

This Old House

Get inspired!

At our 2019 Idea House,
vintage charm meets
modern comfort and ease

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Best New
Home Tech
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TOH 2019 IDEA HOUSE PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT >>

Taking Curb Appeal to New Heights—and Added Depths

When tackling a historic renovation, it's often challenging to find products that will look the part and perform to modern standards. We asked KARP Associates Project Manager Gordon Jacobsen how an innovative roofing product from GAF achieves both.

Built in 1840, the TOH 2019 Idea House truly is an "old" house—the Greek Revival suffered through years of haphazard renovations and additions before the craftsmen at KARP Associates came to its rescue. "The roof not only leaked; there were actual holes in it, and raccoons and other wildlife had taken up residence in the attic," says Jacobsen.

The roof itself could not be saved, but keeping

local historical commission. "We imagine the original roof would have been cedar shake, so we wanted to re-create that wood-shake look with a smarter, more efficient product."

Why choose GAF? Jacobsen explains: "First, durability. Winters in the Northeast can be pretty brutal, and **Timberline Ultra HD® Shingles** feature an advanced adhesive that can withstand winds up to 130 mph. They're also resistant to unsightly blue-green algae, and they have the highest roofing fire rating." And when it comes to the look, "They're really thick, with natural colorations, and designed with a secondary shadow line that makes them incredibly dimensional; it's an impressive look, and they're beautiful for years to come."



Shown: For a durable, long-lasting roof, crews installed WeatherWatch® Mineral-Surfaced Leak Barrier beneath Timberline Ultra HD Shingles.

As featured in



To learn more about how GAF Timberline Ultra HD Shingles helped restore the TOH 2019 Idea House, visit thisoldhouse.com/GAF

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Healthier Air at the TOH 2019 Idea House

Today's homes are being built with greater energy efficiency in mind, and the TOH 2019 Idea House is no exception. With features like watertight sheathing, double-paned windows, and layers of insulation, this tighter building envelope conserves energy and keeps the cold out—but it can also keep pollutants in. Here's how Panasonic is helping to create a healthier indoor air environment.

Indoor air pollutants such as mold, formaldehyde, and pet dander can cause real health concerns. These pollutants lurk in items like furniture, flooring, and household cleaners. Fireplaces, candles, and cooking vapors can emit gases that cause high levels of irritating particulate matter. Even everyday items like toiletries and vinyl shower curtains can release harmful chemicals into the air.

Just like your lungs, your home needs a way to efficiently remove contaminated air and bring in fresh air. That's why the experts at Panasonic have created the Cosmos™ Healthy Home System.

HOW IT WORKS:

The built-in sensors of the Cosmos system continuously monitor your indoor air quality and humidity levels. When air quality levels are



PANASONIC COSMOS sensors can be placed anywhere in the home, such as on a desk, counter, or bedside table.

compromised, Cosmos will activate your ventilation system to bring the air quality back to normal; once achieved, the fans will automatically turn off.

Cosmos gives you the flexibility to run the system on autopilot (as just described) or manual operation. In auto mode, Cosmos can automatically correct undesirable indoor air. In manual mode, you can turn

fans on and off as the need arises. For greater convenience and peace of mind, the user-friendly Cosmos app allows you to remotely monitor and control system activity and air quality.

For more information on how Cosmos can help improve the health of your home, visit
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As featured in



Panasonic is proud to sponsor the TOH 2019 Idea House in New Canaan, CT.



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Bad news about indoor air quality

- People spend 90% of their time indoors, where harmful pollutants can be 2 to 5 times higher
- According to the EPA, your indoor air can be 70% more polluted than the outside air
- Women who work from home have a 54% higher death rate from cancer than women who work outside the home

Good news about your health

- Cosmos™, brought to you by Panasonic, is the first connected healthy home system that helps you address your biggest concern: your family's health
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Take home some inspiration! This rebuilt circa-1840 Greek Revival in New Canaan, CT, remains classical on the outside but is now contemporary on the inside—and chock-full of the kind of useful design features that modern families are after

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For the first project of TOH TV's new season, the team tackles a 1949 ranch in Westerly, RI, transforming it into a two-story with a gambrel roof and sweeping lines

80 **period pieces**

Decades of additions muddled an antebellum stone house in rural PA, until a history-loving homeowner's careful renovations made it into a seamless home filled with period-style details



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Cover photograph by NAT REA

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A Tudor-style brick cottage in a riverside town



Get In on the Ground Floor!

Join us as we transform this ranch into a two-story Dutch Colonial.



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PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) ZACHARY FLINT; COLLEEN McQUAD; MAKAYLA TOWNSEND; MIKE LAST

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Ideas worth adopting—and adapting

They say that everyone you meet in life has something to teach you—to which I'd add, so does every house you encounter. Sometimes those lessons are cautionary: the neighbors' basement that floods with every rain (don't ignore the grading), the relative's living room where every upstairs flush whooshes by overhead like a rushing river (consider adding insulation).

Sometimes a house just helps you hone your tastes. Banana-leaf-print wallpaper? Orange tweed curtains? Um, no thanks.

And sometimes it gets you thinking that you simply want something new and different. Or, in my case, old and different. Though I started life in a rambling vintage Colonial Revival that I only remember from photos, I grew up in a succession of newish suburban houses from the 1960s and '70s. (My dad, an engineer and father to eight of us, had had enough of aging plumbing and electrical.) So naturally, when my husband and I bought our one and only house, it was an older one, from 1925, with worn wood floors, plaster walls, glass doorknobs, creaky stairs, and balky radiators. And we gamely set about filling it with things that were new to me: pedestal sinks (no laminate vanities!), fringed carpets (bye-bye, wall-to-wall!), chair rails and wainscoting (so long, boring drywall!), schoolhouse lights (fluorescent tubes, be gone!).

Working at this magazine for the past 19 years, I've clipped and saved countless project ideas—and I've learned that when you bring them home, they inevitably become your own. Once you get around to them, of course. You can check out one of my favorites, at right.

Which leads me to our cover subject, *TOH's* fifth annual Idea House, this one a rebuilt and redesigned Greek Revival in New Canaan, CT. Behind its historical pilasters and fanlights lies a warm, modern interior that's a showcase of innovative products and design ideas. Even if your interior tends more toward the traditional, there's plenty of inspiration to be adapted to your own home: patterned accent walls, clever tile installations, statement light fixtures, enviable storage solutions, and some of the handsomest floors, doors, and door hardware I've ever seen.

So come on in—and let me know what you think.

Kathryn

KATHRYN KELLER,
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The lattice fence at my house, inspired by Rye, NY, landscape architect Chris Cohan's, seen on the cover in 2007. Hey, it only took us eight years!



TOH 2019 IDEA HOUSE PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT >>

Clean, Chic, Convenient: **The Elkay ezH2O® Liv™**

The TOH 2019 Idea House is chock-full of innovative ideas and smart new home products. We asked KARP Associates Residential Builder and Designer **Robin Carroll** to tell us about the Elkay ezH2O® Liv™ built-in filtered water dispenser—and why she installed it in our Idea House kitchen.



Connected to a water line and an electric cable, the ezH2O Liv tucks neatly within the width and depth of two standard wall studs, and features a stylish glass front and brushed stainless-steel design. Available in Aspen White (shown) or Midnight.



Tell us how you came across the Elkay ezH2O Liv, and what made you think it was right for our Idea House.

The ezH2O Liv is a first-of-its-kind built-in filtered water dispenser for the home market. And the moment we saw it at the Kitchen & Bath Show in Las Vegas this year, we knew it would be a hit with home buyers in our market.

Why is that?

Millennials make up the largest pool of home buyers today. This is a generation that cares about healthy living, appreciates good design, values convenience, and favors environmentally conscious products. The Elkay ezH2O Liv addresses all these ideals.

What sets it apart from other home water dispensers?

Until now, your choice in home water dispensers was limited to stand-alone coolers with those huge, heavy 5-gallon jugs on top or commercial-looking filtered-water dispensers that look like they belong in an office or gym; the ezH2O Liv is sleek, streamlined, and attractive. From an innovation standpoint, it stands out because it's got an NSF-certified filter that reduces lead and other contaminants and eliminates the need to buy wasteful single-use plastic water bottles.

Does the ezH2O Liv come in different models?

Yes. We chose the model with a chiller and Aspen White glass finish to complement the Idea House's modern aesthetic. And we installed it in the working kitchen—a multitasking, high-traffic area situated between the dining room and the main kitchen that's an ideal location for a hands-free water source for a family on the go.

What else do you like about the ezH2O Liv?

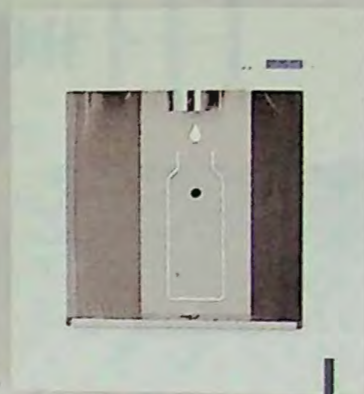
It has a convenient backlit LED ticker that counts off the number of disposable bottles you're saving, and colorful lights that indicate when quick-and-easy filter changes are needed. That's smart.

As featured in



Elkay is proud to sponsor the TOH 2019 Idea House in New Canaan, CT. To see more, turn to page 60 in this issue.

ezH2O® Liv™



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ELKAY® ezH2O Liv BUILT-IN FILTERED WATER DISPENSER

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toolkit

Useful stuff for homeowners to know

FALL MVP

The metal fan rake

It's a classic for clearing fallen leaves and yard debris, no ear protection required. TOH building technology editor Thomas Baker goes into detail

The backstory

The first rakes have been traced back to 1100 B.C., when Chinese farmers used them to keep their fields tidy. Fast-forward some 3,000 years, to around 1880, and this agricultural implement had morphed into a fan-shaped tool designed to keep yards free of leaves. In 1926, the first metal leaf rake received a U.S. patent. That basic design remains the template for today's versions, which benefit from better materials and improved engineering.

Specs to check

TINES

Powder-coated spring-steel tines are almost impossible to kink. And because these run from side to side, in one-piece sets of six, they can't fall out.

SPRING ACTION

A coil spring stiffens the head, absorbs the bending stresses and shock loads on the tines, and helps flick debris away when tension is released.

HANDLE

This pro-quality rake has a fiberglass shaft, which is lighter and stronger than wood, can't warp, and isn't affected by weather. Hence the lifetime warranty.

▲ A spreader bar maintains the ideal 1-inch spacing between tines.

What it's best for

A metal fan rake is the optimal choice for clearing and renewing a lawn in fall, and again in spring, ridding it of leaves, thatch, and debris and preparing it for overseeding. Best to keep it out of garden beds, though, as the metal tines can snag perennials and damage the thin bark on shrubs.

How to move more leaves

> **Grip the handle near the end** with one hand, palm up; place your other hand about halfway down the handle, palm down.

> **Keeping your back straight**, reach out and across your body with your upper hand.

> **Plant the rake head and press down**, then sweep the rake in front of you, from one side to the other, like a broom.

> **Push down with your lower hand** through the end of the stroke. As the spring-loaded head lifts off the ground, it flings the leaves up and away from you.

Razor-Back 24-Tine Steel Rake, \$20; homedepot.com



STOP BAGGING

Leaf mold is gold

Fallen leaves make one of the best soil amendments around

Leaf mold—a type of organic matter, not a fungus—is what you get when leaves are partially or completely decomposed. You use it like compost, says University of Connecticut soil scientist Dawn Pettinelli, but it's a lot less work, and you don't need to worry about food scraps attracting critters. Just rake leaves into a corner of your yard—ideally where wind won't undo your work—and leave them be. “Add to your pile every fall,” Pettinelli says. “After a year or so, you can remove leaf mold from the bottom every spring.”

Can't wait? “If you want leaf mold for next spring, aim for a pile that's about four feet in every dimension,” she says. “As the leaves decompose, it'll start to shrink.” Shred the leaves first to give them a head start; add a source of nitrogen like alfalfa meal, manure, or blood meal, making sure the pile stays moist, and turn it twice a month. If you don't turn it, it'll develop a hard crust on top so moisture and air can't get in; then the leaves in the middle won't get oxygen, slowing decomposition. Or try this neat trick: Use a cylinder of chicken wire to contain the leaves; to turn them, simply lift off the bin, set it to one side, then refill it, so the leaves that were on the top are on the bottom.

FOR THE RECORD

WD-40 best practices

Ever since Water-Displacement 40th Formula was made available to the public in 1958, a spritz of the stuff has been a go-to fix for things rusty, squeaky, or stuck. While this proprietary mix of oils and solvents is remarkably useful, it's not necessarily the best choice in all cases.



DO USE IT TO:

Loosen up...rusty tools, blades, and nuts and bolts; corroded aluminum; stuck zippers.

Remove...crayon marks; stuck-on gum and tar; sticker and tape residue; scuff marks on tile.

Add a nonstick coating to...metal snow-thrower chutes and snow-shovel blades; hoes and other digging tools used in sticky clay soil.

“WD-40, Vise-Grips, and some duct tape: Any man worth his salt can do half of the household chores with just those three things.”

—CLINT EASTWOOD
IN GRAN TORINO

DON'T USE IT TO:

LUBE A LOCK. After WD-40's solvents evaporate, the oils left behind can attract dust and become sticky as they oxidize, eventually gumming up a typical lock cylinder. **Instead:** Locksmith Tom Lynch recommends a silicone-free, dry-film lubricant such as Poxylube CP-200 (\$15 for a 4.5-oz. can; taylorsecurity.com), which won't leave an oily, dust-collecting residue. He suggests that before using it, you clean out the cylinder with a blast of electrical contact cleaner.

SILENCE A SQUEAKY HINGE. A hit of WD-40 may quiet a noisy hinge temporarily, but don't be surprised when it starts complaining again. **Instead:** Use a PTFE-enhanced silicone lubricant such as Super Lube Silicone Lubricating Grease with Synconol (\$10.38 for a 3-oz. tube; homedepot.com), which banishes squeaks for much longer.

GREASE PLASTIC PARTS. Slippery plastics usually don't need lubrication. If you want to spray them anyway, know that WD-40's solvents can craze and crack polystyrenes (#6) and polycarbonates (#7). **Instead:** If you can't identify sensitive plastics by these recycling labels, use a plastic-safe silicone lubricant or a gel such as WD-40 Specialist Spray & Stay (\$8.97 for a 10-oz. can; homedepot.com).

Caution: The propellants in aerosol sprays are flammable. Use these sprays only in a well-ventilated area, and keep them away from flames, lighted cigarettes, and live electrical wires.



No pot, no soil, no water needed—just warmth and light. A wire coil at the base keeps it upright.

Magic bulbs

A flower bulb is a wondrous thing, a self-contained world that holds all the nutrients it needs for its first year of growth. But too long on store shelves, and it may dry out, and a forcing vase can grow mold. This premium Dutch-grown amaryllis bulb stands apart, with multiple coats of wax that seal in its moisture and energy reserves. Set it out indoors in bright indirect light, and in 4 to 6 weeks, maroon-tinged pale green blooms appear.

Easy Care Colorful Waxed Magic Green Amaryllis, \$37; gardeners.com

Better-behaved berries

With autumnal red fruit in split yellow pods, Oriental bittersweet is oh-so-tempting to clip. But the prolific seed-spreader is highly invasive, so consider one of these ornamentals instead.



BAD ACTOR

Oriental bittersweet grows up to 50 feet long; it aggressively chokes out other woody plants—including entire trees. A single spent wreath made from the vine can drop thousands of seeds.



Beautyberry

(*Callicarpa americana*)

Native to the southeastern U.S., this shrub's show really starts in late summer and early fall, when bright magenta fruits appear. If birds don't eat them, they'll last well after leaves have fallen.



Pyracantha

(*Pyracantha coccinea* M. Roem)

Firethorn, as it's also called, is prized for bunches of orange, red, or yellow fruit, which arrive in late summer and can last into winter. Snip off its large thorns, or look for the newer 'Thornless' variety.



Virginia creeper

(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

In summer, this deciduous vine can resemble grapevine. But in fall, there's no mistaking this native climber, as the leaves turn vivid shades of red and maroon, with clusters of blue-black berries.

Never clean gutters again

Many products claim to keep gutters from clogging as tree debris falls, but few deliver over the long haul. After looking at—and living with—various gutter-guard options, here are the materials and construction we've found work best.

1 Stainless-steel micromesh No-rust 316-grade stainless steel woven into a micromesh with 30 or 50 holes per linear inch will exclude even tiny bits of pine duff and loose roofing granules. Water still passes through quite readily; it can handle a theoretical rainfall of up to 150 inches per hour. Ideally, the mesh is pitched so debris just slides off.

2 Anodized aluminum frame Without some underlying support, micromesh can sag over time and collect debris. Here, a thick aluminum grid provides a stiff, permanent backing to keep the mesh flat. (Plastic grids inevitably lose resiliency and break.) An anodized coating means there's no issue of corrosion between different metals—un-anodized aluminum will corrode if attached to a copper gutter, for instance. The frame is anchored to the gutter's front edge with stainless-steel sheet-metal screws.

