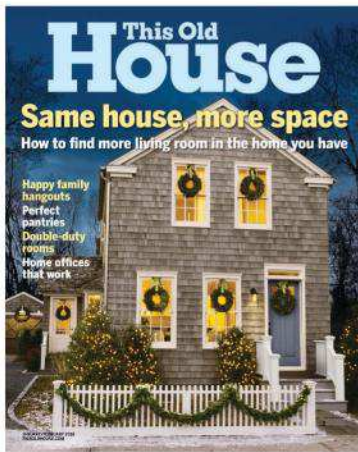
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→ Include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

EVERY HOUSE HAS ITS QUIRKS—*and readers always find a way to adapt the advice in our pages to the specifics of their own homes. Here, some tips shared in response to our January/February issue.*

Stay cozy for less

I have a cheaper, easier way to insulate a pull-down attic stair [Norm's Tricks of the Trade, Jan/Feb 2018]. Before you close the trapdoor behind you, pull a water-heater blanket over the opening. I'm using the same blanket after more than 20 years, and it works great.

—PAT SMILEY, VIA E-MAIL

Problems solved

Reading "Clean-sweep soot stains" [Home Solutions, Jan/Feb 2018] reminded me of how I removed soot in our home. I didn't want harsh fumes, so I tried a 60/40 mix of water and Simple Green All-Purpose Cleaner. I sprayed on the mixture, then used Scrubbing Bubbles Disinfectant Bathroom Cleaner to prevent streaking. It lifted the soot off the stone—the fireplace looked brand-new!

—MATT HUTSON, CINCINNATI

"Make a drop-cloth throw rug" [Home Solutions, Jan/Feb 2018] is a great idea. I've decorated with them before. In my living room, I concealed old paneling by hanging drop cloths dipped in starch as "wallpaper,"

then painted them with acrylic latex paint. Easy to do, plus there's no wallpaper paste to deal with if you decide to remove them.

—GLENDA BYNUM, MAYFIELD, KY

Regarding "Get a grip on ice" [Home Solutions, Jan/Feb 2018], for years I've used granular fertilizer on ice and snow. It works well, plus it gives nearby grass and plants a break from salt and a "heads-up" for spring.

—RICHARD S. DONAHEY, BEXLEY, OH

THE EDITORS REPLY: *Please note that granular fertilizer can be poisonous to pets, so avoid spreading it where four-legged friends roam.*

Pet smarts

Tom Silva did his usual excellent job with the dog door in the wall [Weekend Remodel, Jan/Feb 2018], but adding one to an exterior door is much easier. An extra-large model for our Great Danes fit perfectly in a panel of our back door, and took about 2 hours to install. No more rushing home to let the dogs out!

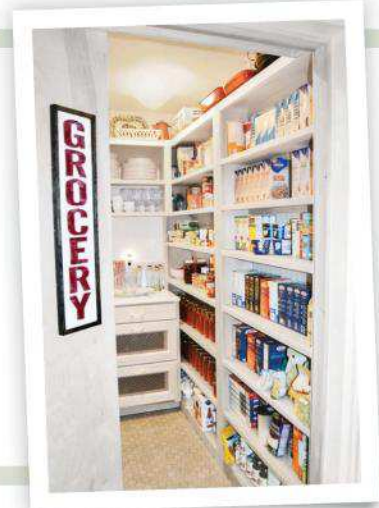
—BRYAN DODSON, NEW HOPE, AL

READER
PROJECT
OF THE
MONTH

Coat closet turned kitchen pantry

—LAUREN LESHAK-ESPENSHADE, VIA E-MAIL

I was blown away (and totally relieved) when I saw "Read This Before You Put In a Pantry" [Jan/Feb 2018]. My husband and I turned a coat closet on the first floor of our 1860s farmhouse into a pantry last summer. I felt like I was reading a step-by-step account of how we designed our pantry! I have been a fan of *TOH* since I was a little girl helping my dad build playhouses out of pallets. You have been a huge part of my life, and will continue to be as I renovate my very own old house.



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We Have a Love for the Original



On February 14, 1897, while Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire, Arthur Gerard Shaw of Darwen, England invented the form we now call the Farmhouse Apron-Front Fireclay Sink.

When Shaws sinks were first designed, good water was scarce in the UK's towns and cities - particularly in London. Hence early designs did not have any form of overflow, and became known originally as a 'London Sink'. They were regarded for their functional deep bowls and sanitary smooth glazes. They soon became popular in the 'back of house' like butler's areas and the downstairs kitchens of fine stately homes around the UK and America.

In the British countryside, clean water was more ample resulting in a new design called the 'Belfast Sink' - featuring a built in overflow drain. This allowed water to overflow while in use, keeping the water in the sink fresh. These sinks were used for everything from scrubbing pots, washing laundry and bathing children.

Shaws Farmhouse Sinks are made from a unique material called fireclay. Fireclay is produced when heavy ball clay and glaze are heated to an extremely high temperature (2200°F), causing the elements to fuse together, creating a new, super durable material.

Each sink is hand-made, taking three to four weeks in total, using time-honored techniques that have been passed down from master craftsman to apprentices for well over a century.

Shaws master craftsmen shape farmhouse sinks using original techniques from 1897.



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Shaws sinks are made of heavy ball fireclay for extreme durability. Its unique properties are created when the clay and glaze fuse together.



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Shaws master craftsmen hand-finish using a process of sponging and 'fettling' to create a smooth surface.



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Shaws sinks are the original farmhouse apron-front design, made using the same techniques from 120 years ago when the first was invented.

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home solutions

Edited by Kate Wood

INSIDE | TILE WITH STYLE | HEDGE SHEARING | AC CHECKUP | HEALTHY COMPOST | MORE

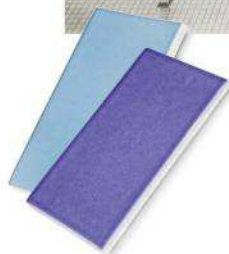
Water-wise fountain planter

Got a nonworking fountain or municipal water restrictions? Cascading succulents can bring a tiered water feature's basins back to life. Before planting, drill evenly spaced $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch drainage holes near the support column. Line with landscape fabric or window screening before adding drainage rocks, then a soilless mix. Place leggy species (such as aeonium) near the center and trailing types (like burro's tail) along the edges. Pack in as many of these slow growers as will fit, keeping crowns clear of the planting medium. Use a dry paintbrush to whisk away any bits stuck to the leaves, and you're good to grow.



Fresh takes on bath tile

Add personality to your personal space with unusual colors, patterns, and shapes. Here, some inspiring ideas for creating a distinctive look with lasting appeal. —K.W.



> **Colorblock Bands** Build horizontal stripes from a mix of bricks and squares in different sizes and colors for a unique wainscot. Tonal hues and a single finish keep it cohesive. Since you don't need much of each tile, search odd lots and overstock to rein in costs. **Similar to shown:** 3" x 6" Vermeere Ceramics Gloss Subway Tile, \$21 per sq. ft.; completetile.com



> **Geometric Patterns** The encaustic look has staying power, with strong, simple graphics gaining ground. Add your own twist: Rotate half the tiles 90° to change up the pattern. **Shown:** EliteTile Forties Vertex 7¾" x 7¾" Ceramic Field Tile, \$4.45 per sq. ft.; wayfair.com



> Unexpected Shapes

Tired of Moroccan arabesques? Consider fan, a.k.a. fish scale, tiles. Use contrasting grout to make the shape really pop.

Shown: Jeffrey Court Beverly Blue Fan Ceramic Mosaic Tile, \$14 per 8¾" x 13" sheet; homedepot.com



Pull some strings for nesting birds

Encourage feathered friends to make themselves at home with a DIY nesting ball. Gather biodegradable, untreated materials, whether found outdoors (moss, vines, feathers) or inside (torn-up cotton balls, wool yarn, twine, or fabric). Adding bright trimmings will lure birds close. Snip bits to a manageable length of less than 3 inches. Pop it all into a mesh produce bag, secure with twine, and hang from a branch. Keep your eyes peeled for nests studded with color in the weeks ahead. —K.W.



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Is your sump pump ready for prime time?

April showers bring May flowers—and up the risk of basement flooding. Follow these steps to ensure your pump is primed to keep your lowest level high and dry.

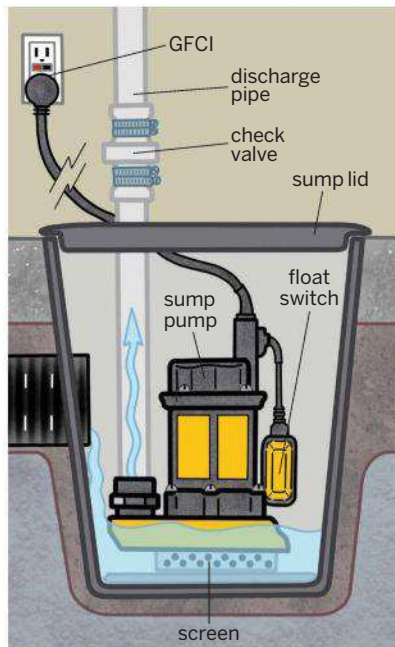
1/ Clean the screen. Unplug the pump, disconnect it from the discharge pipe, and pull the pump out of the sump. Hose away any debris on the screen at the pump's base and rinse off its housing. Lubricate the pump bearings, if required. (Consult the owner's manual if you're unsure.)

2/ Inspect the check valve. If its internal flap doesn't swing freely, flush it out, and if you see mineral deposits, soak it in vinegar. Make sure its arrow points up when reconnecting it to the discharge pipe.

3/ Test the float switch. Pour a few gallons of water into the sump. If it comes on and sucks out the water, the switch (and pump) are good to go. If not, repair or replace the switch.

4/ Exercise the outlet. Per code, a sump pump has to be plugged in to a GFCI receptacle. For your safety, press its test and reset buttons.

5/ Got a backup battery? Top up its cells with distilled water, as needed. —THOMAS BAKER



Hedging your best

Buzz-cutting borders with electric shears can feel mighty satisfying, but your living fence deserves more. Here, *TOH* landscape contractor Roger Cook lays out what you need to do the job right.

SHEARS Electric shears save time and effort when creating dramatic changes in height or width, or for frequent upkeep of fast growers like privet or yew. Working from the bottom up, shape hedges so they are narrower at the top to ensure that lower branches get enough sun to leaf out.

BYPASS PRUNERS Taking the tips off branches neatens a hedge's silhouette, but regrowth at the cut line can prevent light from reaching the plant's interior and cause your hedge to gain in girth season after season. To ensure healthy growth inside and out, use pruners to create holes in your hedge. Remove sections of branches at the joint, making a clean cut at a 45° angle. Space the holes at least 1 to 2 feet apart so shrubs don't look sparse.

LOPPERS Got a well-established—or simply overgrown—hedge? Shears and pruners can't handle stems that are more than three-quarters of an inch around. Keep loppers handy to cut back any branches that big. And no matter how overgrown, never remove more than one-third of a single shrub's branches at any one time. —K.W.

Stave off spring invaders

Warmer temperatures herald the return of barbecues and other backyard fun, but they mean bugs are back, too. Here's how to thwart three insects you're likely to encounter this time of year.

Mayflies > Mating season starts in spring, and these light lovers often swarm well-lit windows or decks. To reclaim your outdoor space, swap in a yellow bulb, such as Feit Electric's 60W Equivalent Yellow-Colored A19 LED Bug Light Bulb (\$5.97; homedepot.com). The color gives off a less attractive wavelength.



Stink bugs > Mild temps bring them out of winter slumber (and your attic). Vacuum or sweep up any bugs, and dispose of them in a lidded outdoor bin. "I've seen them chew through vacuum bags," says Orkin's Chelle Hartzler. To prevent reentry, seal or repair access points like door sweeps, window screens, and crevices around cables.

Wasps > New queens are looking for spots to start colonies, so check even the shallowest overhang that could provide shelter. "We just don't see long-term success with decoys or traps," says pest control expert Michael Bentley. See a nest? Contact a pro ASAP to remove it. Better safe than stung. —SKYE McEOWEN



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Power up your compost

If you slacked on tending your compost pile this winter, it's time to get it back into action. Give it a bit more attention now, and your garden will thank you later.



Air it out: Turning over compost is a chore you're apt to skip when there's snow on the ground. If your pile's rock solid, use a pitchfork to punch holes in the sides. Once raw material is looser, turn it over every few days to aerate.



Size it up: Didn't add anything all winter? To get rich compost, you need to start with at least 3 cubic feet of material. Boost a puny pile with nitrogen-rich "greens" (moist ingredients like fruit and vegetable scraps, grass clippings, and coffee grounds), and "browns" (dry materials like dead leaves, shredded newspaper, and sawdust) to add carbon. The combination literally heats up the compost, speeding decomposition. Alternate greens and browns, keeping a layer of browns on top to ensure kitchen scraps don't attract critters.



Take its temperature: Heat helps turn organic waste into that desirable "black gold." Ideally, active compost has an interior temperature of 110° to 140°F. Cooler temps mean material breaks down more slowly, but compost that's over 160°F can kill helpful microbes and send worms packing. You can buy a compost thermometer, but an old kitchen thermometer will do the trick.



Dry it out: A quick thaw or a rainy spell may have left you with a soggy compost bin. If space (and curious pets) allow, remove compost from its container so moisture can evaporate. More rain in the forecast? Cover it loosely with a tarp so your pile won't get drenched. —CARI SHANE

PHOTOS: (TOP LEFT) GAP PHOTOS; (BOTTOM RIGHT) KELLER + KELLER; ICONS: (TOP TO BOTTOM) JURAL SED LAK/NOUN PROJECT; ICON ISLAND/NOUN PROJECT; ROMAN/NOUN PROJECT; VALENTINA MARQUEZ VILLALBA/NOUN PROJECT

Spring cleaning for AC systems

Get whole-house cooling equipment, whether ducted or ductless, ready to run before hot weather arrives—and HVAC pros' schedules are packed. Here's what you can do, and what your HVAC technician should do, to prep your system for summer.

INDOORS

DIY > If the indoor unit (or units; ductless systems may have multiples) has a mesh filter, pop it out and vacuum or wash and dry it every month. More expensive pleated media filters used in ducted systems must be replaced. They typically last 3 to 12 months, depending on their thickness—and whether there are pets or smokers in the household.

PRO > Gaining access to the inside of indoor units isn't easy. Have a pro open up the housing, vacuum out the blower fan and its enclosure, spray the evaporator coil with a no-rinse cleaner, and disinfect the drain pan and condensate tube to remove any mold.

