Kitchen Details

Cabinet Doors & Drawers
Decorative Tiles
History of Appliances
“BRINGING THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT

“I CAN’T STAND A NAKED LIGHT BULB...”

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

ress your next project with our fine quality, solid brass reproduction lamps and fixtures. Designed to enhance a variety of commercial and residential settings. Request our catalog featuring over 200 Craftsman, Victorian and Neoclassic designs.

REJUVENATION LAMP & FIXTURE CO. 1100 S.E. GRAND AVENUE PORTLAND, OREGON 97214 (503) 231-1900
CANDY TILES

TRADITIONAL CERAMIC ART

Discover a gallery of colour and beauty in a class of its own, produced by craftsmen using a portfolio of period ceramics. A collection of faithful Victorian reproductions on original 7mm and 9mm white body bisque, designed to beautifully complement any decor.

Now available in the U.S. and Canada.
For the dealer nearest you and a free catalog, call 1(800)852-0922.

TILE SHOWCASE
The tile resource for architects, designers... and you.
8 EDITOR'S PAGE
Wrestling with the kitchen conundrum.

10 MAILBOX
Thoughts on Spanish Colonials, a source for early electric heater elements, and a 1994 Tudor Revival built from OHJ house plans.

32 STYLE
Return to Concrete Block Houses
The most ubiquitous building material at the beginning of this century was ornamental concrete block. Here OHJ readers share examples of their favorite buildings, with notes on how they were built and repairing them today.
BY J. RANDALL COTTON

40 HOW-TO
Doors, Drawers, and Details
Specifications for traditional-looking kitchen cabinets that match your house's style and period, while offering the convenience of modern cabinetwork.
BY JOSH GARSKOF

46 KNOW-HOW
The Ceramic Circus
There are many choices for reproduction tiles. This buyer's guide with historic background will help you select the right ones for your house.
BY JAMES C. MASSEY AND SHIRLEY MAXWELL

52 HISTORY
Fire and Ice
The history of the refrigerator and kitchen stove, with a pictorial key to designs and reproduction sources.
BY GORDON BOCK

ON THE COVER: Reproduction beadboard and binpulls add turn-of-the-century style to this newly built custom kitchen. Our thanks to homeowner Jan McEvoy and The Kennebec Company.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE MARSEL

OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL (ISSN 0094-0178) is published bimonthly for $27 per year by Dovetail Publishers, The Blackburn Tavern, 2 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. Telephone (508) 283-3200. Subscriptions in Canada $35 per year, payable in U.S. funds. Second-class postage paid at Gloucester, MA and at additional entries. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Old-House Journal, P.O. Box 80017, Boulder, CO 80302-8017

PRINTED IN U.S.A.
Keeping Radon out of Old Houses
Old houses are at least as susceptible to radon infiltration as new buildings. This article offers advice on mitigation, from easy methods to specialized equipment.
BY JOHN D. WAGNER AND MARYLEE MACDONALD

You're So Vane — An Old-House Steeplejacking Story
Installing a reproduction of their old house's weather vane proved to be a learning experience for this sailor and his son.
BY JOHN KRENN

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscription service (800) 234-5797; back issues (available at $4.95 per copy) (508) 281-8803. ADVERTISING: (508) 283-7271. EDITORIAL: We are happy to accept editorial contributions to Old-House Journal. Query letters that include an outline of the proposed article are preferred. All manuscripts will be reviewed, and returned if unacceptable. However, we cannot be responsible for non-receipt or loss — please keep copies of all materials sent.
© Copyright 1995 by Downeast Publishers. All rights reserved.
Printed at The Lane Press, South Burlington, Vermont.
CROWN JEWELS

Crown City HARDWARE CO.

"THE WORLD'S LEADING PROVIDER OF FINE JEWELRY FOR THE HOME."

For our new catalog, featuring a tremendous selection of restoration and decorative hardware, SEND $6.50 TO:
CROWN CITY HARDWARE CO., 1047 N. ALLEN AVE. DEPT. JC 94., PASADENA, CA 91104

*Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.
Sidekick with a twist.

The new Delta Sidekick™ 10” Compound Miter Box. A jobsite companion that covers every angle imaginable. And probably a few you haven’t thought of yet. Heavy on precision and performance. Yet lightweight enough to grab it and go.

Cross cut a 2x6 or 4x4 at 90°. Miter a 2x4 right or left, flat or on edge at 45°. Tilt the blade to bevel cut a 2x6 at 45° or compound angle cut a 2x4 at 45° bevel/compound position.

To check out the newest twist on miter cutting call toll free for the name of your Delta distributor. Delta International Machinery Corp., 800-438-2486. In Canada, call: 519-836-2840. Delta is a Pentair Company.
Kitchens and Concrete

No matter how much of a restoration purist you are, the old-house kitchen is where historical authenticity clashes with contemporary living. In a dining room, for example, it takes little more than an electrified chandelier to make 120-year-old furniture and decorations work for today’s entertaining. Kitchens are much trickier to pull off.

Imagine a perfectly preserved kitchen from the late-19th century, even one equipped with running water and electricity. A late-20th century family would soon lose patience with the pantry dressers (cumbersome drawers and cramped counterspace for a microwave), lack of cabinet and wall area (no home for the dishwasher and refrigerator/freezer) or a lone light hanging from the ceiling. Just having a kitchen, in fact, is questionable in a house built before 1840, when meals came from the colonial hall — a living room with an open hearth.

So, few old-house owners would live with a museum kitchen, but most don’t want to cook in a time warp either — say, 1970s avocado appliances injected in an Arts & Crafts interior. Since kitchens in any house, new or old, get a lot of attention, we’ve focussed on some specific design areas in this issue — building modern cabinets with period details, ranges and refrigerators in the historic kitchen, buying reproduction tile — to help with the old-house kitchen balancing act.

We could have filled the whole issue with information and photos but, of course, there wasn’t room for everything. (Let us know if you’d like to see a future Old-House Living article on Block House tales.) Nonetheless, putting together the article, which starts on page 32, was both enlightening and heartwarming. “We need to keep these stories alive so we don’t forget how much people are capable of doing,” wrote one reader. “Our block house was built to last more than one lifetime,” noted some folks in Michigan, “I have never felt it shift or creak; friends and neighbors tell us they wish they had our house during a bad, windy storm.” Still another penned, “Thank you for opening my eyes to these structures.” Speaking for the editors here, many, many thanks to all who wrote for being our eyes.

Randy Cotton and I read every letter, bundle, and fax. They came from as far afield as Texas, Oregon and South Carolina — 32 different states and one province in all. We looked at pictures of 50 Foursquares, 21 Bungalows, 12 Colonial Revivals, 27 cottage style houses, 7 farmhouses, 5 Dutch Colonials, and 4 Queen Annes, not to mention an assortment of exotic houses and many commercial structures. There were old photos, new slides, antique manuals — even audio tapes. Several folks sent studies of concrete block building in their region, all very welcome. However, the broad range of responses enabled us to look at the phenomenon across the continent — giving us the unique overview we had hoped to have.

IN THIS ISSUE, TOO, IS A CLASSIC OHJ ARTICLE, ONE WHERE all the photos and information came from OHJ readers. Nearly a year ago, we asked for help in telling the story behind concrete block houses, those distinctive, turn-of-the-century buildings that stand in every town.

The response was nothing less than remarkable, and a true measure of how extraordinarily willing our readers are to share information about historic buildings.

After gutting a remuddling, which design path does an old-house kitchen follow — contemporary, historical, or some of both?
Tough choice.

Triangle sanders, detail sanders, corner sanders—call them what you will. Seems like everybody in the business is introducing their version these days. And frankly, you can pick up one of the newcomers a whole lot cheaper than this one.

The Fein Triangle Sander. The original technology. The one the others want to be. The one you’ll want to compare the others with. (Before you get any ideas about saving a bundle.)

Start your comparison the moment you flip the switch. Feel the vibration. Notice the tingle. Check out the numbness that comes standard with some models. Put down each tool as it becomes bothersome. You’re left holding the Fein. Hold it as long as you like. No buzz. The Fein is built for heavy-duty, continuous use. Balanced for comfort and precision sanding.

Now put the Fein to the surface. It stays where you put it. Removes what you want. No more, no less. No wandering, no running away, no banging or hammering against adjoining perpendicular surfaces. It’s what we mean by precision.

Now try to make the others do what you just did with the Fein. All the time asking yourself, "Is this what I really want?" (No choice.)

To learn more about the Fein Triangle Sander and its many accessories (for sanding or sawing or scraping or polishing), call 1-800-441-9878. Fein Power Tools Inc., 3019 W. Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15204.
SPACE PANELLING

Dear OHJ,

I have been planning to install wallpaper panelling, but I'd never seen anything in print about it. After reading "The Antique Art of Wallpaper Panelling" (Jan./Feb. 1995), I realized that my plan to run one border around the room (French panelling) was not what I remembered from my parents house — the model for my project. Now I plan to panel in sections corresponding to the doors and windows (space panelling).

— C. J. Allen
Portland, Ore.

DEFINE YOUR TERMS

As a charter subscriber (and a 1977 article contributor), I have enjoyed OHJ's growth and continued dedication to real information over the years. I also like the recent improvements in layout. However, I got a bit confused by some undefined terminology in the Jan./Feb. 1995 issue. In "A Guide to Hanging Linoleum & Anaglypta" you didn't explain the terms "dado," "frieze," or "panel." In the future, how about printing a sidebar that defines uncommon words used in the body of the article (especially those that have several meanings).

— Daniel J. Mehn
New Orleans, La.

Editor's Note: No doubt about it, wallcoverings have their own nomenclature. We assume that our readers are familiar with general old-house lingo. For truly archaic or unusual shoptalk, however, we do often print a glossary as you suggest. The wallpapering words you had trouble with have a similar meaning to their standard architectural definition. (A dado is a wallpaper wainscot; a frieze is a wide border along the top of a wall; and a panel is a rectangle of wallcovering like a panel on a door.) For a good glossary of wallpapering terminology try Wallpapers for Historic Buildings, by Richard C. Nylander, available from the Old-House Bookshop (800-931-2931).

SPANISH COLONIALS

I read, with pleasure, your article on Spanish Colonial houses (Jan./Feb. 1995). It moves me to offer an observation. The architecture of Spanish residences, missions, presidios, towns, and agricultural establishments in this hemisphere owe their origin to Rome through Spain. The residences discussed in the article are essentially a version of the Roman villa with the patio serving the same function as the atrium. The exteriors of the residences tended to be quite plain, but the interiors and patios could be elegant. I enjoyed the article and hope to see more.

A NEW OLD HOUSE

My new "old house," was built from your Tudor Revival house plan (Sept./Oct. 1991). It is the only Tudor style house — and the only all-brick house — in this upscale development. Aside from a few cedar-sided homes, virtually every other house is "maintenance-free" plastic, including window frames and doors. Think what the future will be like when all these vinyl houses get old. I hope that grim prospect will be alleviated by a new generation of old houses.

— Donald F. Vitaliano
Troy, N.Y.

A 1994 Tudor Revival, built from OHJ Historic House Plan P-03A-LG (see p. 70). Brick and half-timbered stucco provide a traditional exterior. A two-way fireplace between rooms highlights the interior.
the standard of quality since 1860

SCHWERD'S

wood columns

COLUMNS
— Schwerd columns are durable. Our 120+ years of experience in manufacturing wood columns has proven that the durability of a wood column depends upon the strength of the joint and the quality and thickness of the wood. Schwerd column construction was developed to meet each specific requirement. The wood is thoroughly seasoned Northern White Pine. The pride of craftsmanship and skilled techniques acquired by 120 years of specialized experience is applied. The resulting product is a "Schwerd Quality Column" specified by architects with complete confidence. Both standard and detail columns can be furnished from 4 in. to 50 in. in diameter and up to 35 ft. in length with matching pilasters.

If you are one of our old customers during the many years since our beginning in 1860, you know our product; if not, send us your inquiries and orders and join our list of satisfied customers. SEND FOR OUR FREE CATALOG. Schwerd's complete aluminum bases for 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 in. dia. columns.

Schwerd's-Aluminum ventilated plinth and aluminum turned member base are manufactured of thick metal and are recommended for all exterior columns in the above diameters to provide a maintenance-free, seamless base which is guaranteed against deterioration for a lifetime.

A. F. SCHWERD MANUFACTURING COMPANY

telephone: 412-766-8322

3215 McClure Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212
MAILBOX

about the Spanish cultural heritage of the United States.
— JOHN W. CLARK
Austin, Tex.

HEATER ELEMENTS
AN OHJ READER ASKED ABOUT A
turn-of-the-century electric heater in
the Jan./Feb. 1995 Ask OHJ. The
heating elements she needs are avail-
able from the Eagle Electric Man-
ufacturing Company, Inc., 45-31
Court Square, Dept. OHJ, Long Is-
land City, NY 11101; (718) 937-8000.
— H. WILLIAM WINSTANLEY
Clawson, Mich.

VERNACULAR THANKS
IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE AND PLEASURE
to look at the Jan./Feb. 1995 OHJ and
discover our cottage on the back
cover! It was the Christmas present
of a lifetime since we think of OHJ
as the “bible.” We are addicted to
restoring old houses, and don’t know
what we’d do without OHJ.
— FRANCES ELLINS & JAMES SHORE
Detroit, Mich.

APARTMENT RESTORATION
I ENJOYED “HOUSES OF
HOMES” (Nov./Dec.
1994), especially be­
because we have just pur-
chased a unit at the
Castle Green, an 1898
apartment building
here in Pasadena. It
was constructed as an
annex to the fashion-
able Hotel Green.
The hotel is gone, but
the annex retains
much of its original detail, including: mosaic tile floor, elaborate cage
elevator, marble stairway with ornate cast-iron balustrade and newel,
and faux onyx wall treatments. The ownership group is just starting to
become active in the restoration of this wonderful building.
— HENRY J. GOLAS
Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Lubic home has the boxy shape,
hipped roof, and full-width porch of a
Foursquare. It also has a center hall, not
uncommon in houses of this size.

A CENTER HALL
AFTER READING “FIGURING OUT THE
Foursquare” (Sept./Oct. 1994), I felt
compelled to write. Yes, I agree with
James C. Massey and Shirley
Maxwell, a Foursquare can have a
center hall. Our 1913 home (left)
has a center hall that runs the length
of the house. And it’d be hard to call
it anything other than a Foursquare.
We appreciate the information your
magazine provides and the way it
arrives just in the nick of time.
— MARY LUBIC
Asheboro, N.C.

SHELLAC A VOC
A SHORT COMMENT ON “A GOOD
Shellacking” in your Jan./Feb. 1995
issue: Good article. I have fond
memories of using lots of shellac
in my high school shop days. One
correction, however, denatured al-
cohol does emit volatile organic
compounds as it dries.
— MARK NOWOTARSKI
Stamford, Conn.

ITALIANATE DUPLEX
I ENJOYED “HOUSE OF HOMES”
(Nov./Dec. 1994). It was very in-
teresting in light of the restoration
project I am preparing for. In my
hometown of Eureka, Wisconsin,
stands an Italianate duplex man-
sion (below) built by identical twin
brothers in 1852. Their house sits
abandoned, the decorative brackets
and detailing shown in early sketches
and photos washed away by time.
It is my dream to restore this grand
old building with advice from OHJ.
— DAN BUTKIEWICZ
Oshkosh, Wisc.
Details make the Difference

We offer an exquisitely detailed selection of bathroom basics and home decorating essentials sure to make a designer's difference in your home. Select from over 2000 items - bed to bath, kitchen to den - in our FREE CATALOG. All first quality - at the lowest price anywhere! GUARANTEED!

FREE CATALOG 1-800-659-0203 Ask for Dept. 9951
Early Intercom

After removing wallboard from a number of rooms in our old house, we uncovered an original communication system: tubes that run through the walls. The hollow passages are still intact, but there are no mouthpieces on the ends. What have we found, and where can we get replacement parts?

— Don Wilkinson
Oakland, Calif.

Old-house intercoms like yours were common from the 1850s to the early 1900s, especially in large houses, and where servants were employed. Yours is a speaking tube, a simple system consisting of tin or copper pipes, 1" to 1 ½" in diameter, soldered together and run through walls (and sometimes underground between buildings). As you may have already discovered, they transmit voices remarkably well.

The mouthpieces varied. They were constructed of silver plate, ivory, or, most commonly, porcelain. They typically had spring-loaded covers or plugs that had to be opened to speak into the tube. This damper served to prevent them from becoming a means for overhearing conversations (a special concern because they ran to servants' quarters). The mouthpieces also commonly had a whistle in the door. When closed, blowing into the mouthpiece attracted attention on the other end of the tube. Another call method consisted of a small rubber bulb, which, when squeezed, rang a bell at the other end. A hardware variation included a flexible hose so the mouthpiece could be removed from the wall.

As far as we know, there are no reproduction sources for speaking tube mouthpieces. (We'd love to hear from anyone who has found a source.) Other readers have reported success at architectural salvage yards, so be persistent and you might score a set. Another potential source is the marine industry. "Voice" tubes were used in ships for bridge-to-engine-room communication in case of power loss. You may find a marine safety supplier who still has some in stock, but be prepared. They tend to be costly.

Thatch Roof

What can you tell me about "ocean wave" shingle roofs? Carmel, California, is famous for its storybook cottages, and many of the homes in the area use this style of roofing. My 60-year-old house is built in the old-English cottage style, but has green asphalt shingles. I want to bring back the ocean wave roof it likely once had.

— Rick Steres
Pacific Grove, Calif.

OHJ was the first to report on thatch roofs back in 1985. With uneven courses and rolling eaves, these wood-shingle roofs, so en vogue in the 1920s, are designed to mimic straw or reeds. To produce

(continued on page 16)
Our sanders take care of details others haven’t even thought of.

Most corner/detail sanders just scratch the surface compared to the Bosch B7000 and new variable speed B7001.

For example, their motors not only deliver 1.1 amps of true orbital action but also minimize annoying vibrations.

What’s more, to meet the demands of jobs ranging from scraping to polishing there’s a wide selection of optional pads. Hook-and-loop backings make them easier to change than messy adhesives. Plus, unlike the competition, pads and head points last longer thanks to the exclusive Clic™ adjustable head.

For added versatility, a pad extender accessory gets them into places other corner sanders can’t touch. And for a cleaner workplace, a dust extraction port is included as standard equipment. Another thing that’ll make you breathe easier is their one year warranty, 90 day satisfaction guarantee and one year service protection plan.

So get the detail sanders that cornered the market on performance, the B7000 and B7001 from Bosch.
Ask OHJ

[continued from page 14]
the long, irregular waves, the single butts were factory cut to an uneven line. When aligned on the roof, these angled cuts created a wavy run. The exposure varied from 1" to 5", averaging 3/8".

Today, uneven coursing is accomplished in much the same way, or by cutting the sides of the single and installing them on an angle to achieve the wavy lines. The singles’ tips can be laid on a level, even chalk line, or on curved lines for bigger waves. You can buy single cut for the wavy lines of a thatch roof, as well as steam-bent singles for the rounded edges, from C&H Roofing (P.O. Box 2105, Lake City, FL 32056; 800-327-5115), which also offers installation worldwide.

Building Archaeology
We’ve unearthed two old foundations behind our 18th-century house, along with numerous artifacts including earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, glass, iron utensils and hardware, pieces of a clay pipe, bones, and teeth. We’ve taken out several tons of dirt and we need to close up our yard, but we’ve become puzzled by these walls and what they can tell us about our house’s past. What can we do to interpret these walls?

THE GROUND IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING AN OLD HOUSE HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR BEING ARCHAEOLOGICALLY RICH TURF. OLD-HOUSE OWNERS AND RESTORERS, AS WELL AS MUSEUM-BUILDING STEWARDS, ARE INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN WHAT’S BELOW THE SURFACE OF THEIR PROPERTIES, BUT INTERPRETING WHAT YOU FIND IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS READING LAYERS OF WALLPAPER.

This was probably a shed addition foundation, according to archaeologists who reviewed site information.