This optional fascia clip allows for installation without disturbing the roofing.



Looking to DIY? For about \$3 per foot, you can get micromesh gutter guards that you can install yourself. Some offer a thin sheet-metal support under the mesh. Others, such as the Gutter Guard by Gutterglove (homedepot.com), shown, stiffen the mesh by bending it in a corrugated pattern. Though not as robustly built as the company's pro-installed guards, they do a better job of excluding debris than nonmesh alternatives.

Two products that meet these criteria: ArmourGuard Supreme (allweatherarmour.com), shown here, carries a 25-year warranty; Gutterglove Pro (gutterglovepro.com) has a 40-year warranty. Both require pro installation by a local dealer, saving you from having to climb a ladder. Expect to pay about \$15 a foot for labor and materials on gutters in pristine condition.

Star storms



Recognizing that storm windows—both interior and exterior—can markedly reduce drafts and home heating and cooling costs, Energy Star has established a new program to certify products that meet basic standards for air infiltration, solar transmission, and emissivity (heat reflection). So far, those made by Larson Manufacturing and Quanta Technologies have made the grade.

For updates, go to energystar.gov/stormwindows.



Open-shelf upgrade

Turn an awkward nook into a handsome slice of storage using shallow shelves finished with gallery rails. The ones here showcase cookbooks in a kitchen but they would work just as well to corral tubes and jars in a bath or, made slightly deeper, to contain bottles and other bar supplies.

Source brass gallery rail fittings online at paxtonhardware.com.



▲ **TOH plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey** replaces the old valve on a hot-water radiator with an orange-capped thermostatic valve that allows homeowners to fine-tune the heat output of an individual radiator.

3 ways to boost radiator performance

These cast-iron relics from the early days of central heating are still remarkably good at keeping a house warm and cozy. If radiators are part of your home, TOH's Richard Trethewey explains how you can improve their operating efficiency.

- 1 Add an outdoor reset control.** This device signals the boiler to gradually heat up or cool down, based on changes in temperature outdoors. That can save about 15 percent on fuel and eliminate the big swings typical of thermostat-controlled systems. "Installing an outdoor reset is the single best thing you can do to improve radiator efficiency and overall comfort in the heating season," Richard says. You'll need an HVAC pro to wire the control to the boiler, connect an outside temperature sensor, and set minimum and maximum boiler water temps based on how cold it gets in your area.
- 2 Install thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs).** These devices limit the amount of steam or hot water that comes into a radiator, turning it into its own zone. Richard says, "Equipping individual radiators with these valves can reduce energy use by about 5 percent and eliminate the discomfort of overheated rooms." Most any DIYer should be able to install a TRV for a steam radiator: Just unscrew the old vent attached to the radiator fin and screw the TRV into the same threaded hole. Adding a TRV to a hot-water radiator requires special tools and fittings; this is a job for an experienced plumber.
- 3 Get an air eliminator.** Every time water is added to a hot-water system, it introduces microscopic air bubbles that will eventually form big bubbles inside the tops of radiator fins, limiting their heat output. Regularly bleeding the air out of a radiator restores its full function for a while, but that chore becomes a thing of the past with a pro-installed air separator, like the one made by Spirovent (starting at \$93; supplyhouse.com). Just one of these, fitted near the boiler downstream from the radiators, expels microbubbles from the entire system before they have a chance to collect in your radiators.

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Farm and function

A father-daughter duo restores a 1920s kitchen's down-home vintage charm

BY NINA MALKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHAD HOLDER

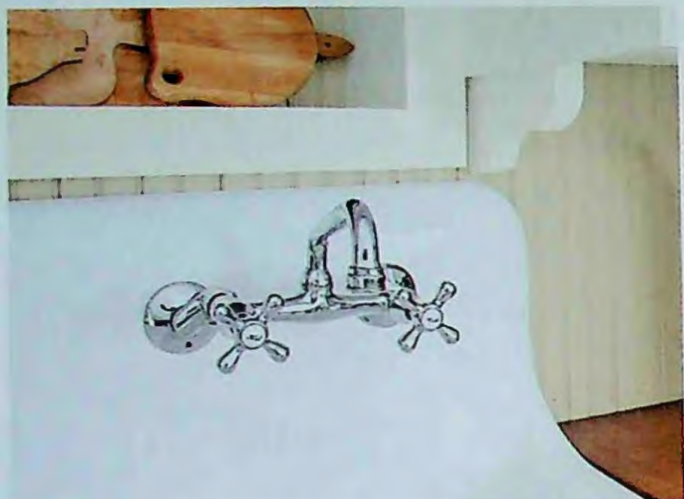


→ **DO IT YOURSELF CAN BE DAUNTING**, but doing it *yourselves* can transform even a tough project into a pleasure. That was the case for Taylor Mimnaugh of Cushing, WI, who wanted to re-create the homespun appeal of her 1929 farmhouse's original kitchen and turned to her father for help. Lucky for her, dad Mark Anderson is a pro cabinetmaker who shared his daughter's vision and had the skills to bring it to fruition. "The goal was for the kitchen to be as authentic as possible but with modern amenities," Taylor says. Staying within the room's footprint, the duo tore out the 1980s oak cabinets, including a peninsula that ate up floor space. They relocated the range to where the fridge had been, beside a double window, to give the cook a view of the pasture. Mark built new base cabinets and glass-front cupboards to hang above a vintage cast-iron sink Taylor got for \$100. Maple flooring uncovered beneath layers of linoleum and vinyl was sanded and clear-coated, while creamy finishes lightened things up even more. "It makes me so happy to be in the kitchen, because it functions better now, and fits the era of the house," says Taylor, who's mom to four kids. "Not to mention knowing that I did it with my dad!"



BEFORE Oak cabinets, laminate countertops, and a stainless-steel sink weren't period-appropriate for a farmhouse restoration.

AFTER Maple countertops, a vintage apron sink with a high back, beadboard walls, and creamy-white cabinets with crown molding and bracket details lend an authentic period look. The farm table seats six and doubles as prep space.
Range: Whirlpool



ABOVE: "I wanted the sink to be the focal point when you walk into the kitchen," Taylor says of her Craigslist score. She had the basin professionally re-glazed, and found an old-school-style wall-mount bridge faucet for it. *Faucet: Kingston Brass*

RIGHT: A farm table made of reclaimed yellow pine floorboards and repurposed table legs got a distressed white stained finish. The bench seats boast a scalloped edge that evokes the 1920s. Taylor designed the bench detail, and Mark helped her cut it out at his shop with a band saw. *Chandelier: Menards. Dishwasher: Maytag*

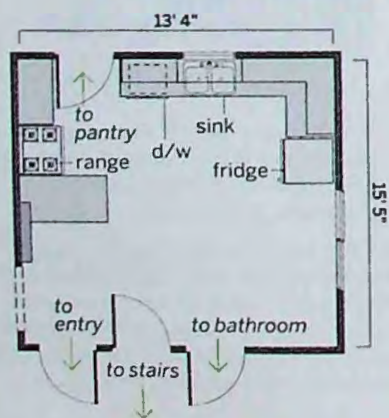


after

Swapping the fridge and range locations provided a view for the cook. A bit more floor space allowed for a long farm table that doubles as a prep island

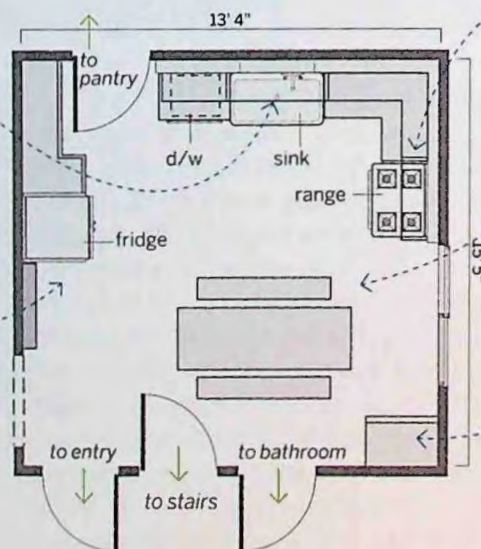
before

Poor appliance placement and a peninsula made the 206-square-foot space feel cramped



1] Closed up an interior window above the sink and added custom cabinets and open shelves in its place.

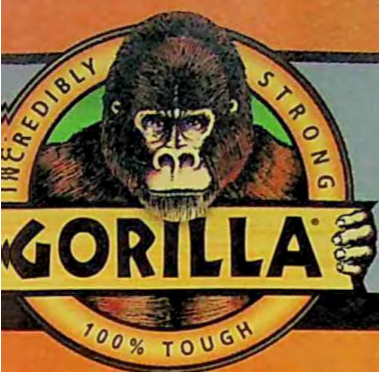
2] Took out a peninsula that constricted flow, reconfiguring cabinets around the relocated fridge.



3] Put the range where the fridge had been, next to the double window.

4] Crafted a table and benches from reclaimed pine floorboards and other salvaged scrap.

5] Placed a 100-year-old Hoosier cabinet in a previously bare corner to boost storage.



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The best part of the project for Pop? "Spending time with my daughter and passing my knowledge down to her," says cabinetmaker Mark Anderson. "My dad is my hero!" adds homeowner Taylor Mimnaugh.



The cabinets were crafted from cost-effective white melamine boxes, with face frames made of poplar, Mark's "go-to wood for paint." He sprayed the face frames and doors with a catalyzed lacquer for an easy-to-clean, nick- and chip-resistant finish.

Cabinet color: Sherwin-Williams's Dover White. Fridge: Kenmore



Instead of an island, Taylor envisioned a plain plank table to use for food prep and casual dining. Constructed from found floorboards, it was painted white, then gently distressed for instant age. Floor finish: Bona Traffic



A corner cabinet holds a lazy Susan to improve storage capacity and accessibility. Details like the curved cabinet feet add vintage charm. Custom cabinets: North Metro Millwork. Hardware: Holdahl Company



This Old House blueprint

EVENTS, PROMOTIONS,
ADVERTISER PRODUCT
NEWS, ETC.



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behr.com/2020trends

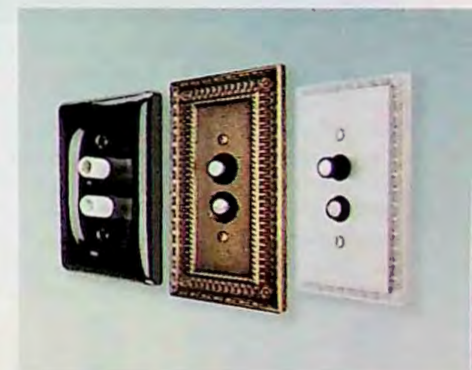
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GenerationNEXT is grateful to American Standard for its generous support of the mikeroweWORKS Foundation and Skilled Labor Fund trade initiatives.

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This Old House
GenerationNEXT



PHOTO: JESSICA VAN SACK

Insiders Win a VIP Preview of the 2019 Idea House

A few select winners and their guests got the opportunity to meet members of the This Old House cast and take an exclusive tour of the 2019 Idea House in New Canaan, CT, before doors opened to the public



There is nothing quite like touring a 7,800-square-foot Greek Revival in the company of cast members from your favorite TV show! On September 14, a small group of Insiders and their guests gathered at the 2019 Idea House to mingle with Norm, Tom, Richard, Kevin, and Jeff over coffee and croissants. Afterward, the cast talked about their favorite rooms in the house and answered Insiders' questions about their own projects at home.



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Handwoven accent wall

Painted freehand, a fool-the-eye basketweave pattern gives a small bath a budget-conscious style boost **BY KATE WOOD**

→ **WHEN WHITE WALLS** looked too bare for the main bath of her 1930s Philadelphia rowhouse, e-designer Chaney Widmer came up with an inspired solution. “I wanted something simple and modern but still kind of traditional, since it’s an older house,” says the founder of Mix & Match Design Company. Wallpaper cost more than she wanted to spend, and she figured paint would be more durable in a wet area. So, after a fruitless search for a stencil she liked, she decided to freestyle it.

Starting with some charcoal-gray paint, Chaney tried out a few geometrics on posterboard before settling on a pattern of three lines about 4 inches long, set on the diagonal, for a woven effect. She painted a horizontal row across the top, then worked down the left edge (the right one is hidden by the door). She eyeballed her work—“it’s more organic and has some movement to it”—but you could use a pencil and a straightedge to mark out a grid of diamonds before painting. “I like the transparency and imperfectness of it,” she says of the result. “And if I got in an extra brushstroke somewhere, that’s okay!” ■



STROKES OF GENIUS > A flat-tipped artist’s brush and a pint of Valspar’s Gotham Gray produced the desired design.



Retro-style record cabinet

Using plywood and a tenon joiner, Tom and Kevin build a simple case for LPs and a turntable

BY THOMAS BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIEULI

➔ VINYL RECORDS WERE THE MAINSTAY of the music industry starting in the 1950s, and provided the soundtrack for baby boomers and Gen Xers well into the '80s. Although sales of LPs took a dive with the advent of CDs, records have been staging a comeback for several years, along with 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ -rpm turntables to play them. Nodding to that trend, *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva designed this sleek cabinet to hold a thick sheaf of albums and to have ample room on top for a record player. Taking his cues from mid-century modern furniture, the defining style of the LP era, Tom built and finished it over the course of two days, with an assist from *TOH* host Kevin O'Connor.

The piece is made mostly of oak plywood, readily available at home centers. But no veneer layers are visible in the final assembly; they're all concealed by mitered corners and a solid-oak edge profile. To make the miters strong, and perfectly align the edges, Tom used a power joiner to cut matching mortises, then connected them with rectangular, factory-made tenons and glue. "Together, they create solid, structural joints," Tom says.

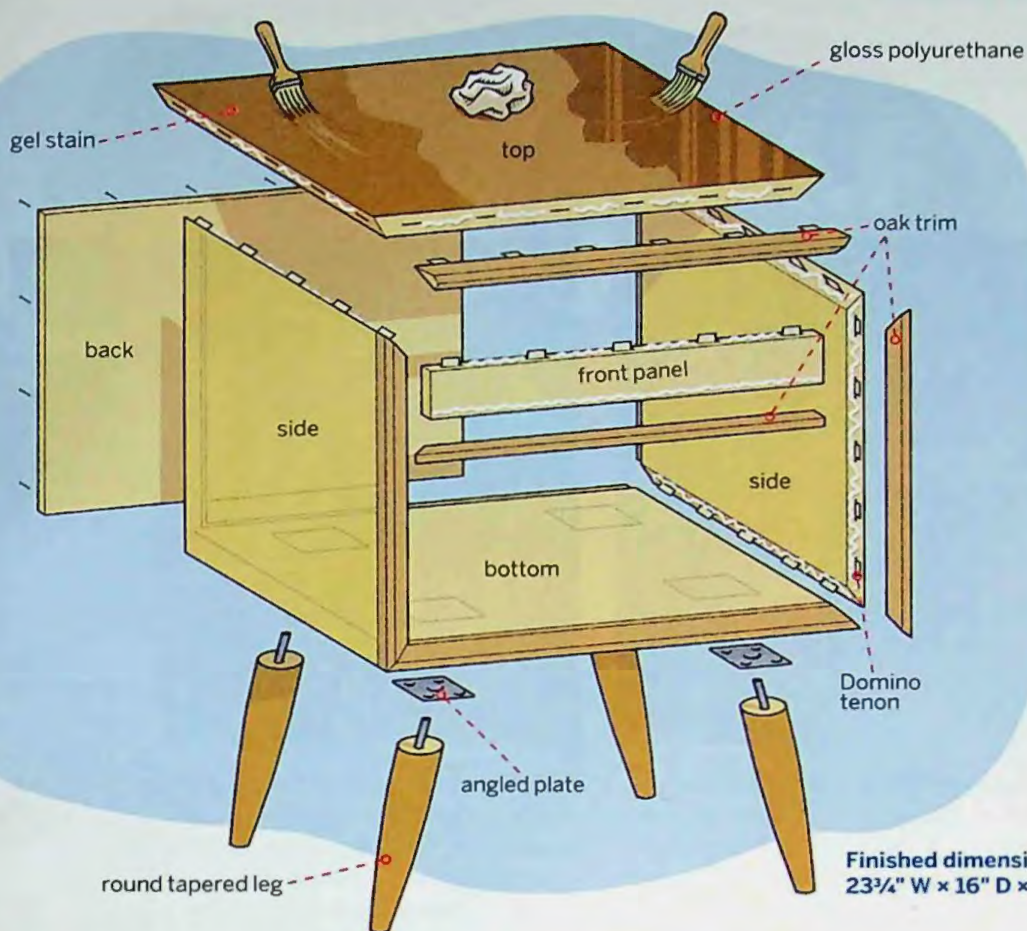
On the following pages, he demonstrates techniques you can use to create a vintage record-player stand of your own.



Want to spin some platters?