OUTDOORS

DIY > To get inside a unit, turn off the power, then unscrew and lift off the top cover. Vacuum the fins inside and out with a soft brush attachment. Move the brush in line with the fins, and only vacuum those within easy reach. If you bend any, straighten them with a fin comb. Hose down the interior with a gentle stream of water; reach in and spray through the fins from the inside out. Reattach the cover and switch the power back on.

PRO > Have your technician test the refrigerant pressure, plug any leaks in the tubing, and make sure the unit is operating properly. —T.B.

HAVE WINDOW UNITS?

Learn how to take care of them at thisoldhouse.com/window-AC



TOH's Richard Trethewey vacuums out the dust and grime that build up on the fins inside an AC system's outdoor unit. Removing this improves the unit's airflow and efficiency; it's a dirty job that any homeowner can do.



Family Greatly

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Character boost

Shiplap walls, distressed-wood cabinets, and mixed metal finishes set a new tone for a master bath in desperate need of a warmer, less generic look

BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK LOHMAN



BEFORE

BEFORE The existing master bath functioned fine but had drab builder-grade fixtures and fittings.

AFTER Pine vanities, horizontal wall cladding, and aged brass, silver, and black metal finishes warm up the space and better reflect the homeowner's taste. *Vanities: GJ Styles*

➔ **IT'S EVERY HOMEOWNER'S DREAM** to spend less and get more when remodeling, but it takes an experienced eye to deliver that kind of design magic. John Shumaker liked that the master bath that came with his 1990s home in Brunswick, GA, had a good size and good bones. Two linen closets, a big double vanity, and a separate shower and tub helped the room function to the max. But the particleboard cabinets, laminate countertops, and dated wallpaper made the space feel dull and dingy. So interior designer Kim Kelly, of Bella Rustica Design, came up with a plan to give John the most bang for his buck. Saving on demolition costs, Kelly covered the wallpaper with shiplap-style pine planks, then laid new tile over old around the tub and inside the shower. Preserving an extra \$2,000 in the budget allowed for a pair of distressed-pine vanities, brass sconces, a slate floor, and other rustic-meets-refined accents to overhaul every last square inch of the space. "It feels updated and new," John says of the result. "And it's not a style you see in every other house around here."



Preprimed 1×8 pine boards spaced ⅛ inch apart create the look of shiplap. Painting the existing walls black underneath mimics the shadow line made by traditional shiplap's overlapping joints—and in this case saved the cost of stripping off the old wallpaper.



homeowner tip

JOHN SHUMAKER,
BRUNSWICK, GA

“If you have the money, upgrade everything at the same time rather than making small, incremental changes. You’ll save more in the long run.”

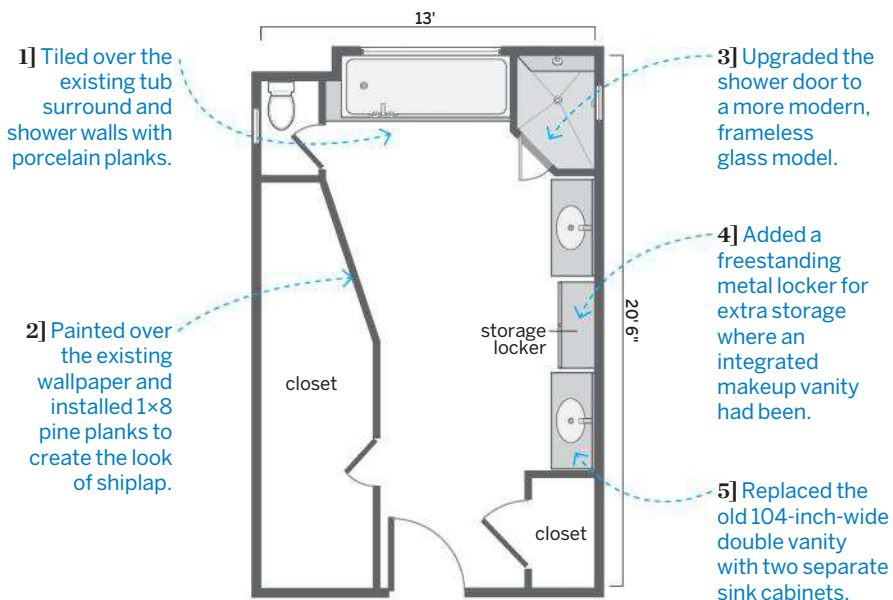
Since the shiplap built out the walls by about three quarters of an inch, porcelain planks could be laid directly over the old tub-surround tile for a flush look. The same tile lines the shower and frames its sleek new glass door. Floor, shower walls, and tub tile: *Style Selections*



Porcelain planks offer the look of reclaimed wood while standing up to moisture; pebble mosaic tile underfoot adds another earthy element. Shower floor tile: *American Olean*

after

Preserving the fixture layout in the 266-square-foot space meant more of the renovation budget could go toward finishes





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*American
Standard*

BORN IN PORCELAIN VALLEY

Handsome coffee table

Build this furniture piece in just a few hours with basic cuts and pocket-screwed joints **BY KATELIN HILL**

➔ **A SOLID-WOOD** coffee table in a Craftsman-inspired design is a classic that never goes out of style. This one, created by build-basic.com blogger Jenn Largesse, comes together fast with a simple joinery technique, while its splayed legs, faux-tenon details, and faux-breadboard ends give the illusion of more advanced woodworking. Use No. 2 pine, as Largesse did, and lumber costs top out at about \$45. Here's an overview of the project; find a detailed step-by-step, plans, plus a cut list at build-basic.com.

THE STEPS

1] Prep the parts Use a miter saw to cut all the pieces to length; wait to custom-cut the tabletop trim. Use a pocket-hole jig to drill angled holes for the 1¼-inch pocket screws that fasten most of the parts of this table.

2] Build the base Glue and pocket-screw the legs, rails, and crosspieces. Attach the faux-tenon blocks, following the angle of the legs. Set the 1×4 slats on the shelf cleats with a ½-inch gap between them, as shown; glue.

3] Assemble the top Arrange the boards lengthwise; glue and pocket-screw the edges together. Glue and fasten perpendicular faux breadboards at each end; trim the assembly with a frame of mitered 1×2s. To allow for seasonal movement, use figure-8 fasteners to attach the tabletop to the base. Stain and top-coat as desired. ■



TIP

For easy legs, order pre-cut 2¾-by-2¾-by-18-inch turning blanks instead of ripping stock 4×4s.



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Dress up the woodwork

It's a period scheme that feels fresh today: plain walls, eye-catching trim

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY NAT REA

➔ **INTENSE COLORS** had a real moment in 18th-century homes, and were popular on paneling because color could make woodwork's three dimensions come alive. In America, the colonial palette brought together earthy colors like almond, brown, and red with vivid blues, greens, and yellows.

While woodwork and walls at the time may have been painted to match, pale matte walls later proved the perfect foil for colorful, glossy trim. The impact is clear in this circa-1758 house, one of dozens under the care of Rhode Island's Newport Restoration Foundation. To emphasize the woodwork and the honey-colored flooring, the foundation chose this rich yellow-gold (California Paints' India Trade), in a semigloss finish, set off by pure white (Sherwin-Williams's Extra White), in a flat finish.

It's a look that still works beautifully. Simply start with a scene-stealing trim color that complements undertones in the flooring or furnishings, and let your walls stay quiet in a matte-finish white. ■



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Fireplace makeover for \$45

A first-time homeowner transforms a dated brick fireplace with two cans of gray paint—and some DIY artistry **BY KATELIN HILL**



BEFORE

BEFORE With no landlord to answer to for the first time, the homeowner was eager to make over the dated living room fireplace.

AFTER Working 2 to 3 hours a day for a week, she refreshed the brown walls and orange-red bricks with white and gray paint, giving the fireplace a cleaner, more contemporary look.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Applied an all-purpose indoor/outdoor primer over the entire brick fireplace, sealing the masonry.....**\$23**

Freshened up the fireplace bricks, mortar, and mantel with a coat of white latex, using paint left over from another room.....**\$0**

Bought quarts of two gray paints to sponge on each brick, creating four different shades.....**\$22**

Repurposed plants and accessories from other areas of the home for the finishing touches.....**\$0**

TOTAL \$45

➔ **SOMETIMES YOU HAVE** to trust your instincts and just go for it. Ask Sneha Bhoir, who was itching to freshen up the dated brick fireplace in her 1985 ranch house in Lincoln, NE. She decided to experiment with paint in order to introduce a more modern color palette, despite the fact that she'd never tackled a large project before. She began by removing the accumulated dirt and dust from the bricks' surface with a wet cloth, sweeping cobwebs from the joints with a brush. Then she gave the whole fireplace a coat of all-purpose white primer to seal the masonry,

followed by a coat of white latex paint to create a clean canvas. Sneha bought two different gray paints to dab on the bricks using a sponge, taking care to leave the mortar lines white. She found she could achieve four shades of gray by applying the two paints with a lighter or heavier hand. With the walls painted a complementary gray, the finished fireplace looks much more up-to-date, and the technique was so successful, Sneha put it to work outside on the brick portions of her home's facade. "Every time I see it," she says, "I'm like, 'Wow, Sneha, you did a great job!'" ■

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PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT) ANTHONY TIEULI (3); KEVIN O'CONNOR

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26 reno-worthy finds

From a dishwasher on steroids to a smart-tech toilet to a faucet that does the work for you, here are a few of our favorite things from the annual kitchen and bath show

BY NICOLE ESPOSITO-POLLY AND DEBORAH BALDWIN

01 MAJOR MICRO

A perky stance, vintage-style trim, and bright colors like Beach Blue, shown, play off a potent 1,200-watt cooker.

Big Chill's Retro Microwave, \$595; bigchill.com

02 TUB PARTNER

Pair your new freestanding tub with this sleek floor-mount filler, which does well in any style of bath. *Moen's Voss Freestanding Tub Filler, from \$1,500; moen.com*

03 SMOOTH DRYING

Its steam cycle can refresh a wrinkled jacket, and its speed-dry will deliver your favorite T-shirt to the finish line in 15 minutes. With other settings, sensors predict the run time and know when to knock off so you don't get baked socks. *Electrolux's Front Load Perfect Steam Dryer with Predictive Dry and Instant Refresh, from \$1,099; electroluxappliances.com*

04 LET IT DRIP

Whether you've got muddy pets, soggy umbrellas, or an under-the-sink flood, this wood-look laminate flooring is totally waterproof when installed. It clicks together without glue and comes in 26 finishes. *Mohawk's RevWood Plus, from \$3.99 per sq. ft.; mohawkflooring.com*

Note: Manufacturers have provided suggested list prices, but kitchen and bath products typically retail for less.

05 IN THE ROUND

Nearly 2 feet deep and just over 51 inches across, this novel circular soaker, in matte or satin white or gray composite, is a surefire focal point for a renovated bath.

Clarke Architectural's Andaz Tub, from \$3,800; clarkearchitectural.com





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06 VIVID VENT HOOD

It's not the only one with a black stainless-steel finish, but how many range hoods can claim an Italian provenance? This wall-mount vent can be ducted or not, and comes in two widths, with a 600-cfm blower and dimmable LED lights. *Elica's Varna Black Range Hood*, from \$779; elica.com

07 PARTY ANIMAL

This blue-lit dishwasher offers a record-breaking 20-minute wash cycle, can hold up to 24 wineglasses—and has a third rack for your silver spoons. If you can wait till December, the same machine will also have an ultrapowerful dryer. *Thermador's Star-Sapphire Dishwasher*, \$2,449; thermador.com

08 RUGGED SINK TOP

This one-piece 36-inch vanity top, made from smoky-gray concrete, accentuates warm materials like unpainted wood. *DXV's Modulus 36-inch Concrete Bathroom Sink*, from \$1,800; dxv.com

09 BLACK FLASH

A new flat-black finish gives these contemporary bath accessories an extra edge. *Top Knobs's Hopewell Bath Collection in Flat Black*, from \$33; topknobs.com

10 DOES THE DISHES

Any sink can hold dirty pots. This brushed-stainless-steel model comes with a small dishwasher to one side, with a lid that flips down to double as prep space. Designed to save water and detergent, it does require a bit of space: It's 35½ inches long and 19¾ inches wide. The bowl is a generous 11½ inches deep, while its dishwashing partner takes up 23 inches of cabinet depth. *Streamline Hoods's Dishwasher/Sink Combination*, \$999; streamlinehoods.com

11 A BETTER FLUSH

This smooth two-piece toilet seems to have it all: It uses a patented water-saving mechanism instead of a leak-prone flapper, and it's quiet, easy to clean, and equipped with a tank-top flush button. It looks good, too. *Niagara Conservation's Stealth Phantom 0.8 GPF Single Flush Elongated Toilet*, \$290; niagaracorp.com

12 LOOK SMART

Here's a mirror designed to put you, and your bath, in the best light. At the push of a touch key, dim or warm up the glare-free LEDs framing this high-tech mirror—or light the entire bath. Touch keys also defog the glass and pipe music from your smartphone using Bluetooth. Häfele's Loox Multi-Dimensional Mirror, from \$1,625; hafele.com



13 HOT NUMBER

Available in five snazzy colors—plus white and stainless steel—this dual-fuel range boasts one super-high-Btu burner and a convection oven, so you can stir-fry and bake like a pro. There's a matching hood, too. Smeg's Portofino Pro-Style Dual-Fuel Range, \$3,999; smegusa.com



14



14 HIDDEN DEPTH

Next time you hanker for a commodious laundry sink, reach for this 12-inch-deep quartz-composite model. It has an edgeless, easy-clean drain, can be dropped in or undermounted, and comes in neutrals like Greystone, shown. Elkay's Quartz Classic Single Bowl Laundry Sink with Perfect Drain, from \$677; elkay.com



15 CABINET JEWELRY

Spiff up your space with textured knobs and pulls in three shapes and four shiny finishes, including polished and satin nickel, and Brushed Golden Brass, shown. Belwith-Keeler's Fermata Collection, from \$11; belwith-keeler.com

16 MOCK MARBLE

These hardy man-made countertop slabs stand up to kitchens outdoors as well as in. The mineral-based material comes in two convincing new looks: Aphrodite (white with gray veins, shown) and Erebus (black with white veins). Geoluxe's Pyrolithic Stone, from \$150 per sq. ft.; geoluxe.com



17 A LOOK FOR LESS

This stainless-steel farmhouse sink, 34 inches wide, deserves kudos for its modernized look and sensible price. Sterling's Ludington Apron-Front Sink, \$669; sterlingplumbing.com

18 SWELL SINKMATE

A chance to customize your lav faucet sets this collection apart. Opt for a traditional widespread with teak handles, say—or this sleek single-lever spout with elegant knurling. Brizo's Litze Bath Collection, faucets from \$450; brizo.com