Wade P. Catts, a principal archaeologist with John Milner Associates (specialists in architecture, archaeology, and preservation planning in West Chester, Pa.) offers the following advice:

“In general, archaeological excavations are difficult for a non-professional archaeologist to conduct. By nature, excavation is a destructive process; once a site is dug, it cannot be ‘undug.’ That’s why proper and careful records (maps, profile drawings, photographs, field notes) need to be maintained at every stage. In particular, the ‘stratigraphy’ — the way that soils are layered at the site — and the artifacts that these layers contain are very important in understanding the sequence of construction of architectural features, such as foundations. Measured drawings of soil profiles are necessary to determine the chronology of this layering.”

There are alternatives, however, to hiring an expensive service, he said. Some semi-professional archaeological groups are pleased to survey sites pro bono, as educational tools, or for local historical research. Catts recommends contacting local avocational archaeological groups, archaeological societies, and college anthropology departments. They may be looking for sites just like yours.
Our easy-to-use products save your time, your money... your concrete

- PERMANENT
- STRUCTURAL
- CHEMICAL RESISTANT

**ABOCRETE** bonds broken sections, rebuilds missing parts, repairs deteriorated surfaces.

**ABOWELD** bonds, patches and reshapes stairs and vertical surfaces. Will not slump.

**ABOCOAT** coats, protects, beautifies.

Restores:
Floors • Driveways
Steps • Columns • Walls
Patios • Decks • Garages
Post anchors • Pools
Sculptures • Sidewalks
Docks • Warehouses

ABATRON, INC. Since 1959
5501 95th Ave.,
Dept. OH,
Kenosha, WI 53144 USA

For more details call: 800/445-1754
414/653-2000
Fax: 414/653-2019
Why do old houses often possess a timeless appeal, while so much new construction looks dull or ugly the minute it's finished? How does a structure continue to serve a purpose as generations and uses come and go? These questions are faced by anyone with ambitions to build for posterity. Separate, but equally unconventional answers come in two of the most thought-provoking architecture books of the past year.

Seen from a distance, a classic building facade performs akin to a good poster. It's the interplay of basic geometric shapes and shadows that impresses the viewer first — not the details — and these communicate directly with the eye and mind. The features in a facade can guide the eye to see particular parts, and lead it to make associations that give a building vitality, harmony, and interest. Don't believe it? Try looking at an old church without gazing up the steeple, heavenward.

Jonathan Hale, an architect and critic working in the Boston area, calls the visual principles that animate memorable buildings "the old way of seeing," and he makes a convincing case for what's missing from a lot of today's architecture. When a building is "designed as a composition of related forms," he says, "it is informed by a system of proportions." Through the hand of the designer, these proportions then reach us as visual patterns of light and shade. The patterns are not mysterious — often no more sophisticated than kindergarten blocks — but they do contribute the magic in a building that "works."

The principles behind these patterns are ancient, and Mr. Hale is quick to note that their masterful use has continued, on occasion, up to our day. The natural proportions of the Golden Section show up in sea shells, Greek temples, and Frank Lloyd Wright buildings. The overlapping arcs of the vesica piscis link Gothic cathedrals with Louis Sullivan's 1898 Guaranty Building and the 1929 Chrysler Building of William Van Allen (not to mention the CBS "eye" logo). The special gift of The Old Way of Seeing is the lucid explanation of how the visual principles operate. Regulating lines are the author's device (borrowed from Le Corbusier) for examining the patterns suggested by the placement of windows, doors, and roofs. When he dashes them across photos of houses great and small, they bring to light the underlying organization as miraculously as an X-ray scan.

For Mr. Hale, the old way of seeing started to dim after 1850 — by no coincidence, about the time building design became homogenized by increased commerce and "denatured" by machine production. Today we're left with houses, even those built with historical features, that often lack unity and grace because the elements lack organization; the pieces don't fit. How to restore the old way of seeing? Hale's call is to put back proportion and creative departure from proportion. He rejects the use of formula ideas, and favors returning play and intuitive reason to the basic design process by altering the way we look at things — "designing on the right side of the brain" is one approach. "The lines," says Hale, "come later."

The reward for irrelevance in architecture is often a wrecking ball. While we permit a few lucky specimens to survive if they transcend fashion, most structures are doomed to extinction once they're not in step with the purpose of the day. Buildings, after all, are not chameleons that can alter themselves to mesh... (continued on page 20)
Wood Restoration System

The New Standards To Restore & Replace Wood

Specified by the U.S. Government, national restoration centers, museums, architects, contractors and other professionals, Abatron's restoration materials handle virtually any wood repair problem. Results are guaranteed by years of incredible performance and our service.

LiquidWood®

Deep penetrating wood consolidant. High-strength and strong adhesion, clear, transparent, low viscosity. Regenerates and waterproofs wood by hardening after penetrating. Can be brushed or poured on. Ideal for rotted windowsills and frames, columns, doors, furniture, sculptures structural and decorative components of any size in/outdoors.

WoodEpox®

The most versatile, STRUCTURAL & decorative wood substitute & no-shrink adhesive putty used in any thickness to replace, repair, extend or fill wood and other materials in structures, frames, furniture, boats, components, sculptures, in/outdoors. Can be sawed, nailed, planed, stained, painted. Often stronger than the original, unaffected by water, weather and termites. A NEW STANDARD IN WOOD RESTORATION.

Abatron's Wood Restoration Kit contains LiquidWood A (resin) and B (hardener), WoodEpox A and B, and Abosolv solvent. Available in 5 pint, 5 quart, and 5 gallon sizes.

414-653-2000
FAX 414-653-2019

ABATRON, INC.
5501 95th Ave., Dept. OH, Kenosha, WI 53144 USA

Since 1964, manufacturers of: Structural adhesives and sealants Protective and waterproof coatings - Seamless floors - Grouts for pitted and spalled surfaces Terrazzo systems - Expansion joints - Anchoring grouts for posts, precast and structures Underwater patching compounds - Resins for fiberglass and composites Caulks - Crack injection resins
with a new environment, right? Stewart Brand thinks otherwise, and in an original book he offers surprising evidence of building “knowledge.”

Perhaps it takes a naturalist’s perspective to propose that the design phase of a building doesn’t end once it’s up. Mr. Brand, who redefined reference with the legendary Whole Earth Catalog, also happens to be a biologist by training. It shows in How Buildings Learn as he documents the different ways a building can metamorphose through a remarkable collection of before-and-after pictures (some first seen in OHJ). Assembled in the pages of a book, it’s easy to see these buildings as examples of architectural Darwinism. Houses shed old skins and grow new ones, churches develop elaborate interiors, factories molt towers and sprout wings, all in a struggle for continued existence.

Casual readers might view this as an excuse for remuddling, but Mr. Brand has a deeper point to make: All buildings adapt, but few adapt gracefully. Such tasty field research leads the author to some choice observations (“Form follows funding”; “Finishing is never finished”) as well as lots of suggestions (“Try things first”; “Build for change”). His favorite species are vernacular buildings (they learn from each other) and unpretentious but practical spaces like garages and lofts — what he calls “low road” buildings.

It’s better to experience architecture — however good or bad — than to read about it, but as architecture books go these two are fascinating, friendly reads. Jonathan Hale writes with clear enthusiasm and purpose in a work that does not intimidate. Stewart Brand lets his telling trove of pictures do the talking, further sharpened by his keen, tart commentary. Each author challenges us to see a fourth dimension in buildings — time.
All Lamps Cast Light. Some Cast A Spell.

The original desk, table and floor lamps of William Morris and Sue Johnson give fresh power and meaning to the Arts & Crafts aesthetic. Handmade of fine hardwoods ranging from quarter-sawn oak, mahogany and cherry, to exotic wenge, bubinga and mesquite, the bases feature hand carving or inlays in accent woods. Natural leaves or hand-cut designs subtly decorate each mica shade.

For detailed information, including color photos, send $9 to:

LumenArt

Attention: Carl Kiss, 1001 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 1200, Portland, OR 97204 (503) 248-4640

Table lamp height: 25 inches

All lamp designs © William Morris & Sue Johnson

"I have used Vande Hey-Raleigh roof tiles for 6 years now. My customers think they're outstanding."
—John Houlihan, Houlihan Construction

"The Vande Hey-Raleigh Company has a great product. The tile roofs they offer not only add to the value of the house, but do much to enhance the cosmetic look of the house. Tile roofs not only last longer than fiberglass roofs, but their deep grooved lines and thick butts of shake offer a more interesting line of architecture than a shingle roof."
—J. Leppala Construction

VANDE HEY & RALEIGH

Architectural Roof Tile

• Custom colors and textures
• 50 year warranty
• Fireproof
• Freeze/thaw crack resistant
• No growth
• Creature/bug proof
• Complete roof system delivered (copper flashing, felt, ties, nails)
• Slate-Shake-Spanish-Riviera styles

Vande Hey's Early American slate tile provided us not only with a solution to budget constraints, but their smaller size and wide color variation gave us the visual appeal of slate other manufacturers couldn't match. Our choice was clear: Vande Hey-Raleigh tiles.
—David M. Riley, AIA; Wilson Jenkins & Associates

1665 Bohm Drive
Little Chute, WI 54140

VANDE HEY & RALEIGH

414-766-1181
1-800-236-TILE (8453)
WINDOW PAINT

Most restorers agree it's a good idea to allow window paint to lap slightly onto the glass for a good seal. With that in mind, here's a trick my uncle taught me for tidying up someone else's sloppy work while maintaining the bond to the pane. Hold a wallboard taper's knife against the sash rail or muntin as you scrape the glass with a razor blade. The width of the taper's blade will be left behind, providing adhesion to the glass. It also provides a nice, even line and prevents damaging the putty.

— Ty Earnest
Lexington, Ky.

A FINER LINE

An old woodworker once suggested that I try a finer string in my chalk line. It worked great! Now instead of a thick, blurry mark, I get a crisp, thin line that's easy to see and much more accurate. The only minor drawback is that I have to re-chalk the line between each snap.

— Pete Cecil
Bend, Oreg.

OFF THE PIPE CLAMP

If you're gluing up a wood frame, such as a paneled door, window sash, or cabinet face, there is an alternative to pipe clamps. Fasten straight boards to a worktable as cleats and set the workpiece inside. Then use wedges, cut to fill the voids between the blocks and the frame, to tighten the frame and hold it while the glue sets up. This simple clamp can be built to suit your project and is quickly adjusted for a piece of a different size. What's more, the wedges are quick release; simply knock them out. The blocks are easily removed (especially if you use screws).

— Jimmy Desimone
Yonkers, N.Y.

CLEANING RADIIATOR VENTS

Team radiator vents won't heat properly if they are stuck shut or open. The cure is baking soda. It removes dirt, hard-water deposits, and mineral buildup. On a warm day when the system is cold, remove the vent (they usually screw off by hand). Place it in a pot of water and add a few tablespoons of baking soda for each vent you're cleaning. Bring the water to a boil. After it simmers for about 30 minutes, rinse the vent thoroughly and reinstall.

— S. Jones
Kansas City, Mo.

Share your solutions! We'll pay $25 for hints or shortcuts that might help other old-house owners. Send them to Notebook Editor, Old-House Journal, Two Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930.
THE NEW MAGAZINE OF PERIOD DESIGN

For quality-conscious designers and homeowners actively involved in finishing, furnishing, or decorating a period home.

OLD-HOUSE INTERIORS is the quarterly magazine on decorating and furnishing ideas from the publishers of Old-House Journal. You'll find inspiration in the lavish color photos and intelligently written articles — plus practical advice and sourcelists for wainscot and lighting, period furniture and carpets. Old-House Interiors blends the historical approach with design flair. What you'll see is not decorating fads, but a classic approach to interior design.

TO ORDER: For convenience, use the postpaid order card opposite. Or call 1-800-462-0211 and charge to MC or VISA.

Subscriptions for Old-House Interiors are $18 for four issues. GIFTS: We'll send you a handsome card that you can mail to your friends announcing your gift. Fill out the card opposite or call the number above.
Defining Cape Cod

BY JAMES C. MASSEY AND SHIRLEY MAXWELL

We received a batch of snapshots from Hank Johnson, a realtor in Westminster, Maryland. With admirable skepticism, he questions the local custom of calling these 20th-century specimens Cape Cod houses. "They were built between 1936 and 1955," writes Mr. Johnson. "The houses are consistent in their jerkin-head roofs, coupled front windows, and paired-column porticos. 'Cape Cod' doesn't quite fit, to my understanding."

Right you are, Mr. Johnson. Those jerkin-head or clipped gables, the distinctive entrance porches, the paired windows, and the generous eaves do not follow 18th-century models in Massachusetts. Nor do these houses have much in common, stylistically speaking, with the great Cape Cod Revival that went on in many regions from the 1930s until about 1950. The form of these houses is somewhat similar to that of the full Cape — a small, one-storey mass arranged around a center entrance. But details and derivation are different.

The Massachusetts Cape

When Timothy Dwight, a president of Yale College, remarked on the special features of "Cape Cod houses" in 1800, the type was already well established. By 1740, such houses could be found throughout most of New England and across the Sound on Long Island. By 1790, they were in southern New York State. Homesteading farmers carried the house type into the Mohawk corridor of central New York, to the region around Lake Erie. And by 1830, Cape Cods could be found in Ohio and even Michigan. [continued on page 26]
SUMMER PROGRAM IN
CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE

NEW YORK CITY  JUNE 10 TO JULY 22, 1995

Intensive training in design, proportion, building and craftsmanship, literature, theory, interior design, figurative and measured drawing, and rendering. Open to architects, preservationists, interior designers and decorators, builders, craftsmen, educators, and students from all disciplines. For information, write or call:

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE
NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART, 111 FRANKLIN STREET, NEW YORK, NY, 10013
TELEPHONE (212) 570-7374 OR FACSIMILE (212) 627-5740

Mission Statement

Arts & Crafts Cabinetry
Beautifully reproduced with details that include Craftsman doors and quartersawn oak. Fine quality, full custom cabinetry available nationwide. Only from...
The Half Cape: a homesteader's starter house with one room plus loft.

(continued from page 24)

Those 19th-century houses commonly featured Greek Revival details, giving them a more formal look than the early originals on the Cape had had. The true Cape Cod house was a small cottage, without ornament except a transom and sidelights at the entry door. The houses were post and beam, their side walls sheathed with wide planks, shingled or clapboarded. Wood-shingle roofs were very steeply pitched. Cape Cods always had a center chimney (though it was often not perfectly in line with the entry door, for reasons of interior plan). Inside were steep stairs, small rooms, and little wasted space.

Settlers often built a half Cape to start: one room and a loft. Later construction would enlarge the house to three-quarter or full Cape, illustrated on this page. Further inland or up north, we're apt to find roof windows set in dormers to allow more light upstairs; away from the Cape, too, the use of a gambrel roof to increase headroom was not uncommon.

Neo-Colonial Cottages

If the little houses of Westminster aren't Cape Cods, what should we call them? "Workingman's
Cottages" has been suggested, but that generic term applies to millions of small houses built from 1925 on, especially during the postwar suburban expansion of the 1940s and early '50s. The Maryland cottages are part of the Georgian-derived Colonial Revival — small houses that don't necessarily follow a single prototype, but pick up details associated with English colonial houses (including the portico, columns, steep roof, and paired windows). The jerkin-head gables, too, have English colonial precedent.

In the prominence given to the entrance portico in what is otherwise a very small house, Mr. John-son's examples are reminiscent of the 1920s Chevy Houses — also of Maryland— which were described in OHJ's Nov./Dec. 1994 issue.

"Cape Cod house" is widely used to denote almost any small, white, one-and-a-half-storcy house with a gable roof and center entry — the quintessential picket-fence cottage. The truth is, even revival houses finished with brick veneer are often called Cape Cods by virtue of their basic form. But there were, of course, no masonry prototypes. Further confusion results because the houses pictured on page 24 date from the same period as post-war Cape Cod revival houses — a form so ubiquitous, "Cape Cod" is far more associated with the 20th century (and the mid-Atlantic) than it is with colonial architecture (and Cape Cod!).

This plan for a small house was called a "colonial bungalow" in 1925.

"Cape Cod house" is widely used to denote almost any small, white, one-and-a-half-storcy house with a gable roof and center entry — the quintessential picket-fence cottage. The truth is, even revival houses finished with brick veneer are often called Cape Cods by virtue of their basic form. But there were, of course, no masonry prototypes. Further confusion results because the houses pictured on page 24 date from the same period as post-war Cape Cod revival houses — a form so ubiquitous, "Cape Cod" is far more associated with the 20th century (and the mid-Atlantic) than it is with colonial architecture (and Cape Cod!).

Illustration from Small Homes of Architectural Distinction, AHSB, 1927.
EVEN GROWING IN A CITY PLOT, OLD-FASHIONED HOLLYHOCKS EMBODY THE VIRTUES OF A COTTAGE GARDEN. THEY ARE THE FLOWERS OF INNOCENCE, SIMPLICITY, AND CHILDHOOD, AN EVOCATION OF THE PAST AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED IT.

Introduced from the Far East, hollyhocks have been grown in England at least since the 15th century, and in North American gardens since the early-17th century. The English writer John Joselyn, who left detailed accounts of the plants he saw growing in colonial gardens, places hollyhocks among “useful plants,” indicating they were grown for herbal as well as ornamental value.

Hollyhocks belong to the mallow family, Malvaceae, the Latin derived from the Greek malakos, meaning “softening”: like all mallows, hollyhocks contain a mucilaginous substance. Extracts were thought to be soothing for ailments associated with the lungs, miscarriages, and ruptures. The very dark purple-black variant, *A. rosea nigra*, has been used to dye wines and teas.

When they hear “old-fashioned hollyhocks,” gardeners at once envision a stately plant, a true biennial that produces a mound of heart-shaped foliage the first season, sending up in the second season a round, stout stem soaring six feet or more. Side stems give it a buxom air, as they carry an abundance of wide-open trumpets of five overlapping petals in pastel pinks, rose and purple, white and cream, some with contrasting eyes and ruffled petals. In a well developed plant, the show continues all summer and on into fall.

Although they are generally regarded as venerable garden flowers, hollyhocks were not widely grown as ornamentals until the Victorian era. Then they became florist flowers, the subject of intensive breeding to create ever-new forms. The only cultivar of the period to survive is the double-flowered ‘Chater’s Doubles,’ still grown today.

Beginning in the 1930s, the tall classics, both singles and doubles, declined in popularity with the introduction of dwarf hollyhocks, always double flowered, which bloom from seed the first year and do not need to be staked. These have never entirely replaced the classic form in some gardeners' hearts. Nevertheless, it was almost impossible by the 1960s to find commercial seed or plant sources for the old-fashioned, single-flowered type.

Today, both the single and double classics are again available, as is the once-rare black hollyhock. All are valued as before for their impressive height, shown to advantage against weathered wood, stone or brick buildings, along walls and fences, and at the base of arbors as long-season companions to Old Roses.

### Growing Hollyhocks

HOLLYHOCKS ARE EASY TO GROW. IF CONDITIONS ARE MET — a sunny site and perfect drainage — they return year after year as if perennial. (In fact, they are regarded as both biennials and short-lived perennials.) The most common cause of failure is moisture collecting around root crowns. The soil should be friable (crumbly), even gritty, and enriched. But hollyhocks will grow in lean soil, too, as long as drainage is assured.

Plant seeds 1/8-inch deep in the summer. The following spring, well before the plants have had a chance to develop their long taproots, transplant the seedlings to their permanent site. During the second summer, plantlets will form at the base of the mother

**ABOVE:** *Alcea rosea nigra*, the black hollyhock, ranges from claret or maroon to deepest purple. **LEFT:** “Old Roses and Hollyhocks” celebrated in a book on tasteful houses, 1895.
A stately screen, an innocent burst of color, an evocation of the past... hollyhocks are beautiful against walls or fences, and next to weathered wood, stone, or old brick.
The following season, these daughters will allure and bloom. To ensure their healthy growth, cut down the old spent stalk at the end of the season (fall). The plantlets can also be carefully separated in the early spring or fall. Seeds will fall to the ground during the summer and eventually bloom, but if you want to keep colors separated, propagate hollyhocks from plantlets and discard seedlings.