TOP: Tom Silva shows off the newly built cabinet, a design that he based on mid-century modern furniture.

ABOVE: Tom and Kevin O'Connor get ready to play some Elvis tunes, which were all the rage during much of the LP record's heyday.



TOOLS

- > track saw, or circular saw with guide
- > Domino tenon joiner
- > hammer and bar clamps
- > table saw
- > router with bearing-under chamfer and rabbet bits
- > rubber mallet
- > miter saw and coping saw
- > brad nailer

MATERIALS

- > one 4x8 sheet of 3/4-inch red oak plywood
- > 8 feet of 1x3 red oak
- > 30mm Domino tenons
- > 2 feet of 1x4 red oak
- > wood glue, such as Gorilla Wood Glue, and glue brush
- > 180-, 220-, 320-grit sandpaper
- > wood conditioner and gel stain
- > gloss polyurethane varnish
- > four angled plates and 12-inch round tapered legs
- > one 2x4 sheet of 1/4-inch birch plywood
- > 18-gauge 1-inch brads

STEP-BY-STEP

Record cabinet



1] Make the mortises Use a track saw to cut a 15 3/8-inch-wide by 8-foot-long sheet out of the plywood. Clamp the oak 1x3 to the plywood, edge to edge, and use a square to mark across this joint every 4 inches. Take the pieces apart. At each mark, plunge the tenon joiner into the oak edge, then the plywood edge, as shown.



2] Add the oak edging Squeeze wood glue (Tom used Gorilla Wood Glue here) into the mortises and brush it over the mortised edges. Clamp the plywood upright; tap a tenon into each mortise with a hammer. Set the oak's mortises on the tenons, tap the oak until it joins the plywood, and clamp. Wipe up excess glue with a damp rag.



3] Shape the edges When the glue dries, remove the clamps and use a table saw to slice 1 3/4 inches off the oak trim. Rout a chamfer in the oak, as shown, leaving a 1/4-inch reveal on either side. Next, rout a 1/2-by-1/2-inch rabbet in the edge opposite the trim. The plywood face with routed edges will become the cabinet's inside faces.

SEE IT BUILT
Watch Tom and Kevin make this project at thisoldhouse.com/record-cabinet

STEP-BY-STEP



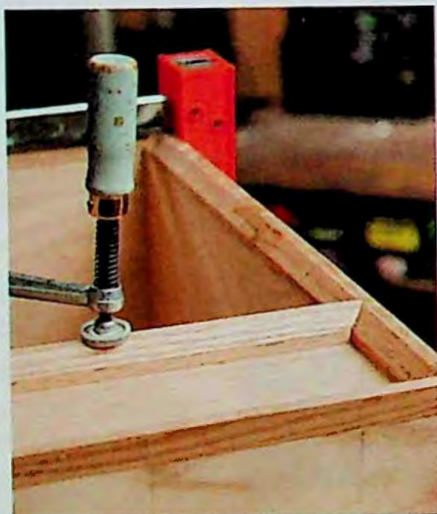
4] Cut the panels Set a track saw, shown, or a circular saw and guide, at 45 degrees. Cut the panel, inside face down, into four bevel-down, mitered pieces. On the inside face of each side, at the miters, mark mortise locations every 4 inches. Put the sides against the bottom piece, miter to miter, and extend the marks onto the bottom face. Mark the top in the same way.



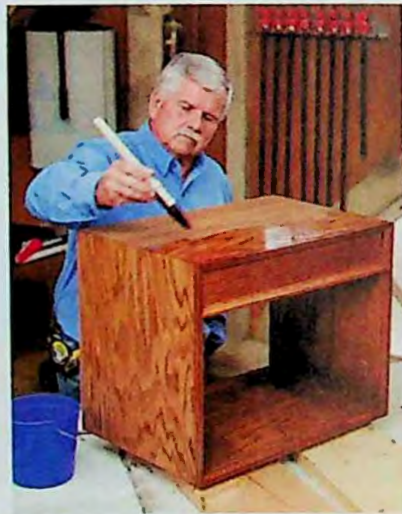
5] Assemble the box With the miters facing up, set the tenon joiner shoe to 45 degrees; make a mortise at each mark. Sand the inside faces with 180-, 220-, and 320-grit papers. Put glue in the mortises on the sides and tap in the tenons. Add glue to the mortises and miters on the bottom piece. Tap the joint together with a mallet. Do the same with the top piece.



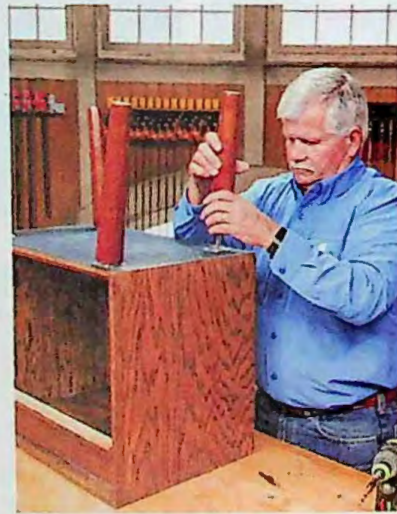
6] Add the face piece Clamp the corners, front and back; wipe up any excess glue. With the cabinet turned upside down, cut the oak 1×4 to fit inside the cabinet, just past the oak trim, and against the top. Mark the mortise locations on the 1×4 and the plywood; cut the mortises at those marks. Glue in the tenons, put glue on the 1×4's edges, and tap it into place.



7] Trim the face piece Rout a chamfer in the scrap oak left from the cut in Step 3; rip it down to match the edging. Miter and cope each end of the trim piece to match the edging profile, then glue and clamp it to the face piece, as shown. Fill any gaps with a mix of glue and oak sanding dust.



8] Apply the finish Cut the back to size. Sand it and all outside faces with 180-, 220-, and 320-grit papers; clean with a tack cloth. For an even stain, apply wood conditioner; wipe it off in 10 minutes. Brush on gel stain, wait 3 minutes, and wipe with a rag. Let dry overnight. Apply polyurethane.



9] Attach the legs Glue and brad-nail the back into the rabbet. On the cabinet's bottom, center an angled plate 2 inches in from each corner. Drill pilot holes and attach the plates with the screws provided. Then screw the legs firmly into the nut embedded in each metal plate, as shown. ■

TIPS



Quick, strong joints

• **Faster than you can say "mortise-and-tenon,"** Domino tenon joiners from Festool (festoolusa.com) will plunge-cut snug slots, or mortises, for proprietary domino-shaped tenons made of solid beech. Glued together, the mortises and tenons make a joint that's one of the strongest a woodworker can fashion, without any exacting chiseling.

• **The patented secret:** a spiral bit that plunges into the wood while oscillating from side to side.

• **The downside?** Domino joiners start at \$960. For \$160, a biscuit joiner can also be used to align and reinforce these joints, but they won't be nearly as strong.

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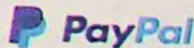
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Details make the difference

Small improvements give a tuckered-out 1950 Cape a big style upgrade

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS • ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



BEFORE



The grassy accent color (Behr's Thyme Green) is a spirited update to the traditional dark shade.

➔ **CALL IT** staying power: Dan and Laura Cengic have lived in their 1950 Cape Cod-style home in Cleveland for 40 years. "Lately we've been thinking how great it would be to bring it into the 21st century with some classic charm," Dan says.

So we consulted local architect David Ellison for ideas. His take: "It just needs improvement to its essential qualities, rather than junking up with alien elements." Ellison would remove the gray vinyl siding to expose the original wood or replace it with 8-inch beveled-wood lap siding, trade fixed shutters for properly sized, operating raised-paneled ones, and add wider windows with divided lights. To project a hearty welcome, he'd frame a six-panel wood door with a pilaster-and-lintel surround and put in iron handrails with urn-shaped brass finials. The Cengics' reaction? Says Dan, "We've already added the window upgrades and railings to our spring refresh plans!" ■

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finishing touches

Handsome, style-appropriate additions boost this home's classic curb appeal



brass knocker

Save your neighbors' knuckles with this elegant number in a high-shine finish. French Knocker in Lifetime Polished Brass, \$90; baldwinhardware.com



hedging

Small-leaved Japanese holly takes shearing well and is faster growing and lower maintenance than boxwood. *Ilex crenata* 'Green Lustre,' \$17; taylorsnursery.com



lantern sconce

Polished brass and beveled-glass panels dress up this carriage-light-inspired wall lamp. Kichler Polished Brass 15½" High Outdoor Wall Light, \$320; lampsplus.com



walkway brick

Made of clay and tumbled after firing, these pavers have the look of antique reclaimed brick. Rumbled Full Range pavers, \$6.20 per sq. ft.; pinehallbrick.com

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A woman with curly hair, wearing sunglasses, a grey t-shirt, blue jeans, and brown boots, is using a STIHL trimmer to cut grass in a yard. She is standing next to a black metal fence. In the background, there is a house with a large glass-enclosed porch and a red STIHL logo on the roof. The sky is overcast.

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FSA 45
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With multiple battery options, this series is ideal for maintaining suburban yards.

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RMA 460
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HSA 56
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BGA 56
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MSA 120 C-BQ
Chain Saw



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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black and grey STIHL polo shirt, is smiling and holding a red and white STIHL HSA 55 chainsaw. She is standing in a store with shelves of various STIHL products in the background. Another person is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

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Smarter than ever

These finds put the fun in functional, from gadgets for the lucky ones on your gift list to investment buys that truly improve life at home

BY NATHANIEL WICE

➔ **IS 2019 THE YEAR** the smart home grew up? Look through these selections, and you'll see we're finally comfortable recommending product categories that until now were more sci-fi promise than everyday practical—a mini projector powerful enough to turn any blank wall into an impromptu movie screen; a robot vacuum that really simplifies housekeeping; and sensible ways to keep everything charged, from your family's phones to an electric car.



1. ROBOVAC 11S MAX Eufy

Robo vacuums won't fluff the couch cushions or deal with serious messes, but they're getting good at basic dust patrol of floors and carpets. This new version adds more suction to a model already highly rated for picking up pet hair. \$270; eufylife.com

2. JUICEBOX PRO 40 Enel X

This UL-listed Level 2 EV



Charging Station for an electric car plugs in to a standard 240v clothes dryer outlet, with remote app-control to automatically select greener or cheaper power when it's available. \$649; evcharging.enelx.com

3. EVE FLARE Eve Systems

The size of a small soccer ball, this water-resistant LED smart lamp sets the mood for entertaining indoors or out,

with an inviting glow that's kid-safe and won't blow out in the wind. Its built-in 6-hour battery recharges on the included base. \$100; evehome.com

4. SEED WAVE Nixplay

Friends and families can share slideshows from near or far using services such as Google Photos, Dropbox, and the Nixplay app to display their photos on the 13-inch screen.





Included Bluetooth speakers can stream music or radio stations, and make short videos boom. \$260; nixplay.com

5. SUREFEED MICROCHIP PET FEEDER CONNECT

Sure Petcare
Track and manage your cat's eating habits with this latest addition to the expanding ecosystem of Sure Petcare products—like the SureFlap cat door—that only activate for the cat with the correct microchip. \$253 (including required hub); surepetcare.com

6. SYMFONISK TABLE LAMP

IKEA
Keep an eye on IKEA's growing, well-priced smart home offerings, like this table lamp that doubles as a Sonos Wi-Fi speaker. \$179; ikea.com

7. CIRCLE 2 WITH HOMEKIT SECURE VIDEO

Logitech
Logitech's indoor/outdoor 1080p, wide-angle camera supports a new Apple standard, HomeKit Secure Video, that encrypts footage with all the convenience of cloud storage but for your eyes only. Works with your existing iCloud storage. From \$180; logitech.com

8. AIRMEGA 300S

Coway
One bad pollen or wildfire season will prove the value of a HEPA-filter air purifier. Control this Wi-Fi-enabled model remotely by app, and track air quality. \$749; cowaymega.com

9. AURORA SMART BULB DIMMER

Lutron
This light switch cover gives you a handy, physical dimmer control for Philips Hue smart lights that you can also control via an app—and it prevents anyone from disabling the smart lights by flipping the switch. \$40; lutron.com

10. FREESTANDING FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR

Bosch Home Appliances
Known for its dishwashers, Bosch has launched a new line of refrigerators that can keep food fresh longer by tweaking humidity, temperature, and airflow. The appliances even enable remote diagnostics by a service technician, and will send alerts to your smartphone or tablet, via app, if a door is left ajar. From \$3,099; bosch-home.com

11. ORBI WIFI 6

Netgear
Orbi's leading example of mesh Wi-Fi—or Wi-Fi that fully



10



13



14



15



11



12



covers the corners of a home using multiple Wi-Fi bases that communicate with one another—is one of the fastest and easiest to configure, and also one of the first to support the coming Wi-Fi 6 standard for higher speeds. \$700; netgear.com

12. ECHO SHOW 5

Amazon

Amazon's voice-controlled smart speaker now comes with a screen at a smaller price, and includes bedside niceties such as a sunrise alarm that can gradually brighten the screen, a snooze feature, and a physical shutter to blind the video-chat camera. \$90; amazon.com/echoshow5

13. TRIO WIRELESS CHARGING PAD

Satechi

Charge an Apple Watch and up to two phones by laying them on this little station, no cables needed. A solace after Apple's surprise cancellation of its own promised AirPower, this works with both Apple and Android current-model phones that have wireless (Qi) charging. \$120; satechi.net

14. CAPSULE II

Nebula

This all-in-one portable projector is roughly the size of a soda can, but it projects an impressive 720p, 200-ANSI-lumens video up to the size of a 100-inch TV—all with decent sound and as much as 3 hours of battery power for movie night. \$580; seenebula.com

15. WITHINGS SLEEP

Withings

Slip this slim mat under your mattress at chest level, and it will track the quality and duration of your REM and non-REM sleep cycles. This recently updated version can even help recognize signs of troubled breathing and sleep apnea. \$100; withings.com/sleep

16. EVE ENERGY STRIP

Eve Systems

The three surge-protected outlets can be individually controlled by Siri or app, which graphs appliance power consumption and can shut down notorious power vampires such as TVs in standby mode. \$100; evehome.com



value for a high-resolution (4K) smart TV, with new and improved HDR (high dynamic range) that makes darks darker and brights brighter at the same time, though it lacks some higher-end features, such as HDMI 2.1 and expanded color gamut. \$300; vizio.com/v-series

19. ONE LINK SAFE & SOUND SMART SMOKE + CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM AND SPEAKER WITH AMAZON ALEXA

First Alert
This hardwired, voice-controlled photoelectric smoke and electrochemical carbon monoxide detector doubles as an Alexa Wi-Fi smart speaker—so you can tell it to shut off if there's a false alarm. It also serves as a custom-color night-light. \$250; firstalert.com/product/safe-sound

20. THE POD
Eight Sleep

Eight Sleep's new smart mattress can adjust and track temperature through the night, even cooling to wake you without an alarm clock. Works with smart home systems including Google Home and Amazon Echo for voice control of bedroom settings. Queen, \$2,195 (includes one-year 8PLUS membership); eightsleep.com/eight-pod-sleep-cool

17. CANDLE COLOR LIFX

This bulb has an incredible 27 color LEDs inside, compared with the usual three in other color bulbs, for fine-tuning whites from high-noon bright to twilight golden with subtle flecks of color accent that suit the setting. It doesn't all have to be tasteful, though. Lovers of lava lamps can turn the bulb into a tie-dye show via any smart home hub. \$45; lifx.com

