

DETOURS > PLANS



Corolla

The All-New Corolla Hatchback

With available Intelligent Manual Transmission (iMT) and 18-inch alloy wheels, you can go farther off the beaten path. Because detours should always be greater than plans. *Let's Go Places.*

Prototype shown with options. ©2018 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

This Old House

Do it yourself!

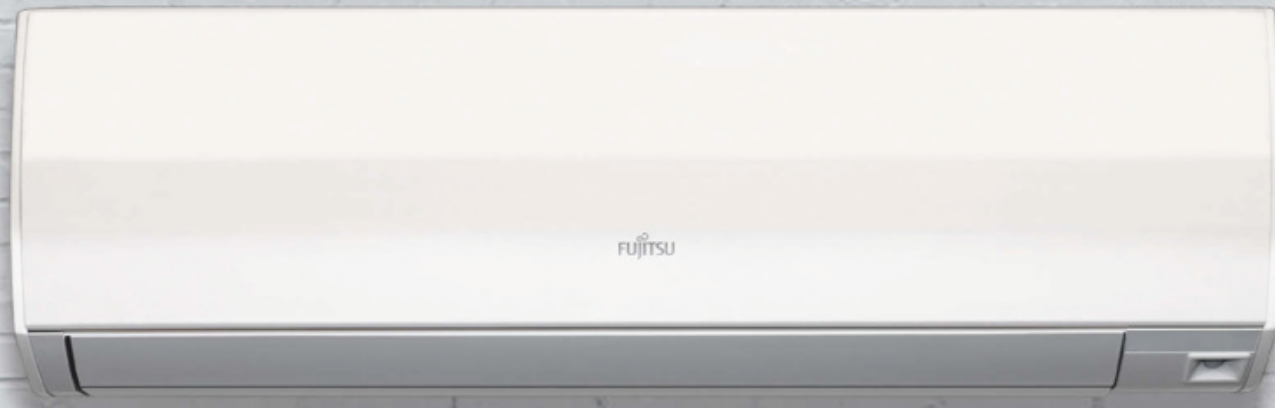
Easy upgrades for every room of your home

TOH
TOP 20
Best New
Tools

Energy-saving tips
Circuit breaker checkup
Fix fireplace flaws
Entryway update
New Yankee kitchen

You might think you're cool.





We'll guarantee it.

Fujitsu mini-splits deliver infinite comfort in any environment.

Go ahead...dance and sing like no one's watching. Because even your hottest guitar solo is no match for the whisper-quiet cooling power of a duct-free Fujitsu mini-split. Want to tune in room-by-room customized temperature control with a simple touch of a button? No sweat...even from a remote location with our Wi-Fi enabled systems. These sleek, energy-efficient, wall-mounted units can also save you money with available utility rebates. **Fujitsu...keeping your home in perfect harmony.**



constantcomfort.com

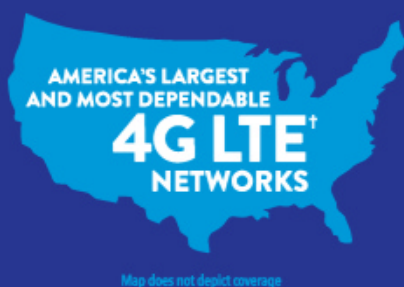


INFINITE COMFORT

THINGS YOU CAN COUNT ON:
THE TALLEST TALES. THE BEST OF FRIENDS.
AND A PHONE THAT CATCHES IT ALL.



GET RELIABLE 4G LTE[†] SERVICE THAT KEEPS YOU CONNECTED FOR LESS.



NO-CONTRACT SMARTPHONE PLAN

\$15 /MO

**WITH TALK, TEXT, DATA
AND UNLIMITED CARRYOVER[®]**
(THIS PLAN DOES NOT TRIPLE)
PLUS TAXES AND FEES

LEARN MORE AT TRACFONE.COM OR MAJOR RETAILERS

Tracfone[®]
FOR MOMENTS
THAT MATTER[™]

Airtime service plan is required for activation. Phone and plan sold separately. A month equals 30 days. [†]Unlimited carryover — Service must be active and in use within any six-month period. [‡]Requires a compatible or unlocked 4G LTE smartphone. Actual availability, coverage, and speed may vary. LTE is a trademark of ETSI.

Contents JAN/FEB 2019

features

- 38 **all in the family**
Renovating a 1940s cottage becomes a multigenerational endeavor
- 46 **vintage charmer**
A simple fix-up plan turns into a soup-to-nuts gut kitchen renovation in an 1850 farmhouse
- 50 **DIY on a dime**
Budget-savvy furniture projects from some of our favorite home bloggers
- 56 **lake house legacy**
A young couple lovingly reinvent a home filled with years of family memories



PHOTO: DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN

38
ALL IN THE FAMILY

Contents JAN/FEB 2019



departments

- 9 **home solutions**
Build mini barn doors; diagnose fireplace trouble; rein in your heating bill; easy ceiling makeover; and more
- 17 **before + after: bath**
Ditching a closet and relocating the commode allows a small-scale bath to feel more spacious
- 20 **paint ideas**
Turn an interior door into an artful accent with a bold two-tone paint job
- 22 **budget redo**
New homeowners revamp a bland entryway from floor to ceiling for \$514
- 24 **the TOH top 20**
Make space in your workshop! *This Old House* editors pick the best of the new tools
- 28 **photoshop redo**
A worn 1920s home gets an updated look with the help of Craftsman-inspired touches
- 30 **ask this old house**
How to make a sink's strainer watertight; remedy a drafty vent hood; properly hang drywall; weatherproof a garage door; and more

in every issue

- 6 reader mail
- 64 directory
- 70 save this old house



on the cover



pp. 9, 14,
20, 22,
31, 50

p. 24

pp. 12,
14, 10,
22, 46

Cover Photograph by
JASON VARNEY
Styling by ANNA MOLVIK



Early access on tablet!

Now you can download the latest issue of TOH on your tablet before the print issue is available. Go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet

HH HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE



Traditional by Design

Period reproductions & stylish originals for your vintage home

www.HouseofAntiqueHardware.com

Reader mail JAN/FEB 2019



How to reach us

E-mail the editors at
TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com
or write to:
This Old House magazine
262 Harbor Drive
Stamford, CT 06902

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

THIS OLD HOUSE READERS *take a careful, considered approach to, well, just about everything. From major upgrades to everyday to-dos, you think through the pluses and minuses before taking the plunge.*

Grill cleaning caution

After reading “Prep your gas grill for winter” (Home Solutions, October 2018), I wanted to spread the word about the dangers of using nylon- or plastic-bristle brushes to clean grills. While metal bristles are a known danger, nylon bristles can also get left behind and stick to food. When ingested, these wreak havoc on the GI tract. A better solution is the stone blocks that dissolve as you use them. No nylon or plastic to end up in landfills—or your intestines!

—ABBY SCHOLZ, BOSTON

This problem can be solved by using an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) to power the water heater. You plug the UPS into the wall outlet and the water heater into the UPS. The UPS senses the loss of utility power and connects the load(s) to an inverter, which converts DC power from a battery to the AC power needed to run the water heater. When power is restored, the battery charges automatically from the wall outlet.

—BOB ATKINSON, NORTH READING, MA

Powering a tankless water heater

I just finished “Read This Before You Buy a Tankless Water Heater” (October 2018), and while I appreciate the units’ energy-saving potential, there is one issue no one talks about: What happens when the power goes out, and you’re out of hot water? Bad at any time, but worse if you’re in the shower when it occurs. Even if your home has a backup generator, the transfer from utility power to backup power can still take time.

Keeping tabs on extra paint

I have a tip to share after reading “What to do with paint leftovers” (Home Solutions, October 2018). When I purchase paint, I ask the home center to print an extra label. They’re always happy to do so. Since the label data on the paint can invariably fade over time, I put the duplicate label on a piece of paper along with details and room specifics, then make a photocopy of the page to file away for future reference.

—SUZANNE ROUNSEFELL, MESA, AZ

**READER
PROJECT
OF THE
MONTH**

A shared tree bench

—KATHERINE M. KOSIBA,
COLCHESTER, CT

Our garden club wanted to give visitors to our park a place to sit, so I went online and found plans for a tree bench at thisoldhouse.com. One of our members built the bench last winter, and we installed it this spring [inset]. It has been a great source of enjoyment for visitors, and suits this open-space park perfectly!



home solutions

Edited by Kate Wood

INSIDE

FIREPLACE TROUBLE SIGNS

SMART STORAGE

CEILING UPGRADE

MORE



Barn doors in miniature

Love the look of sliding barn doors, but don't have the wall space to use them? Consider a scaled-down version for concealing less-than-lovely appliances. The ones here, built by homeowner Kristine Franklin, who blogs at thepaintedhive.net, hide her washer (she dries laundry on an old-school clothesline). Equally impressive: She put them together for about 30 bucks! It's a stylish solution that could work with all manner of useful but unsightly items—think DVD player, cable box, the resulting cord jungle...even the TV itself. *Turn the page to learn how she did it.*

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WWW.THEPAINTEDHIVE.NET



How to build mini barn doors

1 ASSEMBLE THE HARDWARE

To avoid paying \$50 or more for pint-size sliding-door hardware, Kristine repurposed a 1-inch flat metal bar and metal garden-edging stakes. She cut the bar to length, then drilled screw holes to mount it. She also drilled holes through both sides of each stake she would be using.

2 BUILD THE DOORS For this 12-by-33-inch pair, Kristine cut down a sheet of 7-mm plywood, adding 3-mm plywood for the trim. She glued together the parts and clamped them in place overnight, then added paint and decorative handles—her doors slide freely from the top. She positioned the stakes on the doors and marked where they would be attached, then drilled holes for the nuts and bolts.

3 ASSEMBLE THE PARTS After marking where the metal bar would attach to the countertop, Kristine drilled pilot holes for the needed screws. To create clearance for the doors to slide easily, she added rubber chair feet as spacers. She attached the bar at one end, then slid on each door, securing the adjacent anchors as she worked. Finally, to give the piece a finished look, she painted the exposed screwheads.

Signs your chimney needs a checkup

Gathering around a wood-burning fireplace is an irresistible winter ritual, but a fire is still, well, a fire. Even if you stick to the recommended schedule of annual chimney inspections, issues that require a pro's attention can crop up at any time. Here, some potential problems to look for. —LAURA D. TESTINO



BUCKLING BRICK OR STONE

Noticed any cracking or settling of masonry—inside the firebox or anywhere on the surround or hearth? Call in a professional mason before lighting another fire. “Even a small gap can give sparks, cinders, and high heat a direct route to surrounding combustibles,” says chimney safety expert Russ Dimmitt.



FALLEN DEBRIS

Crumbly black soot accumulating in your firebox can be a sign that combustible creosote is building up and you're overdue for a chimney cleaning. Finding what appear to be broken tile or pot shards is even more cause for concern. An older home with a masonry fireplace may still have a terra-cotta chimney liner; pieces of it in the firebox indicate the liner's been damaged, likely due to a chimney fire. “Chimney fires most often occur when something blocking the chimney, like creosote or a bird's nest, ignites,” says Mark Schaub, a chimney restoration expert who's worked on many *This Old House* TV projects. “The resulting burst of heat and rapid change in temperature can crack a terra-cotta liner.” The cracking will also make a loud noise and push smoke back into the living space. If you suspect you've had a chimney fire or you find terra-cotta debris, do not use your fireplace until it's been inspected by a certified chimney sweep.



Mason Mark McCullough replaces a damaged brick in a fireplace surround. Changes to stone or marble can also indicate potential trouble.



SMOKY ODORS

“You should never smell smoke outside the room the fireplace is in,” says Schaub. “And if the fireplace is working properly, you shouldn't have an excessive odor there, either.” If you smell smoke beyond what you're used to when you use your fireplace, extinguish the fire and call 911. Your local fire department will use heat-sensing guns or thermal imaging to pinpoint any danger.



WALL CHANGES

Heat escaping from cracked masonry, a damaged liner, or an improperly installed prefab metal firebox (most common in newer homes) can cause wood framing to become so dry and charred that it's capable of igniting at a much lower temperature. How can you tell if there's excessive heat *inside* your walls? Pictures falling off the wall, for example, can indicate that plaster or drywall has overheated and softened, as can bubbling or peeling paint. Any wall changes merit a pro's attention, says Schaub, who recommends finding a sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America at csia.org.

Build Your Dream. Do It Right.™

Don't miss the conclusion
of our **Net-Zero** project!

All-new episodes
airing now.



PHOTO: CARL TREMBLAY

THIS OLD HOUSE is sponsored by



TUNE IN ON  PBS Check local listings or stream at thisoldhouse.com

ask This Old House ▶

Whatever Your Problem, We've Got the Expert

Tune in for DIY projects and
how-to instruction from
America's favorite home-
improvement team.

Need Help with a Home Project?

Submit your request for a chance to receive a house
call from the crew: thisoldhouse.com/askaquestion



PHOTOS: COLLEEN McQUAID

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE is sponsored by



Stay cozy for less

On average, nearly half of household energy expenses go toward heating and cooling. Here, ways to keep warm without cranking the thermostat. —SKYE McEOWEN

SWITCH UP YOUR FAN

Reverse the direction of any ceiling fans (in most cases, that's from counterclockwise to clockwise). This creates a mild updraft that pushes warm air down. Most change direction via a switch on the housing that's easily accessed when the fan's off.

BE DRAPE SMART Except in bedrooms, curtains are often always open—or always closed. In winter, take advantage of solar heat gain by opening drapes, especially on south-facing windows, in the morning. Come sundown, close them to reduce heat loss by up to 10 percent. By creating a warmer surface between you and window glass—even double panes get chilly—drapes also improve the mean radiant (a.k.a. “feels like”) temperature.

SWAP FURNACE FILTERS

Dirty filters impede air flow, making a furnace use up to 15 percent more energy. Even if you have a high-efficiency filter meant to be changed every three to six months, check it monthly in winter; if it's dirty, dark, or clogged, swap in a new one.

BRING THE HEAT TO YOU

Using an electric space heater alone can be an efficient way to heat a small space. But for supplemental heat, it's more cost-effective (and just as warming) to curl up with an electric blanket or a heating pad.

COVER FLOORS Add a thick area rug with a beefy pad—these can block heat loss up to 10 percent better than wood alone. And since the fibers trap air, your feet will feel significantly warmer.



What's in the box?

Get smart about attic, basement, or garage storage with QR code labels—writing a name for the box on the label is the only analog step. Open the Duck Pack & Track app (free for iOS and Android) on your smartphone and tap a button to scan the label. Then just speak (or type) what's in the container. Be specific—it'll come in handy later. When you're looking for an item, open the app and say its name to find out what box it's in. And before you unpack? Simply scan the label to see the whole list. *Duck Pack & Track Moving and Storage Labeling System, \$15; walmart.com*

The Dozen Wines You Need to Try plus Bonus Bottles & Glasses

Yours for ONLY \$69.99 worth \$259.99

**SAVE
\$190**

WSJwine is celebrating a decade of wine discovery and you're invited to the party with a remarkable offer. Our Top 12 wines feature multi-gold-medal winners, 90+ point blockbusters and 5-star favorites galore. With this festive introduction to the WSJwine Discovery Club, you'll enjoy them all — plus a very special 10th Anniversary bonus below — for only \$69.99 (plus \$19.99 shipping & tax).

Take the featured Top 12 reds, or choose whites or a mix for the same low price. Detailed tasting notes tell the story behind each wine and offer useful serving advice. Then, look forward to an exciting new dozen every three months for just \$159.99, saving you at least 20%. We make it easy for you to tell us what you like, so that every bottle is just right. You take only the cases you want and you only pay for wines you enjoy, with our 100% money-back guarantee.

Scroll down our Top 12 at right, check out your exclusive bonus below, and order now for a very happy holiday season.



SPECIAL BONUS

2 Luxury Reserve Cabs and 2 Crystal Glasses

\$70.97 value

Enjoy two bottles of this rich, barrel-aged WSJwine 10th Anniversary Edition Cabernet from Raymond Vineyards, **"one of the iconic wineries of Napa"** (Parker). We'll also include a pair of Dartington Crystal stemless glasses.