19 ACCESS FOR ALL

Universal-design vanities with a vintage-furniture look accommodate chairs, including those on wheels. James Martin Furniture's Brittany Series (shown without plumbing), from \$1,099; jamesmartinfurniture.com





20



21



23



22



24



25



26

20 FUMBLE NO MORE

Just tap the rim of this clever 1.8-gpm showerhead—or its wall-mount remote—to switch from DRENCH, say, to MASSAGE. *American Standard's Spectra eTouch Showerhead and Remote*, from \$179; americanstandard-us.com

21 SOLID CHOICE

Volcanic stone, worn cement, and acid-washed steel inspired new looks for these tough solid-surface slabs, like Orix, shown. *Dekton's Industrial Collection*, from \$58 per sq. ft.; dekton.com

22 WELL MEASURED

Turn the coin-edge dial on this helpful pull-down faucet and it will dispense a preset amount of H₂O. Now if only it would weigh the flour.... *American Standard's Beale MeasureFill Pull-Down Kitchen Faucet*, from \$600; americanstandard-us.com

23 SINK PLUS

Drip-drying dishes have a raised landing zone away from the suds in this 36-inch basin plus out-of-the-way resting-place. *Rohl's Culinario 2-in-1 Single Bowl Stainless-*

Steel Sink, from \$2,710; rohlhome.com

24 JUST SAY SPA

The very first sinks were carved from stone, but they probably didn't look as seductive as this floating limestone oval, its surface etched with a pattern inspired by kimonos. *Kohler's Artist Editions Kensho Sink*, \$4,266; us.kohler.com

25 WIRY SPLURGE

Not your everyday glass tile: Steel wire mesh is fleetingly pressed into hot tempered glass, leaving behind a silvery relief. *Ann Sacks's Versailles Revolution*, \$117 per sq. ft.; annsacks.com

26 PRO CHILLER

Long for a restaurant-quality kitchen? Here's a 36-inch fridge lined with gleaming stainless steel. It comes clad in stainless or your pick of hundreds of colors, installs flush, and can hold—along with your foie gras and Meursault—a commercial sheet pan. *Bon appétit! BlueStar's 36-inch Built-In Refrigerator with French Door*, from \$10,450; bluestarcooking.com ■

From disjointed to delightful

A 1960s house gains much-needed polish and more pleasing proportions

BY KATE WOOD • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



BEFORE

➔ **“IT NEEDS SO MUCH,”** Robin Mart says of the Fort Wayne, IN, home she shares with her husband, Brian, and their five children. Built in 1966 by the original owners in their spare time, it’s an awkward mix of materials and proportions. We asked local designer Mark Wyatt for ideas to give it some charm.

To add depth and offset oddly spaced elements, Wyatt’s first move would be to put on a detailed front porch spanning the first story of the house, which gets handsome stone veneer. This helps the new front door appear more centered and the attached garage recede visually. Shutters, window boxes, and grilles fill out the small windows and make them feel more in scale without altering sizes. Gray-blue clapboards unify the rest of the house, while white trim looks clean and crisp. “The changes feel achievable,” Robin says, “and it is a jaw-dropping transformation!” 🏡

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A pair of windowed cupolas add height and offset the house’s asymmetry.



finishing touches

Thoughtfully selected details disguise the home’s shortcomings and score style points



window boxes

Composite boxes filled with flowers appear to lengthen the squat windows, especially upstairs.

24" Laguna

Flower Box, \$110; hooksandlattice.com



entry set

A polished-brass handleset is a classic accent. Large door handle with thumb piece (lock not included), \$127; houseofantiquehardware.com



stone veneer

Panels of lightweight faux stone go up easily to unify the siding behind the showpiece porch. Austin Stone Gainsboro Flats, \$95 for 10 sq. ft.; homedepot.com



cupola

Copper-topped cupolas enhance the existing low-pitched roofline and cost less than adding dormers. Good Directions Guilford Vinyl Cupola, from \$720; wayfair.com

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ask ^{This Old} House ▶



Shown: Wood River
No. 4 hand bench
plane, \$150;
woodcraft.com

Q Whenever I try to shave wood with a plane, I can't get it right. What should I be doing?

—SCOTT BRAMOW, OAK CREEK, WI

A It helps to start with a solid, well-made tool, like the bench plane at left, which features a heavy cast-iron body, a robust high-carbon steel blade, and a comfortable wood tote (handle). The blade must be razor sharp and carefully adjusted so that its edge is parallel to the sole (base) and projects just enough to slice off paper-thin shavings. Then, when you're using the plane, skew it a few degrees as you push it. That makes the slicing even easier.

—TOM SILVA, TOH GENERAL CONTRACTOR

71
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

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Host



My two young maple trees are growing nicely, but they're getting too full. When is the best time to prune them, and where should I make my cuts?

—BUTCH OSTMAN, BALDWIN, WI

ROGER COOK REPLIES: In general, the best time to prune maples is in the late spring or summer, after they have fully leafed out. Removing branches earlier in the year allows large amounts of sap to weep out of the cuts—as you would expect from a tree that supplies us with maple syrup. This shouldn't harm mature specimens, but it may weaken young trees like yours.

With any tree, the best pruning strategy is to first remove dead, damaged, or diseased limbs. Next, go after the ones that are crossed, rubbing against each other, or growing toward the center of the crown. Then snip off the suckers. Make all cuts perpendicular to the direction of growth, and don't cut into the branch collar, the slightly swollen ring at the base of each limb.

You'll need a pair of sharp pruning shears for those easy-to-reach twigs less than ½ inch across.

Loppers can handle the ones up to about an inch wide. A handsaw will take care of anything bigger. For limbs you can't reach, use a pole saw with loppers.

When sawing those bigger limbs, always use the three-cut method. About 2 feet from the collar, cut a third of the way into the underside of the limb. Then cut into the top of the branch 2 inches farther out from the first cut, and saw all the way through. The undercut stops the falling limb from ripping off the bark and leaving a gaping, hard-to-heal wound. Now, with most of the limb's weight gone, make the third cut next to the branch collar.

After this initial cleanup is done, step back and assess the tree's overall shape. The goal is to open up some space between limbs without making the tree look sparse or unbalanced. So before you remove a healthy branch, take a moment to

Roger Cook prunes a maple tree using a pole saw fitted with a rope-controlled lopper. With this tool, Roger can do almost all of his tree-pruning work while standing safely on the ground.



DIY SMARTS

Landscape architect Jenn Nawada shows Kevin O'Connor the basics of planting organic herbs for a kitchen garden.

Q How to plant an organic garden

My wife wants to start an organic vegetable garden. What kinds of plants should she look for? What's the best soil to use?

—DAVID POWERS SR., NORTH TONAWANDA, NY

JENN NAWADA REPLIES: These days, it's fairly easy to find plants or seeds that are grown organically, without chemical pesticides or artificial fertilizers. Just look for the green-and-white "USDA Organic" seal on the label or packet. It signals that the grower has been independently certified as following organic-farming practices.

The best way to make sure your plants remain organic is to grow them in raised beds or containers—either ceramic or untreated wood—filled with clean, uncontaminated soil. If the soil meets organic standards, it will have an "OMRI Listed" seal, indicating that the ingredients have been certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute. If you want to amend the soil to increase its organic matter and water-holding ability, mix in compost and coir, a coconut-husk by-product that's a substitute for peat moss, before you plant.

Once your garden is established, it goes without saying that you should use only organic fertilizers such as manure, compost tea, fish-and-seaweed emulsions, or earthworm castings. And if pests are a problem, use only traps, barriers, or OMRI-listed insecticides. Good luck with this project. I hope you'll be enjoying lots of delicious produce throughout this growing season.

Jennifer Nawada is a landscape designer, a certified horticulturist, and the owner of Nawada Landscape Design in Boston. She appears regularly on TV episodes of Ask This Old House.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



DIY SMARTS ONLINE

Find more information about this topic—and many others—at thisoldhouse.com/DIYsmarts

visualize what the tree will look like when it's gone. Don't rush; once a limb is cut off, it can't be put back.

Don't get carried away, either. You shouldn't remove more than 30 percent of the crown at a time. Any more than that will hinder the tree's recovery. Remember, you can always do more pruning next year.

Q Sanding soft wood

I'm making two doors out of redwood boards, a material I've never worked with before. After planing them, I smoothed them with an orbital sander and 125-grit paper, but that removed only the soft wood, and left the hard grain virtually untouched. Now the boards have a "raised" grain. Do I have to start over with a different species?

—JONATHAN WYNN, TRINITY, AL

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: You don't have to switch to a different species, but you probably do need a different sander and a different way of sanding.

Proper technique is crucial when smoothing redwood because it's so soft. Often, it has wide bands of earlywood—the softer, light-colored wood created when the tree grew at a fast clip. The darker, denser bands of latewood, laid down when less favorable weather conditions slowed the tree's growth, form the ridges that are giving you fits.

Start by shaving off the raised grain with your thickness planer. One or two light passes should be sufficient. Then, to get rid of the planer-blade marks, use a random-orbit sander fitted with a flat, rigid sanding pad, 150-grit sandpaper, and a dust-collection port connected to a wet/dry vac. Dust extraction is important because it

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helps prevent swirl marks and extend sandpaper life.

For the best results, clean the wood surface with rubbing alcohol, set the sander's speed to medium, and rest the sander's pad flat on the work before firing it up. Don't press down; that can interfere with the pad's random-orbit action and lead to swirl marks. You simply guide the tool in overlapping passes in line with the wood grain. Keep the sander moving at all times, but not too quickly. That can cause swirl marks too. A steady pace of 1 inch per second is ideal.

Once the planer marks are gone, give the wood a few light passes with 180-grit paper. Then put the sander away and sand by hand—with the grain—using a sanding block and 220-grit paper.

What is it?

- A** Cabinet-height adjuster
- B** Drawer-slide leveler
- C** Garage-door tensioner
- D** In-line clamp

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 46



After that, the wood should be smooth and ready to finish.

Q **Grab bars for a tub**
I'm planning to install safety grab bars in my bath's tub area, but the walls are covered from tub to ceiling with ceramic tile. How do I find the studs behind the tile? My stud finder doesn't help.

—STAN COHN, LINCOLNWOOD, IL

TOM SILVA REPLIES: You don't need a stud finder. Just put the grab bar where you want it and drill a pilot hole for each base. If you happen to hit a stud, that's great. But if you don't, there are wall anchors strong enough to meet a bar's minimum required load rating: 250 pounds of force in shear and tension.

The first step in the process is to simply place a grab bar on the wall where you want it to go. Try to

PHOTO: ANDREW MCCAUL

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position each bar base so its mounting holes do not fall on or near a grout line. A tile is more likely to crack or chip if you drill pilot holes close to its edge. Mark the tiles where the bases will land, take the bar away, then cover those areas with masking tape. The tape stops the bit from skittering over the tile's slick ceramic surface.

Put the bar back on the taped tiles, and mark the location of the mounting holes in each base. Use a 1/8-inch carbide-tipped glass-and-tile bit to drill a single pilot hole for each base. Go all the way through the tile and its substrate.

Let's say the bit goes into the void of a stud bay, missing a stud. You can use that hole to probe for the nearest stud. Make your probe out of a straightened paper clip

with one end bent 90 degrees to form a 1/4-inch-long leg. Stick it into the hole and give it a spin. If the clip doesn't touch a stud, then you can use a 1/4-inch Snaptoggle (toggler.com). Despite its slim profile, it has a 265-pound load rating in 1/2-inch drywall. Enlarge the pilot hole with a 1/2-inch glass-and-tile bit, insert the metal toggle, and pull back on its strap to set the toggle against the back of the wall. Repeat the process for all the other mounting holes not backed up by a stud.

Now, even if you do find a stud, you still have to verify that the pilot hole is on or near the center of the stud's 1 1/2-inch edge for maximum holding power. A screw driven less than 3/8 inch from its edge won't be strong enough. Here's how to find out. Drill two more pilot holes,

each 3/4 inch from the first hole, one on the left and one on the right. If possible, make these extra holes where the grab bar's base will cover them up. Otherwise, drill them through a nearby horizontal grout line and patch the grout when the work is done.

One of those holes will miss the stud or just graze it. The other should hit solid wood. Refashion your paper-clip probe with a right-angle leg 3/8 inch long and stick it into the hole without a stud. If the probe touches the stud when you twirl it, then the first hole is right where it should be. Use that one to mount the bar. But if the probe spins freely, you can mount the bar at the second hole where you hit the stud. For any mounting holes that don't have studs, use Snaptoggles.

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What is it?

D In-line clamp
Fit this low-profile accessory into a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bench-dog hole and dial its arm against the work. The clamp holds even odd-shaped pieces securely for edge-gluing, pocket-screwing, and sanding. \$20; kregtool.com

Finally, before installing the grab bar, squeeze a bead of silicone sealant around every hole and the bar's base to prevent water from getting behind the tile.

Q **Inglenook retrofit**
I'd like to have an English country-style inglenook fireplace built around our first-floor woodstove. Would something need to be added in the basement to support its weight?

—BECKY DeWITT, VIA E-MAIL

MARK McCULLOUGH REPLIES:

Most definitely. A masonry fireplace of that size would need the support of a poured-concrete slab, called a subhearth, that sits on a foundation wall and a separate concrete-block wall. Or, if the fireplace is in the middle of the house, the subhearth would sit on a concrete-block column. Building all of this is a job for a skilled mason, not a DIYer, but here are the basic steps that I'd take.

In the basement, I'd pour a footing for each new wall location. (The foundation wall already has a footing.) That means cutting out and removing a portion of the slab 16 inches wider than the wall's thickness, then excavating a trench at least 2 feet below the level of the basement slab. A well-tamped, 12-inch layer of crushed stone goes into the trench, followed by a vapor barrier, some rebar, and a 12-inch-thick layer of concrete up to the level of the existing slab.

It takes about a week for the footing to cure sufficiently, so during that time I'd have a carpenter cut an opening in the floor for the subhearth, and then reinforce the severed joists and the flanking uncut joists to carry the

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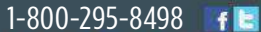
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floor loads around it. By code, the joists and any other combustible materials must be separated from the fireplace's masonry components by a 2-inch air gap.

With the carpentry done, I'd erect the concrete-block wall up to

This inglenook is built atop sturdy masonry walls that support its massive weight.

a point even with the bottom edges of the joists. Next, I'd build the form for the subhearth to contain the wet concrete. It consists of an angled plywood base that extends from the top of the wall to a 2×4 ledger on the joists, a cement backer-board base placed between the support walls, and 1× sidewalls 6 to 12 inches high. Inside the form, I'd wire together a crisscrossing grid of rebar set on 12-inch centers. The ends of the grid have to be 2 inches away from the formwork.