If you’re starting with purchased plants, set them in the ground in early spring, spaced one foot apart. Classic hollyhocks usually need staking. Grown in lean soil and not exposed to wind, they may not need it. Stake when the plants are less than half expected height: early in the season of their second year. Wooden stakes work well, with an old stretch jersey or nylon stockings cut into strips and tied in figure-eight loops at intervals along the stem and stake.

Rust, a fungus that discolors the leaves, may be a problem if air circulation is inadequate. Use a fungicide such as sulfur dust, beginning in spring. Prevent the problem with clean cultivation, removing all plant debris.
The old "tin" roof never grows old in style... just in the generations of service it gives. Its charm is ageless, its popularity with architects and builders in both new and remodeling projects has remained strong.

The tin roof... it's actually terne metal manufactured by Follansbee Steel... will give your house a long-lasting and traditional charm not possible with other roofing materials. We'll be happy to send you additional information.

Painting Terne
Terne must be painted immediately after application according to specifications. The first coat is to be TerneCote I, the primer, followed by a finish coat of TerneCote II. Follansbee manufactures TerneCote and it is available in 11 standard colors. It can be purchased through your local distributor or from Follansbee Steel.

For more information, call us toll-free 800-624-6906
FOLLANSBEE
FOLLANSBEE STEEL • FOLLANSBEE, WV 26037
FAX 304-527-1269

The Williamsburg Series from Crown Point


CALL FOR FREE COLOR LITERATURE OR SEND $12 FOR 200-PAGE SPECIFICATION GUIDE.
In Northeast Baltimore, whole blocks of ornamental block houses still boast of their popularity nearly a century ago.
"This is the concrete age and concrete offers the greatest opportunity today. . . . The forests are going. Indeed they have almost disappeared.

What shall take the place of wood?

The answer is: concrete!"

— FROM A C. 1910 HELM MACHINE CO. CATALOG.

ERE PROMOTIONAL EXAGGERATION? Only partly so, for it seemed that concrete-block buildings were springing up almost overnight during the first three decades of this century. In the suburbs, in small towns, on farms, and even in urban neighborhoods, a new kind of construction brought the masonry house within reach of the average family, and left its mark across a continent. * Concrete-block houses were built by do-it-yourselfers, or contractors acting as local real-estate entrepreneurs. The “cement blocks,” as they were called, could be bought from a local building supplier but, far more likely, they were made right at the construction site (see page 38). As OHJ readers helped us learn through the photos and information shared in this article, it was an age when man-made building products and new techniques were replacing natural materials — asphalt and composition shingles for slate, for example. Progressive and popular, concrete block embodied the spirit of the times.

BY J. RANDALL COTTON
Concrete is little more than natural or manmade cement mixed with sand and other aggregates. Adding water starts a chemical reaction that hardens the mix into a monolithic mass. Although the Romans built with concrete, the material was nearly forgotten until the French re-popularized it in the early 1800s. In North America, large-scale production of portland cement after 1880 gave concrete a new level of quality and availability. Dramatic building projects, such as the Panama Canal, made it a miracle material of the new century.

The Architecture of Ornamental Block

Compared to today’s plain, mass-produced CMUs (concrete masonry units), early concrete block had character. Interchangeable mold plates turned the block face into imitations of standard dressed stonework — ashlar, rubble, broached, or bushhammer. Ornamental designs were nearly as common. Egg-and-dart, wreath, rope, or scroll “carvings” cast into blocks made them ideal for friezes or beltcourses. Beveled-edged panel designs adapted well to corner quoins. Cobblestone-faced blocks provided a rustic look. Lattice patterns could be used for fences or concrete “skirts” under porches. Though critics claimed such ersatz masonry was untruthful, it gave the block visual interest — an appeal poured concrete houses of the time couldn’t match.

There were triangular blocks for gables, trapezoidal blocks for inside and outside corners, and segmentally arched blocks for bay windows. Special blockmaking kits were marketed for casting porch balusters, rails, and columns topped by your choice of Corinthian or Ionic capitals. Need sills, lintels, arches, or copings? No problem — there was a mold for any purpose.

Like the material itself, the concrete block house’s design was usually the work of the builder, copied from a planbook, manufacturer’s catalog, or the house around the corner. Frequently, just the first floor was block, while the second floor was cladded in clapboard or wood shingles. The house most often rendered in concrete block is the American Foursquare — no surprise since the uniform, rectangular blocks were ideal for creating the uncomplicated boxiness of the ultimate in practical dwellings. Rough-cut pattern of “rock-faced” and “granite-faced” blocks were highly popular and added zest to this otherwise straightforward house type. Panel-type blocks lent refinement, and seem to have been increasingly fashionable after 1910.

Houses in the post-Victorian Colonial Revival and bungalow styles appeared nearly...
as often in ornamental concrete block, as did vernacular cottages and farmhouses. Less common were Dutch Colonial, late Queen Anne, and Mansard-styled homes. Concrete block houses even took Spanish and Mission Revival forms in Florida and California. For example, an entrepreneur in St. Augustine used crushed coquina shell in the concrete mix, giving his concrete “Coquina brick” houses a local flair.

Occasionally, in a typically American pairing of modern building technology and historical architectural styles, someone would erect an exotic concrete-block house. Quoins, jamb “stones,” and roof parapets came naturally to the material, adding a castle feel to suburban housing. International traditions, however, inspired an occasional Japanese pagoda or a Bavarian manor house. There’s even an example of a rustic log house made of concrete!

There were other variations. Mineral pigments and colored aggregates incorporated in the concrete mix produced a colored block, usually in tones of gray or brown. In Wisconsin, a local lumber dealer made “Casberg Block” by adding chips of colored glass to the concrete for a cheerful, confetti effect. In Jacksonville, Florida, “Miami Stone” was embedded with sparkling rock aggregate.

The applications did not stop with houses. The automobile was still a novelty, and thought to be a fire hazard, so garages seemed safer when built of fireproof concrete block. Many commercial buildings and churches when up in concrete block, especially in small towns. There are concrete block schools, hotels, con-

Stone-colored block and a multi-gambrelled design suggest this New York house took its cues from a machine-makers’ catalog.
Pigments in the concrete, or possibly the local Virginia sand, produced a striking brick-colored Foursquare — once home to the sisters of silent-screen stars Dorothy and Lillian Gish.

vent, railroad stations, bakeries, icehouses, feed stores, and carriage houses, as well as fences and retaining walls. Special curved block kits were offered to farmers who could put up concrete silos. By one estimate 640,000 were erected in a six-year period.

Promoting Blockmaking

MORE THAN ANYTHING, THE RAPID RISE OF the concrete-block house on the North American landscape is the result of a massive and targeted marketing campaign by block machine makers and catalog retailers. Sears, Roebuck & Co., the mail-order masterminds, promoted the new industry with typical sizzle in their 1908 catalog: “Anyone, anywhere, can make money, and lots of it by engaging in this new and attractive business! There is a big demand for concrete building blocks and this demand is increasing with wonderful strides.”

Sears probably sold more blockmaking machines than anyone, but the Besser Manufacturing Company of Alpena, Michigan (today the world’s largest producer of concrete block machinery), and the Ideal Concrete Machine Company of Ontario were other leaders. A basic outfit from Sears — a standard manual machine, eight special-purpose molds and attachments, plus accessories — was $63.75 in 1910.

There were three primary markets for block-making machines: do-it-yourselfers, such as farmers; small-scale contractor-developers; and those already engaged in related businesses (building-supply retailing, lumberyards, cement manufacturing). “Farmers and small land owners who have gravel pits or sand banks on their property are the ones who can reap the greatest benefits,” noted one block machine ad, “because, aside from the cement use ... their material costs absolutely nothing. The farmer can make concrete blocks ... on rainy days and at other idle periods.” No wonder the majority of concrete-block houses stand in small towns, rural areas, or regions with the raw ingredients.

In North Dakota, a mix of late-Victorian bays and broad eaves sets off a Foursquare built in 1906. Note the two-tone block treatment at corners and storey levels.
Although concrete-block houses were built all across America and Canada, there was a certain middle-America quality to the phenomenon. No doubt to the concentration of cement manufacturing in those limestone-rich states helped; sparsely populated South Dakota alone had 38 concrete-block companies operating in 1909. Moreover, do-it-yourself blockmaking appealed to the self-reliant Midwestern spirit. Promoters capitalized on this regionalism by giving their block machines model names such as the “Buckeye” or the “Badger.”

Real-estate entrepreneurs got in the game too. In northeast Baltimore, near the edge of the city, are several neighborhoods of bungalows, Colonial Revivals, and Fourquares, all exclusively concrete block. In Reading, Ohio, and its surrounding communities, German stonemasons put up dozens of block houses, and cottages. There, an Adam Koenig not only manufactured much of Reading’s concrete block, but was president of the Home Loan and Building Company, a combination of professions repeated by others.

What, then, was the appeal? It’s hard to separate fact from advertising hyperbole, but concrete block was touted as:

- Inexpensive — No doubt block was cheaper than stone and brick, but claims that it cost less than wood are dubious. It was said that 100 blocks could be made for $5 in material and labor, and sold for $8.
- Strong — Rural homeowners and farmers in the tornado-prone Midwest and Plains states liked the solidity of concrete block.
- Fireproof — Sections of Jacksonville, Florida, were rebuilt with “Compostone,” a fireproof block. Similarly, in Halifax, Nova Scotia — partially flattened by a stupendous explosion in 1917 — the Halifax Relief Commission constructed hundreds of Tudor-styled freestanding and row houses of fireproof “Hydrostone,” a T-shaped concrete block.
- Convenient — Concrete blocks were easy to build with — uniform in size and 33% lighter than stone.

Block Grows Bland

THE DECLINE OF ORNAMENTAL CONCRETE-block houses came in the 1930s with the advent of mass-production machines that did not allow for cast, ornamental faces. The real potential of concrete was not in the form of decorative, pseudo-natural stones, but as faceless units (best covered over and never seen), or a fully plastic material.

There were a few notable exceptions, though. In the early 1920s, Frank Lloyd Wright cast his characteristic geometric designs into what he called Textile Block. At least one Wright follower, Alden Dow, developed the Unit Block System of trapezoidal and triangular concrete blocks. Dozens of Wrightian-style Unit Block houses were erected in and around Midland, Michigan, in the ’30s.

Despite the early optimism, the “cement block” could not keep up with changing architectural tastes and new building materials, such as veneer brick, plywood sheathing, and artificial siding. In its heyday, however, ornamental concrete block was a homemade product that combined practicality with architectural style.
Advanced material or not, ornamental block building called on lots of human muscle. Note all the hand tools at this 1905 Ohio job site.

Concrete Techniques

"Are you sure these blocks were made on site?" quizzed one skeptical OHJ reader. Indeed, though blockmaking at the turn of the century used machines, most were hand-powered. There were two basic kinds. Vertical-face machines held the face mold plate at one side of the casting box. Face-down (also called horizontal face) machines, located the plate at the bottom of the casting box.

Hand-machine blockmaking used the dry process, close to what is called cast stone today. It permitted many quick castings with the same machine, and was a bit of an art. First the blockmaker lined the mold with facing mixture — typically 1 part portland cement to 2 parts coarse, sharp sand mixed with just enough water to hold together. In face-down machines this simply meant coating the bottom like preparing an upsidedown cake, but in vertical-face machines the mix had to be kept in place temporarily with a parting plate. Then came an equally dry body mix of 1 part cement, 2 parts sand, 3 parts gravel or stone.

Thorough tamping was the next essential step. Tamping eliminated air pockets and consolidated the materials to form a delicate block that could crumble if mishandled. One- or two-man operations worked with a large wooden hand tamper, or one of the simple pressure plates often built into these machines. Power-driven tampers were faster, but expensive.

After withdrawing the core forms and releasing the box sides, the blockmaker gingerly moved the fresh block to a drying rack where it would cure with a daily sprinkling of water for two to four weeks — the longer, the stronger. (Large operations steam cured hundreds of blocks at a time in a building.) Washing a little cement off the ornamental face helped the stone effect.

The end product was either a solid or hollow block, in one of the scores of competing proprietary shapes. Solid blocks were used as veneer over a wood-frame or concrete block load-bearing wall. Hollow
blocks produced their own wall with an insulating cavity. Adjusting or partially filling the molds yielded the half, quarter, and piece-shaped pieces for corners, gables, and arches. Manufacturer's typically claimed one man could make 300 blocks in a day. A good-sized house might require 6,000 blocks.

EVEN WITH POWER EQUIPMENT FOR TAMPPING AND MIXING, 300 BLOCKS IN A 10-HOUR DAY IS ONE EVERY TWO MINUTES, NOT ACCOUNTING FOR BREAKS, SCREW-UPS, AND CLEANING. COULD THIS REALLY HAVE BEEN THE REGULAR PACE OF CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING? THE REPORTS FROM OHJ READERS TOLD A MORE REALISTIC STORY.

"My father, an electrician by trade, was also a builder of cement block homes in the early 1900s," recalls Peg Dilworth of Brigham City, Utah. "My brother, mother, and I made many of the blocks; it was tedious work. I well remember making 10 to 12 blocks each morning before going to school." George Caddell of Westport, Indiana had some contemporary input. "I purchased a block machine at a farm auction. Since I was building a barn to store my antique steam engine, what better foundation than rock-faced blocks? This project took 250 blocks — five days of hard work."

Fortunately, it seems concrete block houses have proved themselves remarkably durable over nearly a century — a surprising testament to the original pro-

Hollow blocks, usually 8" x 8" x 16", laid like modern CMUs.

Two-piece hollow blocks were common.

Metal anchors (or header blocks in masonry walls) tied solid blocks to the base.

blocks produced their own wall with an insulating cavity. Adjusting or partially filling the molds yielded the half, quarter, and piece-shaped pieces for corners, gables, and arches. Manufacturer's typically claimed one man could make 300 blocks in a day. A good-sized house might require 6,000 blocks.

EVEN WITH POWER EQUIPMENT FOR TAMPPING AND MIXING, 300 BLOCKS IN A 10-HOUR DAY IS ONE EVERY TWO MINUTES, NOT ACCOUNTING FOR BREAKS, SCREW-UPS, AND CLEANING. COULD THIS REALLY HAVE BEEN THE REGULAR PACE OF CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING? THE REPORTS FROM OHJ READERS TOLD A MORE REALISTIC STORY.

"My father, an electrician by trade, was also a builder of cement block homes in the early 1900s," recalls Peg Dilworth of Brigham City, Utah. "My brother, mother, and I made many of the blocks; it was tedious work. I well remember making 10 to 12 blocks each morning before going to school." George Caddell of Westport, Indiana had some contemporary input. "I purchased a block machine at a farm auction. Since I was building a barn to store my antique steam engine, what better foundation than rock-faced blocks? This project took 250 blocks — five days of hard work."

Fortunately, it seems concrete block houses have proved themselves remarkably durable over nearly a century — a surprising testament to the original pro-

blocks produced their own wall with an insulating cavity. Adjusting or partially filling the molds yielded the half, quarter, and piece-shaped pieces for corners, gables, and arches. Manufacturer's typically claimed one man could make 300 blocks in a day. A good-sized house might require 6,000 blocks.

EVEN WITH POWER EQUIPMENT FOR TAMPPING AND MIXING, 300 BLOCKS IN A 10-HOUR DAY IS ONE EVERY TWO MINUTES, NOT ACCOUNTING FOR BREAKS, SCREW-UPS, AND CLEANING. COULD THIS REALLY HAVE BEEN THE REGULAR PACE OF CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING? THE REPORTS FROM OHJ READERS TOLD A MORE REALISTIC STORY.

"My father, an electrician by trade, was also a builder of cement block homes in the early 1900s," recalls Peg Dilworth of Brigham City, Utah. "My brother, mother, and I made many of the blocks; it was tedious work. I well remember making 10 to 12 blocks each morning before going to school." George Caddell of Westport, Indiana had some contemporary input. "I purchased a block machine at a farm auction. Since I was building a barn to store my antique steam engine, what better foundation than rock-faced blocks? This project took 250 blocks — five days of hard work."

Fortunately, it seems concrete block houses have proved themselves remarkably durable over nearly a century — a surprising testament to the original pro-
HOW CAN YOU RECONCILE THE NEED FOR A FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN WITH A DESIRE TO BE TRUE TO THE HOUSE'S PERIOD? THE ANSWER, IN A PIE SHELL, IS COMPROMISE. CONSTRUCT CABINETS THAT IMITATE FREE-STANDING KITCHEN FURNITURE OF YESTERYEAR ON THE OUTSIDE, WITH THE LATEST IN SLIDE-OUT BINS, LAZY-SUSAN CORNERS, AND WIPE-CLEAN SURFACES ON THE INSIDE. IDENTIFY AN APPROPRIATE EXTERIOR LOOK AND BUILD IT WITH SOLID WOOD. THEN, INSIDE (WHERE PRACTICALITY IS CRUCIAL, BUT AESTHETICS AREN'T), USE PLYWOOD, OR MELAMINE-COATED MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF). WE SURVEYED PERIOD PATTERNBOOKS AND VISITED TWO TRADITIONAL CABINETMAKERS' SHOPS TO WORK UP A SET OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR TRADITIONAL-LOOKING KITCHEN CABINETS. THE POINTERS WILL HELP YOU WHETHER YOU'RE A CARPENTER CONSTRUCTING CABINETS OR A HOMEOWNER LOOKING FOR DETAILS.

DOORS, DRAWERS


CONTEMPORARY CABINETS (TOP LEFT) ARE SMOOTH AND FLAT, WITH LITTLE OR NO DETAIL. DOORS AND DRAWER HEADS COMPLETELY COVER THE FRONTS. HINGES ARE INVISIBLE AND PULLS ARE OFTEN ABANDONED FOR FINGERTIP EDGES. TRADITIONAL CABINETWORK (BOTTOM LEFT) IS CONSTRUCTED IN PLACE USING A SOLID WOOD FRAMEWORK AND CLEATS ON THE PLASTER WALLS. DOORS AND DRAWERS ARE GENERALLY FLUSH MOUNTED AND THE JOINERY PROVIDES ITS OWN DESIGN CONTRIBUTION. COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS, USING PRODUCTION BOXES FOR CABINET CASES AND A SINGLE FACE FRAME FOR EACH BANK OF CABINETS AFTER THEY ARE INSTALLED. USE STOCK THAT'S ¾" OR SO THICKER THAN YOUR DOOR FRAME STOCK AND ABOUT 2" WIDE. OLD-FASHIONED DOVEL JOINERY OR MODERN BISCUITS ARE YOUR BEST BET. A THUMBNAIL MOULDING IS AN EXCELLENT INNER FRAME DECORATION. "THE PLAIN ¾" BEAD WITH A QUIRK IS PROBABLY THE MOST COMMON DETAIL THROUGHOUT ALL PERIODS," SAYS PETER VERONNEAU, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF NEW ENGLAND PATTERN & JOINERY IN CONNECTICUT, SPECIALIZING IN TRADITIONAL WOODWORK.

CABINETS ARE DEFINED BY THEIR DOORS AND DRAWER HEADS — THE PARTS WE SEE AND TOUCH. BUILDING THESE WITH TRADITIONAL METHODS GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS CREATING A KITCHEN THAT LOOKS AUTHENTIC.
I. DOORS

Before the introduction of plywood, carpenters used wide boards for doors. When the space was bigger than the stock, they attached multiple boards along their edges, using panel or batten joinery, which offer great traditional looks today.

PANEL DOORS

THE MOST POPULAR DESIGN IN OLD HOUSES of all ages is the panel door. It uses a wood frame to hold the edge-joined boards together, providing a long-lasting unit and plenty of opportunity for eye-pleasing detail.

- Frame: Join stiles and rails with mortise-and-tenon joints, unsurpassed for strength and sag-resistance. Some tips from Dave Leonard: A good detail for early Colonial house cabinets is the open mortise, where both the top and side of the tenons are exposed at the edge of the stiles. Later Colonials should have through mortises, where only the end is exposed. In either case, pegs add an authentic detail. Tap glued-up square pegs into round holes for a tight hold. For Victorian and later
The first thing you see in this new kitchen, by New England Pattern & Joinery, is an authentic built-in piece. Note, too, the wrought-iron H-hinges and raised panels.