ORDER TODAY AT **wsjwine.com/0181019**

OR CALL **1-877-975-9463** Quote code 0181019

Offer available to first-time WSJwine Discovery Club members only and limited to one case per household. Wines and offer may vary by state. 100% money-back guarantee applies to all wines. Offer subject to availability and club enrollment. All orders fulfilled by licensed retailers/wineries and applicable taxes are paid. You must be at least 21 years old to order. Delivery is available to AZ, CA (offer may vary), CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN (limited delivery area), KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ (offer may vary), NM, NV, NY, OH, OR (not eligible for free gift), PA, SC, SD (offer may vary), TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY and DC. WSJwine is operated independently of The Wall Street Journal's news department. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

12 Double-Gold French Pinot Noir



11 94-Point Southern Italian Rarity



10 Superstar California Cabernet



9 93-Point Australian Powerhouse



8 Winemaker of the Year Primitivo



7 94-Point Spanish Blockbuster



6 Handcrafted Chianti



5 Double-Gold Portuguese Gem



4 Mature Spanish Gran Reserva



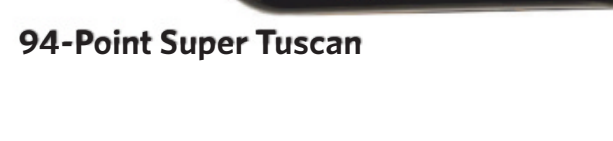
3 Mighty Argentine Malbec



2 Gold-Medal Bordeaux



1 94-Point Super Tuscan



Easy, elegant ceiling upgrade

The “fifth wall” offers ample opportunity for adding character to a space, but painting it can be, literally, a pain in the neck. That’s one reason we were taken with this lattice ceiling project by Kevin O’Gara, who blogs at thouswell.com. What simplified the task: He used 2-inch self-adhesive Easy Stripe (from \$12 for 36 feet; wallsneedlove.com). “The math was the trickiest part of the project,” says Kevin, who wanted to draw the eye up and make the narrow hall feel more expansive. We say, “Done and done!” —K.W.



Clean up your breaker box

Pay it forward to your house’s future residents (and your current electrician) by ensuring that your breaker panel’s labels are legible, accurate, and easy to interpret, using:

NUMBERS Number each circuit, bearing in mind that depending on how (and when) your house was wired, individual rooms may have more than one circuit—and in older homes, one circuit may show up in multiple rooms.

NAMES Go with location (“right rear bedroom”) rather than current use—a label like “Jack’s room” or even “office” isn’t helpful to non-family members. For bonus points, post a simple floor plan of your home on the box’s door.

COLORS Add a hue or two to highlight anything important or unusual (on the box at left, blue denotes unassigned circuits). Old houses often have “mystery breakers,” which can be left off—just be sure you aren’t accidentally shutting off smoke detectors. —L.T.



Reinventing the toilet brush

It’s a dirty job, but some gizmo’s gotta do it. Product designers are kicking aside the boring, if serviceable, bristled toilet brush—believed to be an, ahem, goop magnet—in favor of oddly shaped alternatives mostly made with smooth, pliable silicone. This nonstick synthetic polymer sheds water (and more)—and is likely already doing time in your bath as flexible caulk. The material’s properties also help the traditionally icky toilet-brush holder stay cleaner longer, requiring only an occasional cleanser spritz and rinse. Here, three of the toilet brush’s newest bristle-free incarnations. —DEBORAH BALDWIN



> **The minimalist** The Hygienic, by Sanimaid, has a small, flexible silicone head attached to a handle made with an antibacterial additive. It stows away in a trim, wall-adhering holder. \$25; thegrommet.com



> **The aggressor** With six sturdy, drill-down helix blades made from a synthetic rubber, Better Living’s LOOEEZ Hygienic Toilet Squeegee feels hefty but is surprisingly deft. With an embedded antimicrobial agent and a no-nonsense cup holder, it’s all business. \$25; dispenser.com



> **The yogi** The Flex Plus bends and turns to reach every bit of the bowl with its nubby, mitt-shaped head. Its largish holder has contemporary styling and two compartments; one hides the tool, the other keeps liquid cleaner on hand. \$25; josephjoseph.com

PHOTOS: (TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF WWW.THOUWELL.COM; (BOTTOM LEFT) JAMIE DANNECKER

The smartest bed in the world for the best sleep of your life, from \$999

Designed to keep you and your partner effortlessly comfortable, the Sleep Number 360® smart bed senses your movements then automatically adjusts. You can actually feel it contour to your head, neck, shoulders, back and hips, relieving pressure points.

Does your bed do that?®



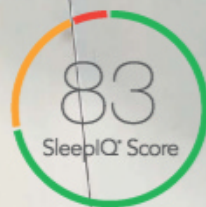
AUTOMATICALLY
RESPONDS TO YOU



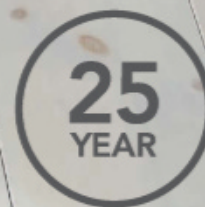
ADJUSTABLE COMFORT
ON EACH SIDE



CONTOURS TO YOU
FOR MORE PROPER
SPINAL ALIGNMENT*



SHOWS HOW WELL
YOU'RE SLEEPING



25-YEAR
LIMITED WARRANTY†



100-NIGHT
TRIAL‡

sleep  number®

Call or Click for Your Free Catalog • 1.877.558.2939 (ext. 404316) • www.sleepnumber.com/toh

Upholstered furniture and pillows available at additional cost. Prices higher in AK and HI. *For a summary of clinical studies, visit sleepnumber.com. †2-Year Limited Warranty on SleepIQ® technology. Warranties available at sleepnumber.com. ‡Restrictions and exclusions apply. Does not apply to adjustable bases, Upholstered Collection, closeout/clearance or demo/floor model purchases or mattresses already exchanged under another In-Home Trial period. You pay return shipping. Refunds will be made to the original method of payment less original shipping/delivery fees. Visit sleepnumber.com for complete details. SLEEP NUMBER, SLEEP IQ, SLEEP NUMBER 360, the Double Arrow Design and SELECT COMFORT are registered trademarks of Sleep Number Corporation. ©2018 Sleep Number Corporation



VorMax® Plus
Toilet

The replaceable VorMax® Plus FreshInfuser™ lasts for 30 days or 360 flushes.

Meet the smallest toilet brush ever engineered.

Introducing the VorMax® Plus self-cleaning toilet

There's one mission in Porcelain Valley: create products that make your life better every day. The new VorMax® Plus self-cleaning toilet includes the VorMax® Plus FreshInfuser™, which releases toilet bowl cleaner into the bowl with every flush. Plus, the toilet is engineered with a flushing system that cleans 2x better* with just water. It's the cleanest, freshest flush ever engineered. See how it works at americanstandard.com

*American
Standard*

BORN IN PORCELAIN VALLEY

*Than standard bowls. Source: Test Report No. 109-141486-002, comparing VorMax® against conventional under-the-rim-dispersal toilets from major retailers. LYSOL® is used under license to American Standard. © 2018. All rights reserved.

Small change, big impact

Sacrificing a linen closet allows a little bath to live larger within the same footprint

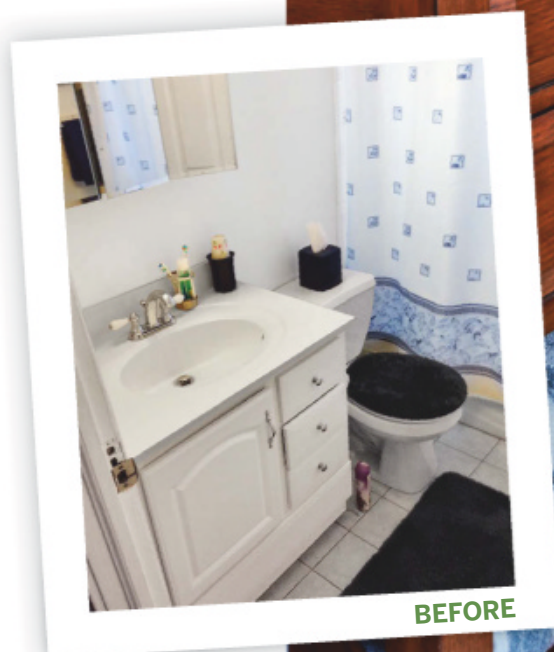
BY NINA MALKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA MOSS

➔ **IT'S A COMMON LAYOUT** in an old-house bath, with all three plumbed conveniences arrayed in a row against one wall. But the 44-square-foot “master” in Graig and Debora Cameron’s 1926 Cape Cod-style home in Cranford, NJ, had one extra that enabled an impressive transformation: It had a linen closet tucked behind the door.

Working with their contractor, the Camerons saw a way to scrap the closet and relocate the toilet to the alcove it left behind. This freed up space for a handsome oak vanity a foot wider than its predecessor. A large, frameless-glass-enclosed shower with a bench seat replaced the tub; moving plumbing lines less than 5 feet allowed the new plumbing to vent through the same stack. Beveled white subway tile brightens the room, while Carrara marble for the floor tile and vanity top elevates the overall look. “The bathroom is now an inviting, relaxing space we enjoy every day,” says Debora.

BEFORE The toilet was jammed into a tight spot between the tub and a melamine vanity with a composite sink top.

AFTER Relocating the commode made space for a 36-inch-wide oak vanity with drawer and shelf storage. Bright white tile and frameless glass lend an airy feel, while marble surfaces add a luxe touch. *Vanity: Sagehill Designs*



BEFORE

Homeowner Graig built the chunky-looking floating shelves—comprising a top, bottom, and 3-inch-wide face—from oak boards fastened to 2-by-2-inch pine supports mounted on all three walls.



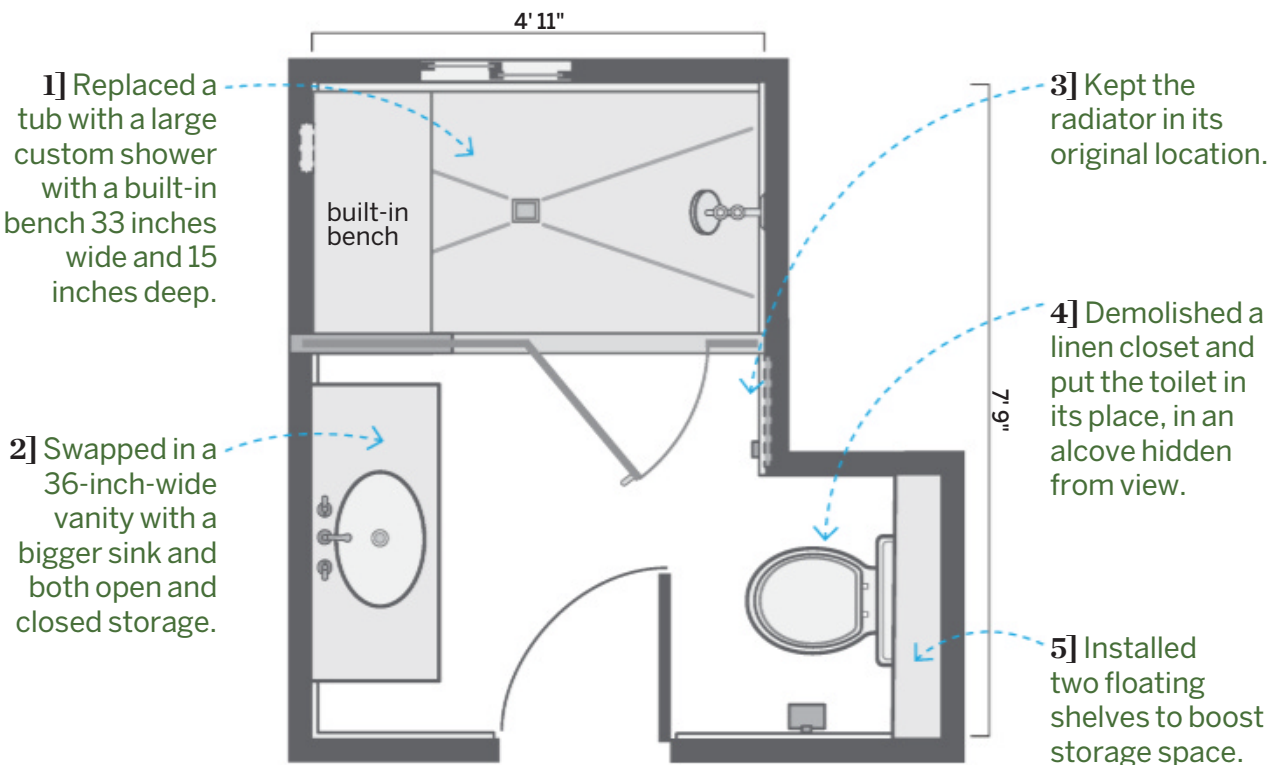
The Cameron family: Graig, with daughter Riley Rose, now 1, and Debora, holding their son Nicholas James, now 3.

The toilet is tucked into a nook where the linen closet had been. Open shelving above restores some sacrificed storage.
Toilet: Kohler



Subway tile with a beveled edge gives the walls an added level of detail. The recessed radiator is a replacement for one that was original to the house.

after
Relocating the toilet to where a closet had been and swapping a tub for a full-width shower makes smarter use of the bath's scant 44 square feet



This Old House blueprint

Events, promotions, advertiser product news, etc.



Shelves That Slide

Tired of getting down on your hands and knees to reach that pot or pan? **Shelves That Slide** offers quality pull-out shelves custom-made for your cabinets. Do it yourself and save—get 10 premium shelves, with shipping, for only \$499. Order online, call us at 800-598-7390, or e-mail sales@shelvesthatsslide.com for a free catalog.

shelvesthatsslide.com

Extraordinary Doors for Your Home!

Great doors, like great homes, carry lasting memories across time. So what makes one door an heirloom while others remain humdrum? Timeless design, painstaking craftsmanship, and real wood construction—giving permanence, distinction, and meaning to what would otherwise be just an object. Your home deserves more than ordinary doors. Choose Vintage Doors!

VintageDoors.com



Reproducing America's Historic Antique Hardware

Faithfully reproduced from antique originals, our push-button switches feature genuine mother-of-pearl inlay. Built to modern electrical standards, they pair beautifully with our vintage-style cover plates. From hardware to lighting to plumbing, you'll find period-perfect reproductions to suit every style of home. Our dedicated hardware specialists are ready to help with your next project!

houseofantiquehardware.com



DR Snow Blowers

NEW! Powerful two-stage blowers from DR provide professional-duty performance you can depend on. EZ-Turn™ steering technology allows for effortless 180° turns. With four models (from 24" to 34" wide) and engines up to 14 hp, DR Snow Blowers are built to blast through winter's worst! 877-776-1731

DRsnowblowers.com



Save Energy. Maintain History.

Innerglass Window Systems, LLC is a manufacturer of custom glass interior storm windows for energy conservation and soundproofing. These interior storms outperform almost any replacement, yet maintain the integrity and beauty of your historical windows. They automatically conform to the opening, compensating for out-of-square conditions. No subframe needed.

All glazing options available.
Easy, do-it-yourself installation.

stormwindows.com 800-743-6207



Experience the UGL Difference

The ZAR® Deck & Siding line of products by UGL offers superior protection, coverage, and adhesion. A wide variety of colors and the versatile formulas make it the perfect brand for decks, railings, sheds, siding, furniture, pressure-treated lumber, shutters, and more. Each product comes with its own guarantee, giving you complete assurance of its reliability.

ugl.com



Double take

Painted in complementary hues, a staid bedroom door becomes a standout piece of decor **BY KATE WOOD**

➔ **SURPRISE!** Close this bedroom's door to reveal a pop of color you'd never expect from the room's white walls. "A painted door can be a unique way to dress up an interior," says Elizabeth Wieck, editor of the blog at One Kings Lane, which created the project shown at right. Here, two fields of bright color bisect the door on a diagonal, bringing a modern energy to the room's traditional architectural details.

All it takes is a brush, low-tack tape, and a couple of quarts of paint. To start, tape off the door edges, and remove or place tape over any hardware that's not being painted. Lay down a base coat by painting the entire face of the door with the main color (here, it's Benjamin Moore's Fun 'n Games) and let dry. Use tape to mark off a dramatic diagonal line for the accent color (this one is Benjamin Moore's Granny Smith). Be careful to smooth the edges as you go in order to prevent paint from seeping underneath. Start painting at the seam, brushing away from the tape; when the paint is dry, pull off tape at an angle for a crisp line.

In a bedroom, this happy blast of brightness can remain your little secret—but wouldn't it be fun to share, say, on the foyer side of your front door? ■



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ONE KINGS LANE

EVERY
“WOW,
WE DID
THIS”
HAS A STARTING POINT.