18. V436-G1 4K HDR SMART TV

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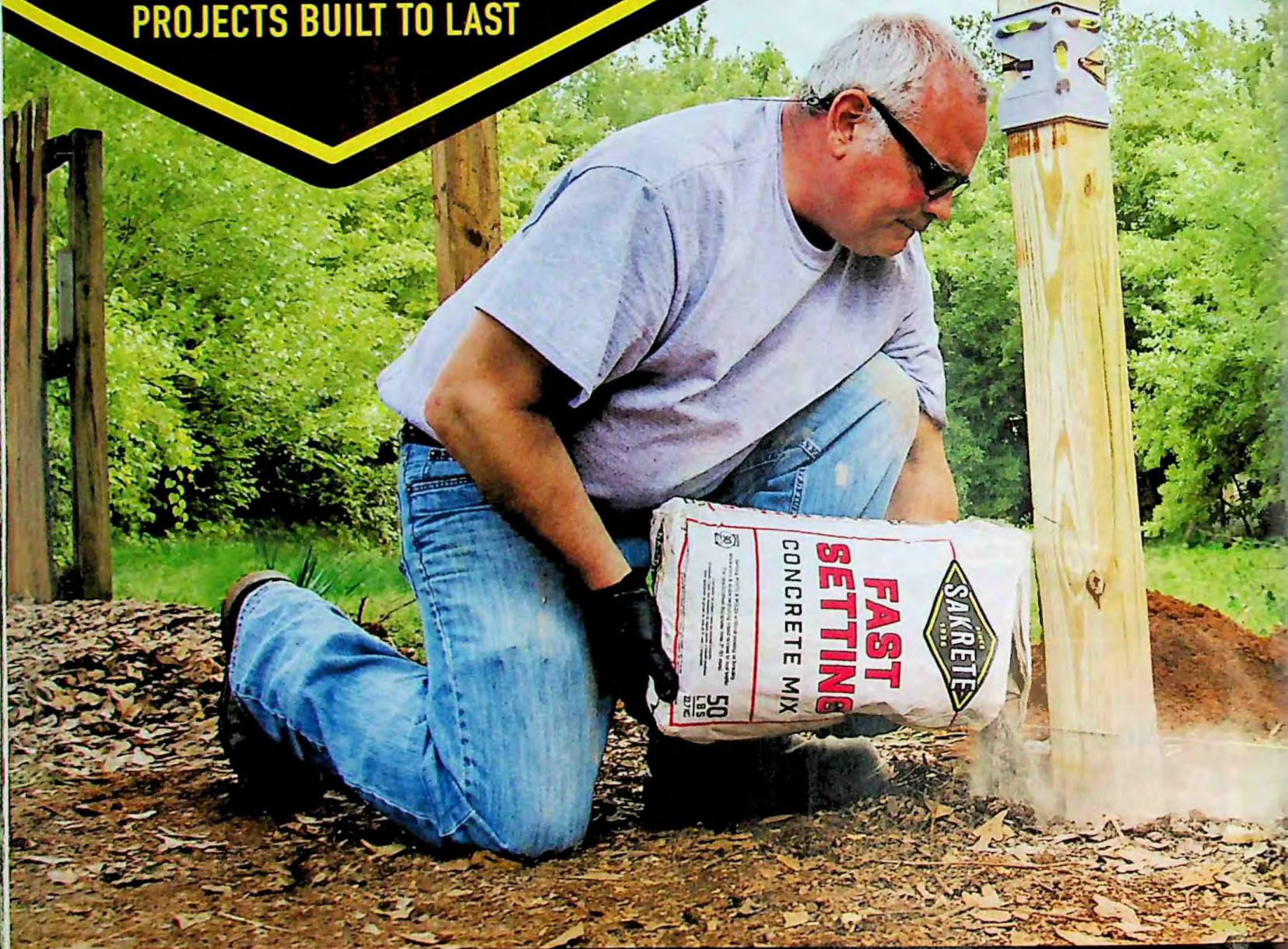
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TOH 2019 IDEA HOUSE PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT >>

How to Enhance Your Outdoor Kitchen with Stone Veneer

Stone veneer can lend unique style to a number of residential projects. At the **TOH 2019 Idea House**, here's how we used high-performance **Sakrete® Stone Veneer Mortar Mix** to complete a gorgeous outdoor kitchen.

1. Install the cornerstones

Stone-veneer projects start at the corners and go from the bottom up. Evenly spread a half-inch-thick layer of **Stone Veneer Mortar Mix** on the back of a corner piece, leaving a small space in the center of the mortar to ensure complete adhesion with no air gaps. Press the veneer stone firmly into place with a twisting motion. The polymers in this mix bond quickly to the substrate and minimize sag—you should only need to hold the stone in place briefly.

2. Fill in between corners

After a few corner pieces are stacked in two opposite corners, lay the flat-backed pieces between them. Trowel a half-inch-thick layer of the mortar mix on the back of each piece, then wiggle it into place, tight to its neighbors. Now add more corners, and fill in between them, until you reach the top. As you go, take care to stagger the vertical joints between courses, remove excess mortar, and keep the faces clean. When the mortar becomes firm, scrub all the stones with a stiff bristle brush.

The information provided here should be used in conjunction with local building code requirements.



This striking kitchen island is set to become the center of outdoor entertaining.

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As featured in

**The Old
House
Idea House**
— New Canaan, CT —
2019

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ask This Old House ▶



The broken panes in my old wood windows need replacing, but the caulk is rock hard and stuck solid to the sash. Any helpful hints?

—WAYNE EDSFORTH, GREENWICH, NY

TOH GENERAL CONTRACTOR

TOM SILVA REPLIES: That caulk, called glazing putty, has long been used by wood-window-makers and restorers to seal glass to the sash. When putty is fresh, it's soft and easy to tool, but after 30 or 40 years it gets brittle and crumbly and no longer provides an effective barrier against water and air.

Removing old putty is the most time-consuming part of any window re-glazing project; it has to be done carefully to avoid damaging the sash or your health. Old putties may contain asbestos or be covered with lead paint, so be sure to wear safety glasses and a dual-cartridge, NIOSH-approved P100 respirator, and to use a vacuum with a HEPA filter.

If you can't cut away the putty with a utility knife, try softening it with an infrared heater or heat gun fitted with a

Tom Silva re-glazes this basement window with a tube of latex putty. The tube's square-tipped nozzle simplifies the tooling process.

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

shielded nozzle, then scrape it off with a putty knife. Protect the other panes from the heat with doubled sheets of aluminum foil.

But if your windows have a cement-based putty from the 1920s and '30s, which is impervious to heat, shave it off using multiple passes with an old "beater" chisel. Clear the glass first, then turn the edge of the blade upright and shave the remaining putty off the sash.

The next steps are the same for any window. Pry out the metal glazier's points, lift out the broken glass, and clean out the old putty in the sash's rabbets. Once they're sanded smooth, and coated with shellac or an oil-based primer, the fun part begins—applying the putty. But which one?

Traditional oil-based glazing putties that come in containers are easily tooled with a putty knife, but they generally require a two-week wait before painting, and are prone to mildew in humid climates. Austin's Glazier's Putty (craftsmanblog.com) tools like a traditional putty, but has high mildew resistance and can be painted in three days. Acrylic putties like Aqua-Glaze (savogran.com) are paintable in an hour, but are stickier and more difficult to work with than old-fashioned types.

Glazing putties also come in caulk tubes, like the one I'm using here. Their square-tipped nozzles help shape the putty as it comes out, but their sticky, water-based formulas make tooling somewhat difficult. I've had good luck with Glaze-Ease 601 (advancedrepair.com), a durable acrylic-in-a-tube that you can paint in just 24 hours.

Whichever putty you use, first lay some into the rabbets, then bed the new pane and add glazing points. Finish the job with a smooth, sloped putty line around the pane's outside edge.

SEE HOW IT'S DONE

Follow Tom's re-glazing techniques, step by step, at thisoldhouse.com/re-glaze

Pro Tip



Putty pointer

When tooling putty on the outside of a window, line up the edge of the putty on the glass with the edge of the rabbet on the sash's interior. No putty should be visible from inside.



Baseboard heat to radiant

My wife and I have a home with two-zone, hot-water baseboard heating and a new gas-fired boiler. We plan to replace all the carpeting with hard-surface flooring. Is it practical to convert from baseboard to in-floor radiant heat? If so, can the conversion be done in stages?

—LARRY EMMERLING, CLIO, MI

TOH PLUMBING AND HEATING EXPERT RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES:

Yes, you can change a hot-water baseboard heating system to in-floor radiant. It will definitely be worthwhile because radiant is the most comfortable and efficient way of keeping a house warm. And yes, the work can be done in stages to help with cash flow.

First thing, before you remove the

Richard Trethewey screws aluminum Joist Traks (uponor-usa.com) to the underside of a subfloor. He'll then come back and clip PEX tubing into the plates and stuff the joist bay full of insulation.

carpeting and baseboard radiators, find a plumbing and heating contractor who is familiar with this kind of heating. This is not a DIY project.

Then decide where to locate the loops of PEX tubing that are the heart of modern radiant systems. They can sit on top of the subfloor, secured to grooved panels, or on the underside of the subfloor, fitted to metal plates.

Each approach has its pluses and minuses. The panels are easy to install, and put the tubing above the subfloor, where the heat is most needed. However, they add from 1/2 to 13/16 inch to the height of the floor. And with the

**DIY
SMARTS**

Letting a ceiling fixture hang by its wires, even briefly, isn't good practice. Master electrician Heath Eastman makes sure to support the fixture until it's installed.



How to get power to a ceiling fixture

There aren't any ceiling fixtures in our living room or bedrooms, just wall switches to operate outlets for floor lamps. Can we run wire for ceiling fixtures, and rewire the switches? —DAVID KREISER, TEMPLE, PA

HEATH EASTMAN REPLIES: Fortunately, it's not that difficult to run 14-3 cable to a new ceiling outlet. But the time it takes—and the repair work after the fixture is hung—will vary, depending on what's above the ceiling.

If there's an attic above, running the new cable will be a piece of cake. But if the ceiling can only be accessed from below, you'll have to do some detective work with a bent wire to find out what's above the fixture location (see tip, right). Should your wire contact a joist, that's your cue to get a thin pancake box, and to cut carefully so you don't harm the framing. And if the wire spins freely, then you'll need an expandable brace to support a full-size 4-inch outlet box.

Turn off the power and pull out the switch box. Cut through the ceiling at the fixture location with a 4-inch hole saw, and take a peek at the framing. If you're lucky, your ceiling is attached to 1×3 strapping that sits under and at right angles to the joists. Strapping creates a gap under the joists for the cable to run. Now cut another 4-inch hole in the ceiling by the wall with the switch. Fish the cable from the fixture hole to that hole, then feed the cable down to the switch and pull it a couple of feet into the room.

If your ceiling is fastened directly to the joists, and the cable can't reach the switch via a joist bay, hole-saw an opening beneath each joist that's in the cable's way. Position the holes so both sides of the joist are visible, then drill an angled ¾-inch hole up through the joist. Keep the holes at least 2 inches away from the joists' bottom edges—anything closer will undermine their integrity. Feed the cable through all the holes.

With the cable in place, hire a licensed electrician to hang the fixture and rewire the switches and outlets. To fix the ceiling, reattach the hole-saw plugs and spackle the seams.

Master electrician Heath Eastman has assisted with a number of This Old House and Ask This Old House projects.

BRIDGEMONT TO YOU BY



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

Pro Tip



Simple tool to inspect joist bays

Take a stiff piece of wire about a foot long. Bend the ends 90 degrees in the same direction 2½ inches from each end. Now insert the wire through a small hole in the ceiling and twirl it to see if the top leg collides with anything. The bottom leg will indicate where the collision is occurring.

additional thickness of flooring on top, that extra height can be an issue, particularly at doorways and stairways.

Doors can be trimmed fairly easily, but stairs are more of a challenge. The building code specifies that stair-tread height can't vary more than ¾ of an inch; otherwise, it poses a dangerous tripping hazard. About the only way to get around this problem is to take apart the stairway and raise the treads. (Well, it's not the *only* way; on one TV project, Tom cut out the subfloor and rebuilt it so the panels would sit flush with the tops of the joists.)

Installing metal plates under the subfloor avoids having to rebuild the stairs or trim the bottoms of doors, but the heat will have an extra layer of material to go through before it reaches the flooring above. That's why the joist bays have to be stuffed full of insulation: to ensure that the heat will head in the right direction—up. But you can't use plates without access to the underside of the subfloor, so they aren't a practical option for retrofitting second and third floors, or slab-on-grade construction.

Your boiler will also need some upgrades. Baseboard radiators use water heated to about 180 degrees F, but radiant floors operate in a range from 85 to 125 degrees. Anything hotter can permanently damage hardwood flooring. Adding a mixing valve, like the Hydronic Mixing Block (viaga.us), to each zone will keep the water temperature in bounds.

And if your boiler doesn't already have an outdoor reset control, ask your contractor to install one of those, too. Radiant floors don't respond quickly to temperature changes, but when there's a reset control adjusting the boiler's heat output based on changes in outdoor temperatures, the floor can "anticipate" the need for more heat and slowly warm itself up. This control will go a long way to helping your system operate at maximum efficiency and deliver maximum comfort.

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After sanding out the damaged floor finish, Nathan Gilbert protects the wood with a water-based polyurethane.

Spot floor refinishing

There are a couple of 2- to 4-square-foot areas in my kitchen where the polyurethane finish is wearing through to the oak flooring. The rest of the floor is fine. Can I just refinish these small areas?

—BRETT ROBICHAUD, HILLSBORO, OR

TOH CARPENTER NATHAN GILBERT

REPLIES: If the floors were stained before the finish was applied, consider hiring a wood-floor refinishing pro with proven color-matching skills to find just the right hue. But if the exposed wood is unstained and in good shape, this should be a straightforward repair that you can do yourself.

STEP 1: Mask off the undamaged flooring. Place the tape alongside the seams and ends of all the strips that need to be finished. Press the tape edges down firmly to prevent any

finish from bleeding underneath.

STEP 2: Sand the wood. Start with 150-grit sandpaper and sand the oak until it regains its original bright color. Also sand the intact finish next to the worn areas a few inches beyond the exposed wood.

Stop sanding as soon as the oak's color comes back; oversanding can create a dip in the floor.

A small random-orbit sander like the 3½-inch Rotex 90 (festoolusa.com) will make fast work of this step. But you'll also need a sanding block to get into corners that the sander can't reach. When hand-sanding, always work in the direction of the grain.

STEP 3: Switch to finer grits. Lightly sand the same area with 180-grit sandpaper, and go a few inches farther onto the finish. For the next sanding, use 220-grit sandpaper, but this time sand only by hand. Go over

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the entire area, right up to the edge of the tape. The wood should be smooth and the remaining finish should have a feather edge.

STEP 4: Get rid of the dust. Vacuum the area, and clear any sawdust from between the flooring strips. Remove the last bit of sanding residue with a tack cloth.

STEP 5: Apply the finish. Using a synthetic-bristle brush, apply the finish in the middle of the bare areas and work outward, spreading an even coat over the entire prepped area.

I assume you'll be using a water-based floor finish, which is milky when wet but dries crystal clear. If you're not sure what sheen to use—matte, satin, semigloss, or gloss—start with semigloss, which resists wear better than satin or matte. If need be, you can alter the sheen of the last coat to match the rest of your floor.

Apply the second coat when the first one is hard and dry, in about 2 hours; no sanding needed. But if you wait longer than 24 hours, sand the finish lightly with 220-grit paper and tack off the dust before brushing on the third coat. Lightly hand-sand that coat with 220-grit sandpaper, then apply the fourth and final coat. Let it cure for 24 hours.

If you think the last coat is still too glossy, rub it lightly with a white abrasive pad to dull its sheen.

STEP 6: Remove the tape. The finish will be able to withstand light foot traffic by that time. It will be fully cured in three days.

Screw-driving skills

On TV, I watch Tom Silva drive in screws with power drills, and he never seems to strip the screwhead. I'm not so lucky. Can you educate me on the correct way to do this?

—ED HAWK, SOLON, OH

TOM SILVA REPLIES: It's not about luck, but just following some common-sense rules.

• **Make sure the bit isn't worn.** A

WATCH ONLINE

See how Nathan fixes a scorched floor finish at thisoldhouse.com/spot-repair



What is it?

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 58

- A Portable boot scraper
- B Miter-saw outfeed support
- C Masking-tape bin
- D Table saw stop block

Pro Tip



Screw-saver

When using a drill/driver, one way to prevent stripped screwheads is to dial the tool's clutch to a lower number, which reduces the amount of torque it can apply.

defective bit won't get a good grip on the screwhead.

• **Drill pilot holes first.** They significantly reduce the effort required to turn a screw. And if you're using a cordless tool, they'll help extend the working time of your battery.

• **Make sure the bit is fully engaged.** Before pulling the drill's trigger, press down firmly and make sure the bit is aligned with the screw's long axis. Misalignment is a big cause of stripped screwheads. Maintain the pressure on the screw as you drive it in.

• **Stop before the head is seated.** Then give the trigger a couple of quick pulls to gently send the screw home. A screw that abruptly stops turning while the bit's going full tilt is sure to lose its recess.

• **Use a different screw.** In my experience, Phillips screws are the most likely to strip. (Yes, I have stripped a few screws in my time, off camera!) Whenever possible, use square-drive and Torx screws instead. They engage so firmly with their respective bits that stripped heads are hardly ever a problem.

Brush cleaning 101

I buy good-quality brushes with the hope that they will last a long time. How do I properly clean them after using latex or oil-based paints?

—GRANT BEAGLES, LEWISVILLE, TX

TOH PAINTER MAURO HENRIQUE REPLIES:

I completely agree with your approach. A high-quality paintbrush is a worthwhile investment because it holds more paint and spreads it more smoothly than a cheap brush will, and it won't leave behind hairs in your fresh coat.

Also, you can use a good brush again and again, but only if you keep the bristles clean and paint out of the ferrule, the metal band at the base of the handle. If paint does get under the ferrule and dries, the brush is ruined; those dry bits will constantly be shedding into the paint.

A good way to keep paint out of the ferrule is to dip the bristles about one-quarter of the way into the paint. Another is to stop and clean the brush whenever you see paint near the ferrule or crusting up on the bristles.

For water-based paints, hold the brush handle up and hold the bristles under a stream of warm (not hot) water. Massage them with your fingers and maybe a little dish soap until the water runs clean, then spin the handle between your hands or with a brush spinner to expel the excess water.