The panel detail depends on the period desired. Again, follow the house's lead. For 17th- and early-18th-century cabinets, use a raised panel. Veronneau uses a 12" bevel he has reproduced from old cabinet work. It's a flat, continuous taper, with sharp edges. (Modern panels have rounded edges, with the bevel turning the corner onto the field, and swooping into the frame.) Colonial cabinet panels should have a narrow, say 1", bevel showing and the field should stand flush with door's frame. Use 3/4" thick stock and raise it on both front and back. One Colonial variant uses a beadboard for the panel. For a Federal-era look, the raised panels are only in front and fields stand proud of the door frame, and have a wider (maybe 1 1/2") bevel. Also, use thicker stock, say 1" or even 1 1/4". Victorian, turn-of-the-century, and Arts & Crafts pieces get a flat panel. You can use thinner stock, say 1/2", and even as thin as 3/16" for Arts & Crafts.

**Glazing:** Glass panels were quite common through the Victorian era and early part of this century for upper cupboards. A plate rail — a narrow rabbet in the shelving — was used to stand china for display. One good 17th-century design is 6" x 8" panes, set in broad, moulded muntins that stand proud of the glass. The muntins can be between 1" and 1 1/4" thick. You can use old-fashioned, cylinder glass, either recycled or from a reproduction maker (one good source is S.A. Bendheim Company, Inc., 61 Willett St., Dept OHJ, Passaic, NJ 07055; 800-221-7379). Tack on a moulded cleat to fasten the glass in place (center). Or use leaded glass with square or diamond panes (locate a local source, or contact Golden Age Glassworks, 339 Bellvale Road, Dept OHJ, Warwick, NY 10990; 914-4986-1487.)

Another popular panel option, especially appropriate for Colonial houses, is punched tin (available from Brubaker Metalcrafts, 209 North Franklin St., Dept OHJ, Eaton, OH 45320; 800-950-5834).
LEFT: Glazed doors with muntins turn upper cabinets into showpieces for fine housewares.

ABOVE: A Z-brace is a good idea for oversized batten doors to keep them square. For added strength, let in the brace (upper end).

BELOW: Mouldings create shadow-lines over the joints (top to bottom): a V-groove detail hides a tongue & groove connection; the bead and quirk masks a spline resting in two grooves; a detail from a 1675 house in Connecticut and a shiplap joint.

BATTEN DOORS
THE BATTEN DOOR — ALWAYS CONSIDERED less sophisticated in construction and appearance than the panel door — is popular today in country-style kitchens. Perhaps the simplest edge-joining technique, it employs horizontal members, or battens, to fasten planks together. Simple mouldings on the boards’ edges mask the seams.

- Beaded Board: The standard batten door should have three boards. Size the outer ones equally, and the center piece at between one-half and two-thirds of their width. Maintain this proportion for all the cabinets by varying the size of the boards depending on the door’s dimensions. Tongue & groove boards (often available in stock millwork) make an excellent joint, but not necessarily a historic one. The shiplap also masks gaps between boards created by expansion and shrinkage. Incorporate the bead into the milling of the shiplap by cutting the bead first, and then cutting the shiplap so the decoration is on its tongue.

- Batten: On standard cabinet doors, use two battens about 2½” to 3” wide. For an authentic door, use cut nails (available from Tremont Nail Company, 8 Elm St., P.O. Box 111, Dept. OHJ, Wareham, MA 02571; 800-842-0560). Nail from the batten through the beaded board, and clinch over the tips. If this look is not preferred, use shorter nails and add glue to the joint. Another alternative is to screw the battens on, covering their heads with wood plugs. Mortising the battens into the beaded board ¾” is a good idea for two reasons: it helps keep the door square, and it reduces the projecting thickness of the battens — and the clearance they require when the door is closed.
II. DRAWERS

Old-fashioned drawers ride on wood rails, with a block to keep them from pulling all the way out and a coat of wax to counter friction. Today, metal roller-and-track slides allow drawers to glide effortlessly, even while holding pounds of flatware.

■ Construction: If you're using plywood or MDF, join the drawer parts with a rabbet joint, letting the front and back of the drawer into the two sides. These can be glued and screwed. To hide edges, cut slightly oversized solid wood edge banding, then putty and sand to width after applying. Or use wood edge tape. For a more traditional drawer, build with solid wood. Dovetails are by far the most authentic and longest-lasting connection. However, even with today's jigs that turn your router into an automatic dovetail cutter, this is a labor-intensive job for a small project. Some cabinetmakers choose a rabbet joint even for a traditional box. The joint should stand the test of time, too, especially because modern slides reduce the wear and tear on the drawer's connections.

■ Mechanicals: Side-mounted slides — the modern standard — are the most convenient, especially if you're using plywood or MDF to make your drawer box anyway. They offer full extension of the drawers. Because the drawer head is recessed, and the drawer box is smaller than the frame, you'll have to build out from the box for the slide's track. Install cleats to bring the slide even with the frame (for most sets, ½" clearance is required on each side). If you're seeking an entirely old-fashioned drawer, however, a side-mounted slide can detract from the appearance of the solid wood and dovetail joinery. The metal units read modern when the drawer is open. The other option: use under-mounted slides, which are invisible unless you're lying on the floor (available from Julius Blum, Inc., Highway 16 — Lowesville, Dept. OHJ, Stanley, NC 28164; 800-438-6788). These slides don't allow the drawer to extend as far (stopping about three-quarters of the way) and they are expensive, but where drawer authenticity is an issue, they are the slide of choice.

■ Heads: Fasten solid-wood drawer heads onto the drawer boxes — after you've installed them in the assembled cabinet — using an adjustable drawer front attachment (available from your drawer slide supplier). This modern contraption allows you to adjust the head so it can fit perfectly in the recessed opening even if the drawer is a fraction off. A simple, flat, un moulded drawer head is perhaps the most authentic type. However, for large drawers, a panel may be necessary to account for wood movement.
III. DETAILS

With traditional doors and drawers, your cabinets will blend right into your old house. Here are some of the little things you can do to make the cabinets look even more authentic.

- **Materials:** Use pine for Colonial-style cabinets. Maple is a good choice for cabinets that will be painted. Cherry, red birch, and oak are best for 19th- and 20th-century houses where the wood will not be painted. For hardware, select surface-mounted or mortised-but hinges and authentic pulls from a quality reproduction supplier (such as Crown City Hardware Company, 1047 North Allen Avenue, Dept. OHJ, Pasadena, CA 91104; 818-794-1188).

- **Toe Spaces:** Modern practice says workstations require toe-spaces. Go with the industry standard of 4" high and 3" deep and build them as an integral part of the cabinet. But where people don't actually lean over to chop, scrub, or knead, go without them because it looks more furniture-like. A trick that helps play down the toe-spaces visually, is to put feet on the ends of each run of cabinets (right). This is done by dropping the last stile to the floor and adding a slight radius to it. Also, cap all cabinets that have exposed sides with a panel.

- **Appliances:** Most large appliance manufacturers these days offer equipment that can receive a wood panel front. By sinking the appliance into a cabinetlike box and installing a wood face, even large refrigerators and dishwashers blend in. Some builders put stove-tops into cabinets (much like sink boxes). Other traditional kitchen designers do not mask modern appliances (saying the deception is not very effective); they let appliances stand among the cabinets.

- **Surfacing:** Instead of power-sanding your cabinetwork smooth, use traditional surfacing methods, and you'll get a terrific look. These are tricky techniques, requiring practice on scrap wood and maybe even a lesson from an old salt. Hand-plane softwoods, using an old-fashioned surfacing plane. The plane itself is standard, but the blade is cambered to prevent gouging the wood at its edges. If you're going to hand plane the boards, use extra thick stock (say 3/4" for 1/2" final width). If need be, some 200-grit hand sanding can be used as the final with-grain surfacing. For hardwoods, you can sand or use a hand scraper. Pulling it across the wood will smooth it and will raise the grain slightly for an aged look.

- **Finish:** Perhaps nothing is more important than the finish you choose. Modern plastic finishes can be sprayed on to create long-lasting coverage, but will ruin the old-fashioned look of the cabinet. Apply your finish by hand. Use a traditional finish appropriate to the era and the house. For painting, use oil-based or milk paint (available from the Old Fashioned Milk Paint Co., 436 Main St., Dept. OHJ, Groton, MA 01450; 508-448-6336). Aniline dyes are a good old-fashioned alternative to stains. Whether painting, staining, or dying, use multiple coats of different shades and hand rub the finish for a look that approximates patina. Varnish is the best hard-coat finish, but oil finishes have the most authentic look — the downside is that they require regular maintenance. (Aniline dyes and rubbing oils are available from Finishing Products, 864 Big Bend, Dept. OHJ, St. Louis, MO 63110; 314-962-7775.)

    Remember, use the house as a model and match cupboards to its scale: ornate cabinets just won't look right in a simple, builder's style house.

---

A sink base — found in every kitchen — takes on a traditional, furniture-like look when feet are added to each side. Panel molding will be applied to the doors after they are primed so that future shrinkage does not expose unfinished wood.

Special thanks for technical assistance:
Peter J. Veronneau,
New England Pattern & Joinery,
379 Summer St., P.O. Box 862,
Southington, CT 06479; (203) 621-0248
Dare Leonard, The Kennebec Company,
One Front St., Bath, ME 04530; (207) 443-2131.
The intricate patterns, earthtone glazes, and cloisonné reliefs of reproduction tiles.
The Ceramic Circus

Choosing reproduction tiles to match your period house can be confusing.

Get the low-down on tile styles and suppliers — past and present.

BY JAMES C. MASSEY & SHIRLEY MAXWELL

WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE decades make! Twenty years ago the market for reproduction tiles for fireplaces, floors, and walls in historic houses hardly existed. Oh, there were plenty of plain, slick pastels — just right for the newest ranch or split-level. But the only option for museum-quality restorations was to order custom replicas, most of which were less than convincing.

Since then the market has matured — boomed, in fact — and it is getting better all the time. Tiles suitable for use in period interiors and historic restorations are now widely available; high-quality, custom-made replicas are routine; and custom colors to match the homeowner’s decor can be provided on demand. The period tile makers range in size from small artisan workshops to large international firms. Now that mass-production tile makers have caught on to the idea, the latest trend in factory-produced tiles is toward historical designs and adaptations. Some of the latter are quite at home in the vintage house — and they are probably more readily available than custom handmade replicas.

A Brief History of Tile

TILES HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME — as early as the ancient Egyptian and Babylonians, in fact. But the history of tile making in America is relatively brief. When America was first colonized, there was no means of tile making, so tiles were imported from Europe. In the 18th century, for those who could afford them, Delft tiles — blue and white or polychrome tin-glazed ware from Holland and England — and transfer-printed tiles (a method of applying a print on the tile surface with a copper master plate) from Liverpool decorated fireplaces in pre-revolutionary homes.

In the early 19th century, Herbert Minton in England used newly patented manufacturing processes to create, as he called them, encaustic tiles — actually inlaid tiles, a 13th-century method of filling different clay colors into pressed designs, which fused during firing. Encaustic tiles and unglazed geometries became very popular in the United States and, by the 1850s, they covered the floors of many entryways, both private and commercial. Like many Victorian decorative elements, tiles became of a symbol of social position and good taste. But surprisingly, most were still imported. This was about to change, however.

At the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, an impressive display by European tile manufacturers combined with a strong nationalistic movement made the time ripe for industrious Americans to create their own wares. These first decorative tiles were called art tiles — relief tiles depicting natural scenes or classical motifs. The innovative John Gardner Low, founder of the J. & J. G. Low Art Tile Works, cre-

A floral border matched with luminous ivory and green field tiles makes an impressive display on an Arts & Crafts mantel.
KNOW-HOW

Early American Tiles

From reproduction Delft tiles to actual antiques, these companies specialize in tiles suitable for early American — or even Colonial Revival — homes. Keep in mind that this is a partial list of the many styles available.

COUNTRY FLOORS, INC.
15 E. 16th St., Dept. OHJ
New York, NY 10003
(212) 627-8500
An extraordinary range of historic-period tiles. Includes 16th- to 18th-c. designs, Delft tiles and crackled-glaze tiles.

DUTCH PRODUCTS AND SUPPLY CO.
166 Lincoln Ave., Dept. OHJ
Yardley, PA 19067
(215) 493-4873
Cradle-glazed Delftware in blue and polychrome from the venerable firm Westraven (above). Also have pictorial tableaux.

DUTCH PRODUCTS AND SUPPLY CO.
166 Lincoln Ave., Dept. OHJ
Yardley, PA 19067
(215) 493-4873
Cradle-glazed Delftware in blue and polychrome from the venerable firm Westraven (above). Also have pictorial tableaux.

LAUFEN INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC TILE
Box 6600, Dept. OHJ
Tulsa, OK 74156
(918) 428-3851
Reproduction Victorian, blue Delft tiles, and an Art Nouveau mural are among a variety of modern designs appropriate for old houses. Available through distributors.

SUN HOUSE
9986 Happy Acres W., Dept. OHJ
Bozeman, MT 59715-9583
(406) 587-3651
Although not reproductions, tiles stamped with buttermold patterns (left and p.49, top right) are suitable for early American houses. Also have a line of Victorian-style borders.

SUMMITVILLE TILES, INC.
Dept. OHJ
Summitville, OH 43962
(216) 223-1511
Reproduction English 18th-century fireplace tiles (bottom, floral basket) and a humorous Macaroni figure series based on 18th-century engravings, done in cooperation with Colonial Williamsburg. Also a new series complementing Fitz and Floyd china. Sold through distributors and showrooms.

HELEN WILLIAMS/RARE TILES
12645 Hortense St., Dept. OHJ
Studio City, CA 91604
(818) 761-2756
Importer of original antique tiles, including Delft, Liverpool, Spanish, and Portuguese as well as original Victorian and Art Nouveau tiles. Prices range from $25 to $100.

Reproduction matte green art tiles along the backsplash and wall add to the period feel of this modern kitchen.

Despite this growth, the mass production of Victorian tiles left little room for original artistic expression. In late 1890s, a taste for handmade decorative tiles emerged, as Americans learned to appreciate craftsmanship. By 1910, American tile making was in its heyday, producing tiles of great originality. Instead of attempting realistic and detailed images like the Victorians, subject matter became more artistic and stylized. Matte finishes were preferred over glossy translucent glazes; handcrafted irregularities were prized. The use of decorative tiles went beyond fireplaces or floors — finding its way into the kitchen, along walls and arches, and on stair risers.

Henry Chapman Mercer, who founded the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works (see "Who They Were," January/February 1995), was instrumental in bringing about these changes. He created straightforward designs based on historic — often medieval — subjects. William Grueby of the Grueby Faience Co. produced the now well-known matte green glaze that was widely used during the Arts & Crafts movement. (Faience, by the way, was originally a term for all tin-glazed earthenware, but came to mean architectural ceramics, structural as well as decorative.) Other imagi-
native glazes, such as Rookwood Pottery's waxy matte treatments and Pewabic Pottery's iridescent blues, were also formulated during this period.

California was slower to develop its tile making capabilities. However, once started, West coast tile makers showed much originality by drawing from the California landscape for their subjects. The tiles had an earthy appearance, and many used bright colors and geometric shapes that blended with the Spanish Colonial houses of the area. Ernest Batchelder created a mottled effect on his tiles by partially rubbing off a colorant (not a glaze) to expose the clay underneath. Malibu Pottery produced particularly beautiful glazed press-molded tiles (machine-made from dust clay that is molded under pressure); California Faience installed tiles designed by architect Julia Morgan.

The Great Depression caused the closing of most tile manufacturers. Later, the public lost interest in the handcrafted look, and only cookie-cutter pastel tiles were available. However, just like a century ago, the whims of taste shifted again. In the late 1960s and early '70s, there was a re-emergence of historical designs, which has led to a burst of creativity in reproduction — and original — tile making today.

**A Period Tile Revival**

**Victorian Tiles**

Whether you’re looking for encaustic floor tiles or a five-part fireplace border, the choices for Victorian tiles have never been better.

**BLAKESON, INC.**
Huron Lane, P.O. Box 25303, Dept. OHJ
Little Rock, AR 72221
(501) 221-9441
Importers of Victorian tiles for fireplaces (left, five-part border).

**DESIGNS IN TILE**
Box 358, Dept. OHJ
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
(916) 926-2629
Custom tiles in Victorian, English and American Arts & Crafts (including William De Morgan designs), Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and California art tile designs.

**H&R JOHNSON TILES, LTD.**
P.O. Box 2335, Dept. OHJ
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
(908) 280-7900
The pioneer firm in reproducing Victorian encaustic and geometric tiles by Minton, Hollins Co., as well as other Victorian, Art Nouveau, and Art Deco designs. Also do custom restoration tiles and murals.

**ILLAHETILEWORKS**
695 Mistletoe Rd., #E, Dept. OHJ
Ashland, OR 97520
(503) 488-5072
Produce custom handmade tiles; Victorian relief and liners are kept in stock; and also furnished in custom glazes.

**K. J. PATTERSON CERAMICS**
590 Ayon Ave., Dept. OHJ
Azusa, CA 91702
(818) 815-2695
Custom handmade tiles and a variety of genuine encaustics, reproducing medieval patterns with a handmade look. Sold through Country Floors (p.50, encaustic).

**L’ESPERANCE TILE WORKS**
237 Sheridan Ave., Dept. OHJ
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 465-5586
Museum-quality Victorian reproductions including encaustics and majolica relief tiles in designs by Low and American Encaustic Tile.

**SHEP BROWN ASSOCIATES, INC.**
24 Cummings Park, Dept. OHJ
Woburn, MA 01801
(617) 866-6321
Custom handmade reproduction tiles in custom colors. Fine turn-of-the-century majolica relief tile reproductions.

**STARBUCK GOLDNER TILES**
315 W. Fourth St., Dept. OHJ
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 866-6321
Distributes imported lines of historical reproductions, including printed medieval encaustic-type designs, Victorian tiles, Victorian majolica and decorated tiles, and stunning Art Nouveau tiles.

**TERRA DESIGNS**
241 East Blackwell Street, Dept. OHJ
Dover, NJ 07801
(201) 328-1135
Offer handmade mosaics (p.50) and Victorian-style tiles, particularly moldings in Greek key and floral patterns.

**TILE SHOWCASE**
291 Arsenal St., Dept. OHJ
Watertown, MA 02172
(617) 926-1100
A large range of reproduction historical tiles, including English Victorian designs.

**THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

The closing of most tile manufacturers. Later, the public lost interest in the handcrafted look, and only cookie-cutter pastel tiles were available. However, just like a century ago, the whims of taste shifted again. In the late 1960s and early '70s, there was a re-emergence of historical designs, which has led to a burst of creativity in reproduction — and original — tile making today.

**A Period Tile Revival**

**MUCH LIKE EARLIER THIS CENTURY, THE**

number of successful artisan tile makers is growing. Now, however, more of them are selling through distributors rather than by mail order, considerably increasing the availability of their wares and, not in-
**How to Buy Repro Tiles**

- Always examine sample tiles before placing your order, especially when dealing with handmade tiles.
- Expect to see a difference between the uniformity of machine-made tiles and the inevitable (and desirable) variations of handmade ones.
- Order early. There may be a long delivery time for handmade and imported tiles.
- Remember that handmade tiles may cost up to twenty times as much as machine-made tiles.
- Custom colors are available from many tilemakers. Keep in mind, however, that colors and glazes vary somewhat in production.
- Wall, floor, and counter tiles all call for different levels of hardness, or abrasion resistance. Tile hardness is grouped by number, in ascending levels of abrasion resistance:
  1. Wall tiles
  2. Light residential — for example, bathroom floors
  3. All residential and light commercial (including entryway and kitchen floors).

Level 3 is adequate for residential use.
- Slip resistance is essential for floor tiles.

Overseas, Spain and Italy are the principal centers for industrial production, and Mexico makes an increasing variety of traditional tiles with a handmade look for the Spanish Revival house. Holland and Portugal continue to turn out their famed 18th-century designs.

It was in Europe — England, to be exact — that the tile revival started. The H. & R. Johnson Company caught the public’s attention with handmade Victorian encaustic and geometric tiles, and continues to be the leader today. Also at that time, Henry Mercer’s Moravian Pottery resumed production in the original Pennsylvania pottery, using his molds and glazes. Now many companies, specializing in reproductions, are expanding their Victorian lines.