Ready to take your painting skills to the next level? Lowe's is ready to help. We can show you everything from the latest techniques to the newest tools. So go ahead, take on that bigger, bolder look. You might be surprised at how easy it can be.

START WITH **LOWE'S**



Modern entryway for **\$514**

A DIY accent wall with an abstract geometric pattern gives a young couple's foyer the focal point it needs **BY KATELIN HILL**



BEFORE

BEFORE The blah walls, vinyl flooring, and traditional light fixture that came with the house didn't match the couple's style.

AFTER A greenish-gray accent wall, black door, and whitewashed-wood-look tile reflect the youthful vibe the homeowners have been working to infuse in their home, one space at a time.



THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted the walls white using leftover paint **\$0**

Created an accent wall by nailing up strips of MDF in a geometric pattern, then gave the wall a coat of dark green-gray paint **\$77**

Replaced vinyl flooring with wood-look porcelain floor tile **\$231**

Revamped a wood-and-rattan console table the couple already owned with leftover paint and tile **\$0**

Swapped the gold ceiling light for an updated coated-wire fixture **\$46**

Made a coatrack using materials already on hand, including a wall-mount kitchen organizer, S-hooks, and scraps of leather **\$0**

Decorated the space with a large mirror, a rug, an umbrella stand, and other new and old accessories **\$160**

TOTAL \$514

➔ **MAKING A HOUSE** your own requires more than simply signing on the dotted line. Just ask Lindi and Russel Vanderschaaf, who have been putting their DIY skills to the test transforming their Grande Prairie, Alberta, home. Take the entryway. To add texture and drama that better reflect their modern style, the couple started by pulling up the vinyl flooring and replacing it with durable, easy-to-clean porcelain tile with a driftwood look that they laid in a herringbone pattern. Then they turned their attention to creating an accent wall. They ripped MDF into 1-inch strips and nailed them to the

wall following a pattern Lindi sketched out ahead of time and Russel transferred to the wall in pencil. A coat of deep green-gray paint unified the assembly, with crisp white on the adjacent walls adding contrast. A black wire pendant replaced the old gold light fixture, and modern accessories, including a round mirror and a DIY coatrack, brought more light and function to the area. Now, says Lindi, who blogs at lovecreatecelebrate.com, they get nothing but compliments from friends and family: "It's a very inviting, very functional space, and it has a beautiful visual impact when guests arrive." ■



- **100% COTTON**
- **UP TO 52" WAIST**
- **5 LENGTHS**



HALF PRICE

now

\$26

KHAKI BROWN

FERN GREEN

FAWN

GRAPHITE

FRENCH NAVY

FAWN

UP TO
52"
WAIST

5
LENGTHS

“Extremely comfortable and well cut pants in a nice range of colours. I ordered two pairs first, then ordered more.”
Online review

- **Soft pure cotton**
- **Smart-casual pleat front**
- **Side elastic for added comfort**
- **Zip fly with button at waist**
- **5 leg lengths for the perfect fit**
- **Up to 52" waist to suit all shapes and sizes**

ELASTIC WAIST PANTS ~~\$52~~ \$26 SAVE \$26

Machine Washable

100% Cotton

Imported

Khaki Brown Fern Green Fawn Graphite French Navy

27" (68.5cm) inside leg Sizes 32-52 **AC10773 OFU**

29" (74cm) inside leg Sizes 32-52 **AC10038 OFU**

31" (79cm) inside leg Sizes 32-52 **AC10039 OFU**

33" (84cm) inside leg Sizes 32-48 **AC10040 OFU**

35" (89cm) inside leg Sizes 34-48 **AC10041 OFU**

FREE RETURNS* WITH 

See website for more information on our simple, local returns service

HALF PRICE shipping only \$4.50 – LIMITED TIME
FREE when you spend \$79 or more

order today at **us.cottontraders.com**
or call toll **FREE 1-855-246-3333**

**90 DAY MONEY
BACK GUARANTEE
IF NOT
COMPLETELY
SATISFIED**

**PLEASE USE THIS
CODE TO CLAIM
YOUR OFFER**
AB7U

Terms & conditions: Payment taken at point of order, we aim to deliver within 7 working days from dispatch, stock subject to availability. \$4.50 shipping offer available for a limited time only. Standard shipping price is \$9.95. Free standard shipping when you spend \$79 or more. *Free returns on online purchases paid with PayPal only, see us.cottontraders.com. You may cancel your order no later than 90 days after the day on which you receive your goods. You must inform us of your wish to cancel in writing either by letter or email. You should return goods to us in their original packaging, wherever possible, within 90 days of receiving your goods. Calls from landline are free, for calls from a cell please speak to your cell phone provider for advice on charges. Prices quoted are those ruling at time of production. Due to circumstances beyond our control, prices may have to be altered. One promotion per order. Our privacy policy and full T&C's are available online at us.cottontraders.com. Offer ends 26th January 2019. Reg No 2125768. Reg office: Cotton Traders House, Atlantic Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5GZ, United Kingdom.

TOP 20

★ **BEST NEW** ★
HOME PRODUCTS

TOOLS

For best-in-class...

This Old House begins its issue-by-issue celebration of the year's best new home products. First up: top tools, followed by such popular categories as kitchen, bath, home tech, and outdoors.

→ **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS,** there's been an outpouring of new tools that make home-improvement and repair projects easier, faster, and safer. After evaluating more than 100 candidates, we've selected 20 that stand out for their innovative, practical solutions to everyday problems. Whether you're looking for clever hand tools, versatile accessories, or the latest advances in power-tool technology, there's something in this roundup that's sure to please.



1. FLEXVOLT 60-VOLT MAX WORM-DRIVE-STYLE CIRCULAR SAW
DeWalt

Thanks to its superior ability to eject dust, this cordless, rear-handle saw, with its full-size, 7¼-inch blade, outperforms its corded, worm-drive cousins. \$399 for the kit; dewalt.com

2. 2-IN-1 DUAL-PURPOSE LADDER
Werner

Unfold this twin fiberglass stepladder and it becomes an

extension ladder. Choose from 6-, 7-, and 8-foot models that convert to 11-, 13-, and 15-footers, respectively. They all can hold up to 300 pounds. From \$186; wernerco.com

3. CORDLESS RANDOM-ORBIT SANDER ETSC 125
Festool

Its 18-volt battery can power a 5-inch disk for 30 minutes on a single charge. For longer run times, just plug in the corded adapter. The pad spins at 10,000 rpm with tiny

2-millimeter orbits, perfect for smoothing finishes. \$560 for the set; festoolusa.com

4. SHOCKWAVE IMPACT MAGNETIC DRIVE-GUIDE SET
Milwaukee Tool

This screw-driving accessory for impact drivers has a drop-forged stainless-steel shaft that absorbs three times the torque of a standard drive guide. Its sleeve, also stainless, has a laser-etched gauge for precise depth control. \$20 for a 3-piece set; milwaukeetool.com

PHOTO: (NO. 8) DENISE SFRAGA



5. TRADESMAN PRO TOOL MASTER BACKPACK

Klein Tools

Made with 1680-denier ballistic nylon, this handy carrier has 48 pockets and a removable caddy. The orange interior makes finding tools easy, and its cushioned handle—reinforced with aircraft cable—is virtually unbreakable. \$178; kleintools.com

6. FLEXICLICK 5-IN-1 DRILL/DRIVER

Bosch

This handy 12-volt tool comes with a magnetic bit holder and four attachments: a locking hex-bit holder, a keyless chuck, an offset hex-bit holder, and a right-angle attachment (shown) that works with the other three. \$169; boschtools.com

7. COBRA INFRARED PAINT STRIPPER

Speedheater

Here's a nimble tool that emits enough infrared radiation to soften multiple layers of paint in 1 to 3 seconds, yet it uses only 700 watts of power, about half that of a typical heat gun. It's also safer than a gun—it doesn't get hot enough to vaporize the lead in old paint. The small shroud allows it to fit into tight spaces that other infrared paint strippers can't reach. \$399; eco-strip.com

8. MAGNET DRIVERS

Micaton

Fitted onto the tips of driver bits and screwdriver shafts, these rubbery collars have rare-earth magnets that grip screws so tenaciously they won't fall off. The green, blue, and red collars correspond to the Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Phillips bits included in the 6-piece kit. \$17; thegrommet.com

9. LAZER CT CARBIDE-TIPPED RECIPROCATING SAW BLADES

Lenox

They cut through cast iron and stainless steel faster, straighter, and longer than other carbide-tipped blades because they're extra thick, and therefore more stable. From \$11 for a 9-inch blade; lenoxtools.com

10. DIAMOND-TIPPED SCREWDRIVERS

Crescent Tools

Real diamond grit on the tips of these slotted and Phillips-head screwdrivers grips screwheads securely, putting a stop to cam-out (and curses). And the three-lobed handles let you apply 20 percent more torque than standard round handles. The 4-piece set includes Nos. 1 and 2 Phillips and 3/16- and 1/4-inch slotted. \$32; crescenttool.com

11. TOP-GRAIN GOATSKIN WORK GLOVES

Estwing

Supple white goatskin palms—reinforced with polyurethane patches—and Spandex backs provide comfort, nearly unrestricted dexterity, and great durability. The stitching is a super-strong aramid fiber, like the kind found in bulletproof vests. \$21; homedepot.com

11



12. 4-IN-1 SCAFFOLDBENCH

Metaltech

When you're finished using this 1,100-pound-capacity Baker staging as a scaffold, turn it into a rolling miter-saw workbench, a storage rack, or a utility cart. No tools are needed to make the changes. \$289; metaltech.co/scaffoldbench

12



13. BEVELED SOCKET CHISEL SET

WoodRiver

Handsome bubinga handles fit into the blades' conical sockets, a design that allows the handles to withstand hard blows without splitting, and to be easily replaced if ever damaged. The blades are made of impact-resistant chrome-vanadium steel that's salt-bath-tempered to a Rockwell hardness of 58–63. That's the ideal balance between edge-holding and ease of sharpening. The set includes 1/4-, 1/2-, 3/4-, and 1-inch blades. \$150; woodcraft.com

13



14



14. 18-VOLT ONE+ HYBRID LED COLOR-RANGE WORK LIGHT

Ryobi

You can adjust this light's color—its Kelvin color temperature—from 2700K (warm) to 5000K (cool daylight) for accurate color rendering. Brightness is also adjustable between 1,200, 700, and 100 lumens. Works up to 24 hours under battery power; if you need more time, plug it in. \$70; ryobitools.com

15. REMOTE CONTROL AND RECEPTION MODULES FOR CT DUST EXTRACTOR

Festool

With this two-piece upgrade kit, a Festool CT-model dust extractor automatically turns on when you fire up a Bluetooth-compatible cordless (Festool) tool. But even if you're using a noncompatible cordless tool, you can still operate the CT vac remotely with the new push-button module fitted on the hose (shown). \$80; festoolusa.com

15



speed and torque, can make 334 cuts on one charge. The unique rail configuration lets you place it against a wall, and its 5¼-inch vertical cut capacity is bigger than that of any saw in its class. \$599; makitatools.com

18. MO57 PINLESS MOISTURE METER

Extech

Hold this device next to wood, concrete, or any other building material, and it shows you the moisture content 4 inches below the surface. Use the variable beep to determine the extent of wet conditions. \$103; extech.com

19. IRIIDIUM SANDPAPER

Mirka

These hook-and-loop disks and sheets, ranging from 40 to 600 grit, combine ceramic and aluminum-oxide abrasives on a special dust-repellent coating that ensures optimal cutting. They're compatible with any sander's hole pattern. From \$20 for 50; mirka-online.com

20. M18 TABLE SAW

Milwaukee Tool

Finally, a cordless table saw with the power of a corded one. The rack-and-pinion fence has a 24½-inch rip capacity, and its 8¼-inch blade cuts stock up to 2½ inches thick. Given the chance, it'll rip through 600 feet of ¾-inch OSB on a single charge. \$549; milwaukeetool.com

GO SHOP ONLINE

Look for the "buy" buttons on many of these items at thisoldhouse.com/top20

16



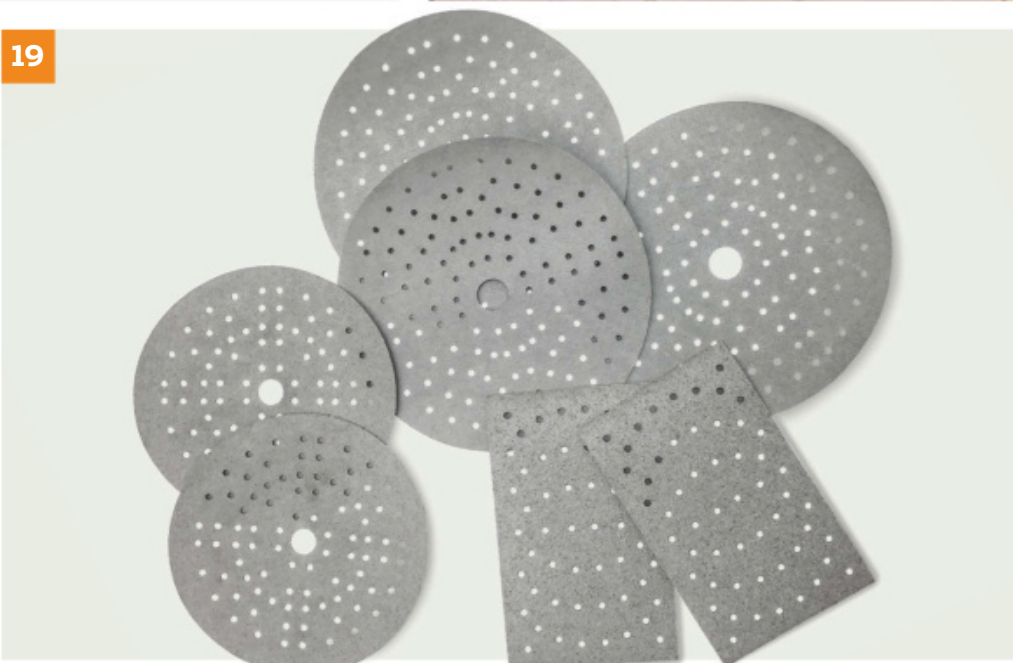
17



18



19



20



16. TRACK HORSE

Kreg Tool

This 22-pound, steel-and-aluminum sawhorse offers adjustable folding legs, an aluminum clamping track (clamp included), and 2x4 supports on both ends. Holds up to 1,100 pounds. \$120; kregtool.com

17. 18-VOLT X2 LXT CORDLESS 10-INCH SLIDING COMPOUND-MITER SAW

Makita

The XSL06PT's brushless motor, which automatically adjusts the blade's cutting

Elegant fixes for a worn facade

Craftsman-inspired details add symmetry and cohesiveness to a 1920s house

BY THOMAS BAKER • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



→ “HELP US to love the outside of our house as much as we love the inside!” pleaded Emily Schultz when she asked for advice about her 1922 Birmingham, AL, home. So we turned to local home designer Chuck Frusterio for some ideas.

To begin, Frusterio would highlight the front entry with a bracket-supported portico and a swooping wainscot of painted brick. He would upgrade the series of French doors to the right of the main entry with a brick patio defined by a low sitting wall and sheltered by a cedar pergola. On the second floor, reworking the windows creates a stately symmetry, while adding a large gabled dormer breaks up the house’s long horizontal roofline.

“Wow! I didn’t realize our house could look so different and still feel familiar,” says Emily. “We can’t wait to put in the new patio to make the front more functional for our outdoors-loving family.” ■

WANT A PHOTOSHOP REDO?

Send snapshots of your house, and its location, to redo@thisoldhouse.com

finishing touches

Earthy paint colors and Craftsman-style accents give the house a cleaner, more updated look



wood bracket

Trios of triangular red cedar supports add prominence to the new front portico and dormer roofs. 3½-by-30-by-34-inch Traditional Craftsman Smooth Bracket, \$172; architecturaldepot.com



entry set

With its robust angular lines and Venetian-bronze finish, this forged-brass handleset has a handcrafted look. Baldwin Prestige Spyglass Handleset with dead bolt, \$183; homedepot.com



paint colors

Shades of green and brown blend with the leafy landscape. From top: Providence Olive for the siding and brick; Fairview Taupe for the trim. Aura Exterior Paint, \$75 per gallon; benjaminmoore.com



pendant light

A coppery finish and panes of seeded glass upgrade this classic 8½-by-15½-inch aluminum pendant. Irvington Manor 3-light Chain-Hung lantern in Chelesa Bronze, \$180; wegotlites.com

ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

For Less Than \$200

"This is truly a miracle... I don't even know how to begin thanking you for giving me my life back!"