The process is pretty much the same for intermediate cleanings of brushes with oil-based paint, except you'll need to wear nitrile gloves. Dip the bristles in mineral spirits in a glass jar, squeeze the paint out of the bristles and back into the jar, then spin the brush inside a bucket. Pour that solvent back into the jar, too, and screw on the lid tightly.

For these cleanings, you don't have to get the bristles perfectly free of oil-based paint. It takes longer to dry than water-based formulas, giving you time at the end of the day to do a more thorough job. But if you won't be using the brush for a while, toss it in a zippered plastic bag to slow down evaporation.

Completely cleaning a brush of oil-based paint is a multistep process,

What is it?

B Miter-saw outfeed support

The Miter Block's height ranges from 3 inches to 4½ inches, depending on which of its sides it rests on. A removable ¼-inch strip allows the Block's height to be fine-tuned to match the height of most any saw table. \$15; duluthtrading.com



one that should be done while wearing nitrile gloves and a respirator with organic vapor cartridges. A paint comb will also come in handy. Pour clean mineral spirits into two more jars. Swish the brush in the dirty solvent you used earlier, then comb and spin it. Pour the excess from the bucket back into the first jar. Now move to the next jar and repeat the combing and spinning. By the time the brush reach-

WATCH ONLINE

See how Mauro cleans his brushes at thisoldhouse.com/clean-paintbrush

es the last jar and gets one last combing and spinning, it should be clean.

Label the jars 1, 2, and 3, in order of use; screw on their lids and save them for the next cleaning. Follow the same order for subsequent cleanings; reserve a fourth jar for clean solvent.

When the first jar becomes saturated with paint, pour it into a fresh jar, cap it, and wait for the paint to settle. Now pour the contents of Jar 2 into Jar 1, pour Jar 3 into Jar 2, and so on. Then follow the same cleaning steps.

After the paint collects on the bottom of the settling jar, decant the clear solvent into Jar 3. The leftover solids—and the jar—can be tossed in the trash.

This process is complicated, but it guarantees that no solvents end up on the ground or down the drain, where they pose an environmental hazard. It's also a good argument for using easy-to-clean water-based paints whenever possible.

Pro Tip



Brush storage

After a brush is clean, wrap it in its paper-board cover. It will maintain the bristles' shape and keep them dust-free until the next use.



Holding the brush handle up, Mauro Henrique massages water-based paint out of the bristles while running a warm faucet stream over them. Then he'll spin them dry by rubbing the handle vigorously between his palms.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

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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

I need to install a basic wood handrail in a stairway up to the attic. Is there a standard height for such rails, and how many brackets do I need?

—JAMES HUTCHINSON, ST. PAUL, MN

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: By code, the top of a stair railing can be from 34 to 38 inches directly above the nose of a stair tread. Just choose a height in that range that's comfortable for you.

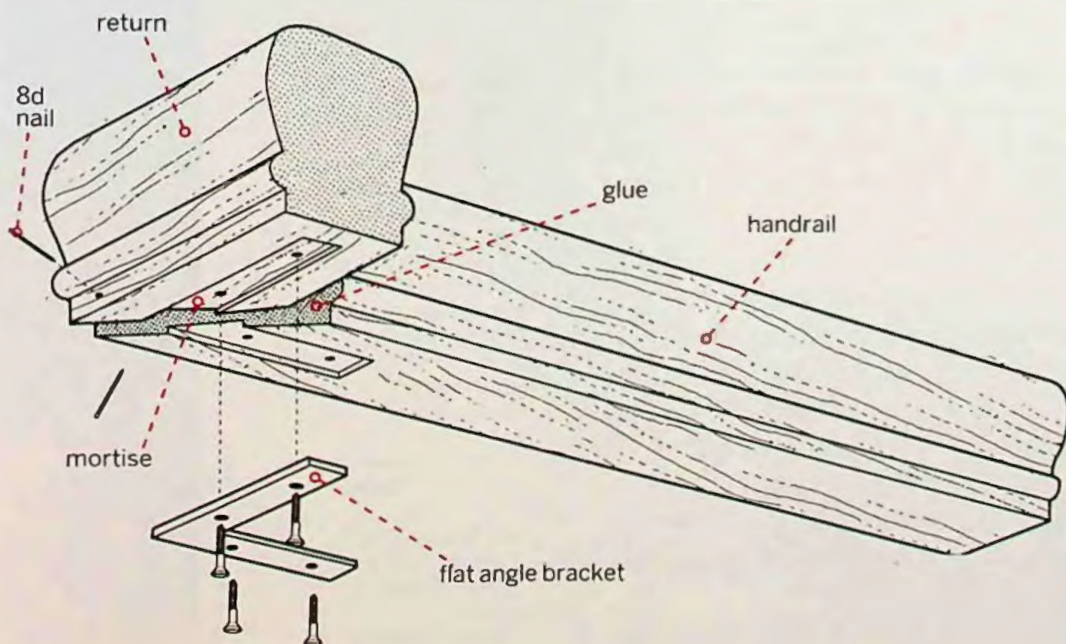
Stair brackets must be screwed to studs or blocking; one bracket on every other stud, or every 32 inches measured horizontally. And they have to project far enough off the wall so there's at least 1½ inches of space between the wall and the rail.

Although it's not a standard code requirement, many local jurisdictions also require returns at both ends of the rail. I do that as a matter of course because I think it looks better, and it keeps things from accidentally catching on the rail ends.

To make the returns, use a miter saw to cut a 45-degree miter in each end of the rail. Trim each offcut to span the distance from the outside of the railing to the wall; use wood glue and nails to mount the offcuts to the mitered ends opposite from where they came. Wipe up any excess glue with a damp rag. For extra strength, chisel mortises for flat, metal angle brackets, and screw them to the underside of the rail, across the joints. When the glue is dry, sand and finish the rail on all sides, then attach it to its mounting brackets. ■

SEE HOW IT'S DONE

To watch the installation of a basic stair handrail, go to thisoldhouse.com/stair-railing



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sleek revival



Welcome to our **2019 Idea House**, a stately circa-1840 home that's been rebuilt and reimagined for modern family life • BY DEBRA JUDGE SILBER



LEFT: On the facade, original features from the historical Greek Revival were retained and restored, including corner pilasters, the large fanlight, and some clapboards and trim.

RIGHT: Step inside, and a dramatic modern interior awaits. New white oak flooring laid in a herringbone pattern lines the foyer, then transitions to a traditional straight pattern in the updated dining room.

Vintage houses draw us in with their detailed facades, gracious proportions, and period charm. But let's be honest: Once inside, we want light and bright living areas with large windows, kitchens with room to gather, bedrooms with big closets, and, ideally, a bath for each member of the family. While we're at it, we want every modern convenience, too, including mechanical systems that keep us comfortable and, when possible, technology that anticipates our needs. Our 2019 Idea House in New Canaan, Connecticut, does all this and more, while preserving a piece of local history.

By the time developer Arnold Karp took on the project, the Greek Revival house was in need of some serious TLC. With only parts of the 1840s facade and northwest corner salvageable, the rest—much of it haphazardly added in the 1960s and early 2000s—was ripe for reinvention. So, with the town's blessing, Karp and his team restored and rebuilt the original house's classical facade (above, on the left), as well as a street-facing addition (on the right). Then they redesigned the rest, adding contemporary design elements and the kind of spaces today's families crave: an open-plan kitchen/living/family room with a

THESE PAGES

ENGINEERED WOOD SIDING:
LP SmartSide
HOUSE NUMBER, WINDOW
HARDWARE: House of
Antique Hardware
COMPOSITE SHUTTERS:
Aeratis Porch Products
NEW WINDOWS, DOORS:
Sierra Pacific Windows
PAVERS: Unilock
FLOORING, INTERIOR TRIM:
Baird Brothers
Fine Hardwoods
DINING ROOM AND
ENTRY FURNISHINGS:
Stickley Audi & Co.
SCULPTURES:
Dick Shanley
WINDOW SHADES:
J Geiger Shading
CHANDELIER:
Clarkson Lighting

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NAT REA • PRODUCED BY CLAUDIA JEPSEN AND JEN FABRY



Motorized window shades set the mood at the touch of a button.

Visible knots and graining give new white oak floors character.



separate “working kitchen” to keep messes out of sight; outdoor space for dining and entertaining; a second-floor laundry room; and a full-service side entry with a mudroom and a second powder room. Every bedroom has generous closet space and an en suite bath. The master suite, which opens onto a private deck, is outfitted with dual walk-in closets as well as a spacious bath that has both a steam shower and a freestanding soaking tub. Throughout, white oak floors and doors warm up the interior, while steel-cable stair railings, vaulted ceilings, skylights, and two-sided gas fireplaces add wow-factor modern style.

It all goes to show that a house can live happily in more than one time period. “An old house can look and feel modern,” says *TOH* host Kevin O’Connor. “The outside can convey a sense of history, while the inside can be fresh and updated for the way we live our lives today. Mixing the two is a great way to preserve, and even honor, our historical homes.”

It can also inspire. Up ahead, find ideas you can take away from this house’s 21st-century reinvention.





Twice the kitchen

1. Designed to be seen, the open kitchen presents a stylish and uncluttered face to the adjacent living area. A structural beam clad in wood salvaged from the house's original framing defines the space and complements the warm white oak flooring and cabinetry. Flanking the sink, refrigerator and freezer columns hide behind door panels that extend above the units to line up with the top of the windows and the underside of the soffit for a clean architectural line. The island top is an engineered quartz that looks like marble but is stain resistant.
2. The breakfast nook's casement windows look out onto the side entry porch, allowing for a good-bye wave to kids heading off to school. USB-equipped outlets built into the banquette keep phones powered up.
3. In the adjacent "working kitchen," Shaker-style cabinets provide a mix of hidden and open storage with tall pull-out pantries and glass-front cabinets on one side and floating shelves above a U-shaped work station on the other—ideal for staging a party or a smaller gathering in the dining room.
4. A handy step stool in front of the sink folds up into a slim vertical pullout that slides into a sliver of cabinet space. Toekick, under-shelf, and interior-drawer lighting brightens every nook and cranny (no more fumbling for that fry pan).
5. Eco-conscious families will love the built-in dispenser that serves up chilled, filtered water—and its digital readout that tallies how many plastic bottles they've kept from the landfill.

THESE PAGES

WINDOWS: Sierra Pacific Windows
 FLOORING: INTERIOR DOORS: Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods
 KITCHEN CABINETRY, BANQUETTE, OPEN SHELVES: New England Cabinet Company
 PENDANT AND FLUSH-MOUNT LIGHTS: Circa Lighting
 APPLIANCES: Clarke: Official Sub-Zero/Wolf/Cove Showroom
 BUILT-IN WATER DISPENSER: Elkay
 COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH SLAB: Aurea Stone by Everest Marble
 UNDERCABINET AND TOEKICK LIGHTING: Häfele
 PULL-OUT STOOL: Hideaway Solutions
 CABINET COLOR: Farrow and Ball's Railings No. 31
 FAUCETS: ROHL
 GLASS VASES: Vetro Vero
 ROOM STYLING: Iconic Modern Home



6

Free-flowing function

6. A two-sided gas fireplace separates—and connects—the family room with the adjacent game room. The partition wall gets its velvety texture from hand-applied Venetian plaster tinted a warm gray. Glimpsed beyond the game room's glass Ping-Pong table are pocket doors leading to the home office.

7. When a home office's walls, ceiling, and trimwork all share the same rich hue, the effect is cozy and comforting, even when there's work to do. French doors beckon outdoors, to the front porch, when the weather's fine.

8. The formal entry's herringbone floor points past the front staircase toward the living area and its built-in bar. The stairs, which rise from the walk-out basement to the third floor, are crowned with a bank of skylights that ushers in light. Cable railings, repeated in a floating wine rack, preserve sight lines and help define the home's contemporary style.



7

Recessed LED fixtures are much less obtrusive than standard can lights.

EXPLORE MORE IN VIDEO

Take a 3-D virtual tour of the 2019 Idea House and do a walk-through with the builder—inside and out—at thisoldhouse.com/video-tours

THESE PAGES

FLOORING, INTERIOR DOORS: Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods
 INTERIOR DOOR HARDWARE: Accurate Lock & Hardware
 FLOOR FINISHING: Bona
 FIREPLACE: Town & Country Luxury Fireplaces
 VENETIAN PLASTER: Sandy MacDonald
 PING-PONG TABLE: Blatt Billiards
 RUGS: Lillian August
 LIGHTING: Circa Lighting
 WINE STORAGE: Cable Wine Systems
 WINDOWS, FRENCH DOORS: Sierra Pacific Windows
 OFFICE PAINT: Benjamin Moore's Abyss
 BRONZE SCULPTURES: Dick Shanley
 ROOM STYLING: Iconic Modern Home



9



10

Sleek steel-cable deck railings offer unobstructed views.



11

Indoor-outdoor living

9. The family room opens onto a raised deck that hosts an outdoor kitchen and dining table for meals alfresco. Durable, easy-care PVC deck boards are slip resistant for safety in all kinds of weather. The deck is located off the connector that joins the main house to the garage in back. Its gunmetal-gray, board-and-batten siding distinguishes it from the classic white clapboard of the garage and street-facing portion of the house.

10. At one end of the deck, a vertical gas fire feature with an oversize porcelain-tile surround invites family and friends to come out and relax awhile, even when there's a nip in the air. Steel-cable deck railings carry the interior's contemporary look outside, echoing the stair railings. Below the deck, a sheltered patio hosts a hangout area with access to the yard, furnished with an indoor/outdoor pool table.

11. The second floor presents another opportunity to step outside and enjoy the view from a deck just off the master bedroom. Two sets of French doors open onto the private outdoor seating area, where the two-sided, sealed gas fireplace (the vent box can be seen above the opening) is set off by a manufactured-stone-veneer accent wall.

THIS PAGE

ENGINEERED
WOOD SIDING:
LP SmartSide
WINDOWS, FRENCH
DOORS: Sierra
Pacific Windows
PVC DECKING: Aeratis
Porch Products
FIREPLACES:
Town & Country
Luxury Fireplaces
VERTICAL FIREPLACE
WALL TILE: Porcelanosa
TABLE SETTINGS: Juliska
DINING DECK SCONCES:
Clarkson Lighting
MASTER SUITE
DECK SCONCES:
Circa Lighting
OUTDOOR FURNITURE:
Stickley Audi & Co.
MANUFACTURED
STONE VENEER:
Eldorado Stone
STONE VENEER MORTAR:
Sakrete



Casual connection

12. On the opposite side of the house from the outdoor dining deck, and steps from the driveway, is the everyday entry. The welcoming side porch offers a handy spot to rest grocery bags en route to the kitchen, as well as a sheltered place to pause outside the mudroom in wet weather. Kids ready to start their homework can follow stairs from the mudroom directly up to a row of convertible desks under wide windows, or drop the day's dirty clothes in the second-floor laundry room. The exterior's gray color and metal roof signal a more casual, family-friendly part of the house. The vinyl composite doors on the adjacent garage are designed in three sections, accommodating taller windows than typical four-section doors.

13. A dog wash inside the mudroom door provides a place to rinse off muddy paws as well as soiled sneakers and snowy boots. A lighthearted message in the penny-round tiles speaks to both two- and four-legged visitors. An electric heat mat keeps the large-format floor tile toasty and the house clean by encouraging a shoes-off policy.

14. Kids won't need to elbow each other out of the way to wash hands at the informal powder room's two-tap cast-iron trough sink just off the mudroom. Bold graffiti-look tile livens up the sink wall in the small space.

THIS PAGE

ENGINEERED WOOD SIDING:

LP SmartSide

WINDOWS, DOORS:

Sierra Pacific Windows

SKYLIGHTS: VELUX

EXTERIOR PAINT:

Benjamin Moore's

Gunmetal

LANDSCAPING:

Ascape Landscape &

Construction Corp.

PAVERS: Unilock

PAVER JOINTING MORTAR:

Joint-It Simple

GARAGE DOORS:

Fimbel Architectural Door

BATH LIGHTING:

Clarkson Lighting

MUDROOM AND POWDER

ROOM TILE: Merola Tile

MUDROOM FLOOR WARMING:

DITRA-HEAT by

Schluter-Systems

SHOWER FITTINGS: ROHL

DOUBLE SINK AND FAUCETS:

Kohler from Bender

BATH MIRRORS: Porcelanosa



16



Heat-resistant porcelain slabs look like marble but won't crack, chip, or stain.

15



17



It's a suite life

15. In the master bedroom, large art niches in the ebony-stained-wood feature wall behind the bed are fitted with recessed LED lights to highlight the paintings hung there.

16. On the wall that holds the indoor/outdoor fireplace, 4-by-8-foot porcelain slabs create a durable marble-look surround. With wiring already run inside the fireplace wall, and a venting system that diverts heat outdoors, the artwork seen here could be replaced with a flat-panel TV. Blackout shades on the French doors leading to the balcony encourage sleep-in mornings.