Many familiar pottery names from the early 20th century, such as Fulper, Handcraft, and Pewabic, have continued or resumed old production lines. Others, such as Deer Creek, are new companies using old tile molds. Summitville Tile, a large industrial firm, also offers a wide range of historically appropriate tiles and colors. Large national distributors such as Country Floors and Laufen International have compiled an amazing array of imported and domestic historical design and replica tiles. Their catalogs alone are a treat for the eye.

Among the larger industrial firms, Natucer of Spain has a new line inspired by the Spanish Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí, while others, such as Pedro Beltran, recapture the spirit of ancient Moorish and classical mosaic designs. Artesanos, a Santa Fe firm, imports and offers through their catalog a wide range of fine, colorful Mexican tiles that fit well in many early-20th-century houses.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the early 20th-century Arts & Crafts-period tiles is their lustrous colored glazing in a wide range of rich translucent hues. Several tile makers now recreate these unique color glazes. The Arts & Crafts-movement tiles, with their impressionistic designs and fine colors and glazes, are most appropriate for the early 20th-century house, whether Craftsman, Foursquare, or Bungalow.

Traditional 18th-century-style blue Delft fireplace tiles are also widely available. Summitville’s Delft lookalikes in a variety of designs are endorsed by Colonial Williamsburg. Other firms, such as Dutch Products and Supply, import traditional Delft tiles from the Netherlands, which are particularly appropriate for early American houses. The imports include both modern screen-printed reproductions with handpainted designs and handmade tiles with antiqued crackled glaze, such as those made by Westraven, a Dutch firm that started tile making in 1661. While these are certainly the most authentic choices for
a restoration, they can be expensive, at prices ranging up to $60 per tile.

Now that replacement tiles are widely available, some artisan tile makers are specializing in restoration work, matching missing or worn tiles to order. The Tile Restoration Center and Bertini Studios are two companies that will replicate the color, design, glaze, relief, and size of old tiles — though their work may not be cheap. Prices can range from a low of $4 to more than $100 per tile. However, some tile makers prefer to handle the large orders of a commercial rehab, such as a courthouse. At most small tile makers, reproduction tiles are generally custom jobs, handmade and colored to order, with few stock items.

The expansive growth of reproduction tile makers is good news for old-house owners. There is an incredible choice of authentic Delft imports and reproductions; floral Victorian tiles — from Gothic to Art Nouveau — abound; and lustrous Arts & Crafts glazes are inspiring a renaissance. So add a backsplash to a period kitchen or match damaged vintage tiles, the job has become a little easier.

**Arts & Crafts Tiles**

The most imaginative Arts & Crafts tiles are now reproduced, and many lustrous glazes — the hallmark of the period — have been revived. Also, quite a few companies offer restoration services for original tiles in any style.

**ALCHEMIE CERAMICS STUDIO**
1550 Gascony Rd., Dept. OHJ
Leucadia, CA 92024
(619) 942-6051

Art & Crafts and Art Deco relief tiles, including Batchelder. Custom reproduction available in terra cotta.

**BERTIN STUDIO TILES**
11 Munson St., Dept. OHJ
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 767-7308

Handmade ceramic tiles with early-20th-century glazes. Also provides custom restoration tiles and restoration services.

**DEER CREEK POTTERY**
305 Richardson St., Dept. OHJ
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(916) 272-3373

40 historical tile molds, including Julia Morgan designs (above, circle). Through distributors; custom restorations.

**EPRO, INC.**
156 E. Broadway, Dept. OHJ
Westerville, OH 43081
(614) 882-6990

Handmade tiles in appealing Arts & Crafts translucent glazes.

**FULPER GLAZES, INC.**
P. O. Box 373, Dept. OHJ
Yardley, PA 19067
(215) 736-8512

Handcrafted tiles made with the original Fulper glazes (above, crab) by descendants of the founder.

**HANDCRAFT TILE**
1696 S. Main St., Dept. OHJ
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 262-1140

Founded in 1926, make Arts & Crafts pieces from old molds (above, Celtic knot).

**MOTAWI TILEWORKS**
33 N. Staebler, Ste. 2, Dept. OHJ
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(313) 213-0017

Custom handmade tiles inspired by the Arts & Crafts Movement.

**PEWABIC POTTERY**
10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Dept. OHJ
Detroit, MI 48214
(313) 822-0954

Custom tiles from a historic pottery, using historic and modern molds. Offers extensive Arts & Crafts glazes and colors.

**VENICE TILE COLLECTIONS**
24425 Woolsey Canyon Rd., #12, Dept. OHJ
West Hills, CA 91304
(818) 346-7858

Reproductions of Malibu and Catalina tiles as well as historical adaptations.
Looking at Ranges and Refrigerators in the Historic Kitchen  By Gordon Bock

Count Rumford, father of the Thermos bottle and the efficient fireplace, made cooking scientific around 1800 by putting the fire in a box — what a concept!

RANGES AND REFRIGERATORS — THE TWO LARGEST appliances — have pretty much defined the up-to-date kitchen since they appeared in the salad days of the industrial revolution. After all, kitchens were service areas, not showplaces until well into this century, and there wasn’t much else to look at in this realm of servants and food preparers. Pleasant paint colors, attractive tile, or floors beyond functional appeared only when the kitchen became the epicenter of family eating and activity. One way to understand kitchens of the past, and gain design ideas for an old-house kitchen today, is to examine the development of these two appliances. Refrigerators and ranges began as near opposites in every way: built from different materials, running at temperature extremes, and often not
and coal-burning ranges followed, revolutionizing kitchens from the 1820s to 1850s. Cast iron could take the temperature swings of cooking, and it was an ideal medium for surface ornament. Motifs often followed Victorian fashions, from geometric Eastlake-style patterns in the 1870s to floral lines of the Art Nouveau period around the turn of this century. An umbilical exhaust pipe tied the cast-iron stove to a new kind of chimney — tall and thin enough to draw for a stove. In pre-1830 houses, where there was only a large central chimney and open hearth for cooking, whole new kitchen ells were often built just to accommodate the radically different range.

Commercial refrigeration had been feasible since the 1860s, especially for cold placed in the same room. Over 80 years of improving technology, they grew closer in proximity and appearance until, in the 1940s, they looked almost alike. In fact, at one point they merged into the same appliance! If that sounds hard to believe, come with me on a little a rocket tour of kitchen history with an eye on the ranges and refrigerators.

Fixtures of the Fin de Siècle

THE RANGE — A FLAT-TOPPED HEAT SOURCE combined with an oven — is less that two hundred years old. Benjamin Thompson, better known as Count Rumford, designed the earliest such cooking fire to scientifically conserve heat around 1800. Cast iron wood-
storage in meatpacking, beemaking, and railroad transport, but refrigerators for houses weren't advertised regularly until the 1880s. Block ice — cut from ponds during winter or manufactured in city areas with early ice-making equipment — was the source of chilling power and the nickname "ice box." Manufacturers did their best to maintain the cold with state-of-the-art insulation: sawdust, charcoal, or ground cork.

These "family" refrigerators were furniture-like appliances made of hardwoods (typically oak and ash) or softwoods, lined with painted or galvanized metal. With a top-loading ice compartment, most resembled a tall chest. They were sited in a cool part of the kitchen, away from the range or sometimes on a porch.

Convenience at the Century Mark

As the Age of Invention Peaked, the search was on for other heat sources. In the 1880s and '90s, when gas was still primarily an illuminant, pioneering gas ranges were squared-up, cast-iron versions of wood or coal stoves. By the 1910s, however, gas companies were losing the lighting business to electricity, so they turned to the kitchen market. Gas ranges, in no need of a heavy iron firebox, developed their own, lighter form — the "cabinet range." The standard layout was a baking oven above a broiling oven, both at right or left of a five-burner top.

A new type of range, the vapor stove, capitalized on petroleum. Common by the 1890s, these iron and steel stoves were light and portable, not unlike treadle sewing machines of the day. In the 1910s and '20s, the "combination range" became quite the kitchen rage. These stoves were fired by gas as well as wood or coal — just gas for summer cooking; coal or wood for winter warmth. Simpler surfaces had reduced ornament, but they could be ordered in color (a few porcelain-enamed whites and greys) by the mid-1920s.

Refrigerators, too, were getting "cleaner" as they became more sophisticated prior to the first World War. The wood case, now sheathed in metal and "everlasting" porcelain, had smooth faces and rounded corners. Zinc, glass, or white enamel interiors aided cleaning. Hardware, though, remained beefy and prominent. Nickel-plated brass hinges had to hold heavy bevelled doors, and unique cam-and-lever locks drew them airtight with a single swing.

Increasingly like modern appliances, refrigerators were appearing in more upscale kitchens — that is, unless they were built-ins. Fixed-in-place, cabinet-style refrigerators, built-ins were finished to match exist-
Historically Appropriate Appliances

Antique or classic-design stoves are snapped up quickly by old-house owners, and for two reasons. First, a period stove goes a long way in helping to make an old-house kitchen look historically appropriate. To service this need, there are several companies making reproduction cookstoves — that is, lookalikes for woodburning units that today run on electricity or gas. Second, many folks want to invest in a high-quality, long-life appliance, and feel that restored pre-1940 stoves are better-built than those manufactured today. Gas stoves from as early as the first decade of this century are particular favorites, with price tags topping $1000 and more for restored units. Look for working oven thermostats, upgraded insulation, and code-complying pilot safety shut-off valves when shopping for restored gas stoves.

The earliest wood refrigerators have been popular with homeowners for decades as accent furniture in dens and private bars, and they can be even more appealing for an old-house kitchen. The market for these items at antiques shops and flea markets is lively, albeit increasingly pricey, yet they offer useful storage after a new coat of varnish or paint. While a built-in could theoretically be retrofitted with a modern commercial compressor, there is at least one company that does sell classic oak ice boxes ready-to-go with modern insulation and cooling equipment.

Early electric refrigerators, are increasingly favorites for mating with a period kitchen or range — especially everybody's favorite, that unmistakable Monitor Top. Though small by today's standards and getting hard to find, these appliances are reliable and surprisingly efficient — if bought in good condition. When shopping for antique refrigerators, only consider a "sealed system" machine that you see running. While some small parts such as door gaskets and controls can be renewed with universal replacements, recharging the cooling system is basically out of the question. The coolant in many old refrigerators is highly toxic (Monitor Tops ran on sulphur dioxide) or obsolete (gas-powered refrigerators have their own formula). The best bets are units from the 1940s and later.
install a house refrigerating system — if one had the means. About $1000 fitted a built-in refrigerator with coils and piping that ran to a compressor and motor located in the basement or back room. Brine or ammonia circulating in the pipes removed heat. It was a luxury set-up, not for the average man's house, but it did avoid the cost of ice. Retrofit sets were small enough to perch a compressor on top of a separately purchased refrigerator in 1919.

"Thirties Technology Triumphs

In the early '30s, kitchen ranges had progressed "well-nigh to perfection" according to House Beautiful magazine. Coal or wood-burning stoves, as well as vapor stoves, were still being sold, but they tended to find homes in rural areas, or where there were no hook-ups to city services.

Gas ranges quickly assumed a new persona as the "chest of drawers" range once the manifold feeding the valves vanished. Covers that pulled down over the burners left the appliance "hardly recognizable as a stove," if you believed ads that suggested they might even double as tables. There was low-maintenance chromium trim instead of
nicket, all-steel construction, and real porcelain blue, green, or pink. Drawer-type handles and decorative legs continued the notion that appliances were furniture.

The electric range, an upstart that was a glorified table-top hotplate in 1917, gained new ground by 1930 as the nation pushed to wire for power. Manufacturer's mounted the active parts in a legged cabinet similar to a gas stove, or made them a partner in a gas-or-coal combination stove.

By the end of the decade, the “built-in look” had arrived. Both gas and electric stoves quickly stopped trying to be free-standing cabinets. Instead they grew dashboard-like backs that hugged the wall, and square-cut corners that fit flush with countertops at either side. Legs became greatly reduced or disappeared altogether. Streamlining was passing through the kitchen. Inspired by the new aerodynamic contours of planes, cars, and trains, designers were adding airfoil curves and chrome speed lines to the most stationary of appliances.

Ranges and Refrigerators Fuse

Through the 1950s engineers strived to bring the ice maker ever closer to the ice box. In the 1920s, early manufacturers, such as Frigidaire (General Motors), could close the working parts behind a grille at the bottom of an all-metal cabinet. A few direct competitors flipped the idea around and put the guts at the top. In 1926, General Electric debuted the classic compressor-above refrigerator — the Monitor Top. The entire cooling system was a compact unit wrapped in an unmistakable halo of cooling coils that sat atop the insulated cabinet, with room below so the box could stand on legs like gas stoves of the same era.

Moreover, the depressed but creative 1950s inspired designers to even amalgamate the main parts of refrigerator and range in a single appliance. The proud owner of a combination range-and-refrigerator got four burners and an oven mounted above a two door provision cabinet — both powered by gas. Indeed, the gas refrigerator itself was an elegant but contradictory mating of both devices. Coolant circulated through the coils via convection, rather than a compressor, produced by nothing more than a pilot-sized flame.

As of the 1934 model year, the latest word in refrigerators had the compressor buried, once again, in the bottom of a flat-topped, round-shouldered case. The streamlining movement also swept up the refrigerator. Hardware was especially automotive, with concealed hinges but highly styled handles. Legs, of course, were gone without a trace. Though it might be shaped closer to a sarcophagus in the ’50s, or gain color in the ’60s, by 1940 the basic, big, white boxy refrigerator had arrived.
KEEPING RADON OUT
OF OLD HOUSES

by John D. Wagner and
Marylee MacDonald

THERE'S A MYTH FLOATING AROUND: old houses are so leaky, they can't collect high levels of radon. It's not true. To the contrary, conditions in old houses make radon accumulation likely. Old dirt-floor basements, porous masonry foundations, and crawl spaces can give radon an easy route from the ground to living areas. Theoretically, drafts under doors and around windows should reduce radon levels, but in some cases, a cross breeze actually encourages the gas up out of the ground. Besides, most old houses have been tightened up by energy retrofits, and are not so leaky anymore. You may be willing to live with radon risks (see p. 61), but if you've dismissed radon as a concern strictly for new house owners, think again.

The Stack Effect

AS YOUR HOUSE BREATHES, WHICH ALL HOUSES do, it can open the door to radon. When heat escapes, when appliances and exhaust fans vent air to the outside, or even when a simple cross breeze draws cooler air up from lower floors, new air rushes in to take its place. Cumulatively, this vacuum is sometimes called the stack effect. Replacement air comes from everywhere: through porous walls, leaky windows, vents, open windows and doors — and as much as 20% is drawn from the ground below, through foundations, floors, and walls that contact it.

It's this ground-source air that may contain radon, an odorless, colorless radioactive gas that vents up through bedrock and soil (see opposite). Full basements present higher radon risks than slabs, because there's more surface area in contact with the soil. Stone, cinder block, and brick walls give some protection, although they are porous enough to pass radon. A poured foundation is a slightly better barrier, but even modern foundations and slabs under recent additions have floor drains, wall joints, and pipe penetrations that may allow radon to enter.

Passive Protection

IN MANY CASES, SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE passive mitigation can reduce radon levels in an old house. A few simple hands-on techniques restorers know well — caulking, repointing, and installing vapor barriers — can block radon's entry points.

Dirt Floor: Cover exposed soil with plastic, but not where people walk. (You can also use plastic on walls if the seams between the adjoining sheets are sealed properly.) Use polyethylene at least 6 mils thick, overlapped 12 inches, sealed at the seams, and thoroughly caulked at wall joints or where the wall meets the floor.

Poured Concrete: For floors, seal any cracks, including wall junctions, using a urethane sealant. Urethane adheres well, even to dusty surfaces, and has a long life. (It is toxic during application, so carefully follow manufacturer's safety instructions.) Be sure to tool it into cracks and joints. For walls, sealants are also most efficient, but filling cracks with mortar will work, too.

Penetrations: One of the easiest entry routes for radon (at least in basements with...
Radon flows up from the ground below, and can get into old houses through exposed soil, porous masonry, and cracks.
Testing for Radon

Radon is invisible and odorless, so the only way to determine whether this gas is in your old house is to set up a detector. There are two types of tests, short term and long term. Short term tests consist of a charcoal pack you set out on the first living level of the house. The charcoal absorbs the radon and the lab determines its level by measuring average radon concentration. Wait four to seven days, and promptly send it to the lab for analysis. If you delay, or if the detector absorbs excess moisture or other contaminants, it may give a false reading.

Many radon professionals frown on short-term tests, especially as grounds for mitigation work (which can be costly). Radon levels can fluctuate widely day to day, or week to week. A passing low-pressure weather front, for example, can double the radon level. Radon levels also change seasonally. If you get a high reading from a charcoal test, engage an EPA-approved professional to do a long-term test — a better analysis, and more accurate.

One kind of long-term test is the alpha tracker. These detectors measure alpha particles, a type of radiation emitted by radon daughters. Some alpha trackers employ a sensitive strip of plastic. The particles bombard and score the plastic, leaving a record. You send the device to a designated lab that determines the radon level. Another alpha tracker plugs into a wall socket for continuous radon readings. It has a readout you can check at any time for spot or historical readings. It is slightly more expensive and can be used by a professional, or you may be able to read it yourself. Another kind of long-term detector, called E-Perm, measures radon electrically. It, too, must be sent to a lab for analysis, and it works well for either a short- or long-term test.

Whatever radon testing device you use, insist that the maker demonstrate EPA approval. If you hire a professional, be sure the individual who takes the readings (not just the head of the company) has the EPA's Radon Measurement Proficiency Program rating.

Active Mitigation

If high levels of radon persist after you’ve put in passive systems, your abatement options narrow. If you can’t block it, you can try ventilating to exhaust contaminated air. This requires hiring a professional. Find someone who has been trained in the Radon Contractors Proficiency Program. (Check with your local EPA office.) Active mitigations can cost as much as $5,000, but most average between $1,200 and $1,600.

Poured Concrete Floor: A radon contractor will jackhammer a hole in the basement floor, insert a pipe into the soil underneath, and vent the pipe safely above the house’s eaves. The radon will be sucked through gaps around pipe penetrations, floor drains, and sump-pump lids. Seal these with mortar or urethane foam. Special covers and liners for sump pumps are available, as are drains, designed to prevent radon seepage.

Smooth Surfaces: Any uniform surface can be coated with a paint engineered to block radon seepage. These include polyurethane-based elastomeric sealants and polyamide epoxy coatings. They lay on a barrier to block radon migration into the house. (As always, if you have an ongoing moisture problem, do not attempt to seal your masonry.)

Brick and Stone: Point open joints with mortar. The condition of masonry in old houses can vary widely. If, after repointing the joints, the radon level has still not dropped, you may need to provide a better seal, for brick walls, parge with a standard mix, and paint the parging with a radon-defeating paint. For stone, cover with plastic as described above.

Cinder Block: Radon gas seeping through the blocks’ porous concrete can be frustrated with sealant, but cinder blocks present radon with another easy route to follow. The stack of hollow cores can act as a chimney for radon, carrying it from the earth to under your first-storey floor. Block this conduit by filling the cores in the top course with cement or urethane foam.
through the pipe by an in-line fan designed for just this application. If you still have high levels of radon after you’ve sunk a below-slab pipe-and-fan system, the contractor can add more pipes.

Be sure your contractor installs a system that won’t cause a backdraft. A poorly designed sub-slab pipe and fan ventilator can create a vacuum inside the house, competing for air flow with appliances such as furnaces, wood stoves, and gas-fired dryers. This can create a backdraft, sucking dangerous flue gases, such as carbon monoxide, into your living space — and that is an undisputed danger.

DIET FLOW: Piping won’t work if the earth is exposed. Your best active mitigation choice (short of pouring a floor and actively ventilating below it) is ventilating your basement to the outside. The system pushes the bad air out and takes in outdoor air to replace it. To avoid piping your heat out, too, use an air-to-air heat exchanger to recover the heat from the exhaust air. Your contractor should separate the intake and discharge pipes by at least 10 feet; otherwise, you’ll be recirculating the contaminated air.