After all this preparation, it takes only a few minutes to fill the

Mark McCullough, the owner of MJM Masonry in Arlington, MA, has been the masonry contractor on 12 This Old House TV projects.

form with concrete. Seven days later, the form's walls can come off and the fun part of the project can start—building the inglenook.

Before the job is done, one more task remains: to go down into the basement and remove the plywood and its 2×4 ledger. It's a code violation to leave any combustible material in contact with the subhearth.

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Norm's tricks of the trade



Every now and then, I'll see a handsaw being used on a TOH TV show, and the cuts are always straight and square. When I saw by hand, however, my cuts are anything but. What's the secret?

—JAMES JOLLY, McALLA, AL

A sharp, well-made, Western-style handsaw, the kind I grew up with, is actually a pleasure to use. It will cut fast and straight if you keep the following in mind.

Put the workpiece at the right height. When crosscutting, the saw's teeth should be at a 45-degree angle to the wood.

Line up your elbow and shoulder. That helps to keep the blade upright and the cut straight. Pointing at the cut with your index finger on the handle also improves accuracy.

Start cuts near the handle. Place the saw on the waste side of the cutline, and rest your thumb against the blade as you pull back once or twice. Once there's a kerf, move your thumb away and begin pushing the saw.

Take long strokes. The more teeth you push through the wood, the faster the saw will cut.

Let the saw do the work. Bearing down on the blade is a good way to make the saw wander.

Practice. Cutting this way may feel awkward at first, but your saw cuts should quickly get better. ■



PHOTO: WENDELL T. WEBBER; ILLUSTRATION: HARRY BATES

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Saving Grace

A dilapidated 1927 house regains its serene period spirit, thanks to a meticulous DIY renovation

By **Deborah Baldwin**

Photographs by **Brianne Williams**

Produced by **Nicole Esposito-Polly**

Styling by **Andrea Caughey**



LEFT: Michelle and Erik Dagenhart, with twins Livi and Sam, did most of the work that went into the gut reno of their 1927 house. During eight long months, the entire family lived in a 400-square-foot apartment over the garage. Payoffs include an inviting living room, **OPPOSITE**, anchored by a working fireplace with its original mantel and a new marble surround.



The seven ages of man, as Shakespeare saw it anyway, don't include one as "a parent and steward of a house in need of a new layout." And yet who has not noticed that the time to raise children often coincides with the time to raze walls? Consider what Erik and Michelle Dagenhart went through when, as busy young parents of then 6-year-old twins, they took on a house wracked by hard knocks and neglect—and turned it into a showplace by doing much of the work themselves.

Erik credits his dad, himself the son of a carpenter, with imprinting the drive to DIY. "He always said, 'Why pay someone to do something you can do yourself?'"

Michelle, similarly hardwired, was already teaching herself remodeling skills in her 20s. Eschewing a conventional courtship, the two day-

ABOVE: After adding on in back, Erik and Michelle were able to build their fantasy kitchen, complete with marble countertops, custom cabinets, and a pro-style cooktop with a raised griddle. Erik pieced together the oak herringbone floor with help from his dad, Terry, who hand-cut each piece.

Cabinets: Cabico. Cooktop: Viking. Pendant fixture: Visual Comfort & Co. Faucet: Belle Foret

dreamed about homeownership and ultimately worked together on Michelle's starter house.

Leap forward—over marriage, kids, and another house—to their latest joint project, a major fixer-upper on a leafy street in Charlotte, North Carolina. "We were living nearby in a beautiful old house, but the space was a little inefficient," says Michelle, recalling the tidy mind-set that drew her to what was then a Miss Havisham-style ruin. "I had noticed it while out on walks with the kids. It was all overgrown, trees and bushes covered it, and I tried to knock on the door, but the owner never appeared. I wrote to her but never heard back. It had been in and out of foreclosure, so I contacted her lawyer, and he described the situation: She was a widow, a recluse, also a hoarder, who did not leave the house. Would I like to come see it next week?"



Floor Plans

A three-story, 1,870-square-foot rear addition was grafted onto the 2,396-square-foot house, for a total of four bedrooms and three and a half baths; the front porch, ABOVE, and a sleeping porch and rear screened porch are also new. The addition holds two bedrooms, two baths, and a loft, above a mudroom, den, and finished basement (not shown). The existing layout was altered to create the master suite, a new kitchen, and a butler's pantry, and the opening between the foyer and living room was widened and finished with columns.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



She and Erik hustled over to find garbage piled high, indoor cats without litter boxes, nicotine-stained walls, and floors punctured by tree limbs and vines. The last improvements had been done 17 years earlier, in the wake of Hurricane Hugo, which incidentally dropped a giant oak on the roof.

Of course, the game couple said, “We’ll take it.”

“The worse a house looked the more I wanted it,” Michelle says. “I could do my own renovation without butchering it, with as much restoring and keeping of the architectural integrity as possible.”

Along with incorporating modern amenities, the couple were bent on being green. “We have always been environmentally conscious, and it was important to us to make our home energy-efficient and keep our carbon footprint and construction waste as minimal as possible,” Michelle says. “Renovating an old home instead of tearing it down is the ultimate in recycling,” she adds—especially when it would be cheaper to build from scratch.

Originally about 2,400 square feet, with three bedrooms and two baths, the 1927 house sat on a corner lot with room to grow. The couple brought in architect R. Andrew Woodruff and drew up plans for an 1,870-square-foot rear addition, enlarging the kitchen and adding a butler’s pantry, mudroom,

ABOVE: Livi’s room has an accent wall stenciled early on by her handy mom, who says she is counting on her daughter—now 17 and no longer a big fan of pink—to catch the DIY bug.



den, and screened porch. Below it would be basement living space, and above it bedrooms for the kids with a Jack-and-Jill shared bath.

To create a more pleasing facade, Woodruff shifted the front door and added a carefully proportioned wraparound porch. “You want modern living in an old house, but you also want it to feel historical,” he says of efforts to match new windows, casings, corner boards, and overhangs to the original house. “They wanted more space, but they didn’t want it to feel like a looming mansion, so we did things to bring down the scale, adding distinctive elements like the bay window.”

To handle construction, the couple chose green-oriented Banister Homes. “They replaced the roof and siding and all but one window, insulated with spray foam, sealed the crawl space, and bought a tankless water heater and Energy Star appliances,” says Kathy Spence, the firm’s LEED expert. “The ductwork is so well sealed, the house passed a ‘blower-door’ test. People think to buy an efficient HVAC system, but you want a solid envelope, and the house to function efficiently as a whole.”

ABOVE: The homeowners framed the view from the second-floor stair landing with charcoal paint. Erik built the bookcases; Michelle sewed the curtains and reupholstered the sofa, a hand-me-down from her great-grandmother. Chandelier: Dilworth Antique Lighting

CONTINUE THE HOUSE TOUR

Find more photos of this retooled 1920s house at thisoldhouse.com/saving-grace

Before hitting the house, the team homed in on the garage, jacking it up to pour a new foundation and redoing its 400-square-foot upstairs apartment—home for the family of four during eight of the nine months it took to make the house livable.

The intrepid homeowners had already hauled more than two dumpsters’ worth of trash out of the house and done most of the demolition. They kept at it, installing miles of trim and wiring and acres of tile and hardwood, including a herringbone floor in the kitchen with boards hand-cut by Erik’s dad.

With one eye on their budget and another on the environment, the couple scrimped and salvaged. Framing was reused; trees that had to come down were milled for baseboard trim and closet paneling; rafters torn out of the master bedroom ceiling became a counter in the butler’s pantry. Michelle gleaned light fixtures and a mantel at secondhand stores; Craigslist coughed up a sideboard.

“They did all the finishes themselves,” says Spence. “It’s a credit to them that we handed that off—with most clients we would be reluctant.”

The couple turned to a kitchen designer for help



ABOVE: After demolishing the master bedroom's damaged ceiling, Erik and Michelle realized they could vault the new one and capture a window previously trapped in the attic. The couple repurposed the rafters, and rewired and installed vintage light fixtures.

LEFT: The new master suite includes a marble-lined bath with a cast-iron pedestal tub and plenty of sunlight. Tile: The Tile Shop. Tub: Sunrise Specialty. Tub fittings: Strom Plumbing. Chandelier: Dilworth Antique Lighting

with that room, while Erik crafted cabinets and built-ins elsewhere, and Michelle stenciled walls and whipped up curtains, pillows, even duvets.

Outside, they built fencing, laid a flagstone front walk and back patio, and put in an irrigation system that—naturally—captures and redeploys rainwater.

Six years after moving into an ongoing reno, the couple volunteered their showplace for a house-and-garden tour. No one was surprised to learn that it was beautifully done, or that it had racked up local and state awards for green building.

Another no-surprise: Erik is now a licensed GC. "I've hired him to do my own house," Woodruff says with a laugh—"two baths and a kitchen."

As the couple start to approach the stage known as empty nesting, they contemplate tackling a smaller fixer-upper. But for the moment, they plan to stay put. "I love coming home to the house," says Michelle. "It has worked so well for our family—everybody has their own space, and it's decorated the way I'd always dreamed." Salvaging an old wreck may sound like work, but for these DIY multi-taskers, "it's been so much fun." ■

before + after

Pretty perfect

A streamlined layout and period-style finishes clean up a dysfunctional cook space

BY NINA MALKIN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA RUGG
PRODUCED BY NICOLE ESPOSITO-POLLY
STYLING BY TOBY RAE

A remodeled kitchen in good shape may seem like a bonus when buying a house, but if the layout is clunky and the look an affront to the architecture, you still might need to start over. Caroline Schnieders and Yvette Soignier decided to do just that after buying the 1908 foursquare in St. Paul, MN, they share with their two sons. A peninsula impeded flow to the fridge, range, and sink, making it a tight squeeze for two cooks. And while the 10-year-old maple cabinets and floor were usable, they felt out of sync with the other rooms.

When called in to help, Zoe Kardasis Sturtz and Ryan Sturtz of Edit Design Build Studio scrapped the peninsula to free up floor space. They rebuilt the wall shared with the dining room to create a large pass-through connected to a new passageway for more openness and flow. Adding a breakfast bar on the dining room side provided seating for kids' meals. Relocating the sink under two windows improved the view. Oak flooring and soapstone counters helped to ground floor-to-ceiling cabinets painted a historical green.

"We love the open layout," Yvette says. "We can really function in here, and still chat with the kids at the dining room table. The kitchen is beautiful, and suits us and the house perfectly." As for their newish former kitchen? Nearly everything was donated to a Habitat for Humanity ReStore. A happy ending all around.



BEFORE Way too much maple covering the cabinets and floors made for a one-dimensional look. A cumbersome peninsula hemmed in the cook and undermined circulation.



↑
A run of deep, ceiling-high cabinets along the range wall hides a support beam.

AFTER In the opened-up space, a pro-style range beneath the pass-through blends with vintage-green cabinets, soapstone counters, and a subway tile backsplash. Range: Blue Star. Vent hood: Elica



BEFORE

before + after

Tailor made

The new configuration added about 16 linear feet of cabinet storage. A microwave niche above a section of open countertop serves as a snack-and-drinks center. Around the corner, a windowed nook holds custom pantry cabinets and drawers where the back staircase had been.



Cool enclosure

No space wasted here! This clever fridge wall boasts a slim slide-out pantry unit on one side and a shallow message center behind a pantry door on the other. The cabinets got a sprayed-on conversion varnish finish for extra durability and moisture resistance. Refrigerator: LG

Classic combo

Subway tile laid in a running bond pattern is a warm off-white; it is paired with matte-black soapstone counters for a classic look that will stand the test of time. "We love that soapstone develops a patina with use," Yvette says. *Tile: Daltile. Countertops: Minnesota Tile & Stone*



Caroline Schnieders, left, and Yvette Soignier, who share the house with their two young children, wanted a kitchen that reflected the style of the home, but with modern conveniences and flow.

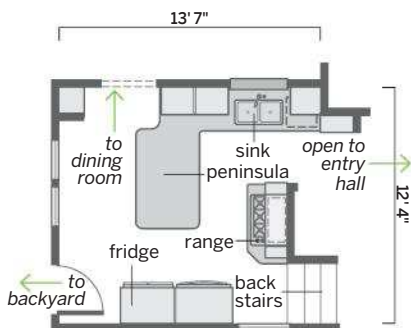
Grab and go

A drop zone with hooks and shelves keeps shoes, backpacks, and outerwear organized by the back entry. A door with a full glass panel brightens the space; a top-down Roman shade adds light control and a measure of privacy.



before

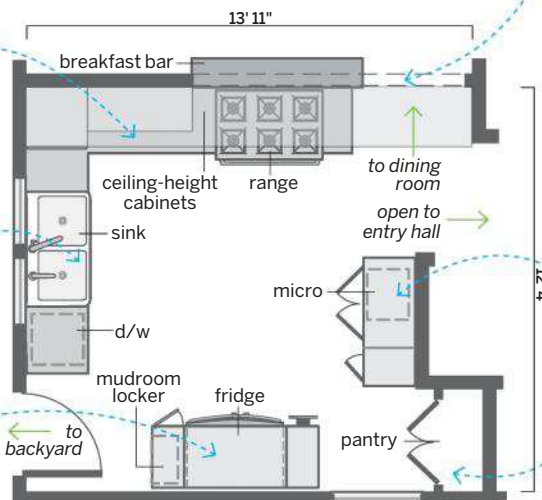
A peninsula and a back stair wasted space and left little room for two cooks to move around



after

The 172-square-foot space is more open and more comfortable, with better views and improved function. Ceiling-high cabinets along the range wall conceal a structural beam and yield bonus storage

1. Removed the peninsula for better flow; closed up the dining room entry to create a longer cabinet run.
2. Moved the sink in front of the two windows; installed shorter double-hungs to allow for the plumbing.
3. Put in custom fridge cabinets with a slide-out pantry on one side, a drop zone on the other.



4. Created a new, slightly larger opening to the dining room joined to a pass-through over the new range location; a breakfast bar accommodates snack time. These changes also eased circulation to and from the entry hall.
5. Added a cabinet for the microwave and a drinks station where the range had been.
6. Scrapped the back staircase for built-in pantry storage.