— Sherri H., Granville, NY

How can a hearing aid that costs less than \$200 be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,250 or more?

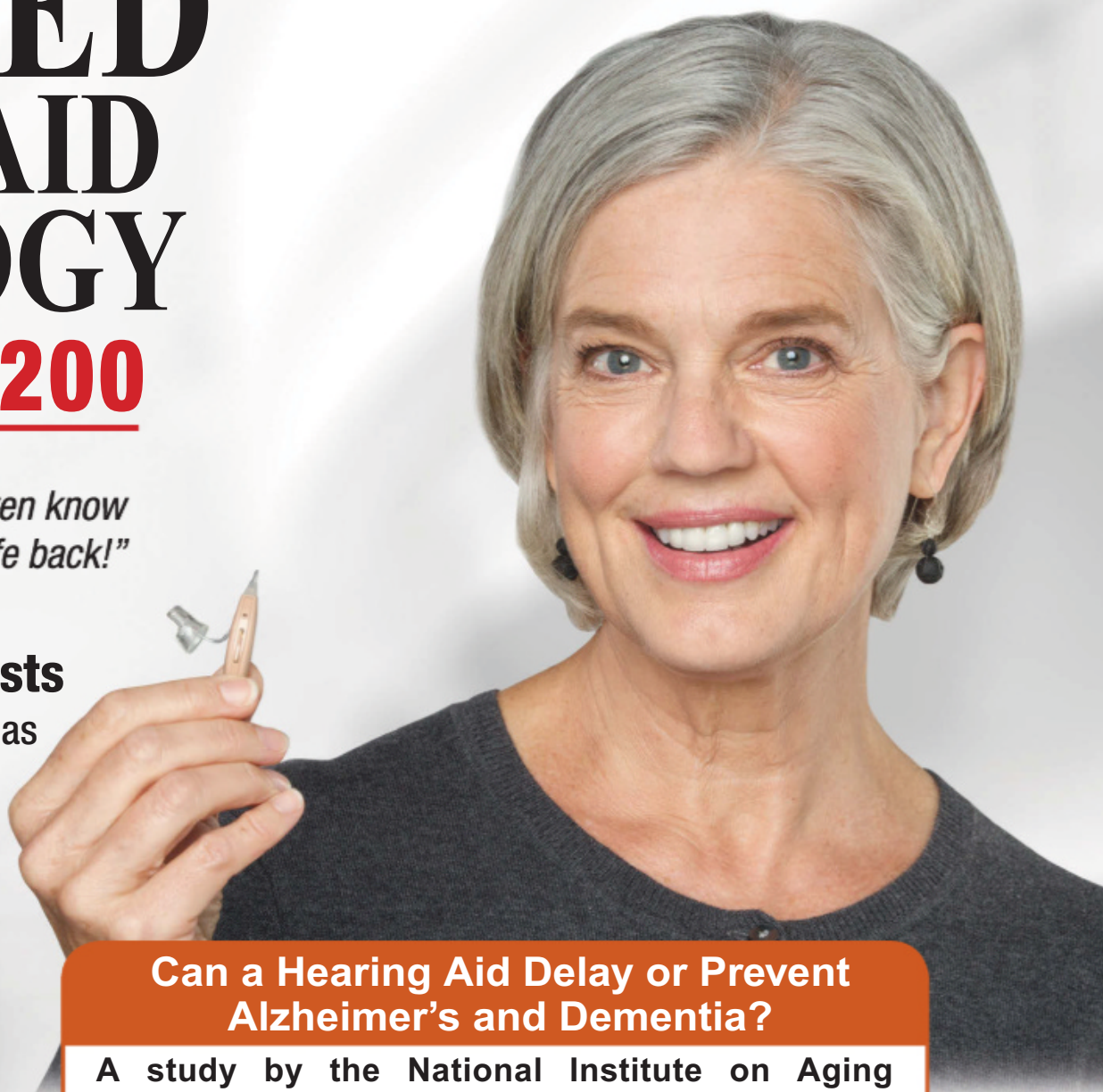
The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

MDHearingAid® uses the same kind of Advanced Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 300,000 satisfied **MDHearingAid** customers agree: High-quality, FDA-registered hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. **MDHearingAid** is a medical-grade hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

MDHearingAid® >>>

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Can a Hearing Aid Delay or Prevent Alzheimer's and Dementia?

A study by the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's and dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention — such as a hearing aid — could delay or prevent this by improving hearing!

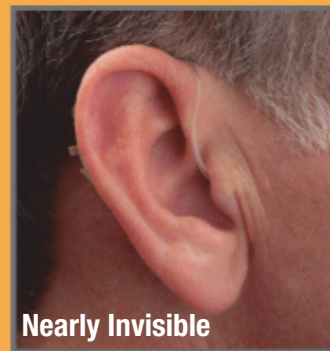
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

Hearing is believing and we invite you to try this nearly invisible hearing aid with no annoying whistling or background noise for yourself. If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAid, return it within 45 days for a **FULL REFUND**.

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-390-1366

www.GetMDHearingAid200.com



Nearly Invisible

**BUY A PAIR
AND SAVE.**

**BATTERIES
INCLUDED!**
READY TO USE RIGHT
OUT OF THE BOX!

Use Code **JC31**
and get **FREE** Batteries for 1 Year
Plus **FREE** Shipping

Proudly assembled in America!





Q I have a magnetic pickup tool that I use to retrieve dropped fasteners and even metal tools. How long have such strong magnets been around?

—DAVE POLLACK, BROOKLYN, NY

A Magnetic pickup tools like yours, and the one at left, typically use neodymium magnets, which were first developed in 1982. Neodymium, a type of rare-earth mineral that's alloyed with iron and boron, makes the strongest permanent magnets out there—up to 15 times more powerful than other magnets of the same size. It will grab on to most any piece of ferrous metal that it comes near. On the other hand, as you've probably discovered, brass keys, copper coins, stainless-steel screws, and gold rings are immune to neodymium's magnetic attraction.

—THE EDITORS

56
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEVI BROWN

Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert



ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host



I replaced my kitchen sink drains using the rubber gaskets provided, and had to retighten them three times in two days to stop the leaking. Should I have used plumber's putty? —JOSEPH HURD, SHELBY, NC

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: In a word, yes. The gasket on a sink's basket-strainer assembly cushions the top edge of the strainer's bell—the shiny piece in my right hand, above—or a friction ring *under* the sink. But the only way to make a waterproof seal between the strainer and the *top* side of the sink's hole is by using plumber's putty.

When properly installed, this concoction of powdered limestone and oils or polymers will stop leaks for years and years in non-pressurized drain fittings. You just knead the putty in your hands briefly to make it pliable, then roll it into a snake about a half-inch across. Loop the snake around the underside of the strainer's flange, overlapping the ends slightly, and push the strainer down through the

sink's hole and against its basin.

Now go underneath, place the gasket and the bell or ring against the underside of the sink, and thread on the locknut. Stick a couple of screwdrivers into the strainer and get a helper to hold on to them; that will keep the strainer from turning as you use pump pliers to tighten the locknut. Continue tightening until the strainer's flange is tight against the sink and the excess putty has oozed out into the sink. Finish connecting the drainpipe to each strainer, then collect the excess putty and put it back into the container for your next sink-drain project.

There's no need to wait for the putty to set; you can use the sink right away. But first, test for leaks by filling the sink partway with

Richard Trethewey takes apart a new basket strainer for a kitchen sink as he prepares to replace one that's corroded and leaking.

DIY
SMARTS



Q Time for new drawer slides

The plastic wheels on our 30-year-old kitchen drawers are falling off. Is it possible to replace and upgrade the drawer slides without removing the countertop? —ROBERT CHURCH, STOCKTON, CA

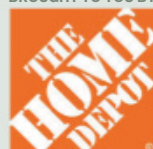
NATHAN GILBERT REPLIES: You'll be glad to know that it is possible to install new drawer slides without disturbing your countertop. Even better, those slides can have smooth-rolling ball bearings instead of wheels, will allow a drawer to extend fully, and can even pull it shut with a gentle tug. Slides with these features used to be costly upgrades; now you can pick them up for about \$20 a pair.

The new slides can be mounted to either the sides or the bottom of the drawer; choose the type that works best with your existing setup. Drawers with side-mount slides will already have the minimum ½-inch gap needed between each side of the drawer and the cabinet box. If there isn't enough side clearance, use undermount slides, and modify the drawer for the new hardware to fit.

In cabinets without face frames, side-mount slides about the same length as the drawer depth attach directly to the cabinet sides. But in face-frame cabinets, the slides must be offset from the sides in order to extend past the frame. One offset option is to attach sockets to the cabinet's back and face frame. Just make sure there's enough clearance for the rear sockets when the drawers are closed, and that the slides are long enough to reach these sockets. (Don't forget to factor in the thickness of the cleats or plywood pads needed to support the rear sockets.) Or simply get side-mount slides as long as the drawer and screw them to wood cleats fastened to the cabinet's sides.

One more thing: Before you start this project, mark each drawer in an inconspicuous spot to identify which opening it came out of. That will save you from a big headache when it's time to put the drawers back.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Nathan Gilbert employs a pair of drawer-slide jigs (kregtool.com) to help him install new soft-close slides. A former Generation NEXT apprentice, Nathan is now an Ask TOH TV cast member.

water. If there aren't any drips before or after you let the water out, your sink should be leak-free and should remain so indefinitely.

Q Cold air coming through vent hood

The vent hood over our kitchen range lets in lots of cold air in the winter, and gets pretty cold itself. I have to block the vent's intake with boards, and then remove them when I turn on the fan. Have you got a better solution?

—DAVE HENSELER, MAPLEWOOD, MN

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: That sounds very annoying, not to mention uncomfortable. I got in touch with Brian Wellnitz, senior global category manager for kitchen ventilation at Broan. He's based in Wisconsin, and so has firsthand experience with cold winters like yours. Here's what he had to say.

"A properly installed range hood has two metal dampers to stop outside air from coming in. One is at the top of the hood, where it connects to the duct, and the other is at the wall or roof cap where the duct exhausts its air. These thin metal flaps don't form airtight seals because they have to open when the hood's fan is working at low speed, but they should keep the cold drafts, and the hot ones, from coming in through your hood.

"So the first order of business is to inspect the dampers and make sure they're operating properly. Start with the outside cap. If the hood's duct has a wall cap, it should have a spring holding its damper shut when the fan is off. Also, see if the damper itself is bent or being blocked from closing completely. Do the same thing with a roof cap, although it may not

DIY SMARTS ONLINE

Find more information about this topic—and many others—at thisoldhouse.com/DIY-smarts

To schedule an appointment, call 1-866-314-3976

Wall cabinets: Cannon Grey
Island cabinets: BEHR® Rocky Mountain Sky

TRANSFORM INSPIRATION INTO **A GREAT KITCHEN**

Before you bring your dream kitchen to life, bring it to The Home Depot®. Our free designer services will help you create a space that's unique to your kitchen, from choosing custom KraftMaid® cabinets to adding the perfect finishing touches. Schedule an appointment today to start your designer kitchen.

More saving. More doing.®



© 2019 Home Depot Product Authority, LLC. All rights reserved.

need a spring due to its more horizontal orientation. In either case, if a cap isn't closing the way it's supposed to, consider replacing it.

"Now take a peek at the hood's damper. That will involve removing the section of the duct it's connected to. In many cases, you'll find a butterfly damper, with two metal flaps pivoting on a horizontal bar. Although it's unlikely that there's a buildup of grease on the flaps, the bar, or its housing—the hood's grease screens should be capturing most of it—give them a spritz of degreaser and gently wipe them clean. Then turn the fan on and off to check that the damper opens freely and shuts completely. Sometimes a small piece of foam stuck to the top of the flaps adds enough weight to ensure a

What is it?

- A** Line stretcher
- B** Closet-rod support
- C** Rebar stand
- D** Baluster spacing guide

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 36



no-gap fit when the fan is off.

"Also, make sure no duct screws interfere with the flaps' movement. Installers may inadvertently plant a few in the wrong spot. Again, if the damper is damaged, put in a new one, carefully, before reconnecting the duct to the hood.

"Your tweaked or new dampers

should take care of your hood's problem, and allow you to take down those boards."

Q Drywall direction
Is it better to hang drywall horizontally or vertically on a wall?

—CLAY HENSLEY, ODESSA, TX

PHOTO: ANDREW MCCAUL

This Old House
INSIDER

Become an Insider Today

and Get Exclusive Access to Meet the Cast!



EVERYTHING A TOH SUPERFAN WANTS:

- Watch every episode of *TOH TV* and *Ask TOH TV*, plus get free *New Yankee Workshop* plans
- Get exclusive deals valued up to \$300
- Ask the guys questions during our Live Q&As
- See behind-the-scenes footage with our action webcams
- Win stuff the guys use, like Festool drills
- Get a chance to attend exclusive events

Try Insider risk-free for 30 days
and we'll send you a **FREE INSIDER TOOL BAG**. You pay only \$1.95 for S&H.



\$25 value FREE

Try Insider Free for 30 Days! thisoldhouse.com/JoinInsider

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia and Canada (excluding Quebec) 18 years of age or older. For details, see OFFICIAL RULES at thisoldhouse.com/InsiderGiveawayRules.

TOM SILVA REPLIES: Drywall can be hung either way—horizontally or vertically—but in most cases the preferred orientation is horizontal, so that the long edges run at a right angle to the studs.

There are a number of practical reasons for doing it that way. It reduces the number of lineal feet of joints that have to be mudded, taped, and sanded. On 9-foot walls, the reduction can be as much as 25 percent, which means savings on labor and materials. It also makes for a stronger wall. Believe it or not, drywall is more resilient lengthwise than widthwise, so the more studs it crosses, the better. And it does a better job of bridging irregularities in stud alignment and spacing, and puts the long joints at a convenient height for applying joint compound.

One argument for hanging drywall vertically is that it can eliminate end joints, if each sheet runs from floor to ceiling. Drywall ends aren't tapered like the long edges are, so it's a bit trickier to finish them without leaving a telltale lump. On a no-butt-joint vertical installation, the long joints will be nicely tapered to receive joint compound and tape. But that's also true for a horizontal installation when long sheets run corner to corner. Plus, when a vertical installation does have a butt joint, the installer first has to nail blocking between the studs to support it.

The same factors apply on ceilings. Drywall is usually hung with the long edges perpendicular to the joists or strapping. But

ceiling framing can get complicated; orient the drywall whichever way has fewer joints, as long as it's supported properly.

Q Tighten up the garage door

I'd like to make my attached garage more energy efficient by insulating the garage door. Lots of air comes in around it. Where should I start?

—DOTTIE SCHICKLING,
STATE COLLEGE, PA

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: That's a good question for Frank James, the owner of GarageDoorWeatherseal.com, who has 32 years of hands-on experience in the garage-door industry. Here's what he had to

We built a frustrating security system... for a thief.

Some crooks think they're pretty smart. They bring scissors to cut landlines. Hammers to smash security keypads. But none of those tricks work against SimpliSafe. It's twice secured, with no landline or wires to snip. Even if they cut the power, your home stays protected. Try it out.

SimpliSafe™

Ends Soon! Check out Simplisafe's Holiday Offer at SimpliSafe.com/toh



say about your drafty door.

“First off, it’s not a good idea to add insulation to a garage door, which should be nicely balanced to roll up and down with minimal effort. The added weight of the insulation will throw off that balance, strain your door opener, reduce the door’s life span, and make it less safe. Even if you paid a pro to install new springs and rebalance your insulated door—an expensive proposition—it still isn’t likely to perform as well as you might expect, due to all the exposed, heat-conducting metal parts that haven’t been insulated.

“What you *can* do is stop the drafts. That will go a long way to keeping your garage warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

“Start by going outside and checking the seals on the sides and top of the door when it’s closed. You should see gently curved plastic fins that remain in contact with the door even when you press on it. Each seal should be continuous, without any cracks or cuts, and should return to its position after being flexed. If the existing seals have been damaged or are no longer flexible, order a new roll.