Radon abatement, at least to date, is a matter of personal choice. Take it a step at a time, and test thoroughly after each procedure to see whether your mitigation efforts have been successful.

John Wagner, Montpelier, Vermont, and Marylee MacDonald, Evanston, Illinois, have been building and writing about building for three decades.

---

**How Risky Is Radon?**

We live with many potential dangers in old houses: old wiring, lead pipes, asbestos, and lead paint, to name a few. Radon may be another hazard, although scientists don’t agree about the risks associated with this naturally occurring radioactivity. There are thus far no laws requiring radon abatement. Increasingly, however, radon has become a serious health fear, and some home buyers won’t ink a deal without a test showing low levels.

Radon comes from radium, a byproduct of decaying uranium. When radon works its way up through soil or cracks in bedrock, it doesn’t last long. Its half life is only 3.8 days. But radon’s decay products, called radon daughters, are atomic particles that can lodge in lung tissue. There they emit radiation that in sustained high levels may cause cell damage that could lead to cancer.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for 7,000 to 30,000 lung-cancer deaths annually. Yet not one epidemiological study has confirmed a statistically significant relationship between indoor radon and lung cancer. The EPA’s statistics are extrapolated from cancer incidents among uranium miners exposed to hundreds of thousands of picocuries for prolonged periods. The EPA used models that project a linear relationship between radon exposure and cancer — in other words, the agency assumes no safe threshold of exposure. Many scientists find the extrapolation, and the EPA’s assumptions, flawed.

The EPA has established a level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) as the action level, the reading at which they recommend abatement. The EPA says that the 4 pCi/L level is an “optimized cost-benefit alternative,” because anything lower presents prohibitive costs to vast numbers of homeowners. The 4 pCi/L figure has a controversial history and is based on unproven assumptions. Indeed, by international standards, the EPA has established a conservative action level. European countries have standards ranging from 8 to 12 pCi/L; the Canadian action level is 20 pCi/L. Ultimately, to abate or not to abate is a personal decision. We feel comfortable suggesting you attend to out-of-date wiring and lead pipes first.

— The OHJ Editors

---

**RADON RESOURCES**

**NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL**
P.O. Box 33435, Dept. OHJ
Washington, D.C. 20033
(800) 767-7236
EPA Radon Hotline
(800) 557-2366
EPA Radon Helpline

**SAFE-AIRE**
P.O. Box 160, Dept. OHJ
Canton, IL 61520
(800) 331-2943
Sealants, foams, epoxies, paints, and sump and drain covers

**AIR CHECK INC.**
Box 2000, Dept. OHJ
Ardon, NC 28704
(800) 247-2435
Charcoal kits and alpha trackers

**COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**
1230 East Front Avenue, Dept. OHJ
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 536-2014
Charcoal kits and E-perm tests

**SUN NUCLEAR CORP.**
425A Pineda Court, Dept. OHJ
Melbourne, FL 32940
(407) 259-6862
Continuous radon monitors

**TELEDYNE ISOTOPES, INC.**
50 Van Buren Avenue, Dept. OHJ
Westwood, NJ 07675
(800) 666-0222
Charcoal kits
You're So Vane—An Old-House Steeplejacking Story

BY JOHN M. KRENN

All experience is an arch, to build upon.
— Henry Brooks Adams, 1907

That goes double for work on an old-house tower.
— John M. Krenn, 1995

In the fall of 1989 we contracted to replace the roof, gutters, and fascia of our 1877 home in Rockport, Massachusetts—a mixed breed with traces of the Queen Anne, Stick, and Second Empire styles. Since the roofers' 100' crane, to be parked on the neighbor's lawn, presented a one-time opportunity, and two sides of the tower are virtually inaccessible, we included removal of the house's sadly battered, Victorian weathervane in the contract.

The wrought iron sheet-and-strap vane, with lead duck's head and ball counter balances, was 99" tall, weighed in at over 25 pounds, and stood 70' above the street level. Its decorative quills were entirely eroded away; balloon-sized zinc balls on the lightning rod and the mast were corroded. It may have been a standard metal shop job in its era, but I have never seen a weathervane that was half as ornate. We were pretty much on our own for installation details.

Over the next 18 months I received bills for sheet copper, bronze, what seemed like tons of solder, and occasionally even a charge for labor. Finally, the assembled parts were ready to take home. The old sculpture was deftly recreated. The banner was cut and soldered, but it was my job to sculpt the lead duck's head counterweight, employing wet rags as casting dams and rasps for final shaping. For copper balls and mast decorations, I used Victorian toilet tank floats from a reproduction plumbing parts supplier.

The only stipulation I made in the redesign was that it had to be assembled from bolt-on pieces. When I tried a dry run of the parts in the back yard, I had a wicked time getting the brass collar back off the bronze mast. A precision machine shop, it seems, cannot make a wide-tolerance fit even if it is so ordered. I had to convince the machine shop that I really needed a sloppy fit so that parts could be disassembled up on the roof if need be. It proved to be a prophetic move.

Going Through the Roof

I never saw the original mounting scheme, and the roofers left only a crude sketch, so I had little more than a guess about how to get the damned thing back up without a crane. I came to the conclusion that someone sat inside the tower, pushing the mast up through the roof while someone else clung to the roof outside putting the pieces: the collar for the cardinal points,
new roof. A “hollow” rectangle of staging lumber, held together with carriage bolts, and flipped over the top of the tower like a ring toss, did the job. We’d simply unbolts the corners and lower the pieces on safety lines to remove it after the weather vane was in place.

As we prepared to install the new vane, it dawned on us that the infamous bronze mast, cut to match what we presumed was the full length of the old iron one, was going to be too short to brace from below. So we extended it with a 5′ piece of hard copper pipe.

**Blowin’ in the Wind**

ON THE BIG DAY IN JUNE EVERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED — even in the 25 mph breeze. True, not all the new components lined up with the old roof holes, and we had to do a little cramped chain saw and rasp work on the beams.

the banner sleeve, and the straps that hold the decorative quills and balls. The whole operation would work like those baby toys where the colorful doughnuts stack on a post.

Armed with a strategy, I invaded the tower room looking for access to its attic. I cut an 18″ x 18″ hole in the ceiling. This turned out to be a false ceiling, but directly above was the original 24″ x 24″ trap door. I had decided early on that I would be “the inside man” for the installation, pushing the mast out to my son. We bought a couple of toy store walkie-talkies so we could communicate through the roof, and above the ocean wind.

We had discussions — some might call them arguments — about the scaffolding plan for a couple of weeks. The tower is 14′ from the gutter to the top and the roof has considerable flare below the dormers on each side. Ladders would not give us sufficient freedom.

Our most intractable problem was how to build a stage over a roof with a steep slope in an area we couldn’t reach, and without nailing into the

RIGHT: My son Christopher and I put it together in the back yard. ABOVE: When you start working above your highest handhold, it gives a new meaning to your safety belt.
and decking, but it all worked out. Details, like reinstalling the old lightning-rod cables, required leaving the scaffolds in place for a while. Good thing.

While working we noticed a swarm of honey bees around a tower window. Since I couldn’t stop to deal with them then, I anchored a live vacuum cleaner hose just outside their entrance hole to deplete the hive. They couldn’t handle the vacuum, so I sucked up a couple of pounds of them that way. (Score one for an old restorer, eh?) Later, a stethoscope and drill located the hive. Under the window, the drill came up dripping with honey. I cut an arm-sized hole in the decking and there it was: hundreds of beautiful combs like some science-fiction apartment building. Final score. Bees: 12 well-placed stings; Homeowner: 31 pounds of dead bees, insecticide-poisoned honey, and comb.

Turned out we had bigger problems. The next day it really started to blow (a Nor’easter, on the order of 50 mph), and when I went up to check the structure, I could see the mast leaning and the skirt flexing. The copper skirt, which was faithfully copied in every detail, was not as stiff as the original terne coated steel, nor was the copper mast up to the job. Back to the drawing board.

The following day, the wind was back down to 25 mph and we removed our sick monster. Since we were obviously not as adept in designing the vane as the original builders (and we had little desire to repeat this exercise), we decided to over-engineer this time around. A 10' piece of solid steel 1 3/8' round stock replaced the copper tubing. Getting this machined for another sloppy fit was also a tussle. So was hoisting the new, longer, and much heavier mast into the tower. (This time I had to disassemble part of the handrail.) But it all went together.

I used my boat compass to calibrate the north point, but made the embarrassing mistake (especially for a sailor) of setting “N” to magnetic north. This 15-degree error was immediately pointed out by my yachtsman neighbor, who had watched from his window. The next day I was back into the tower again with a Stilson wrench to twist the mast so “N” pointed true.

So far we’ve weathered 55 mph gusts, and the ensemble seems to have stayed put. And yes, the bannet twitches quite nicely in the breeze.
"The book on steam heat."

OHJ subscriber and contributor Dan Holohan "wrote the book" on steam heat, a superior method of central heating and headache for old house dwellers. 300 pages of text from old heating books and visits to hundreds of basements and antique heating systems. 400 casse illustrations and photos. $25. Incl. s&h. Checks & credit cards.

30-Day Satisfaction Guarantee

Dan Holohan Associates
63 North Oakdale Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714
(516) 796-WARM

PREMIUM, SOLID OAK ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS

Send $1 for Descriptive Literature

NORTHERN REFRIGERATOR COMPANY

21149 Northland Drive
P.O. Box 204, Dept. OHJK
Paris, Michigan 49338
(616) 796-8007

TREMONT CUT NAILS

The finest historically correct cut nails from America's oldest nail manufacturer. Proven interest and use by firms and individuals involved in restoration and new construction projects. Great holding power where strength is needed. Special blunt end reduces splitting on shingles and other wood products.

Up to 32% more nails per pound. Thinner gauge but higher carbon content strengthens the nail. Tremont Nails are packaged in 1 lb. - 5 lb. - 50 lb. bulk.

- 20 different varieties
- Full range of penny sizes
- Heat treated masonry nails a specialty

Send for our FREE catalog featuring a wide variety of antique hardware, strap hinges and our complete line of Cut Nails.

Send for Cut Nail Sample Set. 20 authentic historic varieties, $5.50

TREMONT NAIL CO.

Box 111HJ4A, Wareham, MA 02571 TEL 1-800-842-0560

Decorating Window Quilt® Saves Energy!

- Provides privacy
- Reduces condensation
- Stops air infiltration
- Reduces air conditioning cost
- Saves 80% of heat loss through windows (validated by FTC)

Now available in two floral prints, three colors per print, in addition to our already popular essential color line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE:

Window Quilt
PO Box 975
Brattleboro, VT 05302
1-800-257-4501

The finest historically correct cut nails from America's oldest nail manufacturer. Proven interest and use by firms and individuals involved in restoration and new construction projects. Great holding power where strength is needed. Special blunt end reduces splitting on shingles and other wood products.

Up to 32% more nails per pound. Thinner gauge but higher carbon content strengthens the nail. Tremont Nails are packaged in 1 lb. - 5 lb. - 50 lb. bulk.

- 20 different varieties
- Full range of penny sizes
- Heat treated masonry nails a specialty

Send for our FREE catalog featuring a wide variety of antique hardware, strap hinges and our complete line of Cut Nails.

Send for Cut Nail Sample Set. 20 authentic historic varieties, $5.50

TREMONT NAIL CO.

Box 111HJ4A, Wareham, MA 02571 TEL 1-800-842-0560
Introducing A Trowel* With A Definite Difference...

The
DURAsoft™ Difference.

- Virtually indestructible hard polymer bumper designed for easy tamping of brick and block.
- Resilient handle reduces fatigue.
- Integral finger guard protects against callouses, heat and cold.

* The Best Solid Forged Brick Trowel Available Anywhere!
Feel the difference of Marshalltown’s exclusive DuraSoft™ handle where you shop for tools.

Marshalltown

MARSHALLTOWN TROWEL COMPANY
P.O. Box 738 • Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
Phone: 515/753-0127 • Fax: 515/753-6341

THE OLD EUROPE COLLECTION
COZY COTTAGES AND CHALETS
ENTIRE COLLECTION - $10.00

THE CRAFTSMAN COLLECTION
ARTS AND CRAFTS BUNGALOWS
ENTIRE COLLECTION - $12.00

To order, send check or money order to:
PRINCETON PLANS PRESS
Box 622 Princeton, New Jersey 08540
1-800-566-3655

All Chimney Liners Are Not Created Equal.

Before you settle for a stainless steel or tile liner, find out about Golden Flue. We’re the leader in cost-in-place masonry chimney liners, and you’ll find us in America’s most historic old chimneys!

MARSHALLTOWN TROWEL COMPANY
P.O. Box 738 • Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
Phone: 515/753-0127 • Fax: 515/753-6341

GOLDEN FLUE
The Cure for the Flue*
P.O. Box 1156
Saco, ME 04072-1156
Tel: (207) 283-1900
Fax: (207) 283-1905

PETIT INDUSTRIES INC.
Prevent MILDEW ANYWHERE

NEW! Bean style entrance set now available for pre-drilled doors.

Acorn Manufacturing Co., Inc.
FORGED IRON HARDWARE
From New England's Finest Blacksmiths
800-835-0121 Fax: 800-372-2676

PERMA-WHITE
INTERIOR MILDEW-PROOF PAINT

Use Perma-White and you're guaranteed, not to have mildew growth.
It's a special water-base paint designed for moisture-prone areas in the home.
Washable and scrubable, it won't blister or peel in high-humidity environments, like ordinary paint will.

Perfect for bathrooms, closets, basements, garages, laundry rooms, etc.

Send for FREE Application Booklet:
Wm. Zinsser & Co., Inc., Dept. OHJ95
175 Belmont Dr., Somerset, NH 08875-1285
Phone: (908) 469-4567

Makers of high-performance specialty paint & decorating products.

WIDE PLANK FLOORING

For over half a century Acorn has been creating America's largest selection of authentic iron hardware. See for yourself. Call or fax for our catalogues and a list of dealers in your area.

PERMA-WHITE
INTERIOR MILDEW-PROOF PAINT

Use Perma-White and you're guaranteed, not to have mildew growth.
It's a special water-base paint designed for moisture-prone areas in the home. Washable and scrubable, it won't blister or peel in high-humidity environments, like ordinary paint will.

Perfect for bathrooms, closets, basements, garages, laundry rooms, etc.

Send for FREE Application Booklet:
Wm. Zinsser & Co., Inc., Dept. OHJ95
175 Belmont Dr., Somerset, NH 08875-1285
Phone: (908) 469-4567

Makers of high-performance specialty paint & decorating products.

Carlisle Restoration Lumber

For Portfolio $5 or Sample Kit $16, Phone or Write:
Tel. (603) 446-3937 Fax (603) 446-3540
PO Box 6000, Stoddard, NH 03464-9712

Decorative & Functional
NO Reproductions

Antique Stoves
Wood, Coal, Gas

Keokuk Stove Works
1201 High Street • Keokuk, IA 52632
(319) 524-6202

March/April 1995 67
CLASSIC RADIATOR COVERS

MONARCH CARRIES A LINE of radiator covers that are particularly appropriate for 1920s interiors. The covers come in a number of styles—from basic grillwork designs to enclosures with bookcases or shelves. All are made of heavy gauge steel, and the baked-enamel finish is offered in a variety of colors, a simulated wood grain, or just prime-coated. Two stock models (Squire and Ambassador) are fabricated as knocked-down units to be assembled on site. However, custom sizes with one to four grille panels are available. Depending upon the size, the stock models range in price from $21 to $250. For a brochure, send $1 to Monarch, 2744 Arkansas Dr., Dept. OIJ, Brooklyn, NY 11234; (201) 796-4177 (in NJ).

The simple Art Deco lines of the Newport hides unattractive radiators.

KITCHEN CABINETRY

ONE ROOM THAT RARELY survives untouched in an old house is the kitchen. If you can't face another day amid formica countertops and steel cabinets with clamshell-shaped pulls, talk to the Kennebec Company. They or pine, the cabinetry is then handcrafted to suit your kitchen. The Kennebec Company, 1 Front St., Dept. OIJ, Bath, ME 04530; (207) 443-2131.

SHUTTER FASTENER

AN S-SHAPED TIE-BACK isn't the only way to secure your shutters. Adjustable Zimmerman fasteners, ingenious Victorian hardware for shutters, are being made in wrought iron by Windy Hill Forge. Instead of a holdback, Zimmerman fasteners use an Acme lift-off hinge so that the shutters can be partially or completely opened. A fastener costs $32.50 for five pieces plus screws. Contact Windy Hill Forge, 3824 Schroeder Ave., Dept. OIJ, Perry Hall, MD 21128; (410) 256-5890.

TRADITIONAL REFRIGERATORS

REPRODUCTION GAS AND electric ranges are easy to find, but where do you go for traditional-style refrigerators? Try Heartland Appliances. They've come out with a model that matches their line of Sweetheart stoves. The

Shaker-style spice drawers are a hallmark of the Kennebec Company cabinetry. They create traditional-style kitchens based on historic cabinetry designs that blend with period interiors, particularly Shaker, Colonial, and Arts & Crafts. A consulting service of designers and cabinetmakers work out a floor plan for your kitchen, taking into account the room's special architectural details, such as windows that aren't standard height. Made of cherry porcelain enamel and nickel refrigerator has a curved front to give it an old-fashioned look. Inside, however, the frost-free refrigerator is comparable to contemporary models, with features such

Victorians used the Zimmerman fastener to open one shutter fully (inset) and the other halfway to catch the wind like a sail.
CORDLESS WONDER

UNTIL NOW, A CORDLESS saw couldn’t handle much more than a small piece of trimwork. But DeWalt’s new 5 ¼" blade saw is big enough to cut 2" dimensional lumber in one pass, and its powerful 14.4 volt battery will cut 75 2 x 4s on a single charge. Plus, it can cut up to a 50 degree bevel. The saw is also built with a 12 volt motor, for owners of other DeWalt’s cordless tools who interchange batteries. Available at hardware stores and home centers, the saw comes with a charger, one battery, a carbide blade, and box. The 14.4 volt unit costs approximately $240; the 12 volt model is about $220. For a list of distributors, contact DeWalt Industrial Tool Co., P.O. Box 158, Dept. OHJ, 626 Hanover Pike, Hampstead, MD 21074; (800) 433-9258.

TEXTURE OFF

SAND PAINT, “POPCORN ceilings,” and other textured finishes are the bane of restorers and a nightmare to remove. Texture-Off is a new product formulated for removing latex paint and the additives used to create textured effects. It strips down to a smooth surface—suitable for painting or papering—without sanding, heavy scraping, or refloating (skim coating over the texture). Just paint, roll, or spray the product onto the surface, let it soak in for one to four hours, depending on the surface, and wipe the textured paint away with a putty knife. Wash with soap and water. The formula works on any latex paint surface. It does not contain harsh solvents and will not damage plaster or drywall. Available at hardware stores and home centers, one gallon costs about $25. For a list of distributors, contact William Zinsser & Co., Inc., 173 Belmont Drive, Dept. OHJ, Somerset, NJ 08875; (908) 469-4367.

Now there is a complete line of appliances—refrigerator, wall oven, and electric range—for classic kitchens.

as an ice maker and separate thermostats for the cooler and freezer. It is available in both the standard 30" format as well as a larger 36" model, and can be free standing or built in. Matching wall ovens are also offered. Depending upon the model, the new refrigerators ranges in price from $4,000 to $4,500. For more information, contact Heartland Appliances, Inc., 5 Hoffman St., Dept. OHJ, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2M 3M5; (519) 743-8111.

DeWalt’s cordless saw has real saw power in a battery pack.
Mail-order plans have a long history in shaping the residential architecture of the country. Of the thousands of house plans available today, few exhibit good design and a grasp of historical proportion and detail. So, in response to requests from OHJ readers, the editors have "done the homework": We've hand-picked plans. In each issue, we offer the most attractive, authentic, and buildable of the historical designs, from all periods of American architectural history. Let us know what plans you're looking for.

You can order actual blueprints for all the houses featured. These plans are designed to conform to national building-code standards. However, the requirements of your site and local building codes mean you'll probably need the assistance of a professional designer (your builder may qualify) or an architect.