The Newton Generation NEXT House

Building Memories

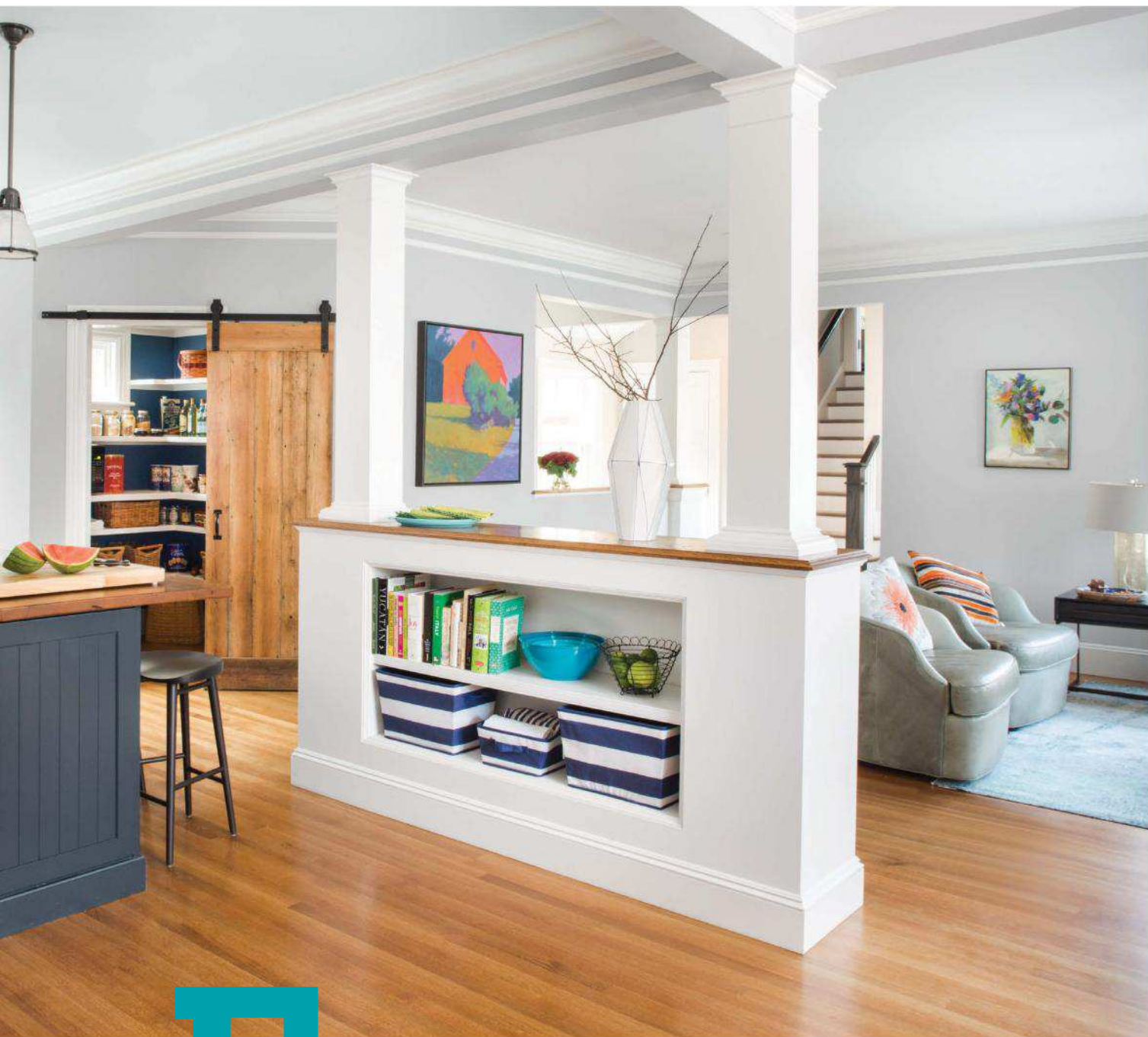
With a more open (storage-packed!) first floor, a new master suite, and dedicated space for visiting grandparents, this **1879 Italianate's remodel** was designed with family in mind

By **Jill Connors** ■ Photographs by **Anthony Tieuli** ■ Styling by **Caroline Woodward**



LEFT: New shingle siding flares above a lower section of clapboards on the renovated house. The historical two-tone green scheme is accented with off-white trim and deep-red brackets.

ABOVE: In the kitchen, bumping out the sink wall made room for a center island. Opening the space to the family room via a columned half-wall divider creates an even more spacious feel. A trimmed-out LVL beam spans the opening, with the help of four support posts.



F

or **Liz McQuillan Delfino**, stepping through her front entry is a lot like stepping back in time. She pushes open the same heavy wood door, glimpses the same quirky fireplace nook, and passes the same staircase she knew growing up. Once the kitchen comes into view, however, it's clear things have changed in her childhood home. Framed by a columned half-wall divider, the enlarged, opened-up cook space now has an island at its center, all-new cabinetry, quartz and reclaimed-wood countertops, and gleaming stainless-steel appliances—testament to a just-completed eight-month renovation documented on the current season of *This Old House* television. With the construction dust now settled, the army of contractors, subs, and Generation NEXT apprentices have moved on—and Liz, her husband, Joe Delfino, and their two young daughters are finally moved in.

The 3,000-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home in Newton, Massachusetts,

THESE PAGES

WINDOWS: **Marvin**
 ROOF SHINGLES: **GAF**
 CEDAR SHINGLE SIDING: **Maibec**
 FIBER-CEMENT CLAPBOARD
 SIDING: **JamesHardie**
 PORCH COLUMNS: **Chadsworth**
 QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS:
Caesarstone
 RECLAIMED WHITE OAK (ISLAND
 COUNTERTOP AND FLOATING
 SHELVES): **Longleaf Lumber**
 CABINETS: **Kraftmaid by Carole**
Kitchen and Bath Design in
White Dove (perimeter) and
Midnight Blue (island)
 RIFT OAK FLOORING: **Allegheny**
Mountain Hardwood



has an updated layout perfect for modern family life. But it also carefully preserves many elements of the old house that Liz cherishes. “The stairs even squeak in the same place,” she says, with a smile. “It reminds me of my mom walking up and down the staircase when I was young.”

After Liz lost her mother in 2015, she and Joe inherited the house. Finally ready to make it their own family’s home, they turned to architect Mat Cummings to help them maximize the square footage, including carving out space for extended visits from Joe’s parents. With the Delfinos’ desire to retain the house’s character in mind, Cummings designed a new open-plan kitchen-dining-family-mudroom flow on the first floor, a new master suite upstairs, and a garage addition with a second-floor guest suite with its own sitting area.

What the couple hadn’t anticipated when work began were some of the condition issues that surfaced.

THESE PAGES

KITCHEN SINK AND FAUCET:

American Standard

GARBAGE DISPOSAL:

Insinkerator

DINING ROOM TABLE: **TCW Farm**

Tables & Furniture

DINING CHAIRS: **Room & Board**

FAMILY ROOM CHAIRS AND TABLES:

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams

FAMILY ROOM SOFA, LAMPS, AND

CEILING FAN: **Lucia Lighting &**

Design

FAMILY ROOM RUG: **Landry &**

Arcari

DOOR TO GARAGE (LEFT OF THE

STAIRWAY): **TruStile**

PAINT (KITCHEN, DINING AREA, AND

FAMILY ROOM WALLS): **Benjamin**

Moore’s Pelican Gray

“The house was out of level, the roof was out of square, the walls weren’t true, and the floors were uneven,” says *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva, summing up the challenges. The dining room floor was slightly lower than the adjacent kitchen’s, and since the wall between the two rooms was coming down, the floor had to be torn up and reframed. That negative turned into a positive when Charlie Silva took some of the old-growth timber subflooring to his workshop and turned it into a sliding barn door for the new pantry. The family room, an earlier addition, proved to be so out of kilter that it was faster (and cheaper) to rebuild it. The front porch was so rotted from termites and water damage that it, too, had to be rebuilt—a project the Delfinos had hoped to delay.

In an effort to preserve their budget and curb costs, Liz and Joe committed to being active participants in the project, strapping on tool belts whenever possible. Liz worked alongside *TOH* master carpenter Norm Abram installing new composite deck boards out back, and helped tiling contractor Mark Ferrante lay the tile behind the woodstove. She even took a class in stained glass to create a custom window for the new mudroom area. Joe pitched in on the installation of the exterior shingles, and helped patch plaster walls inside. “Liz is a mechanical engineer and much handier than

Floor Plans

A bumpout enlarged the kitchen, a master suite went in over the family room, and the half bath was relocated between a new pantry and a mudroom. A garage addition with guest quarters upstairs connects to the house on the first floor.



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Liz and Joe Delfino, shown with their daughters, wanted to make the house more comfortable and functional, while keeping many sentimental features.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: Three windows mark the kitchen bumpout, which added 90 square feet. The L-shaped layout creates an efficient workspace; the island provides additional prep and storage areas, plus casual seating. White oak floors, a reclaimed-wood island top, and a barn-style pantry door warm up the white cabinets and millwork.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: The dining area retains its corner cabinet, built-in china hutch, chandelier, and crown molding; the flooring is new.

LEFT: The family room—a previous addition that had to be rebuilt due to condition issues—is located off the back entry. Tall windows fill the space with light, while a woodstove (not shown) keeps it toasty in winter. On the other side of the half wall are mudroom storage and a powder room. The staircase climbs to the new in-law suite; the closed door leads to the garage.



I am,” says Joe, a software engineer for Google.

At every turn, the couple held firm to their wish to keep the house’s old charms intact. For instance, while many of the pros on-site suggested replacing the half-height front porch newel post with a more architecturally appropriate full-height column, Liz resisted. “I like our odd little newel post and the old porch balusters,” she says. “They are just so familiar and welcoming to me.” They also insisted on keeping the entry area’s fireplace, where Liz recalls roasting marshmallows as a child, even though the drafty chimney was removed. “People thought it was crazy to keep the fireplace, since it’s not useful,” she says. “But it holds a lot of memories.”

With the addition of new windows and insulation, there’s one thing Liz doesn’t miss: feeling cold. As winter wound down, the house was cozier than it had ever been in her youth—thanks to a new four-zone heating system, the family room’s wood-burning stove, and radiant heat in the master bath, mudroom, and garage.

Throughout, architectural elements were chosen to honor the house’s Victorian-era beginnings. The new kitchen is ringed with crown molding that replicates the original trim in the adjacent dining space. The half wall



TOP LEFT: Pale-blue walls and neutral furnishings bring a sense of calm to the new master bedroom above the family room.

BOTTOM LEFT: The spa-like master bath features gray-blue walls with white subway tile, a charcoal pencil trim, hexagonal marble floor tile with a Greek-key border, and a quartz vanity top.

ABOVE: Liz’s girlhood bedroom now belongs to her 3-year-old, its original heart-pine floor refinished and its closet enlarged.



LEFT: The garage addition replaced an old freestanding outbuilding that cut up the backyard; it has an upstairs guest suite for visiting in-laws, and is joined to the house with a one-story connector. The historical exterior color scheme highlights the house's details, including a flare added where upper-story shingles meet lower-level clapboards.

BELOW: The guest suite above the garage includes a bedroom, bath, wet bar, and this sitting room. White oak flooring and pale paint colors give the space a light, airy look.

dividing the kitchen and family room has a period look, with built-in bookshelves and millwork-wrapped posts.

The kitchen also reflects the couple's desire to inject the interior with color and pattern. Working with interior designer Chloë Rideout, they chose a deep blue for the island cabinetry, pantry walls, and kitchen-window trim, inspired by the color on a favorite blue-and-white transferware plate that belonged to Liz's grandmother. A few steps away, in the new powder room, they incorporated that blue with other colors in a bold, Mediterranean-inspired cement tile floor.

Salvaging where they could also helped the couple preserve the soul of the old house. Liz worked with an antique-hardware expert to have all the doorknobs and hinges on the paneled-wood interior doors cleaned and reinstalled, making a connection with the past every time they turn a doorknob. While new white oak was laid for the kitchen-dining area, family room, and guest suite floors, the heart-pine boards lining the existing bedrooms and upstairs hallway were refinished, and more reclaimed heart pine was found for the new master suite. "I am fond of things that are imperfect and old," says Liz. "I think they're charming."

Acknowledging that the house was a modest one when it was built, Mat Cummings found ways to enhance its period style without straying from its original spirit. On the exterior, he added a row of flared shingles where the upper level meets the lower clapboards; the swooped detail adds a grace note to the old house, as well as the new additions, and helps to unify them.

"The configuration of this house now makes sense, the flow is great, and there are no rooms we won't use," says Liz of the end result. Call it a perfect blend of honoring the past and building for the future. ■



THESE PAGES

REAR DECKING: **MoistureShield**
 WINDOWS: **Marvin**
 ROOF SHINGLES: **GAF**
 GARAGE DOORS: **Overhead Door of Boston**
 MASTER BATH FIXTURES AND FITTINGS: **American Standard**
 VANITY TOP: **Caesarstone**
 BATH FAN: **Panasonic**
 MASTER BATH ELECTRIC FLOOR WARMING AND WATERPROOF BACKER BOARD: **Schluter**
 MASTER BATH TILE: **Tile By Design**
 MASTER BEDROOM BED AND NIGHTSTAND: **Mitchell Gold +**

Bob Williams

MASTER BEDROOM AND GUEST SITTING ROOM RUGS: **Landry & Arcari**
 PINK BEDROOM BED, TABLE, AND CHAIRS: **Room & Board**
 GUEST SITTING ROOM SOFA: **Lucia Lighting & Design**
 PAINT: **Benjamin Moore's White Sand** (exterior trim), **Hodley Red** (brackets), **Mt. Rainier Gray** (master bedroom walls), **West Coast** (master bath walls), **Morristown Cream** (pink bedroom walls), **Fresh Air** (guest suite sitting room walls)

ALL
ABOUT

Farmhouse sinks

You spend more time at the kitchen sink than the stove, so why not invest in one of these capacious attention-getters? But first, take a moment to master their surprising nuances BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

SEXY, SUPERSIZED appliances used to dominate the kitchenscape, but that was before a sink came along that refused to hunker down in a cabinet. Suddenly all eyes were on the cleanup zone, where a bossy, glossy-white heavyweight pushed aside the humble, hardworking stainless-steel basin.

America's appetite for farmhouse, or apron-front, sinks can be traced to the late 1990s, when companies like Rohl realized they could romance a boxy U.K. import made from lustrous, rock-hard fireclay by evoking farmhouse style—or a glorified idea of it. “Your choices used to be overmount or undermount, which sound boring, while ‘farmhouse’ sounds like it has a story,” says David McNamara of Franke, a Swiss sink-maker attuned to North American tastes. Even as it has swelled in popularity, the curvaceous classic has been evolving too. “Today the farmhouse sink has been modernized,” adds McNamara, “with tighter lines and new materials, like stainless steel.”