17. Dual closets flank the passageway between the master bedroom and the master bath; a thoughtful mix of drawers, shelves, and hanging space provides room for every wardrobe item. LED-lit shelves and rods make it easy to find that elusive shirt, and a retractable valet rod puts it front and center. Especially useful is the sun tunnel, which ushers daylight into this windowless space, enabling you to discern a fabric's true color.

THIS PAGE

MASTER BEDROOM FURNISHINGS: Stickley Audi & Co. WOOD ACCENT WALL: Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods INDOOR/OUTDOOR FIREPLACE: Town & Country Luxury Fireplaces FIREPLACE TILE: Nemo Tile + Stone WINDOW SHADES: J Geiger Shading CLOSET SYSTEM: Closet & Storage Concepts CLOSET LIGHTING AND HARDWARE: Häfele SUN TUNNEL SKYLIGHT: VELUX



Oversize hex tiles are a stylish update on the traditional mosaic shape.

18



19



20

Space to luxuriate

18. Located at the front of the house, the master bath takes dramatic, airy advantage of the home's architectural windows, with a soaring ceiling that captures daylight from the fanlight, frieze lights, and six-over-six double-hungs, as well as fixed skylights over the tub.

Frosted glass doors on the toilet room and steam shower frame the approach to the focal-point, freestanding soaker, which is made of a limestone-resin mix that retains heat better than acrylic and avoids the weight of cast iron. Large-format porcelain wall tile that has the look of marble is finished with aluminum edge banding around the windows for a sleek finish in keeping with the interior's contemporary style.

19. Whatever relaxes you, you'll find it in this master shower, which offers steam, chromotherapy, and aromatherapy—not to mention a rain shower, handheld wand, and traditional showerhead. The interior is lined with the same porcelain tile used on the bath walls. The floor and bench are heated via an electric floor-warming system; a tiled niche keeps soap and shampoo within reach.

20. Curvaceous vanities on opposite sides of the master bath have the graceful lines of fine furniture, with touch-latch drawers that negate the need for hardware. State-of-the-art mirrors feature LED lighting, defogging technology, and their own sound system, operated by integrated switch or smartphone app.

THIS PAGE

TILE: Merola Tile
LIGHTING: Circa Lighting
SKYLIGHTS: VELUX
SHOWER DOORS: DreamLine
SHOWER WATERPROOFING, WINDOW TRIM, AND FLOOR WARMING: Schluter-Systems
STEAM SHOWER: MrSteam
TUB, VANITY: Victoria + Albert
BATH FAUCET: ROHL

A vaulted ceiling highlights the facade windows and allows for a play loft.



21



22

Room for everyone

21. Following the pitch of the front gable, this kid's room promises adventure at every turn with a tented bed, a climbing wall that leads to a play loft, and a chair swing. The solid white oak door leading to the bath replicates others in the house; the custom design features three same-size square panels bordered by crisp reveals.

22. In the en suite bath, a black variation of the elongated white hex field tile creates a sawtooth pattern on the vanity wall. Playful planter tiles alongside the shower add a jungle-like touch.

23. An accent wall enlivens this guest bedroom with images of sunbathers. The casement windows marry a wood interior with a vinyl frame and aluminum-clad exterior for beauty and durability.

24. Down the hall, in the connector, an upstairs homework/studio space is brightened by a pair of fixed skylights by day, wall lights and desk lamps by night. A row of windows offers views outside. Push a button and the desks go from sitting to standing height.

25. The adjacent upstairs laundry features an extra-large-capacity washer and steam dryer, both Wi-Fi enabled. Quartz slabs provide stain-resistant surfaces for handwashing and folding; hanging space is within easy reach. Black aluminum edging around the windows ties in with the matte-black faucet and sink.



THESE PAGES

MURAL: Sandy MacDonald
 KID'S BED:
 RH Baby and Child
 TILE: Merola Tile
 SHOWER DOOR:
 DreamLine
 CONSOLE SINK:
 Victoria + Albert
 GUEST BEDROOM
 RUG: Lillian August
 WALL COVERING:
 Mitchell Black
 GUEST BEDROOM AND
 STUDY AREA STYLING:
 Iconic Modern Home
 LIGHTING:
 Clarkson Lighting
 CABINETS:
 New England
 Cabinet Company
 WASHER, DRYER:
 LG from County TV
 & Appliance
 WINDOW TRIM:
 Schluter-Systems
 COUNTERTOPS: Dushi
 Marble & Granite
 SKYLIGHTS: VELUX



26

Wraparound interest

26. The south side of the house offers outdoor access on multiple levels, from the sheltered basement billiards patio to the first-floor dining deck and wraparound porch to the upstairs master bedroom balcony.

Moving from front to back, the home's architecture becomes less traditional and more contemporary as clapboard siding transitions to board-and-batten, and white double-hung windows make way for black-framed casement units.

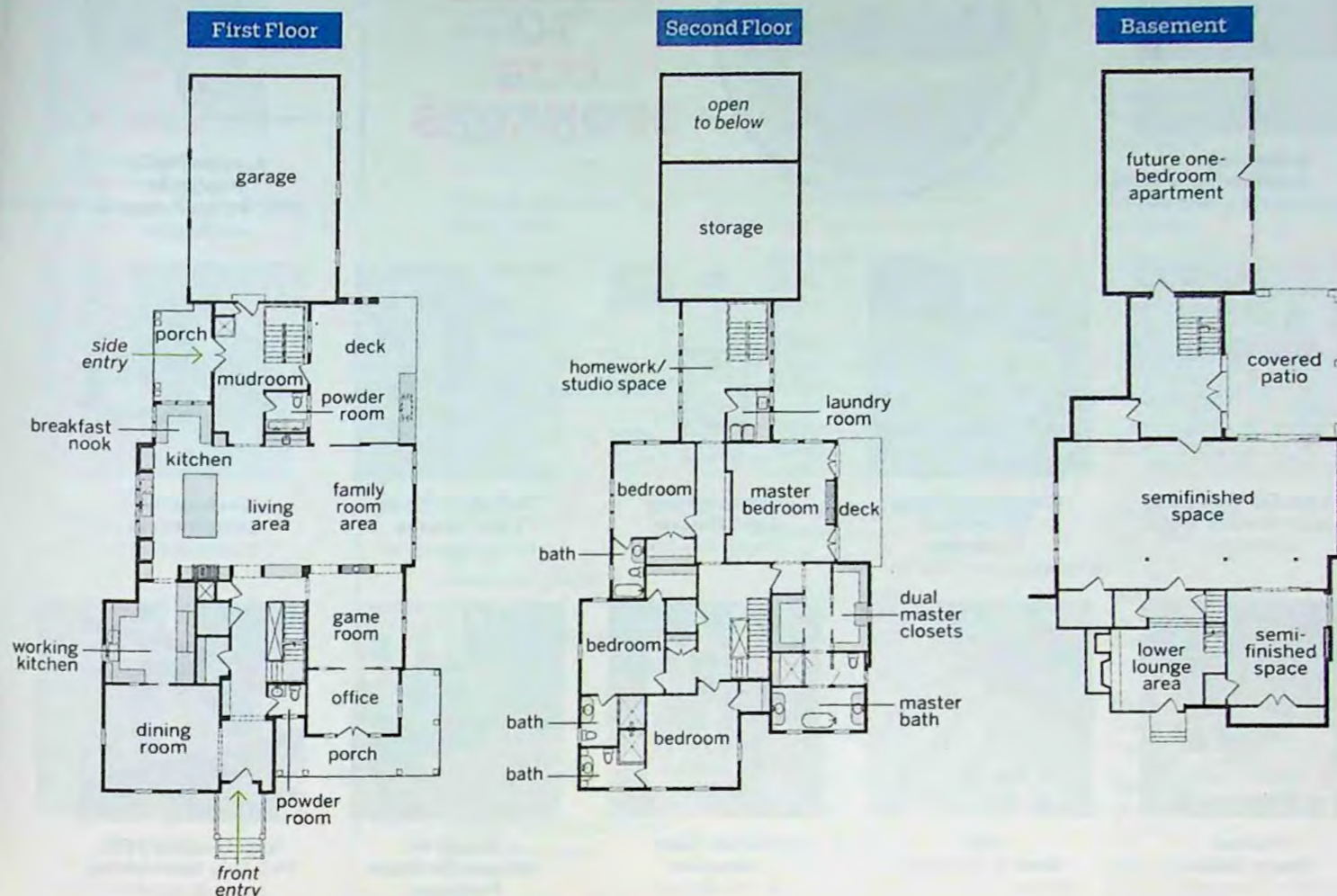
27. The side wing that was added to the circa-1840 house in the 1960s was rebuilt in its original Greek Revival style, its new double-hungs flanked with historically accurate, operable shutters made from a composite that won't warp or split. The stepped-back wing helps retain the look of an antique home added on to over time. Concrete pavers cast from historic molds lead past rectangular planting beds to the wraparound porch, which offers a chance to while away a neighborly hour or two with friends and passers-by.

THIS PAGE

SIDING: LP SmartSide
 ASPHALT ROOFING: GAF
 SKYLIGHTS: VELUX
 WINDOWS: FRENCH
 DOORS: Sierra
 Pacific Windows
 MANUFACTURED STONE
 VENEER: Eldorado Stone
 STONE VENEER MORTAR: Sakrete
 SHUTTERS, PORCH
 FLOORING AND CEILING: Aeratis Porch Products
 PAVERS: Unilock
 MICROCLOVER SOD: Sodco
 ADHESIVES: Gorilla Glue
 FLUE GAS VENTING: IPEX
 AIR MONITORING: Cosmos
 GENERATOR: Champion
 Power Equipment
 WINDOW WELL: The BILCO Company



27



Floor plans

The new house's footprint is about 1,500 square feet less than that of the structure it replaced. All told, it holds 5,450 square feet of living space on three floors, with an additional 2,436 square feet in the semifinished basement, which has a lounge area and room for a gym, a workshop, and a future in-law or au pair suite.

The main entry leads past the dining room, formal powder room, and front staircase to the kitchen/living/family-room area, which accesses a dining deck with an outdoor kitchen. A "working kitchen" connects the open kitchen to the dining room, and a game room bridges the space between the family-room area and the home office. Practical family spaces—a mudroom with a tiled dog shower, an informal powder room, and a three-car garage, with a lift to fit in a fourth vehicle—are located in the back of the house.

The second floor holds a large master suite with dual walk-in closets, a spacious bath, and a private deck, plus three additional bedrooms, each with its own bath. The laundry room is upstairs, too, as well as a homework/studio space located in the back hall. The third floor is designed for sleepovers, with a playroom area, a double-bunk room, and a fifth full bath.



SEE IT ALL!

From the built-in coffee station to the tilework in each bath, explore every inch of TOH's 2019 Idea House—and find a resource guide to every product featured—at thisoldhouse.com/idea-house



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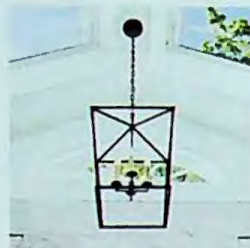
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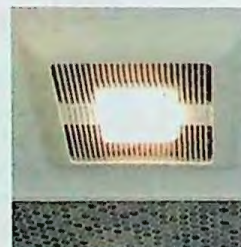
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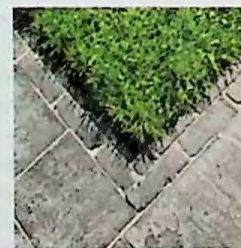
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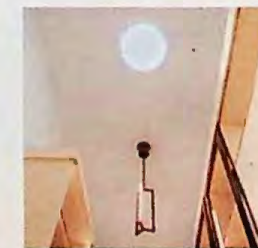
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KARP Associates, Inc.

Jamie Bacco
Project Manager
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New England Cabinet
Company



Adding Up

TOH TV gets to work on a dated 1949 ranch house in Westerly, Rhode Island, growing it into a gambrel-roofed two-story with plenty of room for a young family • **BY JILL CONNORS**

From the very first visit, Shayla Adams saw the possibilities for the one-story ranch house on a quiet cul-de-sac in Westerly, Rhode Island, in part because a majestic oak tree in the yard reminded her of her childhood home. Her husband, Scott, however, needed some convincing. He liked the lot—the 1.7-acre property was much larger than the fifth-of-an-acre that surrounded their home at the time. He also liked the location, just a mile from Misquamicut Beach, which he grew up visiting with family friends in Westerly. But he isn't a fan of ranches. Scott is drawn to iconic shingled New England beach houses, and he had been watching *TOH* home builder Jeff Sweenor's work along the Rhode Island coast for years. So Scott called Jeff for a walk-through and heard some magic

words: structurally sound, ready for a second-floor addition, gambrel roof, shingled, classic New England. Sold!

Jumping into the project with Sweenor's design team, Scott and Shayla's main priority was making more space for their family. With two daughters, Malin, now 6, and Emily, 2, the family had outgrown their small, no-backyard house, also in Westerly, and were looking to the 1949 ranch as a canvas for their dream home. The 1,850-square-foot house's solid structure was a plus, but the warren of rooms covered in floor-to-ceiling knotty pine had to go, as did the massive fireplace that divided the front portion of the house from the back.

"We wanted an open-plan, light-filled main floor," says Shayla. Adding a second story was key to making room for a master suite plus two bedrooms and a shared bath for the girls—with views of the ocean—and would enable the first floor to become the spacious, free-flowing living-kitchen-dining area they envisioned, while fitting in a mudroom entry, home office, and laundry. They decided to leave a 1970s bedroom addition at the north end of the existing house as a one-story structure that, combined with part of an existing bedroom, could be repurposed as a playroom/guest room. The plan also called for a wrap-around deck downstairs, looking out over the yard—and Shayla's tree. Scott wanted all that, plus more. "Swoops were a must!" he says, referencing the flared lines of the houses he admired.

Adding the gambrel roof with large shed dormers would create the needed ceiling height for the rooms on the second floor, says Sweenor Builders architectural designer Lori Foley. But this is no basic suburban Dutch Colonial. Large soffit overhangs, gable build-out details, and those wall "swoops" suggest the gracious shingled homes that dot the region's coastline—and those curves have become something of a Sweenor Builders signature.

Jeff knew he had a good starting point: The house was solidly built, with 1×6 diagonal floor planking as under-



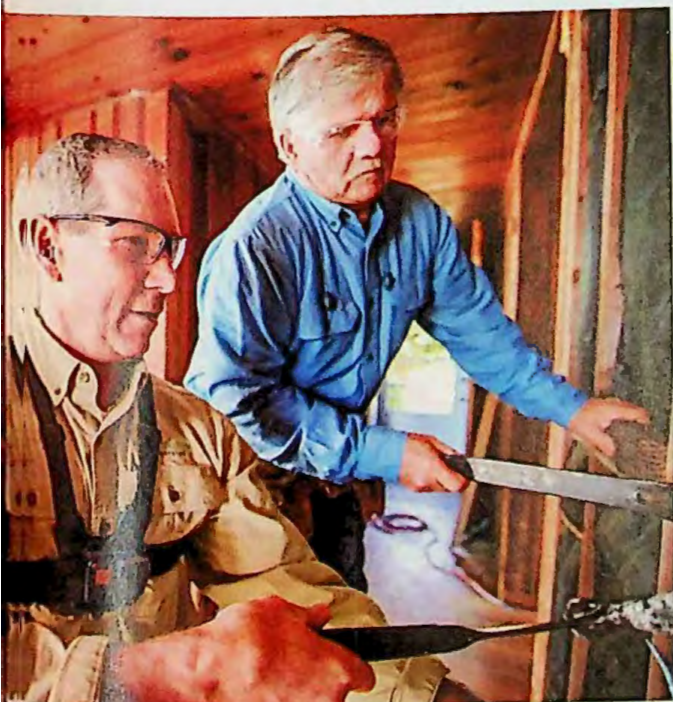
BEFORE

BEFORE: Built in 1949, the ranch-style house was solid structurally, but offered only one floor of living space.

RIGHT: *TOH* home builder Jeff Sweenor gets an assist from *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva as they carefully remove knotty pine from the walls for reuse in a new playroom/guest room in the renovated house.



PHOTOS (TOP) TALIA SWEENOR/SWEENOR BUILDERS INC., (BOTTOM) KEVIN O'CONNOR (2), (OPPOSITE PAGE) KEVIN O'CONNOR



ABOVE: A gambrel roof with large shed dormers gives the renovated house its distinctive new look, while allowing for three bedrooms and two baths on the new second story. The remodeled house stayed within the existing footprint; adding a wraparound deck provides an indoor-outdoor connection the home previously lacked.

LEFT: Homeowners Shayla and Scott Adams discuss landscaping options for their nearly two-acre property with TOH landscape contractor Roger Cook and TOH landscape designer Jenn Nawada.

1] The crew raises the south-facing gambrel end; it was built on the floor deck using sheets of OSB (oriented strand board) and LSL (laminated strand lumber) studs.

2] With the rafter tails in place, Jeff Sweenor marks the location of the roof sheathing.