For the houses shown in this issue, blueprints include:
- Detailed floor plans showing dimensions for framing. Some may also have detailed layouts and show the location of electrical and plumbing components.
- Interior elevations are included in some plans, showing interior views of kitchen, bath, fireplace, built-ins, and cabinet designs.
- Building cross sections: cornice, fireplace, and cabinet sections when needed to help your builder understand major interior details.
- Framing diagrams that show layouts of framing pieces and their locations for roof, first, and second floors.
- Energy-saving specs, where noteworthy, are included, such as vapor barriers, insulated sheathing, caulking and foam-sealant areas, batt insulation, and attic exhaust ventilators.
- May include foundation plan for basement or crawl space. (Crawl space plans can easily be adapted for full basements by your builder.)
- Why order multiple sets? If you're serious about building, you'll need a set each for the general contractor, mortgage lender, electrician, plumber, heating/ventilating contractor, building permit department, other township use or interior designer, and one for yourself. Ordering the 8-set plan saves money and additional shipping charges.

Other notes: (1) Plans are copyrighted, and they are printed for you when you order. Therefore, they are not refundable. If you would like information on ordering more than 8 sets of the same plan, please call our Customer Service Department at (508) 281-8803.

(2) Mirror-reverse plans are useful when the house would fit the site better "flopped." For this you need one set of mirror-reverse plans for the contractor, but because the reverse plans have backwards lettering and dimensions, all other sets should be ordered right-reading.

(3) Heating and air-conditioning layouts are not included. You need a local mechanical contractor to size and locate the proper unit for your specific conditions of climate and site.

MAIL TO: OHJ House Plan Service, 2 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
Or call (508) 281-8803 to charge your order.
Please send the following:

PLAN NAME ___________________________________________ PLAN # ____________

#1 □ ONE COMPLETE SET OF WORKING DRAWINGS

#2 □ FIVE-SET PACKAGE

#3 □ EIGHT-SET PACKAGE

#4 □ PLEASE INCLUDE 1 ADDITIONAL SET OF MIRROR-REVERSE @ $25

ADD POSTAGE & HANDLING ................................................................. $ 7.50

TOTAL ........................................................................................................ $

SEND TO ____________________________________________ CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE TO: □ VISA □ MC

STREET ____________________________________________ CARD # ____________________________

CITY ........................................... ZIP ...........................................

STATE ........................................ DAYTIME PHONE # ____________________________

SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER __________________________

Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Prices good through March 1996

MA95
Supaflu Makes Old Chimneys Better Than New Chimneys.

Because Supaflu retains the original charm and craftsmanship built into so many older chimneys while providing a new margin of safety, performance and durability older chimneys never knew, Supaflu gives new life to some of our most historic chimneys. That’s why when home restoration experts run into chimney problems, their solution is Supaflu. Whether your chimney is historic, or just very, very used, Supaflu can make it like new.

Your Supaflu dealer is in the Yellow pages.

National Supaflu Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 89, Walton Industrial Park
Walton, NY 13856
1-800-788-7636

ENJOY SOAPSTONE WARMTH

Soapstone is nature’s most beautiful, durable, and efficient stove material. It radiates gentle, even and soul-satisfying warmth. Since first patented in 1797, soapstone stoves have been treasured family heirlooms in New England.

Each stove is crafted with detailed iron castings and hand polished stone. Variations in grain and color assure that each stove is unique.

Woodstock Soapstone Stoves offer both traditional and contemporary styling, and the latest in clean-burning technology. An internal catalytic combuster boosts heat output and virtually eliminates pollutants.

Our financing plan makes it easy to own a Woodstock Soapstone Stove, with no down payment and low monthly terms. Mail the coupon below to find out more, or call the factory direct at 1-800-866-4344.

FREE COLOR CATALOG

Our financing plan makes it easy to own a Woodstock Soapstone Stove, with no down payment and low monthly terms. Mail the coupon below to find out more, or call the factory direct at 1-800-866-4344.

FREE COLOR CATALOG
The hipped roof and exterior stone, brick, and stucco create a cozy and authentic French Revival cottage. A gabled entry porch is flanked by a patio outside the front door. Inside, a large living room with a massive fireplace dominates the first floor. A spacious entry and stair hall features an open curved staircase to the second floor where two bedrooms share a full bath.

Plan PP-01-PV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set of 5</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set of 8</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedrooms</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square Footage</td>
<td>1,395'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First floor</td>
<td>870'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second floor</td>
<td>525'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling Height</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First floor</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second floor</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Dimensions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>28'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>38'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fischer & Jirouch has been hand-crafting plaster ornaments by the same methods for nearly 100 years. We use only traditional plaster in replicas of our 1,500 designs from a variety of periods. Architects, tradespeople, and do-it-yourselfers rely on our pieces to enhance their exterior and interior projects. We also offer custom reproduction.

Hand-crafted Fischer & Jirouch ornaments are as easy to work with as wood and authentic throughout. Send for our 144-page catalog ($10 US, $15 Canadian).

THE FISCHER & JIROUCH CO.
4821 Superior Ave. • Cleveland, Ohio 44103
Tel. (216) 361-3840  FAX (216) 361-0650

Before you fix a single shingle...
order your copy of the Trade Secrets video guide to Wood Shingle Siding Repair

Master carpenter Tim Heberle demonstrates everything you need to know about wood shingle siding repair. Complete, step-by-step instructions cover the tools, materials and tricks of the trade. Restore your wood shingled home to its former glory. Tim shows you how to do it right the first time. It's better than having an old-time carpenter as a weekend house guest!

Order toll-free 1-800-405-6767
$19.95 (plus $4.50 shipping/handling)
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Plastmo & K-Snap Vinyl Raingutters...Durable, Easy to Install

Plastmo and K-Snap vinyl gutter systems are engineered with reinforced gutter rims, heavy duty brackets, and permanently glued joints to withstand severe climates. All vinyl parts are colored throughout, and made from impact resistant, UV stabilized PVC. The Plastmo gutter design has proven its superiority for over 30 years.

No specialty skills, tools or training is needed. Components snap together easily for rapid installation.

Available in sizes 4", 5", 6", 1/2" round and traditional style. Three colors in stock.

Call Plastmo, Inc. for further information.
8246 Sandy Court, Jessup, MD 20794 • 1-800-899-0992 • FAX 410-799-8047

MARCH/APRIL 1995 73
EASTLAKE DETAILING (NAMED after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer) is also called gingerbread. Its spindles, fretwork, and turned posts were used to embellish many Victorian structures, large and small. This authentic Eastlake design could be used as a garden shed, woodshop, studio, office, one-car garage, or poolside cabana. The 6' x 14' porch is the perfect spot for a picnic under Victorian fretwork.

Plan LC-01-GA
Cost ........................................ $50
Square Footage .......................... 240'
Overall Dimensions
   Width .................................. 12'
   Depth .................................. 20'
The most complete Woodworking Catalog! Now featuring over 600 NEW items, Anniversary Specials and over 4000 hard-to-find products for your next woodworking project.

Dept. 43076

Call 1-800-403-9736 Today!

WOODSTONE

For brochure: Please send $3.00 for shipping and handling DEPT OH, BOX 223, WESTMINSTER • VERMONT 05158 (802) 722-9217 • FAX (802) 722-9528

TIN CEILINGS

ORIGINAL DESIGNS VICTORIAN-ART DECO

Send $1.00 for Catalog to CHELSEA DECORATIVE METAL CO. 9603 Moonlight Dr., Dept. OHJ Houston, Texas 77096 Questions: 713-721-9200 2' X 4' Sheets For Easy Handling Shipped Anywhere

THE A, B, C's OF NATURAL VENTILATION

THE FAN MAN, INC.

Department OHJ • 1914 Abrams Parkway • Dallas, TX 75214 (214) 826-7700 Send S2 for brochure D
LOS ANGELES, CA—Classic Craftsman home carefully restored to original 1911 condition. Historic West Adams district. Refinished woodwork, new roof, plumbing, electric, paint and more. 5 bdrms, 2 baths. Carriage house; storage/playhouse. $258,000. (213) 734-3064.

NEW CASTLE, DE—Barn. Early-19th-century, handewn frame. 23' x 28' w/loft. Some water damage. Best reasonable offer. (Owners reserve right of refusal.) (302) 328-2233.

ALBANY, GA—Large colonial plantation manor. 5 bdrms, 4 1/2 baths, large rooms throughout. B&B potential. Beautiful, ancient oak trees on 11 acres. $435,000. Additional acreage available. For information call (912) 439-0645.

REAL ESTATE

NEW ORLEANS, LA—1831 French Quarter Creole cottage w/parking. Newly renovated 1 1/2 storey double. Currently 2 bdrm/bath and 1 bdrm/1 1/2 bath. Easy conversion to large single home or home/office. 2,000 sq. ft. of cypress construction w/cedar cypress plank floors. Frpis and several French doors. $165,000. (504) 435-7327.

LAFFERTY, ME—Queen Anne Victorian. Private location near charming coastal village. Clayboard/shingled exterior with patterns and details. 8 rooms, attached "el" and 2-storey barn on 1 1/2 acres. All new systems, awaiting finishing touches. $140,000. (207) 774-2272.

WILLINGTON, CT—Pre-1730 museum quality New England saltbox. 5 flps (Dutch ovens), wide pine floors, wainscotting. 44-3 acres, barn, garage. Surrounded by 400-acres state forest. 1 mi to I-84. $355,000. Owner (203) 684-9724.

WILLIAMSTON, CT—For rent 1920 5 bdrms, 2 bath house in booming real estate market. $350,000. Call Rebecca (303) 728-4537 or (303) 327-4000.
RESTORE CRACKED PLASTER WALLS & CEILINGS

Easy One Day Application

HOW TO USE THE NU-WAL SYSTEM

1. Cut fiberglass mat 2" longer than height.
2. Apply saturant to area to be covered.
3. Apply fiberglass mat to wet surface.
4. Trim excess mat where wall meets ceiling.
5. Trim mat at baseboard and window.
6. Trim mat at outlets, switches, etc.
7. Apply second coat of saturant to wet mat.
8. Apply 1st coat of saturant to adjacent area.
9. Apply mat to 2nd area, overlapping by 1".
10. Cut down center of overlap (both layers).
11. Remove mat strips on both sides of cut.
12. Apply 2nd coat of saturant (include seams)

Make Walls & Ceilings Like New

SPECIFICATION CHEMICALS INC.

824 Keeler, Boone, Iowa 50036 - 800-247 3932

MARCH/APRIL 1995 77
veranda, 5 marble mantle frppls. Partially furnished. Restoration 90% complete. 5 stonewalled acres. Huge trees. 70 min. to Manhattan. $150,000 monthly. No children. No pets. (310) 495-7322.

CHENANGO COUNTY, NY—Fowler designed c. 1852 octagonal house. Central circular staircase. 24+ wooded acres with majesty pond. Over 4,000 sq. ft. for people of vision to renovate. Work begun: new mechanicals, new 200 AMP electric service, chimney relined, new 3 x 40 pole barn. $100,000 (315) 653-7589.

CHERRY VALLEY, NY—15 min. to Cooperstown. Elegant Colonial Revival farmhouse in mint condition. Lrg. bright roomsincl. formal DR, study, 6 + bdrms, 4 1/2 baths, 4 frppls, 4-car garage + outbuildings on 2 private acres. Magnificent views, gardens. Walking distance to historic village. Family home or B&B. $280,000. (212) 699-0395.


LEWISTON, NY—Restored 1906 Victorian; 15 min. to Niagara Falls. 2,800 sq. ft.; plus full attic. Original oak woodwork, pocket doors, 4 bdrms, 4 baths, some remodeled. 8 acres on the Niagara escarpment with views. Also includes 3 bdrm house, barn, and 2,000 sq. ft. heated workshop. Currently operating as B&B. $605,000. (716) 756-9114.

NEW SALEM, NY—Farmer’s Greek Revival, painstakingly restored: new roof, electricity, plumbing, heating, insulation. 5 bdrms, 1 1/2 baths, plank floors, pressed-in parlor, DR, handhewn beams. 20 min. from Albany. Double lot, quaint country hamlet. Excellent schools, town water, $115,000. (518) 765-3320.


ADAMS COUNTY, PA—1 1/2 storey, brick schoolhouse. C. 1917, 1 unrestricted acre. Small bath and kit, mostly unrestored. Near major highway and ski slopes. $67,500. Write owner. S. Schaffer PO Box 126, Charles Town, WV 25414.


CLEARFIELD, PA—1893, 3-storey, 1.29-acre riverfront Victorian. 4,200 sq. ft., 5 bdrms, 3 baths, study, 2 stairways, spectacular head and stained glass, 5 frppls. Ornate carved mantels, original woodwork, updated electricity and plumbing, attic AC/heat pump, detached garage w/apt. $227,000. (717) 730-9561.


PITTSBURGH, PA—1890 Victorian jewel converted to 5 apt. Beautifully restored, registered Pittsburgh landmark located in national historic district. Corner row house. Richardson Romanesque greystone w/turret. 9 frppls. Original oak woodwork, detached carriage house/3-car garage. (412) 921-5774.

WYALUSING, PA—Early 1900, J. Morgan Brown gingerbread home. Stone foundation. 3 porches, 11 rooms, 2 baths, larger w/clawfoot tub. Fireplace, original woodwork, unique staircases, stained glass windows around front doors, paved driveway, white vinyl picket fence, 2-storey barn. $100,000 (717) 746-9086.
Vixen Hill Cedar Shutters
Stand the Test of Time!

Full Shutter Hardware Selection
Large Selection of Styles and Sizes
Strong Mortise & Tenon Construction

RECREATING THE PAST
The Finest in Victorian & Turn-of-the-Century Lighting
Request our new 32-page color catalog, featuring hundreds of sconces, fixtures, pendants & glass shades
ROY ELECTRIC CO., INC.
1054 Coney Island Ave
Brooklyn, New York, 11230
(718) 434-7002
Fax (718) 421-4678
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

The Elegance and Beauty of Yesterday for Today
Exact replicas of the beautiful old tin ceilings are now available in durable, lightweight, high impact polymer plastic. They are easy to install, paintable and washable. Available in fire-rated materials and colors. Several patterns from which to choose. Please write or call:

Snelling's Thermo-Vac
P.O. Box 210, Blanchard, LA 71009
Office (318) 929-7398
FAX (318) 929-3923

Finally! Authentic wood shutters that are beautiful, long-lasting and easy to live with.

The natural qualities of our hand-selected clear cedar keep your Vixen Hill Shutters “healthy” by repelling insects and preventing rot. In addition, our cedar’s porous long-grain fiber provides exceptional strength and a superior surface for easy staining or painting.

Over time, Vixen Hill Cedar Shutters are the most cost-effective solution to your shutter needs—combining authentic shutter design with a better-performing, more-durable material.

For quote and/or brochure, call or fax your requirements:

Vixen Hill MANUFACTURING COMPANY
Main Street, Elverson, PA 19520
800-423-2766 • FAX 610-286-2099

COUNTRY DESIGNS
A Collection of Complete Building Plans
BARNS, SHEDS, GARAGES, STUDIO COTTAGES, GARAGE APARTMENTS, VACATION HOUSES also other accessory buildings and a folio of period fences.

SEND $6.00 FOR CATALOG TO: COUNTRY DESIGNS, BOX 774J, ESSEX, CT 06426

MARCH/APRIL 1995 79
Heritage Village Colors

**ORIGINAL OIL BASE FORMULA**

**H**eritage Village colors were selected for authentic reproduction of 18th and 19th century architecture. They are suitable for most exterior and interior surfaces, walls, woodwork, trim, furniture and decorative painting. With the harmonious colors in this collection, color schemes for your entire house can be created, limited only by your imagination. These coatings have a superior workability and depth of color that make Heritage Village Colors the benchmark of coatings in the architectural field.

**Primrose Distributing**
5445 Rose Road, South Bend, IN 46614
(800) 222-3092 (8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM EST)

**A LOVE OF THE HEART...**

America's premier flooring manufactured from antique heart pine timbers

**J.L. Powell & Co. Inc.**
(910) 642-8989 • (800) 217-2007
400 South Madison Street
Whiteville, N.C. 28472
Don't believe it when you hear, "Sorry, they don't make that anymore." It's in the OHJ Directory.

Old-house folks used to waste valuable time tracking down the right sink or terra-cotta tile — time better spent actually remodeling or repairing the leaky roof! But the days of fruitless phone calls and settling for the mundane are over: The OHJ Restoration Directory gives you access to thousands of companies who offer the very best products for renovation.

You'll find the beautiful and the useful:
• Gorgeous lighting fixtures (1700 through the 1930s) • Furniture of all periods, from master craftsmen and venerable companies • Rugs: Axminster to Wilton • The best kitchen cabinetwork taking cues from the past • Plaster ceiling medallions • High-tank toilets, clawfoot tubs, and extra-long shower curtains • Hand-hammered weathervanes • Yellow-pine flooring • Marble mantels and fireplace surrounds • Porch columns • Stencils.

Do you insist on accuracy?
In this Directory you'll discover finial-tipped carpet rods, antique stoves, replica telephones, and handmade window glass. And you'll get the phone numbers of the most sought-after restoration artisans.

Looking for the stuff "nobody makes anymore"? The original version, or the top of the line? It's in the Restoration Directory.

We could go on ... listing cast plaster ornament, rolling library ladders, and more — but all you need to remember is that the Restoration Directory gives you 10,000 product listings and the addresses and phone numbers of the companies who carry them. Almost all sell nationwide through mail order, interior designers, and regional distributors.

A national "yellow pages" for your old house — listing 10,000 products and thousands of companies.

Call (508)281-8803 and use your MC or Visa. Or mail this form with your check for $16.95 ppd (only $12.95 for OHJ subscribers) to Old-House Journal, 2 Main St., Gloucester, MA 01930.
Restoration Glass will change your view of history.

Why are architects specifying authentic Restoration Glass? Because it's imperfect. Each sheet is made by craftsmen, using the original cylinder method. Yet this glass easily meets today's building codes. And it's available in two levels of distortion.

Once you've seen the difference Restoration Glass makes, no true restoration will look authentic without it.

For details call toll-free 800-221-7379.

In New Jersey: 201-471-1733.
Fax: 201-471-3475.
S.A. Bendheim Co., Inc.
61 Willett Street
Passaic, NJ 07055.

Bendheim

EMPORIUM

Real Estate (continued)


HOUSTON, TX—Restored 1926 farmhouse in museum district. Safe, pleasant neighborhood. Light and airy 2 bdrm., 1 bath w/courtyard and 1 bdrm., 1 bath, 3 garage guest house. Save it from oil field speculators. Period car available. $190,000.


SHENANDOAH VALLEY, VA—1895 meticulously restored Victorian. B&B potential. 4 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 6 fpls, formal gardens, hot tub. Near golf, tennis, skiing, vineyards, Civil War battlefields. 90 min. from DC. $250,000. Owner (703) 459-8868.


OLD HOUSE WANTED—Washington, pre-1910, within 1 hr. of Seattle. Livable or restorable. 2,000+ sq. ft., 4+ acres of land. Send information to S. Holbink, 6809 E. River Rd., Rush, NY, 14543 or email: HAZEN@AWA.COM.

For Sale


ANTIQUE SAFE—Manufactured by Sargent & Greenleaf, Rochester, NY. Original patent 1857. Outside dimensions 27" W x 25" D x 52 1/2" H. Inside dimensions 15" W x 11 1/4" D x 19 1/2" H. Door thickness 6 1/4". $500 (914) 359-6665.


CLAWFOOT TUB—Antique clawfoot tub in perfect condition with all hardware. $200. Athens, GA (706) 546-1023.

CLAWFOOT TUB—Tub 4 1/2 ft. needs new porcelain, $50; single wall sink, $40; 9 radiators in various sizes, $45 ea. (304) 274-5977.

DOCTOR’S CARRIAGE—Own a bit of history. Horse-drawn carriage in working condition. Great for weddings or parties. BO. Call (510) 895-6700. (CA) Leave message. Photo on request.


FLAMINGO MANTEL—Craftsman-style solid oak w/original bevelled mirror. Dimensions and photos available. Asking $500. (517) 486-2755. Blissfield, MI.


POCKET DOORS—Oak pair, c. 1920, never painted, excellent condition. Each 6-panel door 90" H x 30" W. Brass escutcheons & pulls. No mechanical hardware. Call (216) 382-1838 or fax Bob B (216) 687-0779.