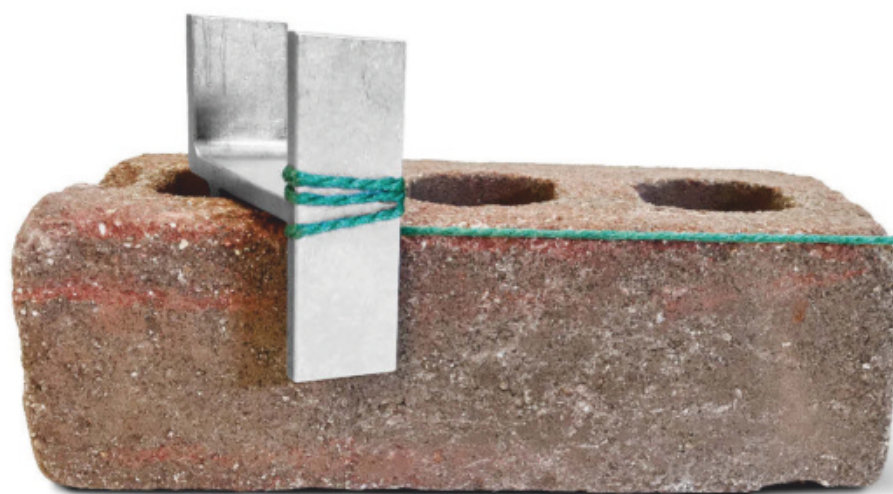
“Weatherseals are made of either PVC or EPDM, a synthetic rubber. EPDM is the more durable material, remaining flexible for decades, even in temperatures as low as –50 degrees F. It fits into sections of aluminum track (sold separately), so it’s fussier and more expensive to install than standard one-piece PVC seals. The one-piece seals are simply nailed in place with 1¼-inch ring-shanks spaced every 6 to 8 inches.

“Whichever material you use, put the top seal in first, then attach the sides, and caulk the seams between the seals and the jambs.

What is it?

A Line stretcher

The Universal Line Stretcher provides masons with a quick and simple way to anchor a string line while laying cored bricks or concrete blocks up to 12 inches in length. \$18 per pair; universallinestretcher.com



Lots of air can sneak in through those seams.

“Next, fasten a seal to the top edge of the upper door section. Its fin presses against the header inside the garage, just above the door opening, when the door is closed. This is one of the best things you can do to block drafts.

“Finally, check the seal at the bottom of the door. If it’s not intact, or if you can see light coming in under it when the door is shut, consider replacing it. You’ll get the best performance from a U-shaped, bead-style seal made of EPDM. It slides onto an aluminum track held in place with stainless-steel screws.

“Installing the tracks and bottom seal is straightforward, but you must take these precautions before you start the job to keep the door from accidentally dropping while you’re working on it: (1) Unplug the door opener. (2) Pull the emergency release cord to disengage the opener from the door. (3) Open the door manually and lock Vise-Grips to the track above and below one of the rollers.

“Give the seals about a week to

settle into their final shape, then wait for a cold, windy day to feel for drafts. Hopefully, there won’t be any, and your garage will be much more comfortable.

“There is a chance you’ll feel air coming through the joints between the door sections. If so, you can add strips of adhesive-backed, open-cell foam weatherstripping to each section, as long as it’s no more than ¼ inch thick. Anything thicker could interfere with the door’s operation. As you install it, be sure to follow the same safety guidelines for installing the bottom seal. Each of those joints is a pinch point that will leave you in a world of hurt if it closes down on your fingers.”

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Go to: thisoldhouse.com/askTOH

Or write to: Ask This Old House
This Old House magazine
262 Harbor Drive
Stamford, CT 06902

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



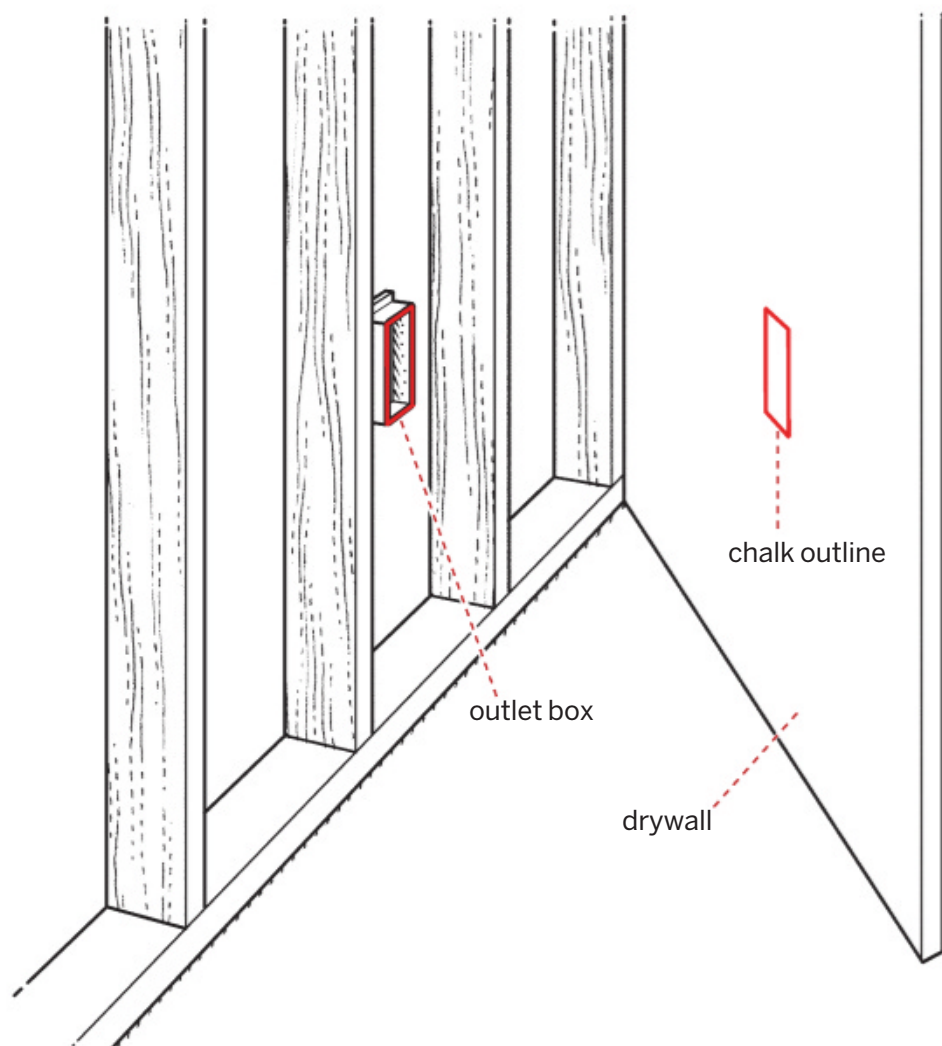
Norm's tricks of the trade

Q The electrician has roughed-in all the outlets so they stick out $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edges of the studs. Now how do I cut the drywall to fit around them?

—STUART RIGBY, LOUISVILLE, KY

A Your electrician did the right thing. Code requires the edges of outlet boxes to be flush with the finished wall surface, so you have to cut the drywall for each box to fit through. That cut has to be fairly precise too. Code specifies that the gap around the box can't be any greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

To mark where to make the cut without any measuring, rub a stick of chalk on the front edge of the box, then push the drywall into place against it. When you pull the panel away, you'll see a chalk outline that you can just cut out with a drywall saw. This trick also comes in handy when installing sheet paneling. 🏠



WATERPROOF, MEET SLIP-RESISTANT

Step confidently with LifeProof™ wood-look tile, exclusively at The Home Depot®. Interior and exterior tile that's beautiful, waterproof and 50% more slip-resistant than other porcelain tile. Learn more at homedepot.com/lifeprooftile.

More saving.
More doing.







THIS PAGE: When Joe and Shelley Pelliccione met, she had already opened up the kitchen in her tiny house; after they married they collaborated on an addition. Around the corner from the cook space is a closet-turned-bar.

TOP RIGHT: The dining nook in the kitchen extension holds a banquette that doubles as storage. Windows and window stain were matched to the 1940s originals; the oak table and chairs are family heirlooms.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

With a little help from relatives—and a lot of late hours—a young couple preserve and expand a tiny 1940s cottage as a home for their growing brood

By **Deborah Baldwin** Photographs by **Deborah Whitlaw Llewellyn**
Produced by **Nicole Esposito-Polly** Styling by **Kendra Surface**

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT BLEND of naïveté andchutzpah,” says Shelley Smith Pelliccione, smiling as she recalls what does sound like one crazy scenario.

After she acquires an old, beat-up cottage on the outskirts of Savannah, she meets this great guy—a rock guitarist, no less. Early in the courtship, he drops by and finds her embarked on a DIY reno, specifically, on her hands and knees, stripping linoleum off the original Georgia heart-pine floor. His day job is



project manager for a general contractor; he marries her anyway. Finding they are both meticulous with the details, though different ones, they decide to take their time renovating.

Then along comes a baby. Then talk of another. The cottage is getting crowded, so they start working overtime—till midnight some nights—replumbing and rewiring, painting and sanding, changing diapers. Her parents, enjoying retirement in Tullahoma, Tennessee, come for a visit and are promptly put to work. By the time a photographer shows up to document the results, everyone's sitting around like it's no big deal.

"Our son, Charlie, was about two months old," Shelley says of the moment she and Joe began work on a much-needed addition, and "for the next fifteen months we worked on the house. Looking back, I am remembering it as a lovely time. But there was probably some stress in there."

Not hard to imagine.

When Shelley bought the house, about eight years ago and for slightly more than nothing, it had two bedrooms, one bath, and just 750 square feet, "the perfect size for me and my basset hound, Satchel," she says. She loved the community, called Sandfly, near a tributary of the Moon River and the Isle of Hope community. "My background is history and historic preservation," she says. "Sandfly was forty acres and a mule, with strong African-American ties and vernacular-style houses like this one."



She calls the cottage "an amazing find," but after 70-odd years it had its issues. The previous owner had been a dreamy type who focused on refurbishing the yard; his creative solutions inside were not necessarily up to code. "It was preservation through neglect," says Shelley. "I consider it a blessing that the house made it through the years without anyone painting the wood."

That wood is luminous old heart pine, which travels across the floors, walls, and ceilings and around the exterior, its dark red and yellow undertones adding warmth and charm. It may have even been first-growth, the kind of pine, Joe points out, you just don't find anymore.

When he first saw the house, Shelley had already taught herself how to restore the original windows

TOP LEFT: A smartly painted front-facing French door opens onto a new multipurpose space with cabinets that catch spillover from the kitchen. Ceiling planks echo the original shiplap walls. The floor is cork.

ABOVE: The living room held on to its original heart-pine ceiling, walls, and floor. The shelving, an old armoire minus its doors and plus some paint, was found in a shed on the property. The coffee table is a family heirloom that at one time crated cheese.



and was nearing the finish line on a kitchen remodel that involved demolishing most of one wall and opening up a dim hallway that was so cramped you couldn't open two doors at the same time. "She was just going at it," he recalls with awe.

With plans to coffer the kitchen ceiling, Shelley took note of the extra pair of hands. She likes to joke, after all, about the wag who, "in advising people about whether to marry, told them to wallpaper a room together first."

Joe was busy improving his own house, a roomier ranch. So they shuttled between his place and hers, building up their DIY skills and shared tolerance for separate obsessions. And when the two got serious, she brokered a deal with her dad to give up the notion of a big traditional wedding and become a renovation underwriter instead. "Joe's house would have been more suitable from a size standpoint," Shelley says, "but we just loved the character and charm of the cottage and the setting, so we made the decision to stay here and add on."

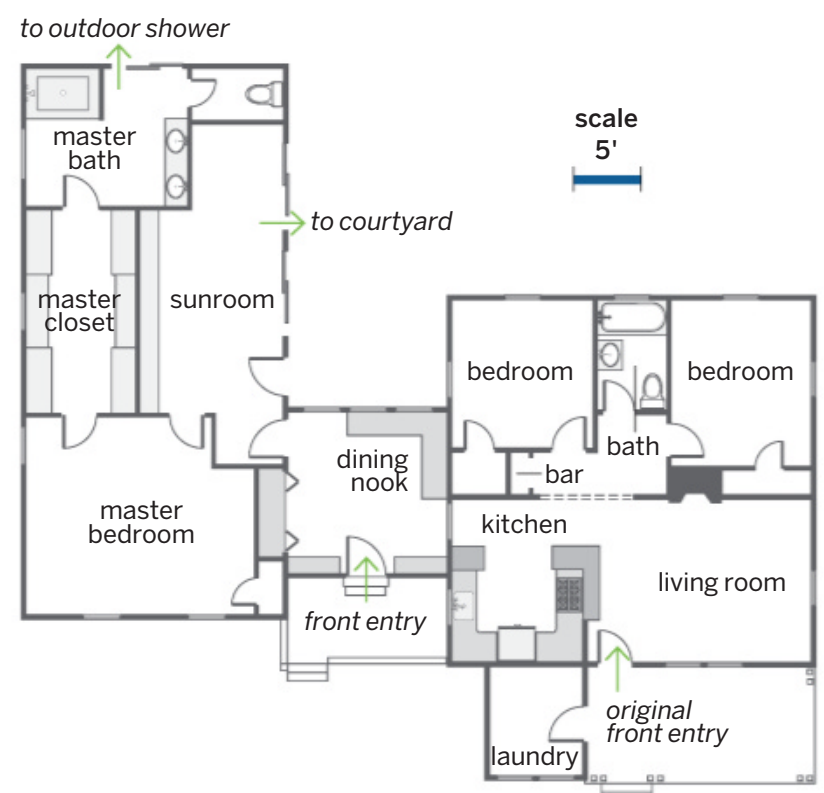
Around this time, she stumbled upon a workshop given by an expert in architectural design, Marianne Cusato, a new urbanist and the author of *Get Your House Right: Architectural Elements to Use and Avoid*, who favors traditional layouts with compact practical spaces. "What a stroke of luck," says Shelley. "There I was with all of my plans for an addition to the cottage, and the insights of an architectural designer right at my fingertips."

Cusato encouraged her acolyte to make the addition the same style as the original cottage, while taking care to avoid disjointed rooflines where the two met. Shelley drew up a plan for a set-back, gabled



FLOOR PLAN

The original 1940s cottage had two bedrooms, one bath, and just 750 square feet. During the renovation, it gained an 822-square-foot side addition (on the left), a new front door, a garden-facing sunroom, and a master suite with a walk-through closet. The 90-by-200-foot lot also holds two outbuildings.





LEFT: The new master bath has a double vanity and a toilet room finished with palmetto-print wallpaper. The walls are paneled in boards from trees milled by Shelley's dad.

Vanity, sinks, and faucets: Restoration Hardware. Medicine cabinets: Robern. Wallpaper and bath towels: Serena & Lily. Rug: Target

BELOW: The master bath's sleek shower enclosure has mosaic tile on the floor and lining the wall niche. A sliding door (not shown) opens onto a private outdoor shower.

structure with fiber-cement siding linked to the pine cottage by a go-between space she likened to a hyphen, or the midline of an H. It would hold an entry and ultimately double as a “hidden kitchen extension,” Shelley says—hidden, meaning it wouldn’t scream kitchen as visitors walked in the front door.

During their first year in the house, the couple shared a pine-lined 10-by-11-foot bedroom and a small bath, the kind of experience that can help concentrate the mind. Friends lobbied Shelley to paint all that paneling white, but she hated the idea. As for busting up other walls, that was also a no-go. “I’m not a huge open-space person,” Shelley says. “I like nooks where you can get away and a relaxing window seat.”

Like a lot of old houses, this one also lacked places to put things: no real attic, no basement, tiny closets. “I know that minimalism and ‘tidying up’ are all the rage,” Shelley says. “But try as I might I still end up with things that need places to go.”

In other words, they couldn’t wait to add on.

Joe, who has a degree in construction science, kept his day job while working overtime to make the addition possible. “He probably still thinks I fell in love with him because he is in a band,” Shelley deadpans. “But I was much more interested in the fact that he was a contractor!”

When asked if the renovation took place in stages, Joe tries not to laugh. The family was growing too





fast. Shelley wrangled permits, and “once we started,” he says, “we went at it—slab foundation, framing...” Joe called on subs to take care of things like the new standing-seam roof and storage-packed built-ins. “Shelley would manage them during the day, and I would do hands-on stuff and set up calls and quality control at night.”