3] *This Old House* GenerationNEXT apprentices De'Shaun Burnett and Kathryn Fulton (left and center) team up with Sweenor Builders crew member Ryan Dolan at the Westerly project.

4] Jeff and Dolan give the *TOH* apprentices a lesson in installing windows; these open up the new kitchen to the yard.

5] Sweenor Builders project foreman Garrett Kirwin installs the living area's coffered ceiling. With the grid in place, each section is finished with 1x6 tongue-and-groove poplar V-board that will be framed with crown molding.

6] Shingles go up around the new chimney, which also wraps the furnace flue. The manufactured stone veneer, which is lighter and easier to cut than natural stone, is mortared onto cement backer board.





LEFT: A bucket hoists Sweenor Builders crew member Adam Spink up to the south gambrel gable, where he installs the prestained white cedar shingles.

BELOW: The finished house, as seen in this rendering, shows the everyday entry (on the right), which leads to a mudroom off the kitchen, and the formal front door (on the left).

layment and old-growth Douglas fir framing, and it had been left relatively untouched. So his first order of business wasn't correcting structural or foundation work but dealing with demolition of the interior walls, knotty pine paneling, fireplace, and chimney.

"True to the period, the house was filled with knotty pine, which had darkened over the years but was nicely done, and we knew we could reuse it," says Jeff. Some of it will be used in the new playroom, the rest donated to Habitat for Humanity. The crew also carefully salvaged the hand-nailed oak strip flooring for the daughters' bedrooms.

The two-sided fireplace, which divided the original entry from the living room, and its massive brick chimney, however, simply had to come out. Jeff tackled it with TOH mason Mark McCullough at his side. "It was so well built, it took a lot to get it down," Jeff says.

The exterior walls of the original house also needed to come down to create the 9-foot-high ceilings, open layout, and new window and patio door placements that were on the design plan. "You can't just add one foot to the eight-foot-high original exterior walls, because that would create a hinge effect," explains TOH general contractor Tom Silva. To support the weight of the second floor, and accommodate the open layout, Jeff decided to rebuild entirely with engineered lumber, which is extremely strong, straight—and heavy. As a first step, his crew used industrial-size jacks to crank a 40-foot-long, 1,500-pound parallel-strand-lumber engineered beam up 10 feet in the air, and muscled it into place to span the renovated downstairs area.

The iconic gambrel roof that the homeowners wanted led to another barn-raising-type day on the project. "We built the end walls and roof profile as one piece, and pulling all that into position required a lot of manpower," says Jeff, whose help on the Westerly project includes three TOH GenerationNEXT apprentices.

For TOH plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, the renovation early on was all about installing interesting



systems. A 1,000-gallon liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank was installed in a large underground trench, anchored to the earth to prevent any chance of the tank moving if the water table rises; the LPG will provide gas for the kitchen stove and the house's heating. The original cesspool was replaced by a 1,500-gallon septic tank combined with an advanced secondary treatment system that converts nitrogen to gas, which is vented through the roof of the house. "Being this close to a pond and the ocean, we had to step up to a higher level of septic system," says Richard.

With work in full swing, the house's architectural details began to emerge, including the coffered ceiling that will unify the living-dining-kitchen area downstairs. On the exterior, one very important detail got Jeff's full attention: those swoops that Scott Adams was after. In a matter of hours, on a cold spring day, the crew framed them out using 150 machine-milled curved rafter tails around the base of the second-story addition. "That eave detail makes all the difference," Jeff says—and is key to the kind of classic seaside New England home the Adamses are after. 🏠

IN THIS STORY
FRAMING MATERIALS:
Weyerhaeuser
RAFTER TAILS:
Lamco
UNDERLAYMENT:
GCP
RAIN SCREEN:
Mortairvent
BATT INSULATION:
Rockwool
SPRAY-FOAM INSULATION:
Gaco Western
ROOF SHINGLES:
GAF
SHINGLE SIDING:
SBC Cedar
RADIATA PINE EXTERIOR TRIM:
Lifespan
ENGINEERED STONE VENEER:
Eldorado
WINDOWS:
Marvin
COFFERED CEILING, INTERIOR TRIM:
Baird Brothers

THIS PAGE: Soapstone countertops and brush-painted cabinets, including a colonial-blue "armoire" that hides the refrigerator and freezer, give the kitchen a been-there-awhile look.

OPPOSITE: The original house was built with stone from the surrounding fields, likely in the 1840s or '50s, when this area of Pennsylvania was bustling with newcomers.





PERIOD PIECES

The house had a pre-Civil War core, a Depression-era add-on, a 1940s porch, and a three-story addition from the 1970s. It took a growing family—and its visionary matriarch—to turn it into a cohesive whole.

By Deborah Baldwin | Photographs by Gridley + Graves
Produced by Nicole Esposito-Polly | Styling by Frances Bailey

FEW THINGS ARE AS GREAT as getting your home's particulars just the way you want them: the marble slab at the right height for rolling out pie dough, a dimmer control that correctly calibrates the lighting, a barstool that's not just cool but comfy.

But it's not everyone who conjures a wish list like Joan Riddle's.

"You saw the sinks: We struggled with them. That's Joan," says her longtime general contractor and major fan, Mark Hoopes. Those sinks would be the two cast-iron wall hangers in the master bath. Except she didn't want them to hang, but to sit. "She gets these quirky ideas, but then she does her research and makes it happen," Hoopes continues, "and that's why it's so much fun to work with her."

Attention to detail and some fun are what friends and associates have



come to expect from Joan, who shares her sprawling house in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, with a menagerie of pets and an accommodating husband, Tim. The household also includes offspring, Kate and Joe, now grown but often around. In fact, the latest installation, a basement pub, was Joe's idea.

But let's back up.

Joe was born the year after the couple moved into the four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath house and began tinkering. As the years went by, their sights shifted among the house and the grounds and the outbuildings, which include a stone barn. You've heard of slow food? Think slow reno.

The couple had inherited a crazy quilt of old and new. While the township started keeping records only in 1996, the stone walls in one section of the

ABOVE: The kitchen island holds all kinds of surprises, like a pull-out ironing board to touch up table linens and a cabinet on the fridge side with a press-latch opening where the kids used to hide their toys and Halloween candy. Custom cabinets: Timeless Kitchen Cabinetry. Refrigerator and freezer: Sub-Zero

RIGHT: The butler's pantry has salvaged pine flooring, period-style windows and built-ins, and a stained-oak countertop. Cabinet paint: Sherwin-Williams's Bone White



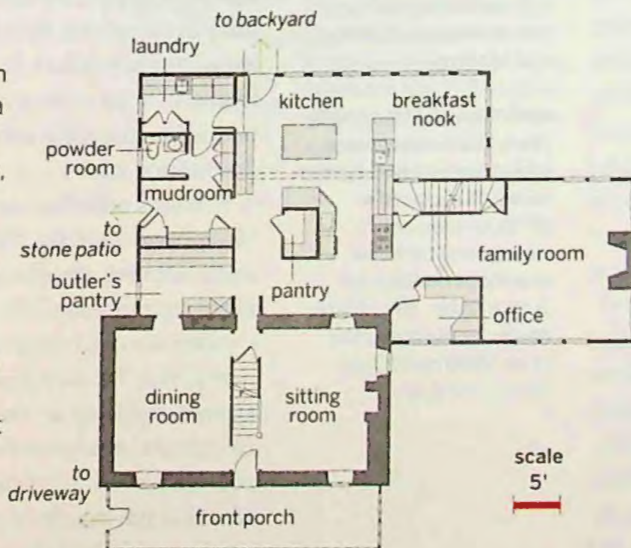


LEFT: Rustic stone walls—exposed during the renovation—reinforce the history of the house. The kitchen addition was designed in the same spirit, with salvaged heart-pine floorboards and details like the cabinets' rat-tail hinges.

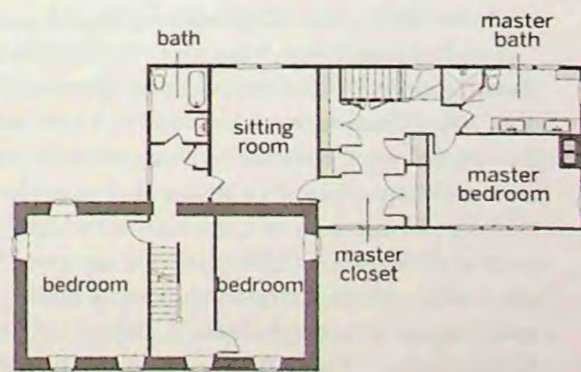
ABOVE: Homeowner Joan Riddle climbs stone steps she and husband, Tim, added, along with a patio, to one side of the porch.
Exterior paint: Sherwin-Williams's Superwhite

FLOOR PLANS

ne-story rear addition from 1930s was replaced with a er one that holds the new hen, pantry, powder room, droom, and laundry. This led 481 square feet to the 94 on the first and second rs. A dining space was orked as an office area, upstairs, the master bath a tub and gained a large ver. On the third floor (not wn), a bath was rebuilt, a playroom in the ement (not shown) was erted into a pub.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

scale
5'



Riddle house probably date to the 1840s, when the house would have been two rooms over two, with attic living space and a below-ground kitchen, according to a 1980 document prepared for a state historical commission. Jim Helms, a neighbor who serves on the local historical commission, speculates that the stone walls may have been built by masons who arrived with an influx of Lutherans in the 1840s, but he throws his hands up when it comes to the barn. While 1805 is inscribed on a date stone, that year may refer to the barn's predecessor.

House, barn, and caboodle couldn't have fallen into the hands of more passionate history lovers. Asked for the sources of her reno inspiration, Joan says she has always enjoyed books about period architecture—including one of her favorites, *Survey of Chester County, Pennsylvania Architecture: 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries*. When the couple moved in, the kitchen had last been renovated in the 1970s and was sitting in a Depression-era addition with “very scary electrical,” Joan recalls. There was also a white-sided three-story addition, also likely from the '70s, rising on one side to nearly dwarf the main house. Between the original stairs and the ones in that addition, Joan says, it was easy to get lost.

“The house was in great shape and well taken care of, but too contemporary for my taste,” Joan says. The couple stripped wallpaper and painted, and changed every light fixture, aiming for “a farmhouse look.” Their budget was small, so work inched forward, not all of it, Joan notes wryly, involving “fun” stuff. They replaced windows and



ABOVE LEFT: The dining room has its original yellow pine floorboards, finished with a sisal rug and period-inspired furniture and lighting.

ABOVE RIGHT: In the family room, the homeowners added a board-and-batten door and replaced a 1970s window with a vintage one that now overlooks the kitchen. Joan's sister, an antiques dealer, contributed the circa-1900 quilt. *Quilt: Crocks and Quilts*

doors, relined a chimney, put in a new furnace, shingled the roof, replaced plumbing and wiring, and put down terra-cotta-look tiles while repairing the porch, which tilted. “The 1930s work was a mess, but we didn't uncover that until we did the kitchen,” Joan says, alluding to their first real undertaking and the discovery of odd electrical fixes inside an exterior wall.

“That's what's so much fun with old houses,” Hoopes says kindly. “You uncover history and you are scratching your head, asking, ‘How come that's never started a fire?’”

This wasn't just any old exterior wall, Hoopes notes, but “a wall bearing the second-floor joist system, right up to the rafters.” Working with architectural designer Susan Frens, Hoopes left the old kitchen intact—thus preserving access to hot meals at the height of a major remodel—and took up the proverbial sledgehammer only after the new



addition was weathertight. To keep the house standing, he and a small army gradually raised and installed a cumbersome 22-foot engineered beam. Then “we had to secure fasteners to the existing joists in the old house and get everything set up so it wouldn’t sag,” Hoopes says.

The addition, which added 481 square feet, and also required relocating the septic tank, allowed the kitchen to expand and new spaces to fit together like jigsaw puzzle pieces—“modern things needed by a modern family,” Frens says. She clustered a butler’s pantry, a mudroom with its own side entry, a powder room, and a laundry area on one side and the more public spaces, with a rear entrance, on the other.

Frens worked to create an open traffic flow, with a straight shot from the rear entrance to the stairs in the original core of the house. The expanded kitchen and a new breakfast area connect to the side addition and its step-down family room. While sunken

ABOVE: A framed baby quilt over the mantel and decorative beams salvaged from a Lancaster County shoe factory add warmth to the existing family room, which was a 1970s addition. Joan specified many of the custom slipcovers’ dressmaker details.

rooms may sound strictly 1970s, “typically, stone houses have level changes,” she notes.

Capped by standing-seam metal, the addition is out of view from the road, and incorporates details that allow it to stand proud as something new while also striving to blend in. “Windows were scaled to the original, and with a farmhouse we like to repeat the trim, but not to the same size,” Frens says.

With the help of an old friend and interior designer, Julie Rice Beeson, Joan chased down paint colors, antiques, and finishes that would further the broken-in look. The addition’s flooring combines reclaimed heart pine and bricks salvaged from a street in Wilmington, Delaware. The amenity-filled kitchen was also designed “to make it look like it had been there for a while,” says cabinetmaker Kevin Ritter, who together with his dad, Bryce, a furniture maker, built simple cabinets, brush-painted white to look like throwbacks. They finished them with wax, and with



colonial rat-tail hinges, meticulous replicas hand-made by local metalworker and hardware historian Tim Coldren, based on ones Dutch settlers used.

The Ritters created armoire-style cabinetry to hold the built-in refrigerator and freezer columns and a hutch-like built-in, both finished with brushed-on milk paint in the same colonial blue as the fireplace mantel, a vintage piece previous owners found and restored. Hoopes pieced in more salvaged pine flooring in the new spaces and, in the family room, added decorative beams with wood salvaged from an old shoe factory.

The house kept evolving as the kids grew. When Kate, then a teenager, claimed the third-floor bedroom and bath, her folks replaced the claw-foot tub with a shower. When she and Joe went off to college, Joan trained her sights on the master bath. Hoopes gutted and rebuilt it, eliminating the tub, expanding



TOP: A period-inspired maple canopy bed graces the master bedroom.
Bed: J.L. Treharn & Company

ABOVE: The homeowners gutted the master bath to make room for a double vanity and a generous shower enclosure. A vintage screen door was used to create a wall mirror. Wall paint: Benjamin Moore's Dolphin. Toilet: Toto

RIGHT: Cast-iron wall sinks sit on shims atop a custom vanity with a marble top. Black marble hex tile covers the floor. Sinks: Signature Hardware. Faucets: Rohl. Cabinet hardware: Whitechapel Ltd





the shower, and adding radiant floor heating.

Each chunk of the house has a basement, which invited creative spelunking. Tim claimed the original portion, with its cook's fireplace, as his man cave. The walk-out portion under the side addition, formerly a playroom, became an outlet for the family of Harry Potter enthusiasts.

"We love London, and Riddle is a key name in the Harry Potter stories," Joan says of the pub's Leaky Cauldron theme.

By most accounts the house's resident space planner should be ready to put her feet up. But don't expect Joan to relegate home improvements to whatever is the opposite of a bucket list.

"We would think about things for a long time," she says, musing on serial renovations that have stretched over several decades. And Hoopes, her longtime collaborator, says he doesn't expect those ideas to stop coming anytime soon. 🍷

ABOVE: The family-friendly pub, in the basement of the 1970s-era side addition, has a Harry Potter theme. Radiant heat keeps the brick-veneer floor warm in winter.

RIGHT: The decorative ceiling beams in the pub were made by splitting white oak rafters plucked from the property's barn. Steps lead to the family room.



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directory

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COVER: See the listing for "Sleek Revival."

TOOLKIT (pp. 11–14) Metal rake > *Thanks to* Jeff Koenig, director of Long-Handled Tool Category, Ames; ames.com. Leaf mold > *Thanks to* Dawn Pettinelli, manager of the Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory and assistant extension educator, University of Connecticut, Storrs; soiltest.uconn.edu. Magic bulbs > *Thanks to* Brooke Sperling Johnson, divisional merchandise manager, Gardener's Supply Company; gardeners.com.

BEFORE + AFTER: KITCHEN Farm and function (pp. 17–20) Cabinets and countertops: Mark Anderson, North Metro Millwork, Hugo, MN; northmetromillwork.com. Cabinet finish: Sher-Wood Catalyzed Lacquer in Dover White; sherwin-williams.com. Paint: Antique White (beadboard), dutchboy.com; Soft Landing (walls), shop.magnolia.com. Sink restoration: thetubguys.net.

PAINT IDEAS Handwoven accent wall (p. 23) Interior designer: Chaney Widmer; mixandmatchdesign.com

PHOTOSHOP REDO Details make the difference (p. 28) Architect: David Ellison, The D. H. Ellison Co., Cleveland.

ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pp. 52–59) Glazing putty > *Thanks to* Scott Sidler; thecraftsmanblog.com.