As kitchens continue their move toward large, open gathering spaces, here's a roomy focal point that also hides dirty dishes and practically says “jump right in.” Read on for what you need to know before taking the plunge.

THE PRECURSOR Large workstation sinks moved into American kitchens during the so-called sanitation movement of the 1920s. These wall-hung behemoths, made of enameled cast iron, typically had integrated backsplashes and drainboards, short aprons, and legs in front for added support—no cabinet needed.



VITALS

WHAT DO THEY COST?

Stainless-steel and ceramic versions start at less than \$200; those made from pricier materials like fireclay and cast iron sell for \$700 to \$2,000—and on up.

DO I NEED A SPECIAL CABINET?

Not necessarily, but most cabinets will need added support (see “Beefing Up the Box,” p. 70). At 20 to 42 inches side to side and 7 to 10 inches deep, these sinks can easily weigh 100 to 200 pounds.



DIY OR HIRE A PRO?

Cutting out the cabinet front, reinforcing the box, wrestling the basin into place, and coordinating the sink, cabinet, countertop, and faucet installation are usually best handled by an experienced pro.

HARD TO KEEP CLEAN?

Generally, a mild cleanser like Bon Ami takes care of marks and stains on fireclay and enameled cast iron. But materials vary widely; follow the product manufacturer's guidelines so as not to void a warranty.

This classic silhouette, in sparkling white fireclay, finds a flattering partner in a high-arc bridge faucet. Shown: Shaws Original single-bowl farmhouse sink, from \$1,845; rohlhome.com

PHOTOS: JOHN GRANEN; (“VITALS”) DOUG ADAMS; (OPPOSITE PAGE, INSET) COURTESY OF KOHLER

Classic white, three ways

Tailor your sink style and installation to your countertop—and personal preference. Pull it forward to shorten your reach and add extra toe space; pick a depth that feels comfortable too



DROP-IN > These sinks have a finished lip that bridges the countertop cutout—handy with wood or laminate. This model specifies countertops at least 1 inch thick, and comes with a metal bar for more support. Shown: Domsjö 30-inch ceramic sink, 7 inches deep, \$159; ikea.com



UNDERMOUNT > Designed to sit on supports inside the cabinet, undermounts allow the countertop to extend over the sink on three sides, so crumbs and spills can be swept right in. Shown: Vigo 36-inch Casement Front solid-surface sink, 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches deep, \$574; homedepot.com



PULLED FORWARD > Beefy, glossy, thick-walled sinks gain even more presence when their rounded apron fronts come forward a few inches—the better to lean against during dishwashing duty. Shown: Shaws Original Rutherford 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch fireclay sink, 10 inches deep, \$4,295; rohlhome.com



Shown: Contempo 36D Step Rim fireclay sink, \$1,600; bocchiusa.com

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

> **All whites are not alike** Fireclay is made from a special clay mix that is molded, glazed, and fired at very high temperatures, yielding a hard, long-lasting material that resists chips and scratches. Baking layers of enamel onto cast iron also produces a highly durable surface. These materials command higher prices than ceramics that are fired at lower temperatures and solid-surface acrylics. Note: If your sink is going next to a white cabinet or counter, request samples to make sure you like the color mix.

> **One bowl or two** With a single big basin, it's easy to scrub a roasting pan. With two, you can devote one to dirty dishes or a drying rack, the other to prepping salad greens. A low divider helps accommodate pot handles.

> **Workstation accessories** A step-down rim adds function and flexibility with add-ons like a cutting board or a dish drainer.

> **Faucet function** Pull-downs are a top choice because they can reach all four sink corners. With a

faucet that doesn't pull out, make sure it clears your tallest stockpot, and add a side spray for easy cleanup. If space behind the sink is tight, consider a wall-mount faucet or a sink that has a deck with predrilled holes.

> **Exit strategy** When the drain is positioned to one side, dishes can pile in without blocking the water flow.

> **Extra protection** If new-sink syndrome makes you anxious, add a bottom rack (about \$50). Some have a cutout to ease drain access.

Downsized sinks for smaller spaces

Chunky sinks with shorter spans offer the same period charm as their bigger brethren. And that extra depth is just as handy outside the kitchen



> FOR PANTRIES, BARS, AND ISLANDS:

This faux-slate sink, just 15 inches square and 7 inches deep, can help ready a long-stemmed bouquet or prep all the ingredients for a big salad. During a party, fill it with drinks and ice. Ventana prep sink, \$695; nativetrails.net



> FOR BATHS AND LAUNDRIES: Finally, a stylish 20-inch lav sink that doubles as a soaker for hand-washing. Its companion vanity has bun feet and beadboard to reinforce its vintage appeal. Nellie vanity with granite top and ceramic sink, \$1,500; signaturehardware.com

DRESSING UP THE APRON

If a plain white box leaves you cold, choose a model that puts texture, color, or ornamentation front and center



1] LINEAR LOOKS Ribbing, fluting, grooves, and frame details can play up a sink's generous length and depth. Shown: 35 $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch Whitehaven Hayridge cast-iron sink, \$1,933; us.kohler.com



2] SWAPPABLE PANELS This stainless-steel sink lets you change the front from blue to copper to white fireclay. Shown: 36-inch Farmhouse Sink, \$949 as shown; Interchangeable Aprons, from \$250 each; elkay.com (available in September)

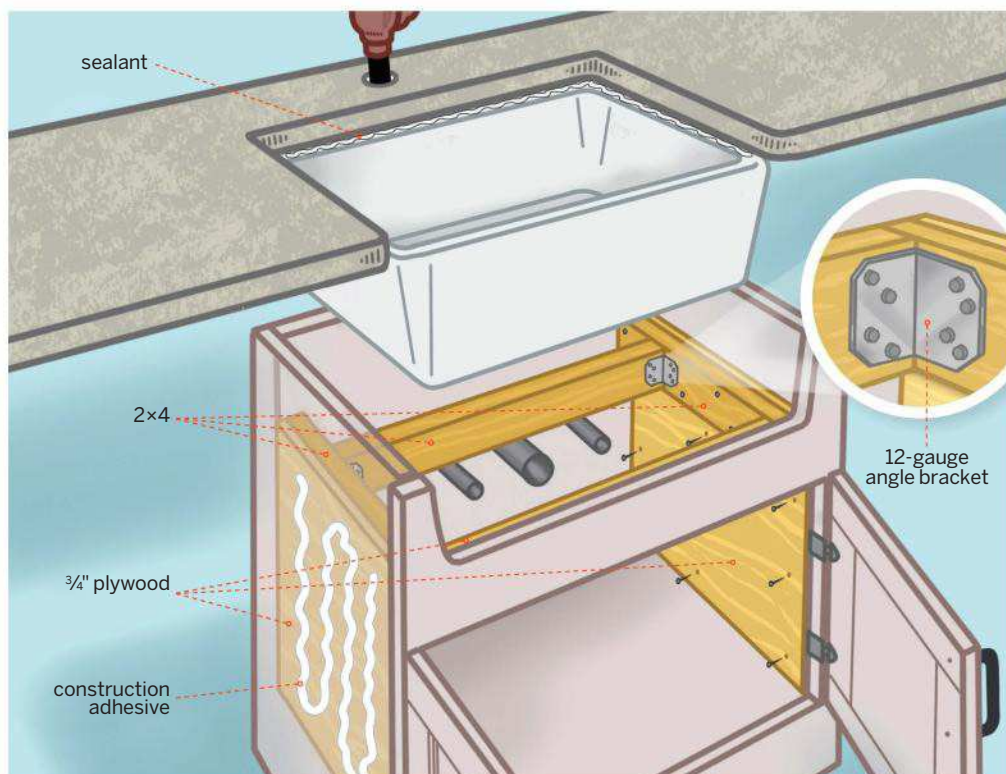


3] PATTERN PLAY Florals and geometrics add a decorative flourish. Reversible sinks offer two options in one. Shown: Vigneto 33-inch fireclay sink, \$1,250; bocchiusa.com

WHAT'S OLD IS RENEWED

Some of the latest sinks are looking to the past. Signature Hardware's 42-inch Cast Iron Wall-Hung Kitchen Sink with Drainboard comes with the high-rise backsplash of yore (\$996; signaturehardware.com). Shown: Kohler's new wall-mount 45-inch Farmstead can be supported by 1920s-style cast-iron legs or dropped into a cabinet (\$3,150, with seven accessories; legs, \$600; us.kohler.com).





BEEFING UP THE BOX

Big fireclay and cast-iron sinks can tip the scales at 200 pounds or more. Add a garbage disposal, gallons of dishwater, and heavy pots and pans, and a farmhouse sink's sole support—its base cabinet—may be holding up twice the sink's shipping weight. Here's how *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva readies a cabinet to hold one of these heavyweights.

1. Reinforce the sides and front with ¾-inch plywood. Attach each piece with construction adhesive and flathead wood screws.

2. Attach 2x4s to the plywood. Glue and screw the cleats ½ inch below the sink's vertical depth. Always measure the sink itself; its actual measurements can vary slightly from what's printed on the spec sheet.

3. Mount a 2x4 crosspiece to support the sink's back edge, clear of the drain. Use steel angle brackets to carry the load to the cleats.

4. Scribe and cut out the cabinet front to match the sink's apron.

5. Position the sink. Shim it in place until the rim is level and ⅛ inch below the top edge of the cabinet.

6. Close the gap. After the countertop goes in, run a bead of tub-and-tile sealant around the sink rim to keep water out.

INSTALLATION KNOW-HOW

The No. 1 mistake homeowners make: not accounting for the sink's true size and weight, especially when filled. Fireclay and ceramic come out of the kiln with a 2 percent size variation. A 36-inch cabinet may not hold a 36-inch sink, and its upper portion may not be tall enough to fit an undermount's apron. Settle on the sink first, then order the cabinet, say the pros, and cut the opening on-site. In most cases, the cabinet is likely to need shoring up, as shown above.



Looking to retrofit, not renovate?

If your cook space needs a lift but your bank account says “no new cabinets, please,” consider a so-called retrofit sink that works with existing cabinetry. Rachiele's proprietary retrofit design, which can be installed as a drop-in or undermount, has an apron with a channel behind it that slides over the top of your old sink cabinet's face frame (from \$3,463; rachiele.com). With undermount installation, you can expect to replace your countertops, too, since they have to come out with the old sink—or be significantly altered. The 30-inch Hazelton Retrofit, shown left, has a short apron, so it can sit in a standard 33-inch-wide cabinet with the false drawer front removed (\$549; signaturehardware.com). And stainless steel isn't the only option: Kohler's 29⅞-inch cast-iron Whitehaven (opposite, No. 1) has an 8⅜-inch-high apron designed to overlap a rough-cut opening on an existing 30-inch cabinet.

High-profile materials

Eye-catching options include hammered metal and natural stone

1 > CAST IRON This cast-iron sink's lustrous look is achieved with a durable $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch coating of enamel that's baked on in layers. It comes with a lifetime warranty against chips, cracks, and burns. Shown: Whitehaven 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch undermount, \$1,199; us.kohler.com

2 > STAINLESS STEEL This rugged, easy-care material takes well to crisp lines and tight corners. A hefty-looking apron usually fronts thinner walls that reduce weight. Shown: Pekoe 18-gauge 33-inch sink, \$750; americanstandard-us.com

3 > COPPER Smooth and penny bright or hand-hammered with an antiqued finish, copper will darken unless it is sealed. This 32-inch sink's shape mimics thick-walled fireclay, so it can be pulled forward even more. Shown: Lucca Antique Copper sink, \$1,228; thompsontraders.com

4 > COMPOSITE Pulverized stone mixed with resin creates a tough, scratch-resistant material with a smooth, contemporary look. Shown: 30-inch Ikon Silgranit Apron Front sink, \$1,395; blanco-germany.com

5 > CONCRETE This curved-front number is made from a cement-jute mix that's 40 percent lighter than regular concrete. Factory sealing helps it resist stains. Resealing every 5 to 10 years is recommended. Shown: Farmhouse Quartet 33-inch sink, \$1,885; nativetrails.net

6 > STONE Soapstone, slate, and marble offer the beauty of natural stone and can be integrated with your countertop. Slate is hardest and maintenance-free; periodic mineral-oil treatments help soapstone darken evenly. In both cases scratches, and even minor dings, can be buffed out. Porous marble needs regular sealing against stains and acid-etching, and can chip; it's more often seen as a bar sink. Shown: Custom 33-inch sink made from domestically quarried slate, \$1,447; sheldonslate.com ■



directory

MAY 2018

COVER See the listing for "Pretty Perfect."

HOME SOLUTIONS (pp. 15–20) Sump check > *Thanks to* Jim Owiecki, Sump Pumps Direct; sumpumpsdirect.com. Stave off spring invaders > *Thanks to* Chelle Hartzler, technical services manager, Orkin; orkin.com. Michael Bentley, director of training and education, National Pest Management Association; npmapestworld.org.

BEFORE + AFTER: BATH Character boost (pp. 23–24) **Designer:** Kim Kelly, Bella Rustica Homes, Style & Design, Saint Simons Island, GA; bellarusticadesign.com. **Paint:** Pure White; benjaminmoore.com. **Lighting:** Coley Electric & Plumbing Supply; coleyelectrical.com. **Mirrors:** vagabondvintage.com. **Metal locker and hand-towel hooks:** parkhillcollection.com.

PAINT IDEAS Dress up the woodwork (p. 30) *Thanks to* Shantia Anderheggen, director of preservation, Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI; newportrestoration.org.

PHOTOSHOP REDO From disjointed to delightful (p. 38) *Thanks to* Mark Wyatt, Wyatt House Plans, Warsaw, IN; wyatthouseplans.com.

SAVING GRACE (pp. 50–55) **Architect:** Woodruff Architecture, Charlotte, NC; 704-953-5994. **Kitchen designer:** South End Kitchens Design Studio, Charlotte, NC; southendkitchens.com. **General contractor:** Banister Homes, Charlotte, NC; banisterhomes.com. **Exterior > Roof:** Alpha Omega Construction Group, Charlotte, NC; alpha-omegainc.com. **Windows and doors:** marvin.com. **Paint:** Custom-blended colors, Eastway Paint and Decorating, Charlotte, NC; eastwaypaint.com. **Painting contractor:** Richard's Painting Co., Salisbury, NC; richardspainting.net. **Living room > Fireplace coal basket:** Homefires, Charlotte, NC; homefiresusa.com. **Chandelier:** dilworthantiquelighting.com. **Kitchen > Countertops:** walkerzanger.com. **Sink:** Belle Foret; homedepot.com. **Knobs and pulls:** emtek.com.