“Hands-on” included installing the addition’s kid-friendly cork floor, creating baseboards with subtly rounded trim, laying thresholds, cutting down doors, and doing the jambs, casings, and hinge prep. The 1940s house gave him a hard time. “They weren’t that precise back then, which drove me insane,” he says of trying to devise a consistent width for new window casings, which he crafted by ripping down trim—“and that took time.” Shelley bird-dogged the carpentry elsewhere. “I was impressed by her design of the new casework, the cabinets, and built-ins,” Joe says of his energetic young wife. “She would tweak

ABOVE: The master bedroom is linked to the master bath by a walk-through closet with a new door stained to match originals. Thermal Roman shades keep the room cozy. *Bed: West Elm. Carpet: Stainmaster. Wall light: Amazon*

RIGHT: Shelley and Joe Pelliccione, on the front porch, with Charlie, who is now 5, and Gillian, now 3. The repurposed window hanging overhead came with the house.





things, like the size and shape of the trim.”

Not to mention the size of the shower enclosure cutout in the new concrete slab. Shelley gauged it as too small. So Joe gamely borrowed a concrete saw and hacked away around the edges. “The neighbors were probably happy about that,” he says, “at nine o’clock at night.”

Joining in was Joe’s father-in-law, Randall Smith, a retired orthodontist who apparently hates having idle hands. After dispatching felled trees from his yard to an Amish mill, he finished the lumber with a newly acquired table saw and a router. Then he got on a ladder in the new sunroom to help Joe install some of the wood as decorative beams.

The two also built out an existing shed to create an in-law suite and erected a separate studio for Shelley. “He spent his seventieth birthday foaming windows and openings and hanging insulation,” Shelley warmly recalls. Her mom, Sandra Smith, and brother, Morgan, gung-ho gardeners, were deployed outside. “It was a family effort here,” Shelley says, “seriously.”

They had a deadline, after all. Daughter Gillian was due any minute.

Once the addition was done, Joe decided to go into business for himself. His specialty is commercial construction, “but he’s very meticulous and has a good eye, so I’ve encouraged him to do residential,”



OPPOSITE, TOP: One of the original bedrooms has been turned over to the kids. The dresser belonged to Shelley's grandparents; Shelley swapped in the brass pulls. Crib: Da Vinci. Drawer pulls and curtains: Anthropologie. Rug: Seventh Heaven Antiques

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: The second original bedroom is now a guest room with a metal canopy bed. Rug: Tuftex. Bedding: Biscuit Home. Curtains: West Elm

RIGHT: The new sunroom and its adjacent courtyard are the family's favorite gathering spots. The decorative beams were crafted from downed trees; the budget "windows" are sliding French doors, only one of which opens. Doors: The Home Depot. Cork flooring: Wicanders. Paint: Pratt & Lambert's Smokestain Rose (walls) and Seed Pearl (ceiling and trim)



says Shelley, acknowledging that homeowners aren't always the easiest clients. "It's an emotional process—it's your home," she says, slyly adding, "Maybe dealing with me was enough."

But all worth it, clearly. "The addition feels open, airy, and bright in contrast to the rich, darker tones of the original structure," Shelley says. "The house also feels much bigger than it is because there are so many smaller areas and nooks to relax in," including that master suite with a walk-through closet, complete with window seat, and a spa-like bath "that two very tired parents are able to escape to."

At other times everyone can be found gathered

in the sunroom, which is something of a symbol of creative collaboration. Joe originally saw it as a man cave with a dartboard. Shelley saw it in shell pink. They agreed on the palest hue, and hid the dartboard behind a painting.

Shelley, also one to never sit still, managed in her free time to acquire a master's degree in real estate development, and says her approach is highly influenced by being a parent. "I wholeheartedly agree with Cusato that delineated space creates a cozier environment," she says. "I love having semiprivate places to cuddle and read books with my children—or to curl up with a throw blanket and take a nap!" ■

before + after

Vintage charmer

A 19th-century farmhouse finally gets the warm, period-style kitchen it deserves

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON VARNEY
PRODUCED BY NICOLE ESPOSITO-POLLY
STYLING BY ANNA MOLVIK

Old kitchens are a bit like frosted cakes: You don't really know what you've got until you slice them open. That was certainly the case with the one in Bobbie and Jack Larkin's circa-1850 farmhouse, located in Radnor, Pennsylvania. The home was so rife with centuries-old hiccups that the Larkins felt lucky to find local craftsmen used to elderly homes to tend it. "When they tore up the kitchen floor, they found five different layers, the lowest of which was just resting on soil," says Jack. "We also discovered a thirty-foot well two feet from a support pillar"—it eventually got capped with steel and concrete. Once the Larkins put their dream kitchen on paper, with help from R.A. Hoffman Architects, they got right to work, aiming to finish long before the arrival of their first child. Their simple goals: to create a floor level with the adjacent dining room (fixing a 6-inch slope) and to add proper venting. "We wanted to cook bacon and onions without smelling it throughout the house," says Bobbie. But a major gut reno ensued, with new plumbing and electrical and the rebuilding of two exterior walls—in February. When it was suggested they budget \$60,000 for custom cabinets, Jack seized the chance to beef up his woodshop and build them himself, following Norm Abram's *New Yankee Workshop* tutorials. Total DIY cost, including a top-notch saw: \$7,000. New appliances, a prep sink, a kegerator, and a wine fridge give the classic cabinetry a dose of modern functionality. Says Jack, "We love the kitchen we built!"

WATCH AND LEARN!

See Norm Abram's New Yankee Workshop tutorials on building kitchen cabinets at thisoldhouse.com/NYWcabinets



BEFORE With a barely functioning stove, a seriously sloping floor, peeling melamine cabinets, and an awkward L-shaped island, the old cook space wasn't pleasant—or all that practical.



AFTER Shaker-style hardwood cabinetry, a new island with a granite countertop, and white oak flooring transformed the kitchen's look and feel.
Paint (cabinets): Sherwin-Williams's Steamed Milk



BEFORE



Jack and Bobbie Larkin with their daughter, Margaret. "We knew we wanted to get the kitchen done before we had a small human in the house," Bobbie says.

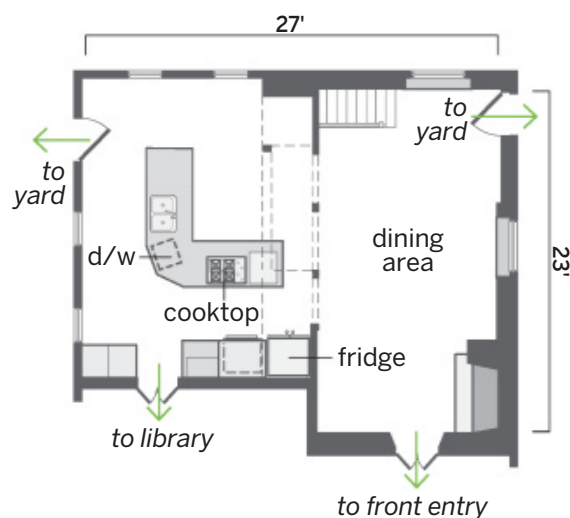
Everything in its place

The couple reused their existing refrigerator, but upgraded with double wall ovens and a warming drawer, testing them in person to be sure they'd suit Bobbie's 5-foot-2 stature. "You don't want to burn yourself!" *Wall ovens and warming drawer: KitchenAid*



before

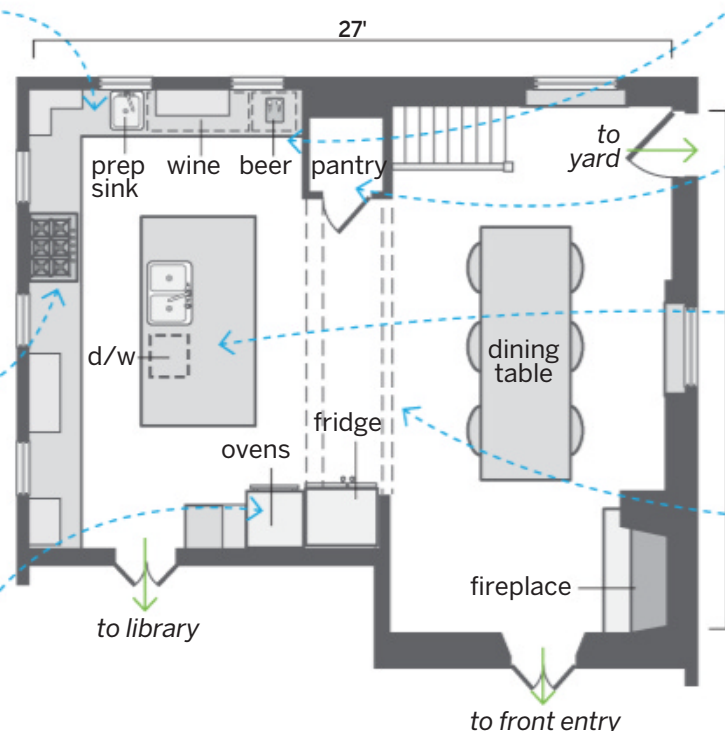
Minimal counter space, aging appliances, and a hard-to-navigate island were far from ideal



after

The 325-square-foot cook space now holds all of the couple's dream upgrades: a large island, a food pantry, a vent hood, a prep sink, a wine fridge, even a kegerator

1. Added perimeter base cabinets to increase storage and workspace, plus a prep sink; hung small upper units and open shelving, unified with a beadboard backsplash.
2. Relocated the new cooktop and added a proper vent hood to improve the home's air quality.
3. Installed double wall ovens and a warming drawer to boost the kitchen's cooking capacity.



4. Created a beverage center with a kegerator and wine fridge.
5. Added a pantry closet for easy-access food storage.
6. Built a new island for better flow, keeping the dishwasher and main sink there.
7. Replaced support posts with an overhead beam to fully open the kitchen to the dining space.



Metallic accent

In lieu of traditional tile, the Larkins elected to use pressed-metal ceiling panels behind the cooktop, applied with Liquid Nails glue. “It cost \$20, and has held up so well!” Bobbie says. “The texture hides splashes. It’s one of my favorite parts of the kitchen.”

Vent hood: Z Line. Tin ceiling tile: The Home Depot

Table triumph

Jack made the 11½-foot dining table from two black walnut trees that had to be taken down, as they were invading the foundation. It is placed near the house’s original cooking hearth, which is now more connected to the kitchen.



Counter culture

The couple originally wanted a soapstone island top, but decided on lower-maintenance black granite. It provides a nice contrast with—and a heatproof alternative to—the cherry butcher block that rings the kitchen’s perimeter.

Granite: Essence of Stone



Double up

“Our trade-off was, if Bobbie gets two sinks and a warming drawer, I get a double wine fridge and a kegerator,” Jack says. He stocks the silver-handled tap with club soda; the other one often holds his own home-brewed IPA.

Kegerator and wine fridge: The Beverage Factory

DIY ON A DIME

Home-improvement bloggers are ingenious problem-solvers, making up in fearlessness what they may lack in funds. Here, six of our favorite money-saving DIY projects, cleverly created to add style and function in every room of the house.

By Katelin Hill

PROJECT

Map-drawer dresser



THE DIYER: Jenni Radosevich, a home-improvement fanatic who has been blogging about everything DIY on her website, ispydiy.com, for nearly a decade.

THE INSPIRATION: “I needed some extra storage for off-season clothes in my guest room,” Jenni says. “I love the look of vintage map drawers, but their cost is crazy expensive.”

HOW SHE DID IT: To hack the look of shallow map drawers, Jenni started with a simple white dresser from a big-box store. To cover the flat drawer fronts, she cut 3-inch-wide strips of ¼-inch poplar to length and enriched them with stain she had on hand. She affixed three planks per drawer by screwing two knobs through each piece of poplar and the drawer front. Label holders and labels soaked in coffee grounds and water complete the effect.

TOTAL COST: \$174—starting with a plain white dresser (\$120) and adding poplar boards (\$20), knobs (\$24), and label holders (\$10) to turn it into a statement piece.





PROJECT

Rustic-modern vanity



THE DIYER: Angela Marie, whose love for DIY began with her first build, a farmhouse table. The rest, as they say, is history. She shares step-by-step tutorials for her woodworking projects, as well as home decor ideas, at angelamariemade.com.

THE INSPIRATION: “Most of the room was going to be black and white with a mix of metals, so I wanted to contrast the somewhat cold finishes with something a little warmer,” Angela says of her recent bath renovation. “The vanity was a good opportunity to do that.”

HOW SHE DID IT: Angela built the vanity using plywood for the sides, knotty pine for the faux-drawer door, and 2×3 framing lumber for the legs, which kept costs down. She finished it with oil-based polyurethane to protect the wood from water splashes, then added a prefab countertop-sink combo.

TOTAL COST: \$196, including lumber and hardware for the vanity (\$65), plus a cultured-marble composite sink top (\$55) and a new faucet (\$76).



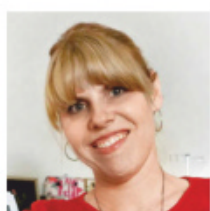
BEFORE



BEFORE

PROJECT

Mudroom bench and pet-feeding station



THE DIYER: Maggie Overby, a military wife who is frequently on the move. She blogs about how she makes her house, wherever that may be at any given time, into a home at maggieoverbystudios.com.

THE INSPIRATION: “We had a room off the garage that wasn’t functional,” Maggie says. “Pet bowls were everywhere, and the dogs would eat the cat food and vice versa. Plus, the kids had nowhere to drop their stuff except in the kitchen. I thought we could kill two birds with one stone with this project.”

HOW SHE DID IT: Maggie ripped out the shelving in the underutilized closet and replaced it with a storage bench she snagged from her daughter’s room. She trimmed out the piece to look like a custom built-in, then added new hardware for character. Inside the drawers, she created a pet-feeding station. Overhead, she built storage cubbies to corral her kids’ odds and ends.

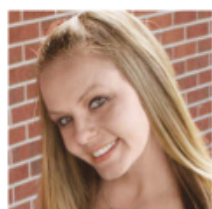
COST: \$290; repurposing a three-drawer storage bench and some of the wood from the old closet shelving reduced costs considerably, so she only spent for wallpaper (\$90), a custom seat cushion (\$100), hardware (\$50), and extra lumber (\$50).



Dog food and bowls, hidden in the bottom drawer, can be neatly tucked away when mealtime is over—keeping kitties from dropping in uninvited. A drawer insert that holds the bowls lifts out for easy cleaning.

PROJECT

Freestanding kitchen island



THE DIYER: Angela Jimenez, who shares tips, tricks, and her “creating simple beauty on a budget” philosophy on her blog at simplybeautifulbyangela.com.

THE INSPIRATION: “With no kitchen island, we were always short on counter space,” Angela says. “My husband found this piece of furniture at a garage sale and brought it home for me. It had a towel rack already—I think it might have been used as a bar—so I realized it would make a perfect kitchen island.”

HOW SHE DID IT: After removing the existing wood towel bar, Angela painted the base of the piece with the same paint as her kitchen cabinets, then refinished the work surface. Modern silver pulls, plus an oversize one for a towel, made the island feel cohesive with the rest of the kitchen.

COST: \$30—the table was a thrifted steal at just \$10. Angela already had both the paint and the stain on hand, so all that needed to be purchased was new hardware for \$20.



THE OVERVIEW

1] Angela used a deglosser to strip the shine from the table base and prep it for paint, then sanded the top down to bare wood so she could refinish it.

2] She removed a dated wood towel bar, filled the holes with wood putty, then gave the base three coats of leftover cabinet paint.

3] After staining the work surface dark brown, Angela whitewashed it with paint she diluted with water, using a rag to work it into the wood grain for more character. Then she added two coats of polyurethane to protect it. A sleek new towel bar and drawer pulls readied the piece for its new purpose. Find the full step-by-step at simplybeautifulbyangela.com.



PROJECT

Faux-leather platform bed



THE DIYER: Jamie Lott, who has been DIYing since she was a teenager, working alongside her mom to make the family home beautiful. Now she blogs about her own endeavors at southernrevivals.com.

THE INSPIRATION: “When my son turned 15 we decided to give his room a refresh,” Jamie says. “He wanted something more mature and more modern. He picked out a bed at a retail store—with a \$1,400 price tag! I decided to build it myself so we could splurge on a good mattress.”