SLEEK REVIVAL (pp. 60–75) Architect: CAH Architecture and Design, Cos Cob, CT; caharchitecture.com. Builder: KARP Associates, Inc., New Canaan, CT; karpassociatesinc.com. Interior designer: Robin Carroll, KARP Associates, Inc. Home staging: Iconic Modern Home, Norwalk, CT; iconicmodern.com. Landscape architect: keithsimpsonassociates.com. Building materials > Subflooring: AdvanTechAGame.com. Construction adhesives: gorillatough.com. Power tools: festoolusa.com. Insulation: rockwool.com. Venting system: system1738.com. Building enclosure: ZIPSystem.com/roof. Exterior > Paint: Decorator's White, Gunmetal; benjaminmoore.com. Shutters, porch flooring and ceiling: aeratis.com. Engineered wood siding and trim: lpcorp.com. Roof shingles: gaf.com. New windows, patio doors: sierrapacificwindows.com. Microclover sod: sodco.net. Pavers: unilock.com. Paving jointing mortar: jointit.com. Egress window wells: bilco.com. Standby generator: championpowerequipment.com. Outdoor pool table: blattbilliards.com. House number, mailbox, hooks, door hardware: houseofantiquehardware.com. Throughout > Custom millwork: necabinetco.com. Flooring, interior trim, and interior doors: bairdbrothers.com. Toilets, HVAC: benderplumbing.com. Magnetic doorstops: ghostop.com. Art (not shown): davidmorico.com. Load centers and Wi-Fi dimmers: leviton.com/loadcenter. Televisions: countytv.com. Home energy monitor: sense.com. Healthy home system: Panasonic; reinventingventing.com. House hydrant: aquorwatersystems.com. Garage > Garage



Every bedroom in TOH's 2019 Idea House has its own bath. This one has a black-and-white color scheme, patterned floor tile, and a modern washbasin-style console sink.

flooring, slatted walls, and cabinetry: garageliving.com. Car lift: atlasautomotiveequipment.com. Garage doors: fimbels.com. Garage door opener: liftmaster.com. Garage door installation: biggygaragedoors.com. Electric car charging station: leviton.com. Dining room and entry > Paint: Galveston Gray, benjaminmoore.com. Wall covering: mitchellblack.com. Furnishings: stickleyaudi.com. Sculptures: dickshantley.com. Table settings: juliska.com. Chandelier: clarksonlighting.com. Window shades: jgeigershading.com. Kitchen > Cabinetry and built-ins: necabinetco.com. Range, refrigerator, freezer, coffee station, dishwasher: subzero-wolf.com; clarkeliving.com. Countertops: Aurea Stone; everestmarble.com. Lighting: Tech Lighting; circalighting.com. Sink and faucet: rohlhome.com. Glass vessels: vetrovero.com. Breakfast nook art: emk-art.com. Working kitchen > Cabinetry and shelving: necabinetco.com. Countertops and backsplash slab: Aurea Stone; everestmarble.com. Pull-out stool: hideawaysolutions.com. Pocket door: bairdbrothers.com. Task and toe kick lighting: hafele.com. Painted cabinets: Railings No. 31; farrow-ball.com. Wood cabinet finish: Bona Mega Clear HD; us.bona.com. Sink and faucet: rohlhome.com. Sink wall: merolatile.com. Steam oven, microwave, dishwasher: subzero-wolf.com; clarkeliving.com. Filtered water dispenser: elkay.com. Family room/game room > Bar metallic-photo backsplash: russshardin.com. Two-sided fireplace: townandcountryfireplaces.com. Lighting: clarksonlighting.com. Ping-Pong table: blattbilliards.com. Venetian plaster: sandymacstudio.com. Rug: lillianaugust.com. Home office > Paint: Abyss; benjaminmoore.com. Rug: lillianaugust.com. Entry

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The Idea House's open kitchen has quartz countertops that offer generous prep space. Touch-latch drawers keep the island looking sleek.

hall > Paint: Galveston Gray (ceiling), Gentlemen's Gray (walls), Chantilly Lace (trim), benjaminmoore.com. Herringbone floor: bairdbrothers.com. Wall sconces: circalighting.com. Wine display: cablewinesystems.com. Dining deck > Decking: aeratis.com. Fireplace: townandcountryfireplaces.com. Table settings: juliska.com. Cable railing: viewrail.com. Outdoor refrigerator and grill: subzero-wolf.com, clarkeliving.com. Outdoor kitchen countertop: dushimg.com. Outdoor kitchen veneer: eldoradostone.com. Veneer mortar: sakrete.com. Mudroom porch > Flooring, ceiling: aeratis.com. Mudroom > Floor tile, dog-shower penny rounds: merolatile.com. Shower fittings: rohlhome.com. Floor warming: schluter.com. Dog bed (not shown): neelysneet.com. Mudroom powder room > Graphic tile: merolatile.com. Mirror: porcelanosa-usa.com. Sink, faucet: us.kohler.com; benderplumbing.com. Pendant: clarksonlighting.com. Master suite balcony > Furnishings: stickleyaudi.com. Fireplace: townandcountryfireplaces.com. Fireplace veneer: eldoradostone.com. Light fixtures: circalighting.com. Master bedroom > Paint: Perspective (wall, trim); benjaminmoore.com. Furnishings: stickleyaudi.com. Fireplace: townandcountryfireplaces.com. Window shades: jgeigershading.com. Fireplace surround tile: nemotile.com. Master closets > Closet organization: closetandstorageconcepts.com. Men's closet styling: elizabethblanchard.jhilburn.com. Women's closet styling: helenainson.com. Sun tunnel: VELUX; whyskylights.com. Master bath > Tile: merolatile.com. Shower doors: dreamline.com. Ceiling light: circalighting.com. Skylights: VELUX; whyskylights.com. Soaking tub: vandabaths.com. Tub filler: rohlhome.com. Steam shower: iDream Steam Shower Package; mrsteam.com. Floor warming: schluter.com. Vanity: vandabaths.com. Mirror: hafele.com. Etagerie: stickleyaudi.com. Ventilation: Panasonic; reinventingventing.com. Child's bedroom > Mural: sandymacstudio.com. Art: donnamarxer.com. Tent bed: rhbabyandchild.com. Floor lamp: clarksonlighting.com. Rug:

rugs-direct.com. Child's bath > Tile: merolatile.com. Ceramic planters: pandemicdesignstudio.com. Vanity: vandabaths.com. Faucet: rohlhome.com. Mirror: porcelanosa-usa.com. Lighting: circalighting.com. Shower door: dreamline.com. Guest bedroom > Wallpaper: mitchellblack.com. Rug: lillianaugust.com. Lamp: clarksonlighting.com. Door hardware: accuratelockandhardware.com. Art: emk-art.com. Homework station > Desks: hermanmiller.com. Lighting: clarksonlighting.com. Skylights: VELUX; whyskylights.com. Laundry room > Tile: merolatile.com. Washer and dryer: countytv.com. Countertops: Compac Blanco Absolut Quartz; dushimg.com. Window edge trim: schluter.com. Cabinetry: necabinetco.com. Faucet: rohlhome.com.

ADDING UP (pp. 76–79) TOH home builder: Jeff Sweenor, Sweenor Builders, Wakefield, RI; sweenorbuilders.com. Architectural designer: Lori Foley, Sweenor Builders, Wakefield, RI; sweenorbuilders.com. Hardwood floor installation: GQ Hardwood Floors, Inc., Central Falls, RI; gqhardwoodfloors.com. Insulation installation: Ecologic Insulation, Tiverton, RI; ecologicinsulation.com. Oak flooring, interior doors, interior trim: Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods; bairdbrothers.com. Exterior stonework, chimney: eldoradostone.com. Underlayment: GCP Applied Technologies; gcpat.com. Framing material: weyerhaeuser.com. Shingles: SBC's Eastern White Cedar Shingle Siding in Buzzards Bay Gray, sbccedar.com. Rafter tails: Lamco Forest Products; lamcoewp.com. Roof shingles: gaf.com. Rain screen: mortairvent.com. Exterior trim: lifespanselect.com. Windows: marvin.com.

PERIOD PIECES (pp. 80–87) Architectural designer: Susan Frens, Patterhn Ives LLC (formerly Frens & Frens); patterhn-ives.com. General contractor: Mark W. Hoopes, West Chester, PA; 610-696-4647. Windows and doors: marvin.com. Salvaged wood flooring: Waltz Millworks, Coatesville, PA; 610-724-1586. Stonemason: Dennis H. Miller

Landenberg, PA; dcjmasonry.com. Carpentry and flooring installation: Taylor Custom Woodworking, Cochranville, PA; 484-643-3322. Kitchen > Custom cabinets: Timeless Kitchen Cabinetry, Arrington, TN; tkcabinetry.com. Cabinet paint: realmilkpaint.com. Rat-tail hinges: Monroe Coldren and Son Antiques; monroecoldren.com. Other hardware: signaturehardware.com. Countertops: Bucks County Soapstone Company; bcsoapstone.com. Cooktop and wall ovens: Wolf; subzero-wolf.com. Refrigerator and freezer columns: Sub-Zero; subzero-wolf.com. Fireback over cooktop: monroecoldren.com. Family room > Star-pattern blue quilt and framed baby quilt: Crocks and Quilts, Alexandria, MN; 320-762-2526. Master bath > Shower fixtures: Grohe; grohe.us/en. Floor tile: Eagle Tile & Marble; eagletilepa.com. Vanity and cabinets: Jeffrey J. Williams Furniture Maker, Christiana, PA; 610-593-3349. Light fixtures: Barn Light Electric Company, barnlight.com. Paint: Dolphin (walls), benjaminmoore.com; Extra White (trim), sherwin-williams.com. Pub > Brick tile: inglenooktile.com. Tile setter: Dennis H. Miller, Landenberg, PA; dcjmasonry.com. Paint: Bone White (walls), sherwin-williams.com; Black Forest Green (trim), benjaminmoore.com.

SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 100) Thanks to Maggie Gregg, regional director, Preservation North Carolina, Eastern Office; 252-689-6678; presnc.org

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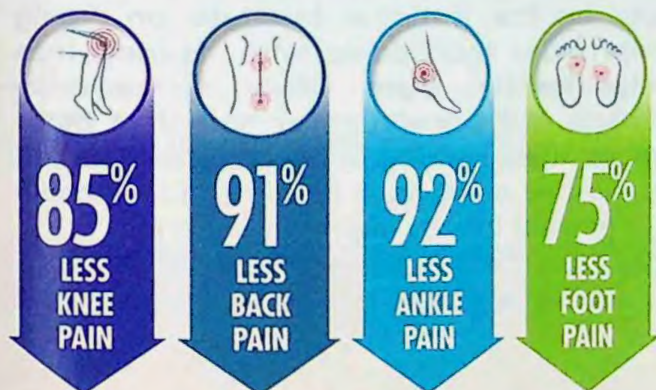
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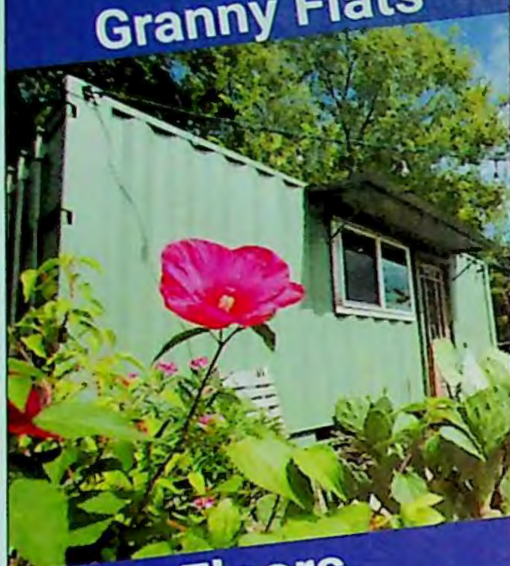
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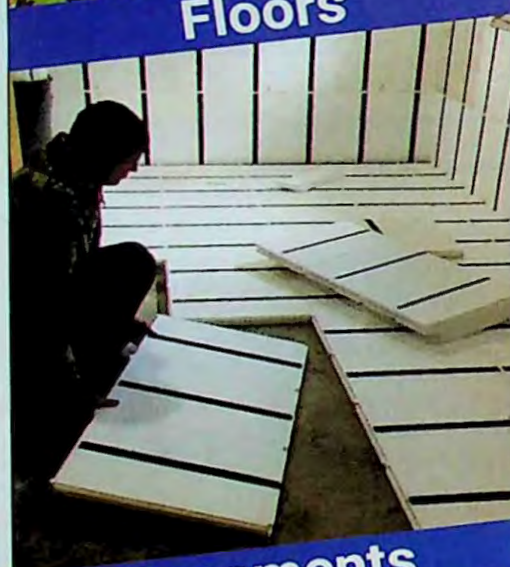
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- 9800 cu. in. of storage
- 1000 lb. capacity
- Weighs 175 lbs.

\$319⁹⁹

Customer Rating
★★★★★

YOUR CHOICE
OF 6 COLORS
\$299⁹⁹

SAVE
\$1,450

COMPARE TO
SNAP-ON
\$1,750

Item 64434, 64432, 64162, 56104, 56105, 56106

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON



72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating
★★★★★

NOW
\$5⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
BLUE HAWK
\$19⁹⁹

SAVE
70%

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shows

CHICAGO ELECTRIC SUPER COUPON

2.5 HP, 10" TILE/BRICK SAW



NOW
\$239⁹⁹

\$299⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
KOBALT
\$499

SAVE
\$259

Blade sold separately. ITEM 62391/59275 shows

drillmaster SUPER COUPON

1/4" TRIM ROUTER

Customer Rating
★★★★★

NOW
\$19⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
MAKITA
\$99

SAVE
\$79

ITEM 62659/44914

61626/64314 shows

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

Air delivery: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI

YOUR CHOICE
\$39⁹⁹

HOT DOG
ITEM 69269
97080 shows

PANCAKE
ITEM 61615/60637
95275 shows

COMPARE TO
PORTER-CABLE
\$98⁸²

SAVE
59%

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE WOOD CHISEL SET WITH CLEAR PVC HANDLE

Customer Rating
★★★★★

NOW
\$4⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
DEWALT
\$29⁹⁷

SAVE
83%

ITEM 42429/69471 shows

FRANKLIN SUPER COUPON

17 FT. TYPE IA MULTI-TASK LADDER

Versatile - 24 configurations
Safe + Secure + Stable
Super Strong - Holds 300 lbs.
Weighs 34 lbs.

NOW
\$139⁹⁹

NOW
\$109⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
LITTLE GIANT
\$298⁹⁹

SAVE
\$189

ITEM 63419/67646/62514/63418/63417 shows

Bauer SUPER COUPON

15 AMP, 12-1/2" PORTABLE THICKNESS PLANER

Customer Rating
★★★★★

NOW
\$269⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
DEWALT
\$449

SAVE
\$179

COVERPRO SUPER COUPON

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE

Customer Rating
★★★★★

NOW
\$169⁹⁹

COMPARE TO
SHELTER LOGIC
\$290⁷⁵

SAVE
\$120

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COMPARE TO PERFORMANCE TOOL
\$13⁵²

ITEM 63878/63991

64005/69567/60566

63601/67227 shows

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save ^{This Old} House

PRICE \$70,000

LOCATION Washington, NC

CONTACT Maggie Gregg, Preservation
North Carolina, 252-689-6678

THE HISTORY Just two blocks from the Pamlico River, this Tudor-style cottage was built in 1930 by Henry Clay Carter III, son of a physician, and his wife, Marjorie Hoyt Carter, daughter of the city's leading clothier. This seaport's bustling maritime activity may have been what attracted the Carters, who moved from New York in the early 1900s. While the river still draws residents, visitors, and business owners alike, the house, located downtown, has fallen into disrepair.

WHY SAVE IT? The house is a contributing building to the town's registered historic district, a collection of antebellum through early-20th-century structures. But after several devastating fires and some recent demolition in the district, it is the last of its type to survive, and Preservation North Carolina is working to create a restoration plan. Plenty of original features remain, including woodwork and hardwood floors, French and paneled doors, glass doorknobs, six-over-one windows, light fixtures, and a fireplace mantel.

WHAT IT NEEDS The structure is stable but needs all-new systems, a roof, a kitchen, and bathrooms, as well as cosmetic carpentry and plaster repairs. State tax credits are available. It is also zoned for mixed use, with additional federal tax incentives available if the new owner wants to set up shop—joining a brewery, a distillery, and an indoor farmers' market that have opened nearby. Either way, the house is in dire need of someone willing to get it back in business. —KATELIN HILL



Charming
Tudor-style
cottage in a
river town!



1. A short walk to the riverbank, the three-bedroom, two-bath Tudor-style cottage has 1,852 square feet of living space, a storybook roofline, and vintage brick veneer.

2. The large living room features original wood floors, tall baseboards, and a Colonial Revival-style mantel.

3. A side porch was converted to a sunroom in the mid-20th century, with windows and a second entry door inserted in the arched openings, but a new owner might prefer to open it back up.

4. Just off the entry hall, the original staircase's handrail ends in a gracefully curved volute.

5. An exterior view of the enclosed side porch's six-panel door and the arched brickwork.



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.

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