PRETTY PERFECT (pp. 56–59) **Designer/Builder:** Edit Design Build Studio, Minneapolis; editdesignbuild.com. **Paint:** Dill Weed (cabinets), Mannequin Cream (walls), Mayonnaise (ceiling); benjaminmoore.com. **Dishwasher:** bosch-home.com. **Microwave:** panasonic.com. **Sink:** ikea.com. **Faucet:** us.kohler.com. **Windows:** marvin.com. **Cabinet hardware:** rejuvenation.com. **Pendant lights:** feiss.com. **Semi-flush-mount lights:** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.; schoolhouse.com.

BUILDING MEMORIES (pp. 60–65) **Apprentice accommodations:** Extended Stay America, 800-804-3724; extendedstayamerica.com. **Architect:** Mat Cummings, Cummings Architects, Ipswich, MA; cummingsarchitects.com. **Interior designer:** Chloë Rideout; cummingsarchitects.com.

General contractor: Silva Brothers Construction, Reading, MA; silvabrothers.com. **Plumbing and heating contractor:** Trethewey Brothers, Roslindale, MA; tbros.com. **Landscape contractor:** K & R Tree & Landscaping, Burlington, MA; thisoldyard.com. **Kitchen designer:** Carole Kitchen & Bath Design, Woburn, MA; kitchenpeople.com. **Finish carpenter:** MF Woodworking, Waltham, MA; 857-413-6369. **Plumbing subcontractor:** Bilo Plumbing and Heating, Ipswich, MA; biloplumbingandheating.com. **Tile contractor:** Ferrante Tile, Woburn, MA; ferrantetile.com. **Painting contractor:** Mauro's Painting, Somerville, MA; maurospainting.com. **Mason:** MJM Masonry, Arlington, MA; mjmmasonry.com. **Stained-glass instructor:** Michel L'Huillier Glass, Boston; michellhuillierglass.com. **Countertop fabricator:** Bella Surfaces, North Billerica, MA; bellasurfaces.com. **Oak flooring installation:** Hunt Custom Milled Wood Floors, Lexington, MA; huntcustomwood.com. **Paint stripping, newel post refinishing:** Wayne Towle Master Finishing & Restoration, Needham, MA; waynetowle.com. **Chimney pipe installation:** The Chimney King of New England; South Easton, MA; chimney-king.com. **Ductwork installation:** Obie Comfort Solutions, Framingham, MA; obiecomfortsolutions.com. **Insulation installation:** Anderson Insulation, Abington, MA; andersoninsul.com. **Exterior > Windows:** Marvin Ultimate Double Hung in Ebony; marvin.com. **Roof shingles:** gaf.com. **Cedar shingle siding:** Maibec Eastern White Cedar in White Sage; maibec.com. **Fiber-cement clapboard siding:** HardiePlank Lap Siding in Mountain Sage; jameshardie.com. **Porch columns:** Chadsworth Incorporated; columns.com. **Rear decking:** MoistureShield Infuse Composite Decking in Rosewood; moistureshield.com. **Rear sconces:** Hinkley Lighting, Lucia Lighting & Design, Boston; lucialighting.com. **Garage doors:** overheaddoor.com. **Paint:** White Sand (exterior trim), Hodley Red (exterior brackets, front door); benjaminmoore.com. **Kitchen > Sink:** Hillside 30" Apron; dxv.com. **Faucet:** Delancey Single-Handle Pull-Down; americanstandard-us.com. **Perimeter countertops:** Piatra Gray; caesarstoneus.com. **Garbage disposal:** Evolution Excel; insinkerator.com. **Backsplash tile:** Tile By Design, Danvers, MA; tile-by-design.com. **Flooring:** 2¼" rift oak; allegHENymountain hardwoodflooring.com. **Paint:** Pelican Gray (walls), Kensington Blue (pantry walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Cabinets:** Kraftmaid Lyndale Door in Dove White (perimeter) and Midnight (island); kitchenpeople.com. **Reclaimed white oak** (vent-hood trim, floating shelves, and island top); Longleaf Lumber, Cambridge, MA; longleaflumber.com. **Island top fabrication:** Sweenor Builders, Wakefield, RI; sweenorbuilders.com. **Pendant lights:** Hudson Valley Lighting; lucialighting.com. **Dining room > Table:** TCW Farm Tables & Furniture, Winchester, MA; tcwfarmtables.com. **Chairs:** Room & Board; roomandboard.com. **Paint:** Pelican Gray (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Artwork:** Powers Gallery, Acton, MA; powersgallery.com.

Family room > Chairs, tables: Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams; mgbwhome.com. **Sofa, lamps, ceiling fan:** lucialighting.com. **Rug:** Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting, Boston; landryandarcari.com. **Paint:** Pelican Gray (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Mudroom > Door to garage:** TruStile 20-Minute Fire Door; trustile.com. **Master bedroom > Bed, nightstand:** mgbwhome.com. **Bedding, pillows, footstools:** roomandboard.com. **Reclaimed heart-pine flooring:** Bingham Lumber, Brookline, NH; binghamlumber.com. **Rug:** landryandarcari.com. **Paint:** Mt. Rainier Gray (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Master bath > Sink:** Esteem Undercounter Sink; americanstandard-us.com. **Vanity top:** Noble Grey; caesarstoneus.com. **Sink and shower faucets:** Quentin Collection; americanstandard-us.com. **Towel rings and hooks:** TR Series; americanstandard-us.com. **Shower door:** Banner Glass Shelmar, Waltham, MA; bannerglassshelmar.com. **Tile:** Avenza Honed Marble 6"x12" (floor perimeter) and 2" hexagonal (floor field, shower), Walker Zanger Tribeca Collection Metro Liner Basic Black ¾"x6" (wall perimeter pencil trim); tile-by-design.com. **Shower waterproofing:** Schluter-KERDI; schluter.com. **Floor warming:** DITRA-HEAT electric floor-warming system; schluter.com. **Vent fan:** WhisperGreen Select One Fan/Light; shop.panasonic.com. **Paint:** West Coast (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Pink bedroom > Bed, table, chairs:** roomandboard.com. **Paint:** Morristown Cream (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Guest living area > Sofa, lamp:** lucialighting.com. **Rug:** landryandarcari.com. **Flooring:** 2¼" rift oak; allegHENymountainhardwoodflooring.com. **Paint:** Fresh Air (walls); benjaminmoore.com.

ALL ABOUT FARMHOUSE SINKS (pp. 66–71) *Thanks to* Craig Tolmie, Tide Mill Restoration, Fairfield, CT; 203-256-1240. Rohl; rohlhome.com. Adriel Harris, Signature Hardware; signaturehardware.com. Akgun Seckiner, Bocchi; bocchiusa.com. David McNamara, Franke; franke.com. Greg Jastrow, Kohler; us.kohler.com. Marion Hendricks, Herbeau Creations; herbeau.com. Dino Rachiele, Rachiele, LLC; rachiele.com.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 84)

Thanks to Kevin Rose, architectural historian, The Turner Foundation, Springfield, OH; hmturnerfoundation.org. ■

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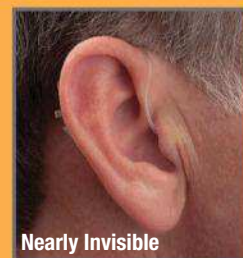
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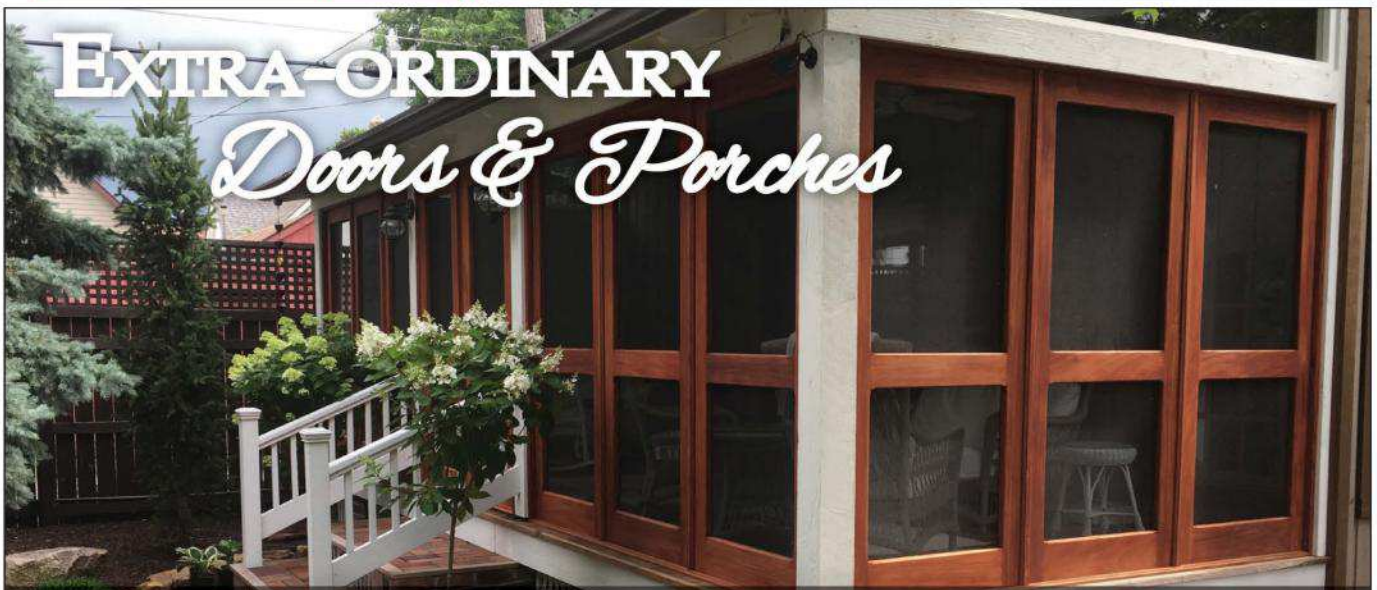
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LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU BOUGHT PAINT FOR USE (NOT RESALE) AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2002 AND DECEMBER 13, 2017, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT. YOU MAY ALSO QUALIFY FOR CASH AND OTHER BENEFITS FROM THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT.

This Notice provides information about a settlement that has been proposed in a class action lawsuit involving architectural paint purchased for personal use between January 1, 2002 and December 13, 2017, which contained, in some form, titanium dioxide, manufactured by E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, Huntsman International LLC, Kronos Worldwide, Inc., and Cristal USA Inc., f/k/a Millennium Inorganic Chemicals Inc. (the "Defendants"). This paint is referred to throughout this Notice as the "Architectural Paint." For clarity, as an example, Architectural Paint would include any paint you would have used to paint something around your home or business such as walls, floors, ceilings, or some other surface either inside or outside. For settlement purposes, Architectural Paint purchased in the United States between January 1, 2002 and December 13, 2017 is presumed to contain Titanium Dioxide manufactured by the Defendants.

The proposed settlement provides cash compensation and other benefits to those who bought Architectural Paint for use. If the paint was bought for resale, the paint is not included in the settlement.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM A CLASS MEMBER?

You are a Class Member and, thus, affected by the proposed settlement and eligible for benefits under the proposed settlement if one of the two definitions below describes you:

Injunctive Relief Settlement Class: All purchasers, in the United States, of Architectural Paint for personal use and not for resale containing, in some form, Titanium Dioxide manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or co-conspirators, or any predecessors, parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates thereof from January 1, 2002 until December 13, 2017.

Damages Settlement Class: All purchasers who either: (i) purchased Architectural Paint from a seller in a Damages State, or (ii) who reside in a Damages State and purchased Architectural Paint in the United States, provided that in either case the Architectural Paint purchased was for personal use and not for resale containing, in some form, Titanium Dioxide manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or co-conspirators, or any predecessors, parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates thereof from January 1, 2002 until December 13, 2017.

The Damages States include: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

WHAT DOES THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The total settlement amount provides for Defendants to pay \$3,500,000.00. This amount will be used to compensate Damages Settlement Class Members who submit eligible claims for the purchase of Architectural Paint. The proposed settlement also provides additional non-monetary benefits to the Injunctive Relief Settlement Class.

HOW CAN I GET A PAYMENT?

If you are a member of the Damages Settlement Class, you may fill out and submit a Claim Form to ask for the benefits provided by the settlement for which you can prove you are eligible. You may submit a claim form and any required supporting documents online at www.TitaniumPaintSettlement.com. You may also submit your claim form by mail to Harrison Paint Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 1571, West Palm Beach, FL 33402. You can get additional Claim Forms at www.TitaniumPaintSettlement.com or by calling 1-877-388-5623.

The Claim Form asks you for information about your purchase of Architectural Paint. Follow the instructions on the Claim Form closely. You must sign the Claim Form under penalty of perjury either in ink or electronically and either submit it online or mail it to the Settlement Administrator. Submitting a fraudulent claim is against the law.

Your Claim Form must be postmarked by June 15, 2018 if submitted via mail or actually received by the Settlement Administrator no later than June 15, 2018 if submitted electronically. If you miss the deadline, you will lose your right to participate in the monetary benefits of the proposed settlement.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

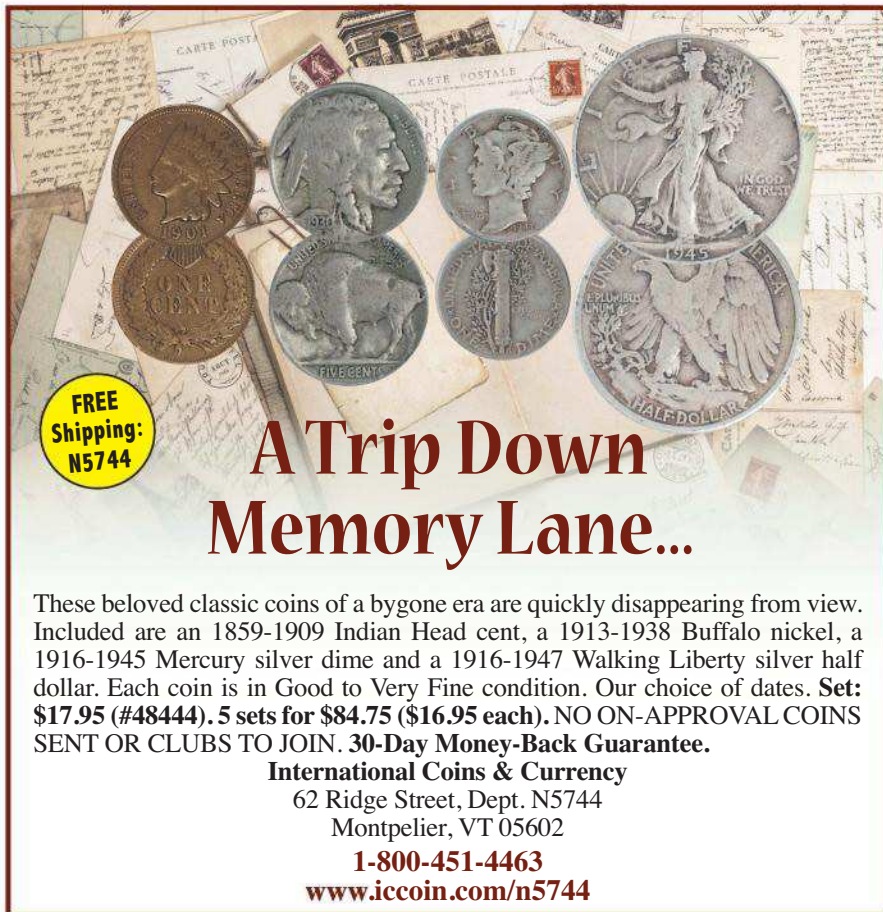
If you do nothing, and if you do not file a Claim Form by June 15, 2018, you will not get a payment from this settlement. You will still be part of the Injunctive Relief Settlement Class. If you do not exclude yourself or opt-out from the Settlement Class by June 15, 2018, you will be legally bound by the settlement and release and cannot sue the Defendants about the legal claims in this case. If you opt out, you will not be eligible to participate in any aspect of the settlement. You may pursue any legal remedies available to you at your own expense.