HOW SHE DID IT: Jamie used pine dimensional lumber to build the platform, copying the full-size bed she saw, and used plywood, foam, and faux-leather fabric for the upholstered headboard. To protect the stained pine and give it a richer look, she finished it with furniture wax.

COST: \$391—including lumber, fasteners, and fabric. In lieu of pricey foam and batting, she used her son’s old mattress topper, plus another \$5 egg-crate topper. She already owned the stain, wood conditioner, and wax.

THE OVERVIEW

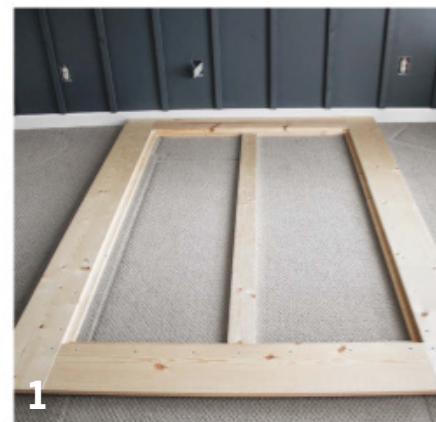
1] To create the full-size platform base, Jamie made a frame out of pine 1×8s; she then fastened a slightly smaller frame of 1×4s, with a 1×6 center support, to the underside to create a ledge for the mattress slats.

2] She made the upholstered headboard by wrapping a sheet of plywood with two foam mattress toppers cut to size, stapling faux leather around the assembly.

3] For the legs, Jamie doubled up and glued together 1×4s for a beefier look, then cut them at a 21-degree angle. She attached the headboard to the frame with similarly constructed and angled braces lined up with the legs to look as though they were one continuous piece of wood.

4] She screwed down 3-inch-wide slats and added a support leg in the middle using pocket screws.

5] She stained the wood a warm honey color, then finished it with furniture wax to give it an expensive-looking matte glow. *Find the full step-by-step at southernrevivals.com.*



PROJECT

Nightstand with charging station



THE DIYER: Jen Woodhouse, a singer/songwriter-turned-carpenter whose love of woodworking inspired her blog, jenwoodhouse.com. She encourages readers to “build their way to a more beautiful home,” and offers downloadable project plans complete with cut lists and step-by-step instructions for each project.

THE INSPIRATION: “My sister was newly married, had just bought a house, and was in need of furniture,” says Jen. “The nightstands she wanted cost almost \$800 apiece from a high-end catalog—and she would need two. Building them meant we could customize them to her space and her storage needs.”

HOW SHE DID IT: After sketching out a plan her sister was pleased with, Jen chose furniture-grade birch plywood to build the cabinet box and three drawers, using pocket-hole joinery and modifying the top drawer to fit a USB charging port. Above the drawers, Jen installed a writing tray that slides in and out to hold spillover books and pads. Simple cove molding along the base added an elegant touch above furniture feet she screwed on to elevate the piece off the floor. A coat of weathered-gray stain gave the nightstand a cool, almost translucent finish that Jen preserved with polyurethane to protect it from wear and tear.

COST: \$130 per nightstand for 1½ sheets of birch plywood (\$75), knobs (\$15), a six-port USB wall charger (\$30), and fasteners (\$10)—a fraction of the cost of the original. ■



A hidden charging station makes the piece feel high-tech without giving it a high price tag. To install the charger, Jen just made a hole to thread the plug through in the back of the drawer, and another parallel hole in the cabinet's back panel. Now phones and tablets can be tucked away at night without any cord clutter.



LAKE HOUSE LEGACY

One step at a time, a family home in North Carolina is reinvented for a new generation

They say history repeats itself. So maybe it's no surprise that it took a series of remodels for Emily and Michael Knotts to turn their ranch house on North Carolina's Lake Wylie into their ideal family home. After all, its original owners—Michael's great-aunt and her husband—had themselves nurtured the little house along through the end of the 20th century, one remodel at a time.

The family's connection to the lake goes back 100 years, when Michael's great-grandfather was hired to enlarge a dam on the Catawba River after floods swamped the area in 1916. He found the lake so appealing that he decided to live there, eventually sharing some of his property with his daughters: Michael's grandmother and his great-aunt Betty, who with her husband began building the small house on her parcel in the early 1960s.

At first, the house was little more than a basement built into a slope facing the water; it took

ABOVE: When it became clear the existing house would have to be rebuilt, the homeowners seized the chance to create their dream home, complete with storybook rooflines.

OPPOSITE: Five-year-old Elle tidies up the new mudroom's custom storage built-ins. The floor tile is basic 12-by-12-inch slate cut in half and laid in a herringbone. Opposite the windows is a shiplap wall clad with vintage heart-pine boards salvaged from an earlier remodel.

BY **DEBRA JUDGE SILBER** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **STACEY VAN BERKEL**
PRODUCED BY **NICOLE ESPOSITO-POLLY** STYLING BY **ANDREA CAUGHEY**





several years to add a full story above it. In 1974, Michael's great-aunt and her husband renovated again. "They had to do it in phases," he explains. "They didn't have the money to do it all at once."

Michael, whose parents built on his grandmother's property, remembers visiting his great-aunt's house growing up. After finishing college in 2003, he bought the little house and moved in with his sister and some friends. It was, he remembers, a typical postcollege crash pad: mirrors emblazoned with beer slogans, neon signs, and other vestiges of the 1970s. "Everything was either pink or light green," Michael says. "It was great."

After he and Emily got married in 2010, it was clearly time for a makeover—and the first phase of their journey to transform the old house into their home. "The day we married, there was goldenrod shag carpet on the floor," Michael recalls. "The day after we were married, I came home from work and all my goldenrod shag carpet was out on the front porch." Michael welcomed his new wife's efforts, but Emily was crushed to find nothing but plywood under the carpet. "It was very naïve of me," she admits. They responded the way any young couple on a tight budget would: They pulled out their paint rollers. The white-painted plywood floors were not only attractive, but matched their easygoing



TOP LEFT: In the entry, discount-store stools covered with drop-cloth canvas share space with a \$20 mirror, and a console table nabbed at a sample sale. The Anatolian Oushak rug is an example of the Turkish carpets Emily imports as part of her design business.

ABOVE: The oversize kitchen island hosts many a pizza night and ice cream party. Its marble top has taken a beating, "but I just remind myself that all the little etches are stories," says Emily.

RIGHT: This marble-topped beverage center serves as both a coffee station and a wine bar for entertaining.





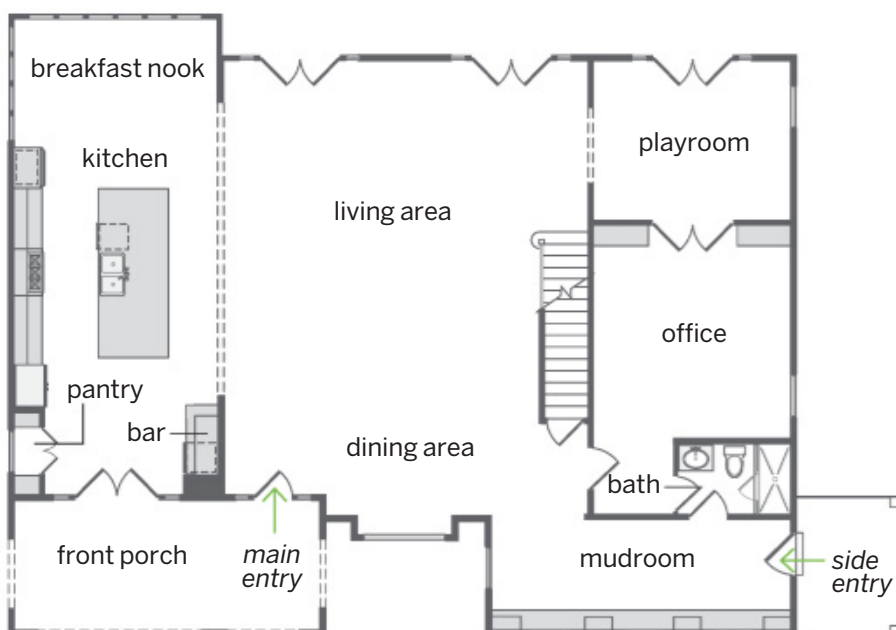
BELOW: The tall windows lining the breakfast area are existing casements from a 1974 renovation.
Chandelier: Shades of Light. Chairs: Amazon



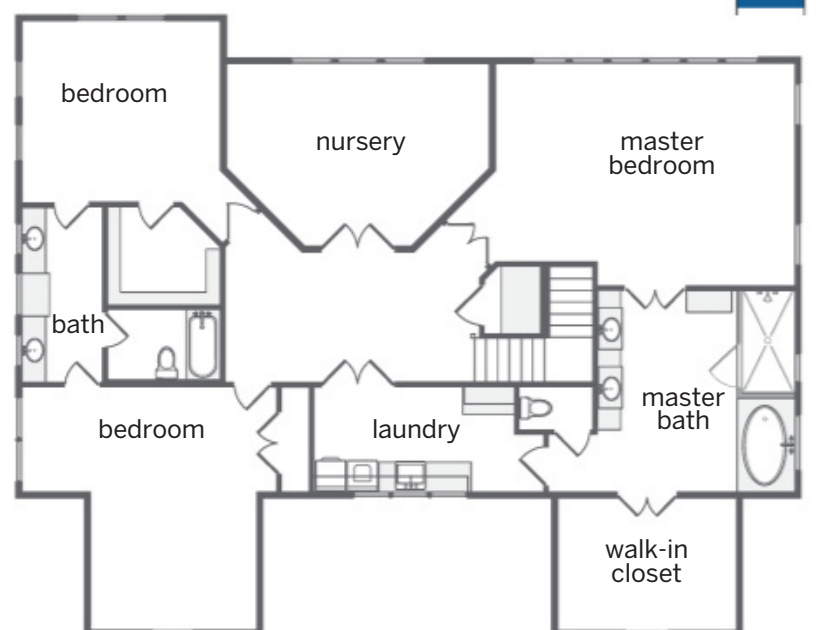
FLOOR PLANS

At 3,932 square feet, the main floors sit mostly in the house's original footprint, with bumpouts for a porch and a mudroom. Open-plan living offers space for active kids; upstairs are three bedrooms, a laundry, and a master suite. The basement (not shown) holds an existing in-law suite with a kitchenette, living area, and screened porch.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR





lifestyle. “We had a couple of big parties and instead of washing the floors afterward, I just repainted them,” Emily says.

Within a few years, their work shifted from cleaning and painting to more lasting improvements. They swapped most of the home’s 1974 casement windows for larger double-hungs and replaced old patio sliders with French doors to enhance the view of the lake. They painted the exterior white, added black shutters, and installed a vintage front door they found at an antiques mall. They updated the kitchen by painting the cabinets and replacing their worn laminate countertops with concrete slabs they poured themselves.

Their most ambitious project would be to clad their beloved painted-plywood floors with another, more sophisticated layer of character. When Michael saw that an aging textile mill nearby had been torn down, he gathered up the remnants of the structure’s ceiling, denailed the boards by hand, and had them milled into 5-inch-wide tongue-and-groove planks. He laid the reclaimed lumber as flooring

ABOVE: French doors in the living room and adjacent playroom look out onto the lake. Evidence of the couple’s DIY talent includes the console table Michael made from pieces of an old dock; lamps fashioned from wood candlesticks; and a frame Emily crafted from two sheets of acrylic she bought at Lowe’s.

RIGHT: Emily loves the house’s open layout, which enables her to cook dinner while keeping an eye on Elle, now 5, and Beckham, now 3. She and Michael welcomed their third child, Luke, in October.





throughout the home's main floor, and in the basement, now recast as an in-law suite for Emily's visiting parents. "They were seventy-year-old heart pine, and they were gorgeous," he says.

As the couple worked on the house, they assumed complementary roles that would see them through not just this round of projects, but the bigger changes to come. "I'm the ideas girl, and he's the make-it-happen guy," Emily explains. Back in 2010, she began sharing those ideas on a blog whose followers were soon asking Emily for advice on remodeling their own homes.

But just a few years later, with a second child on the way and the only open bedroom in the basement, they knew it was time to remodel again. The solution seemed obvious: Just add another story above the one they'd already poured so much heart and soul into.

"You always think it's going to be simpler than it is," Emily says. Indeed, it quickly became clear that the home's underbuilt structure would not support another story, and that an addition would overtax

ABOVE: Michael made the family's dining table for Emily as a gift for their first anniversary. Like several other pieces in the house, it is built with timbers salvaged from an old dock on the lake that the couple visited on their first date, and where they later took their engagement photograph. The paintings are by artist friend Erika Eckerson; Emily fashioned the Lucite frames herself.

Pendant: Shades of Light. Chairs: Ballard Designs. Paint: Benjamin Moore's Classic Gray (walls) and Super White (trim)

its electrical and plumbing systems. Going up, they learned, would necessitate a near-total rebuild. But it also meant the couple could create a home uniquely suited to the needs of their growing family. And it seemed that their stars had aligned: Emily's blog had blossomed into her own design business, Crisp Interiors, and Michael had joined his father in expanding the family's real estate development company to include home construction.

They started sketching on a napkin at dinner, beginning with a rectangle representing the existing home's roughly 35-by-55 foundation footprint. "We were just kind of dreaming," Emily recalls. They added two bumpouts to the front, and eventually, a small entry porch on the side. Michael spread vellum over the 1974 blueprints and sketched some more before turning the work over to an architect, who finalized the drawings in CAD.

Two weeks after they moved into a temporary apartment, the couple's second child was born, and work on the house began. While Michael's firm handled most of the construction, he put in his share



LEFT: Michael paired up two twin bamboo headboards and added a canopy to create a delightful daybed in Elle's bedroom. A chest belonging to Emily's grandmother serves as a toy chest, and a comfy chair is upholstered in drop-cloth canvas for a durable linen-like look.

BELOW LEFT: A Jack-and-Jill bath joins the two older children's bedrooms. The clerestory windows were added after the house had been framed and the couple realized the space lacked sufficient natural light. "It always helps to see things at framing and make adjustments as needed," Emily says.



of sweat equity. "My routine for the next six to seven months was to come home from work, have dinner, kiss the kids, and go to work on the house from about eight until midnight," he says.

The result is a made-to-measure home conveniently laid out for family life, with bedrooms all on one floor—the first, all-important goal of the remodel. Capped with gabled roofs, the twin bumpouts give the rebuilt house a fresh, welcoming facade. Inside, a mostly open plan keeps the lake always in view. In addition to the contiguous kitchen, breakfast nook, and dining and living rooms, the new first floor holds a playroom, an office/guest room, a full bath, and a mudroom. Upstairs, two children's bedrooms along with a large bonus room—now a nursery for Baby No. 3, born in October—combine with the master suite to keep the whole family nestled together. For Michael, the best part is the lake view from their bedroom; the previous master overlooked the driveway.

Another silver lining is the new home's energy efficiency. Michael planned for upcoming building-code requirements, using spray-foam insulation on the roof deck and personally sealing every joint in the walls and floors. It paid off: In the end, they added 2,000 square feet to the house while reducing their \$360 monthly utility bill by \$60.



ABOVE: The new master bedroom is flooded with natural light and sited to take in the lake view. Side tables are hand-me-downs from Emily's parents, with new paint and pulls "to make them more modern and fun." Paint (walls): Benjamin Moore's Classic Gray. Chandelier: Gabby. Rug: Pottery Barn

LEFT: "When we designed the house, I wasn't sure how much use this tub would get," Emily says of the master bath's soaker. "Now our kids are in it all the time." Plush rugs and a hard-wearing clear finish protect the wood floor. Tub: Bathcraft. Faucet: Moen. Floor finish: Rubio Monocoat. Paint (walls): Benjamin Moore's Horizon



There's no goldenrod shag carpet on the rebuilt house's new wood floors; instead, they are scattered with some of the hand-knotted Turkish rugs that Emily imports for her design business. But there are other mementos: some existing casement windows in the breakfast nook, where they bathe the space with light, and the old front door, which has a new home on the garage. And Michael was able to save enough of their salvaged mill flooring to panel the walls in the first-floor bath and mudroom. They've also held on to furniture that ties them to the lake, including the dining table that Michael made for Emily as a first-anniversary gift. It's built from the remnants of an old dock he and Emily visited on their first date and where they later posed for their engagement photo.

And what of Michael's great-aunt Betty, to whom they owe their home's beginnings? She's now a spry 92-year-old who loves to stop by for a visit. "She oohs and aahs every time she comes over," Emily says. "I think it brings her joy to see her sweet house still being loved and lived in." 🏡

directory

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

COVER See the listing for “Vintage Charmer.”

HOME SOLUTIONS (pp. 9–14) **Signs your chimney needs a checkup** > *Thanks to* Mark Schaub, Chimney Savers, Hillsborough, NJ; 908-359-7798. Russ Dimmitt, director of education for the Chimney Safety Institute of America and the National Chimney Sweep Guild; ncsg.org. **Stay cozy for less** > *Thanks to* David Tabata, marketing manager, American Electric Power Company; aepohio.com. Curtis Tongue, co-founder and CMO, OhmConnect; ohmconnect.com. Robert Daguiard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; epa.gov. **Clean up your breaker box** > *Thanks to* Dennis Burke, Mr. Electric; mrelectric.com. Nicholas Ferraro, NJF Electrical Services LLC, Branford, CT; njfelectricalservices.com.

BEFORE + AFTER: BATH Small change, big impact (pp. 17–18) **Paint:** Half Sea Fog (walls); behr.com. **Toilet, showerhead, and faucet:** kohler.com. **Wall tile, marble floor tile, countertop, and ceramic sink:** Garden State Tile; gstile.com. **Vanity:** sagehilldesigns.com. **Mirror:** Home Decorators Collection; homedepot.com. **Window:** Andersen Windows & Doors; andersenwindows.com. **Sconces:** hinkleylighting.com. **Towel hooks and toilet tissue holder:** Delta; deltafaucet.com.

PHOTOSHOP REDO Elegant fixes for a worn facade (p. 28) *Thanks to* Chuck Frusterio, residential building designer, Frusterio Design, Birmingham, AL; frusterio.com.

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pp. 30–37) Cold air coming through vent hood > *Thanks to* Brian Wellnitz, senior global category manager, Broan; broan.com. **Tighten up the garage door** > *Thanks to* Frank James, Garage Door Weather Seal; garagedoorweatherseal.com.

ALL IN THE FAMILY (pp. 38–45) **Architectural designer:** Shelley Smith Pelliccione, Savannah, GA; brightredmgmt.com. **General contractor:** Joe Pelliccione, Savannah, GA; 912-704-3991, forestcitycontracting.com. **Kitchen** > **Paint:** Studio Green (cabinets), us.farrow-ball.com; Seed Pearl (walls), prattandlambert.com. **Refrigerator:** frigidaire.com. **Countertop:** Silestone Arctic; silestoneusa.com. **Butcher-block island countertop:** ikea.com. **Microwave:** frigidaire.com. **Backsplash tile:** Rue Pierre; walkerzanger.com. **Sink:** Blanco; blanco-germany.com. **Faucet:** kingstonbrass.com.

Pot rack: crateandbarrel.com. **Ceiling light:** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.; schoolhouse.com. **Barstools and open shelves:** potterybarn.com. **Pendant lights:** restorationhardware.com. **Dining nook** > **Built-in benches:** Al Walker, Cabinets by Design, Savannah, GA; 912-232-3119. **Paint:** Seed Pearl; prattandlambert.com. **Cushion fabric:** sunbrella.com. **Pillows:** lacefielddesigns.com. **Artwork:** sheaslemmer.com. **Cork flooring:** wicanders.com. **Pendant light:** serenaandlily.com. **Window stain:** minwax.com. **Hardware:** schoolhouse.com. **Entry area** > **Paint:** Heritage Red (front door), benjaminmoore.com; Seed Pearl (cabinets and ceiling), prattandlambert.com. **Cork flooring:** wicanders.com. **Living room** > **Paint:** Decorators White (trim), benjaminmoore.com; Chalk Paint in Old White (armoie exterior), anniesloan.com. **Light fixture:** westelm.com. **Curtains:** serenaandlily.com. **Rug:** Scott Antique Markets, Atlanta; scottantiquemarket.com. **Exterior** > **Paint:** Black Fox (siding), sherwin-williams.com; Swiss Coffee (trim), benjaminmoore.com. **Siding:** HardiePlank Smooth Lap Siding; jameshardie.com. **Windows:** Integrity Wood-Ultrex Casement; marvin.com. **Master bath** > **Vanity, sink, and faucet:** restorationhardware.com. **Tile:** Garden State Tile Porcelain Collection in Silk White (floor and walls); gstile.com. **Light fixture:** cedarandmoss.com. **Round end table:** target.com. **Master bedroom** > **Paint:** Elmira White (walls), benjaminmoore.com; Seed Pearl (trim), prattandlambert.com.



VINTAGE CHARMER (pp. 46–49) **Architect:** R.A. Hoffman Architects, Inc., Paoli, PA; 610-889-0660. **Carpenter:** Buckridge Carpentry, LLC, Coatesville, PA; 610-857-2131. **Structural engineer:** Structural Design Associates, Downingtown, PA; structuraldesignassociates.com. **Cabinet plans:** The New Yankee Workshop; newyankee.com. **Butcher-block countertop:** MacLaren Kitchen & Bath, West Chester, PA; maclarenfab.com.

Windows: Andersen Windows & Doors; andersenwindows.com. **Flooring:** Fred Callaghan Carpet & Flooring Center, Frazier, PA; fredcallaghanflooring.com. **Cooktop:** Viking; vikingrange.com. **Faucet:** moen.com



LAKE HOUSE LEGACY (pp. 56–63) **Designer/builder:** Michael Knotts, Knotts Builders, Pineville, NC; knottsbldrs.net. **Interior designer:** Emily Knotts, Crisp Interiors Design Firm, Charlotte, NC; crispinteriorshome.com. **Exterior** > **Paint:** Classic Gray (brick); benjaminmoore.com. **Roofing:** Heritage Premium shingles in Virginia Slate; tamko.com. **Windows:** plygem.com. **Shutters:** matthewsbldgssupply.com. **Mudroom** > **Door:** masonite.com. **Slate floor tile:** homedepot.com. **Cabinet pulls:** etsy.com. **Kitchen** > **Cabinets:** Legacy Cabinets; legacycabinetsllc.com. **Appliances:** Electrolux; electroluxappliances.com. **Sink:** ikea.com. **Paint:** Classic Gray (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Faucet:** moen.com. **Light fixtures:** Strick's, Concord, NC; stricksshop.com. **Breakfast nook** > **Table:** schnadig.com. **Chairs:** amazon.com. **Chandelier:** shadesoflight.com. **Kids' bath** > **Pendant lights:** shadesoflight.com. **Faucet:** moen.com. **Drawer pulls and floor tile:** homedepot.com. **Girl's bedroom** > **Rug:** Dash & Albert; annieselke.com. **Master bedroom** > **Paint:** Classic Gray (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Rug:** potterybarn.com. **Master bath** > **Paint:** Horizon; benjaminmoore.com. 🏠

This Old House Ventures, LLC, does not endorse any product or service mentioned or advertised in this magazine.

This Old House (ISSN 1086-2633), Vol. 24, No. 1. Published bimonthly by This Old House Ventures, LLC, 262 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902. Periodicals postage paid at Stamford, CT, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS (see DMM 5071.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address corrections to P.O. Box 3241, Harlan, IA 51593; 800-898-7237. U.S. subscriptions: \$19.95 for one year. This Old House and the This Old House Window are registered trademarks of This Old House Ventures, LLC. Printed in the USA (GST: 854175130RM0001). Eric Thorkilsen, CEO. ©2019 This Old House Ventures, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

YOUR OLD HOUSE DESERVES *Period Perfect* DOORS

Our craftsmen pride themselves in hand-crafting the finest solid wood doors and millwork — *just for you* — to be appreciated now and in future generations. That's why you'll find our creations on historic homes and impressive properties across the nation - including Boldt Castle, the U.S. Capitol Building and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. With solutions for every part of your home, a wide array of furniture grade wood choices, timeless designs, specialty and energy-efficient glass options, custom sizes and inspiring shapes, you're bound to find exactly what you wish for. Let our specialists help with your project today!



Shop Now: VintageDoors.com | Catalog: 1 (800) 787-2001
Outfitting Fine Homes Across the Nation — *Inside and Out* — Since 1990

EVERYDAY PROTECTION *for your vehicle!*



FloorLiner™



BumpStep®XL



Seat Protector

See these products and much more at
WeatherTech®.com



American Customers
WeatherTech.com



Canadian Customers
WeatherTech.ca



European Customers
WeatherTech.eu



MADE IN USA

© 2019 by MacNeil IP LLC

GelPro®

COMFORT FLOOR MATS



Enjoy cooking while you pamper your feet, legs and back on one of GelPro's ultra-plush comfort floor mats.

Ergonomically designed to stop the hurt caused by standing, these premium cushioned mats look as good as they feel.

Available in hundreds of stylish patterns, colors & sizes. Starting at \$49.95.

GelPro.com

 Made in the USA
with Imported Top Fabric

From Rustic Cabins to Custom Designed Homes...

Any Home Can be a Log Home

The Nation's leader in quality tongue-n-groove
Log Siding & Knotty Pine Paneling.

GREAT FOR:

New or Existing Homes • Basements • Dens • Rec Rooms
Kitchens • Baths • Studies • Garages • Out Buildings • Cottages

*Customer
Satisfaction...*

We Guarantee It!



THE WOODWORKERS SHOPPE

Skyline Woods' finest of log home products are available at the
Woodworkers Shoppe in Comins, Michigan. We Ship Nationwide!

Call (800) 818-9971 • woodworkersshoppe.com

ULTRA-SAFE
HEATING
FOR YOUR
PEACE OF MIND!



envi™
WALL-MOUNTED ROOM HEATER

WWW.EHEAT.COM

1-800-807-0107

ENERGY SAVING

heats room for as little as 4 cts. / hr.

ULTRA-SAFE

leave unattended 24/7; cool to the touch

HEALTHY

fanless - doesn't blow dust or dry the air,
ideal for those who have asthma or dry eyes

SILENT

fanless design, auto dimming power light

STYLISH AND SLEEK

slim space saving design, only 2" thin!

EASY INSTALL

installs in minutes, no drill required;
hardwired & easy plug-in models available

10% off 2 or more Envi Heaters coupon code: TH1910 | free shipping to the USA + Canada*



waterproof.com

SEALONCE

BASEMENT SYSTEM

AFTER!
Do-it-yourself! It's Easy!
Proven Results!

BEFORE

SealOnce™ your basement and enjoy a permanently dry, clean basement for under \$1,000! Fast & easy installation! No digging or messy paints! Just seal the main sections to the floor along the wall. Over 50,000 homeowners have installed SealOnce Basement System!

Order Online! Fast Delivery!
Waterproof.com
651-644-2000

Over 7 million feet installed since 1965!



Build Better

- + Continuous Insulation
- + Built-in Stud Framing
- + Electrical Channels
- + Moisture Control
- + Ready to Finish
- + DIY Installation



www.InSoFast.com
(888) 501-7899

Prevents Erosion

Runoff is changed to a 3 foot wide band of soft rain-sized droplets.

Self-Cleans

Unique louver design allows leaves and debris to blow or wash away. Self-cleaning system protects you from climbing ladders.

Installs Easily

Each 5-foot section comes with 3 brackets & 6 screws. Do an entire home in 3 or 4 hours.

Maintenance-Free

All-aluminum Rainhandler louvers make messy, leaking gutters history.

Protects Property

Eliminates clogged, overflowing gutters & downspouts. No ground erosion, No more destructive ice dams.

Guarantees

Money-back satisfaction guaranteed for one full year, 25-year warranty.

For **FREE** information call or fax
Ph: 800-942-3004, Fax: 800-606-2028

SPECIAL OFFER! 30% OFF

Mention Code **TH0219**

when you call or enter online at checkout

www.rainhandler.com

OFFER EXPIRES **02/28/2019**

RAINHANDLER USE RAINHANDLER GET RID OF YOUR GUTTERS



MADE
IN THE
USA





NU-WAL®

RESTORATION SYSTEM

Love Your Home But Hate the Cracked Plaster?



Nu-Wal will stabilize the surface of your walls and ceilings, and make them look like new again.

Simple One-Day Application	Cost-Effective Compared to re-Drywalling	Leaded Paint Abatement for Peace of Mind
---	---	---

SPECIFICATION CHEMICALS, INC.

www.spec-chem.com
800-247-3932 | 515-432-8256

The Perfect Storm!



Innerglass® Interior Storm Windows:

- Maintain the charm and beauty of your existing windows
- Significantly reduce heating and cooling bills
- Compression-Fit to eliminate drafts completely
- Greatly reduce outside noise
- Are perfect for enclosing screen porches
- Save energy, save money and save history!



Innerglass®
 Window Systems, LLC
 The Compression-Fit Advantage

1-800-743-6207 • www.stormwindows.com

**To get the job done,
you need
Resources.**

**Contact Jennifer Izzo
at Media People today
to reserve your ad space.**

212-779-7172
jizzo@mediapeople.com

*The most comfortable
wallet you'll ever own.*



Back pocket wallets are poorly designed - they're bulky, uncomfortable and easy to have stolen. So at our little leather shop in Maine, we reimagined the wallet and what it could be.

We started with a new design that was slim, secure, and shaped for your front pocket. We put the finest American leathers in the hands of our craftsmen and women. And we ended up with a wallet you'll want to carry for a lifetime. Not everyone cares about well-made leather goods. But if you're the type of person who does, we're glad you found us.

Rogue Industries
 rogue-industries.com | 800-786-1768

SHELVES THAT SLIDE

- Custom Made for Your Cabinets
- Kitchens • Pantry • Bathrooms
- Limited Lifetime Warranty
- Baltic Birch Construction
- 100 Pound Capacity

1-800-598-7390
 www.shelvesthat-slide.com
 Order On-Line

**Custom pull out shelves
and Kitchen cabinet accessories**



Call or email for a free catalog

DONATE STUFF. CREATE JOBS.
 YOUR STUFF CAN HELP FUND JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
 LEARN MORE AT GOODWILL.ORG.



Ad Council

save This Old House

**Stately
relic in a
Civil War
historic
district!**

PRICE \$60,000

LOCATION Averagesboro, NC

CONTACT Cathleen Turner, Preservation North Carolina, 919-401-8540

THE HISTORY Around 1835, William Turner Smith and his new wife, Mary Campbell Smith, built this plantation house just a short distance from the Cape Fear River, where William's father conducted a lucrative ferry operation. Six children and a second-story rear addition followed. In 1865, 10 years after William's death, the home served as a field hospital for Union troops during the Civil War's Battle of Averagesboro. Today it sits on a two-acre parcel just inside the southern boundary of the Averagesboro Battlefield Historic District, and Preservation North Carolina is looking for an owner who can help the home regain its former grandeur.

WHY SAVE IT? Though some of the interior walls were taken down to the studs by a previous owner, many of the house's original architectural details remain, including paneled wainscot, six-panel doors, fireplace mantels, and built-ins. On the exterior, a two-story entry porch with fluted pilasters and clapboard siding are still intact.

WHAT IT NEEDS Some foundation work and new mechanical and plumbing systems are needed, as are a new kitchen and bathrooms. The interior walls await new plaster or repair. Tax credits will help defray the cost of making historically accurate improvements—such as installing period-appropriate nine-over-nine windows and rebuilding the east-facing chimney brought down by Hurricane Florence—as overseen by Preservation North Carolina. Inside, the floor plan allows for a number of configurations; the right preservation-minded buyer is bound to be inspired by the house's potential, with so many of its bones exposed. —KATELIN HILL



- 1.** The 3,756-square-foot home was built in the Federal style, but a remodel about 20 years later added elements that reflect the Greek Revival style, including the two-story pedimented portico.
- 2.** While plaster has been removed from some walls on the first floor, the original wainscot along the staircase—likely longleaf pine or poplar—remains.
- 3.** This upstairs bedroom retains its Greek Revival-style fireplace mantel.
- 4.** Many of the paneled doors are still in place, with several more in storage awaiting reinstallation.



GOT A HOUSE?

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



GEICO[®]

PUT TWO & TWO TOGETHER

and you could save



Have GEICO car insurance? Get home insurance through the GEICO Insurance Agency and you could get a Multi-Policy discount.



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Homeowners, renters and condo coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2018 GEICO