The Court has scheduled a Fairness Hearing on August 16, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at the U.S. District Court Northern District of California, San Jose Division located at 280 South 1st Street, San Jose, California 95113. At this hearing the Court will consider whether the settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The Court will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. After the hearing, the Court will make its decisions.

For more information:

www.TitaniumPaintSettlement.com 1-877-388-5623

Si usted desea obtener una copia de este documento legal en Español, favor de actuar inmediatamente y visite la página web www.TitaniumPaintSettlement.com o escriba al Administrador de Reclamos: Titanium Dioxide Paint Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 1571, West Palm Beach, FL 33402.



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save ^{This Old} House

Historical home in a resurgent downtown!

PRICE \$21,000

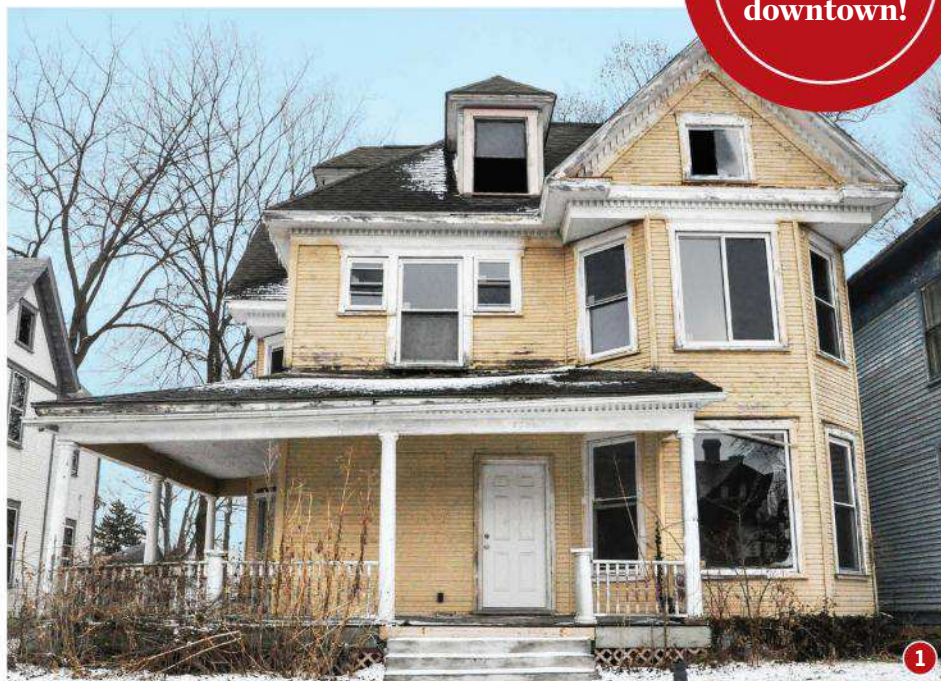
LOCATION Springfield, OH

CONTACT Sara Wissel, 513-255-2886

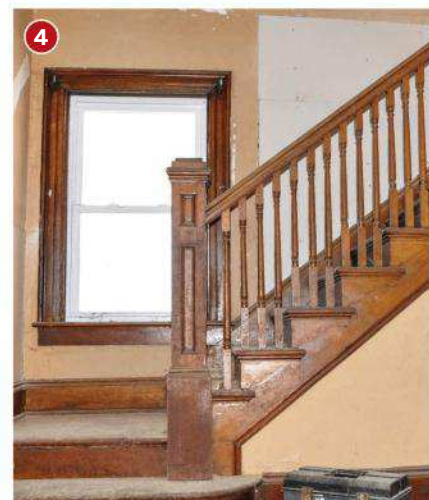
THE HISTORY The South Fountain neighborhood was a prosperous one at the turn of the 20th century—home to politicians and captains of industry, including William Whitely, founder of the largest farm-equipment factory in the world at the time. But it also featured modest homes that allowed aspiring tradesmen to rub elbows with the wealthy. Andrew Harman, a carpenter, designed and built this one in 1902; when it was completed, he sold it to Richard Rayner, a machinist, and his wife, Lida, a dressmaker.

WHY SAVE IT? The 2,619-square-foot house blends Queen Anne forms with neoclassical details, such as dentil molding and Greek pediments on the facade. It retains original built-ins, mirrored overmantels, six-panel doors, and a wraparound porch. South Fountain is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and has experienced a revival in recent years. Its rich diversity of architectural styles range from simple Prairie houses to Second Empire mansions, and its proximity to downtown restaurants, breweries, and coffee shops attracts those looking for a walkable location.

WHAT IT NEEDS After years of neglect, this four-bedroom, two-bath home was recently purchased by investors, who added new plumbing and electrical systems. Whoever takes ownership of the house next will need to finish hanging drywall, restore the interior and exterior millwork and clapboards, replace the roof and windows, and install a water heater and an HVAC system. Yes, there's a lot left to do. But along with a sense of accomplishment will come the pleasure of living among like-minded neighbors who will appreciate the effort. —KEITH PANDOLFI



- 1.** The 1902 house is largely Queen Anne in style, with the notable addition of some neoclassical details, such as the dentil molding seen on the facade. It sits on a quarter of an acre, walkable to downtown.
- 2.** Most of the original interior details remain intact, including this solid-oak mantel.
- 3.** Six-panel doors and a fireplace with a mirrored overmantel enhance this first-floor parlor.
- 4.** Much of the interior millwork, including the stair railings and window casings, is believed to be longleaf pine, and has never been painted.



GOT A HOUSE?

If you know of an old house for sale that should be saved, write to savethisoldhouse@thisoldhouse.com or This Old House, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SARA WISSEL



Destined to be the center of attention, the Gari farmhouse sink feels both modern and timeless.

THE MARK OF A LEGACY



Alejandra Ochoa de Thompson, founder and creative director of Thompson Traders, grew up in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, located in the countryside of west-central Mexico.

During those formative years, the seed that would grow into Thompson Traders took root – the desire to bring the beauty of copper and craftsmanship of Mexico to American homes. Today, the company owns its factory in Santa Clara del Cobre where designs for sinks, bath tubs and accessories for the kitchen and bath come to life.

Where is Santa Clara del Cobre?

Just 10 miles south of Pátzcuaro lies the town of Santa Clara del Cobre, where the native Purépecha were considered the world's most advanced metallurgists of pre-Columbian times. Today there are coppersmithing masters at work in making one-of-a-kind, hand-hammered pieces of art. Every piece preserves the legacy of Santa Clara del Cobre and supports the region – a vital mission to Thompson Traders today.



Thompson Traders brings the authentic copper legacy of Santa Clara del Cobre, home.



Masterful, meticulous, deliberate—these three words describe Thompson Traders coppersmiths.

How do Thompson Traders' designs come to life?

Coppersmiths dedicate hours, days and sometimes weeks to create one-of-a-kind vessels and finishes. Each stroke of a craftsman's hammer yields a unique piece of art guaranteeing no two products are identical. The hammering process varies depending on the vessel. For example, the Lucca farmhouse sink requires approximately 15,000 strokes in order to attain the final appearance.

What's next from Thompson Traders?

Today, stainless steel, brass and nickel join copper as part of Thompson Traders' portfolio, along with special finishes and textures, as well as custom capabilities. No matter material or finish, every design is meticulously hand-hammered by coppersmiths in Santa Clara del Cobre. Each design is rooted in this magical place.

CARE OF COPPER

Copper sinks grow in beauty with age, maintaining their distinct finish or developing a rich patina over time. Your choice:

Living Finishes age gracefully, adding a rich, weathered finish with complementing tones.

Lifetime Finishes will not patina or change color over the use of the product.

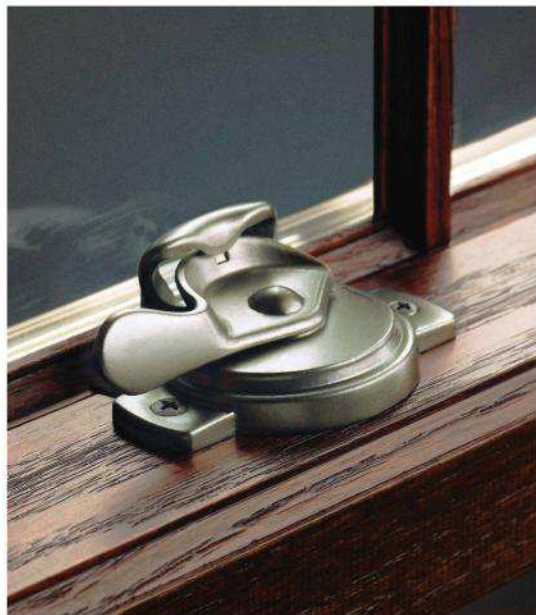
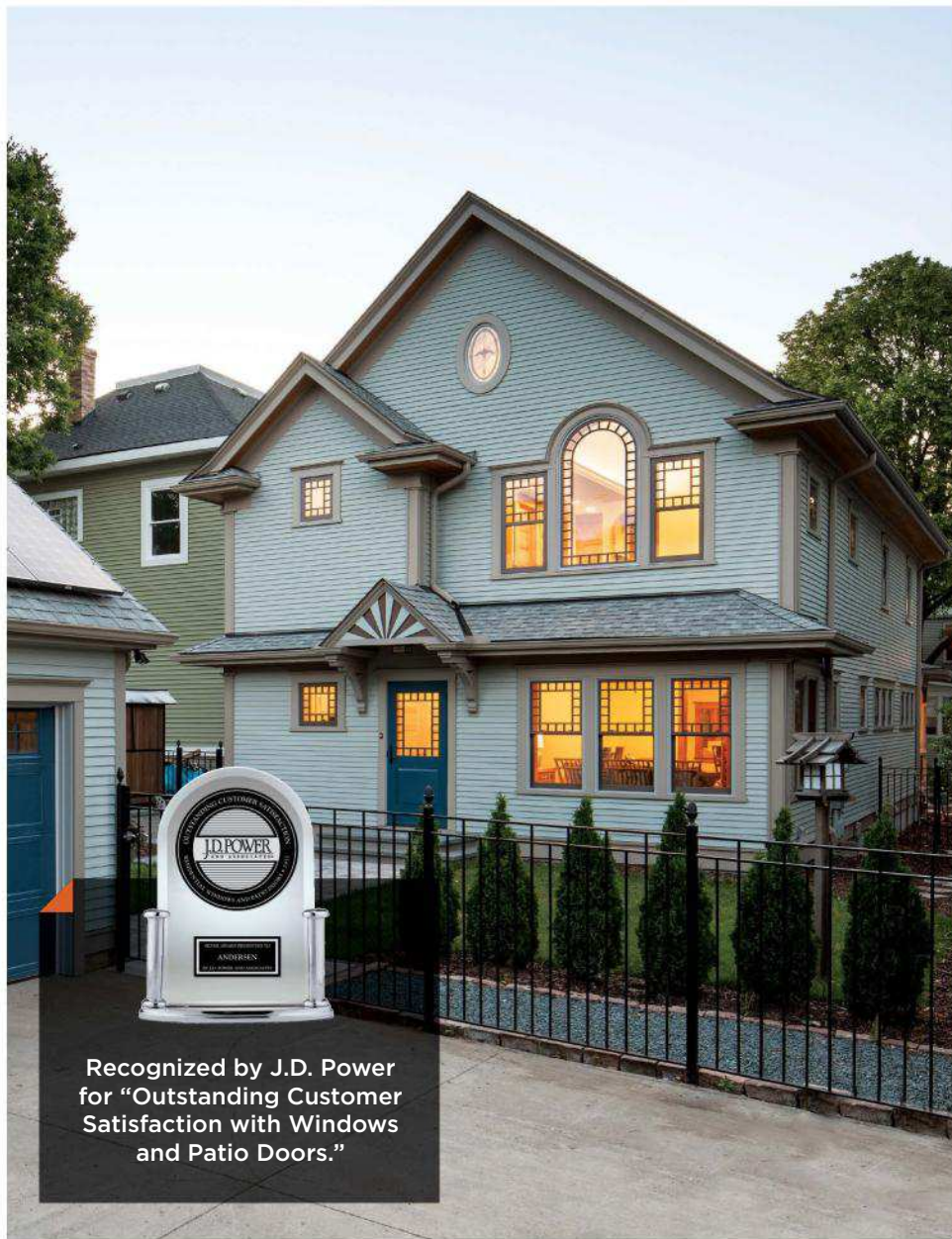
General rules apply for Thompson Traders' sinks:

- **Wash** with soap and water using a soft cloth or sponge.
- **Wipe** surface to remove standing water, tooth paste and acidic substances, like lemon, lime or tomato juice, which tend to leave shiny spots. For extra protection use a high quality carnauba wax (with no polishing agent).
- **Avoid** any abrasive substances, harsh chemicals and bleach.



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*Andersen received the second highest numerical score among 16 companies in the J.D. Power 2017 Windows & Patio Doors Satisfaction Study, based on 1,904 total responses, measuring the experiences and perceptions of customers who purchased windows and/or patio doors in the previous 12 months, surveyed February - March 2017. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

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