OHIO ISSUES—VOL 1, #1 through Vol 22, #4, missing 6 issues. Most in OHJ. 30 issues. $650. (216) 486-2755. Blissfield, MI.

DOORS—1 pair French: 42" x 92" (ea.), wood louver; $500 OBO. 1 Dutch: 40" x 94", raised panel w/inlaid strap hinges;
CALCIMINE CEILING BLUES?

Try
Sterling's
Olde Yankee Towne
ready-mixed
Calci-Coater

Seals old calcimine surfaces
Succeeds where most paints fail
Time-tested answer for older buildings
Topcoat with oil or latex paints
May be tinted with oil or universal colors

For other old-house restoration jobs, try:
5FS non-flammable paint remover
Old Time Linseed Oil Putty
Sterling Elastic Glazing Compound
Quik & Clear vinyl wood finish

For a restoration products brochure, write to:
OHJI Catalog
SCL Corporation, Box J
Malden, MA 02148

PLANK FLOORING - BEAMS - SIDING

Largest Wholesale Distribution Center
Wide Pine - Chestnut - Oak
Original Surface Condition
All Materials Guaranteed As Represented
Delivery and Shipping Nationwide
Select Grade - Furniture Grade

ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, CONTRACTORS: SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

NORTH FIELDS RESTORATION
Rt. 1, Hampton Falls, NH 03844
Phone and Fax (603) 926-5383

AUTHENTIC

PERIOD WOODEN BLINDS
Movable Louver Shutters

OLD FASHION
WOODEN PORCH SHADES
CUSTOM MANUFACTURED

Call or write for free brochure and cost schedule

DEVENCO PRODUCTS
120F Waller Mill Rd. Ste. 240 Dept. OHJ/49S
Williamsburg, VA 23185
1-800-888-4597
Country Curtains

Choose from over 100 wonderful curtain styles and window treatments in a variety of warm colors, cheerful prints and a wide selection of fabrics and patterns. Many designs only available from Country Curtains ... and all are ready to hang at your windows ... call today for a FREE 68-page Color Catalog.

Satisfaction guaranteed
PLEASE CALL:
1-800-876-6123
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Fax: 413-243-1067

Country Curtains®
At The Red Lion Inn
Dept. 1925, Stockbridge, MA 01262

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _________ Zip ________

☐ Please send FREE catalog

MARCH/APRIL 1995 85
EMPIORIUM

Real Estate (continued)

$150 OBO. Newtown Sq., PA (suburban Phila.), (610) 350-4500.

OAK MURPHY BATHTUB—Beautiful folding bathtub in original finish from Victorian era. Measures 27" W x 65" L x 73" H. Book value $3,350. BO. Photos available. Contact Chuck Johnson, 204 6th St., Laurel, MD 20707 (301) 604-0321.

PUMP ORGAN—Chicago Cottage 1888 pump organ 44" W. Playable condition $175. Ronald G. Morin, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. (207) 324-8284 (leave message).

SASHES-2 pane sashes c. 1860 12 pt., 36' w x 27 1/2" h, 6 pr. 30" and 51" in width. Restorable to excellent condition. BO or trade. Call Gil (412) 887-6577.

VICTORIAN FURNITURE—Small tables, upholstered chairs, floor, table and ceiling lights, Queen Anne-style sideboard for sale. All items are refinished and reasonably priced. (203) 795-4449.

Wanted

LONDON REMEDY—Looking for information, literature, and ads manufactured in 1900s in Des Moines, IA, by Daniel Harvey Reichart. Would also like ads from Reichart Bros. (pharmacists and confectioners.). Write L. Cownie, 1503-23, Des Moines, IA 50311.


PEDESTAL SINK—American Standard pedestal or other sink compatible with the 1920s Neo-Anglo series in discontinued Coraline color. Call Susan (616) 671-2269.

FOLD-DOWN BED—Murphy-type bed. 1920s vintage pivot hardware for door. Restoration project. Need mechanism used to pivot a 62 1/2" x 84" closet door/fold-down bed "Marshall-Stearns Add-A-Room" brand. (815) 583-8953.

GEISEY ELEVATING HINGES—Hinges desperately needed. 1876 sliding butt hinges with elevating lever for windows or French doors. M.S. LeMh, 78 Park Dr., Columbus, OH 43209 (614) 884-0060.


Events

FL TOUR—Apalachicola Annual Spring Tour of Historic Homes includes 4 churches, commercial structures and 12 private homes. Sat., May 6. Tour packets and luncheon information available from Historic Trinity Episcopal Church, 79th St. Apalachicola, FL (904) 670-8744.


REMODELING CONFERENCE—Building & Remodeling in the '90s: Building Better, Building Green. Conference for the professional and Do-It-Yourselfer with seminars and exhibits. Eastern Maine Technical College's Rangeley Hall Conference Center, Bangor, ME April 7 & 8, 1995. $95. per person. Call (207) 561-4000.

EDENTON, NC BIENNIAL TOUR—Biennial Pilgrimage Tour of Homes and Countryside, Edenton, NC. April 21 and 22. 10 private homes, some pre-revolutionary; 6 public buildings; special events; Antiques Forum; Craftsmen's Guild; choral concert. (919) 482-8965.


Classified ads in The Emporium are FREE to current subscribers for one-of-a-kind or non-commercial items, including personal house or property sales. Free ads are limited to a maximum of 40 words. Free ads and bw photos are printed on a space available basis. For paid ads (real estate through agenst, books & publications, etc.), rates are $25 for the first 40 words, $5 for each additional word. $5 for a photograph. Deadline is the 1st of the month, two months prior to publication. For example: January 1st for the March/April issue. All submissions must be in writing and accompanied by a current mailing label for free ads, or a check for paid ads.

Old-House Journal
Attn: Emporium Editor
2 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930

86 OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL
The Ward
Quartersawn Clapboard

Over 100 years of continuous operation by
the Ward family.
Quartersawing produces
a vertical grain which
eliminates warping and
accepts paint and stain
easily for extended life
and beauty.
Spruce and pine. Widths from
4-1/2" to 6-1/2".
Pre-staining available.

"The clapboards were blemish-free, beautiful, even in a whole truck load. It was one of the few times we've bought something, not having seen it, and everything worked out well."
— Dan Crowley, contractor, Yarmouth, Maine

Ward Clapboard Mill
P.O. Box 1030
Moretown, VT 05673
(802) 496-3581

Patten, Maine
(207) 528-2933

The Aquetong Chandelier
Eight gracefully curved arms on this chandelier
provide elegant lighting in any home. The
arms are of two lengths to create a two-tier
effect. The cords are cleverly concealed in hol­
low tubing in both arms and center. A special­
ly designed canopy is included to complete this
traditional design.
Approx. 29.5" x 25.5" $375.00 (plus S&H)

* Museum Quality Hardware
Crafted by J.G. Beck

* Traditional Wrought Iron
Designs
Send $4.00 for our full line catalog.

IRON APPLE FORGE
Routes 263 & 413
P.O. Box 724
Buckingham, Pa 18912
(215) 794-7351

Nothing Works and Lasts . . .
Like TUFF-KOTE
Patching Products!

TUFF-KOTE
seals and weatherproofs
all exterior surfaces
STRONG, FLEXIBLE
PERMANENT REPAIR for
Roofs • Gutters • Sills
Wood • Masonry

KRACK-KOTE
The only permanent cure
for wall & ceiling cracks
NO SANDING
NO MESS
NO CRACKS!!
Invisible under paint or wallpaper.

TUFF-KOTE Co.
210 Seminary Ave.,
Woodstock, IL 60098
1-800-827-2056 to order

The BEST BUYS IN SPIRAL STAIRS!

MEtal

Oak

VictoriaN

SAFE, EASY-TO-ASSEMBLE-KITS
Metal Kits in stock for immediate shipping or pick-up

CALL OR WRITE FOR FREE COLOR BROCHURE:
Toll Free 800-523-7427 Ext. H335 The Iron Shop,
Dept. H335, Box 547, 400 Read Rd., Boomall, PA 19008
Specify: Metal , Oak , Victorian
Name
Address
City State Zip

From the Leading Manufacturer
of Spiral Stair Kits™

THE IRON SHOP®
©The Iron Shop 1994

MARCH/APRIL 1995 87
Authenticity, Craftsmanship, and the beauty of natural wood

- Design services & consultation
- Embossed wood mouldings — straight or curved
- Available in all species of wood
- Custom designed & crafted interiors
- Doors • Mantels • Gun cases
- Raised paneling • Circular stairs
- Custom cabinetry • Entryways
- Supervision from design to installation

CATALOG AVAILABLE — $5

AMERICAN CUSTOM MILLWORK, INC.
3904 NEWTON ROAD • P.O. BOX 3608
ALBANY, GA 31706
(912) 888-3303 • (912) 888-6848 • FAX (912) 888-9245
U.S.A. — WORLDMIDE

WOOD REPAIR

Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty can handle many kinds of repair needs. It can be sawed, chiseled, polished, colored, and molded. It sticks and stays put, will not shrink. It fills cracks, crevices, joints, knots, and nail holes.

It permanently adheres in wood, plaster, and tile. Ideal for use by woodworkers, painters, electricians, and carpenters. Available through hardware, lumber and building material dealers, and paint distributors from coast to coast.

DONALD DURHAM CO.
Box 804-HJ • Des Moines, Iowa 50304

WIDE FLOORING AND PANELING
OAK AND PINE: 8" to 26" wide

For easy installation of beautiful floors, Craftsman Lumber Company offers wide boards that are:

- Dried properly in our own kilns.
- Edges jointed straight and true.
- All boards meet, or exceed, NELMA specifications.
- 100% of order is usable when received. No defect allowance necessary.
- Knowledgable advice and information on proper installation.
- Warranty on all products.

Wide boards from Craftsman Lumber Company have been satisfying architects, builders and homeowners nationwide since 1974. All our boards are created exactly to your specifications. Send $2.00 for literature and grading photos, or phone Charles Thibeau at (508) 448-5621.

The Craftsman Lumber Company
Box 222, 436 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Established 1893
DECORATORS SUPPLY CORPORATION
3610 S. MORGAN ST. • CHICAGO, IL 60609

312/847-6300
Premier source for salvage items nationwide.

- Doors, windows, stained glass
- Brass lighting fixtures
- Victorian plumbing fixtures & accessories
- Fireplace mantles and accessories

Visit our picturesque Maine oceanfront location, where Yankee value is still important. Select from thousands of quality architectural items.

Architectural Antiquities
Harbor, ME 04642 (207) 326-4938

Call to order video or to receive free brochure

CUSTOM WOOD TURNINGS
- Architectural Mouldings
- Balusters
- Newel posts
- Porch posts
- Columns
- Fluting
- Spiral rope twist
- Finials
- Furniture parts
  - No minimum order
  - Shipment coordination
  - (72 page catalog $5.50)

Stop running water, leaks, seepage and dampness!
These trusted products solve your tough masonry water problems.

Water Stop "n" Seal - Masonry Water-proofing Paint forms a protective barrier to stop penetrating dampness on untreated masonry above or below grade. Effective against 4 psi hydrostatic pressures.

Water Stopper - Hydraulic Cement that sets very fast to seal breaks and cracks in masonry. Promptly stops water flow, even under pressure. 6200 psi compressive strength.

De-Moist Dehumidifier - dries and freshens damp air to eliminate mildew and reduce the chance for rust. Packaged in drawstring bag. Drip-free. Recharge for continued use.

156 Main St, P.O. Box 338
Ivoryton, CT 06442
(203) 767-3236 Fax (203) 767-3238

RUTLAND Home Care & Repair Products
Our 110 years of experience helps us satisfy the toughest customers.
Phone: (800) 544-1307 FAX: (802) 775-5262
P.O. Box 340, Rutland, VT 05702
Architectural Services

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES — Architec
tural and preservation problem-solving for
old buildings: Architectural services include
restoration, conservation, replication and
additions, building evaluation, analysis, tech
tical assistance and trouble-shooting.
Research and consultation are also available.
Award-winning specialists in residences,
churches and history museums. The Office
of Allen Charles Hill, AIA, Historic Preser
vation & Architecture, 25 Englewood Road,
Winchester, MA 01890. (607) 729-9748.

SOUTHWESTERN ARCHITECTURAL
SPECIALIST — Emphasis on planning, design
services for restoration and rehabilitation of
Southwestern properties. Peter Looms Archi
tect, Studio Sipapu, P.O. Box 5091, Taos,
NM 87571, (505) 758-8810.

Art Glass

HISTORIC ART GLASS — Specializing in
restoring and replacing 18th and 19th centu
ry acid-etched glass. All other glass styles
and types repaired and replicated by artists
throughout the U.S. Emphasis on planning,
production and restoration of multi-faceted
large projects. Unique glass commissions
designed and produced for any special pro
ject. Historic Systems (512) 322-0800 fax (512)
322-0940.

Building Renderings

BUILDING PORTRAITS — Finely-crafted
watercolor facade drawings for your home or
admired preservation taken from your pho
tographs and/or drawings or plans. Contact
Robert J. Leanna II, 41 Green Street, New
buryport, MA 01950. (508) 495-1095.

Hardware

ANTIQUE HARDWARE FINDERS — It's our
business to locate original unused hardware.
Quantities arrive weekly. Constantlychang
ing stock, send your list of long-term or cur
rent wants or $5 for complete catalog to:
W.M.J. Rigby Co., 73 Elm St., Cooperstow
NY 13326. 607-547-1900.

Painting & Color Schemes

EXTERIOR COLOR SCHEMES — Custom-
tailored color designs for your home or com
mercial buildings. Services are available
nationwide through mail order. We also teach
"how to" seminars to groups. Nationally
known and respected. Contact: The Color
People, 1522 Blake Street #300, Denver,
CO 80202 (800) 541-7174, or fax (303) 647-1310.

Preservation Specialist

PRESERVATION CONSULTANT — Prob
lems with your historic building? Consulting
for homeowners, architects, contractors and
tradepersons on restoration of historic struc
tures. Nationally recognized and frequent O
H contributor. Provides practical and eco
nomical solutions. John Lekee, BRI Box 2047
Sanford, ME 04073. (207) 324-9997.

ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION — All
aspects of preservation carpentry, masonry
and structural repairs. Traditional crafts and
methods as well as specialized conservation
treatments for problems unique to historic
buildings and residences. Consulting services
offered. David C. Webb 109 Hay St., New
bury, MA 01951. (508) 645-9312.

Roofing

ANTIQUE ROOFING — Consulting slate
& tile roof repairs, copper repair and fabri
cation, roof-related painting. Cedar shingles,
ventilation for old roofs. Copper half-round
gutters and downspouts. Will travel. Smith Slate & Tile Roofing, Chicago, IL
(312) 235-2113.

Structural

STRUCTURAL RESTORATION — Specialis
tists in structural member replacement to
Colonial timberframe. Homes, barns, grist
mills and churches. We provide 25 years expe
rience in jacking, squaring, sill replacement,
terior and exterior restorations. Repair to
structures damaged by natural disasters. Con
sulting services available nationwide. George
Yonone Restorations, RD 2 West Center Rd.,
West Stockbridge, MA 01266, (413) 235-7650.

Woodstripping

HONE WOODSTRIPPING AND REFINISH-
ing, INC. — All architectural wood finishes
ishes expertly stripped and refinished, since
1983. New Jersey based; will travel. Free es
imates, fully insured. Contact Jack Hone,
5 Spring Lane, Warren, NJ 07059. (908)
671-7210.

WOOD FINISHING SERVICE — Master Fin
ishing & Restoration, Inc., specialists in all
aspects of stripping, finishing, restoration,
and conservation of architectural woodwork
and furniture. Precise color matching.
Intelligent and creative solutions for all your wood
finishing projects. No job too large. Boston
based; will travel. Call Wayne Towe, 8
Thayer St., Boston, MA 02118. (617) 423-2022.

Rates are $200 for the first 40 words,
$4.00 for each additional word. The
deadline for inclusion is the 1st of
the month 2 months prior to publi
cation (January 1st for March/April is
issue). Submissions must be in writing
and accompanied by a check.
Mail to: Old-House Journal
Restoration Services, The Black
burn Tavern, 2 Main Street,
Gloucester, MA 01930
Authentic Colonial Woodworking

Windows, Doors and Entryways
Old Glass, Moldings
Raised Panel Walls

Brochure $2.25

Maurer & Shepherd
Joyners Inc.
122 Naubuc Avenue
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(203) 633-2383

Decorative Metal Ceilings
Original turn-of-the-century patterns

Using eighty year old dies, the W. F. Norman Corporation is once again producing metal plates for the design of ceilings and wall coverings. Their growing popularity stems not only from nostalgia but from their beauty, permanence, fireproofing and economy.

The fullness of the Hi-Art™ line — including center plates, corner plates, border plates, cornice and filler plates — permits classic designs to be produced that are architecturally proportioned for an exact fit.

Write for reproduction copy of 72 page illustrated catalog. Price $3.

W.F. Norman Corporation
P.O. Box 323 • Nevada, Missouri 64772 • 1-800-641-4038
Fax: 417-667-2708

Antique Wide Plank Flooring
Heart Pine • Eastern White Pine • Red Pine
Chestnut • Oak

New Plank Flooring
Ash, Maple, Oak, Cherry, Eastern White Pine

Antique & Reproduction
Beams & Timber Frames
Hand-Hewn, Rough Sawn & Planed Surfaces
Mortise & Tenon, Dovetail Joinery

ARCHITECTURAL TIMBER & MILLWORK
35 Mt. Warner Rd, PO Box 719, Hadley MA 01035 • (413) 586-3045 FAX (413) 586-3046

Over 50 Grille Sizes & Designs
LARGEST SELECTION OF IN-STOCK CAST IRON OR BRASS REGISTERS & GRILLES.

Enhance the appearance of your home. Whether building, remodeling or simply redecorating, our beautiful 100% solid cast grilles finish off any room perfectly. Ideal with forced-hot-air systems, wood stoves, even solar collectors.

Request our color catalog. $1.00

CALL (508) 772-3493

We print our catalog for the AMISH

Victorian-style wood, gas or electric cookstoves

The world's largest Amish community (it's here in Ohio, not PA) relies on our 2,000 item catalog. Traditional Heartland cookstoves are a favorite: Old World craftsmanship, breathtaking nickel trim & functional roast-site ovens. Choose wood-fired (money-saving airtight design) or elegant electric or gas versions. Grain mills, oil lamps, cast cookware, crockery & 100's of items you had no idea were still available! It's guaranteed different from any other catalog you ever saw!

RUSH me your Amish country catalog. I am enclosing $5.
Mail to: Lehman's Box 41, Dept. I-FT3, Kidron, OH 44636

Name
Address
Zip

MARCH/APRIL 1995 91
The advertisers in this issue have literature available, and you can get as many catalogs as you need just by filling out one form.

**Building Components**


2. **HEART PINE FLOORING** - Flooring cut from 200-year-old lumber. Edges and bottoms have been rebarked for easy installation, but patina of old surface remains. Wainscoting, hand-hewn beams, mantels, and stair parts are also offered. Brochure, $5.25. Josslyn Co.

3. **RESTORATION GLASS** - Imperfect glass is perfect for restoration work. Each sheet is made by using the original cylinder method. Free brochure. Bendheim Glass.


5. **ARCHITECTURAL ROOFING TILES** - Tile roofs get better with age, never need maintenance, can't burn, and last 50-125 years. Free color catalog. Vande Hey Roofing.


7. **MOISTURE VENTS** - Small, screened ncial louvers, 1" to 6" diameter, release moisture trapped in walls, cornices, soffits, etc. Just drill holes and press in place. Free literature. Midget Louver Co.


15. **DESIGN PORTFOLIO** - Full-page drawings with descriptions of custom crafted traditional kitchens, and a color brochure featuring on-location photographs of Follansbee kitchens. $10.25. The Follansbee Company.


17. **ANTIQUE FLOORING** - Antique wide pine flooring. Antique oak and chestnut are also available. Lengths up to 12', widths up to 14'. Free brochure. North Fields Restorations.


632. **ENGLISH COAL FIRE** - Now you can experience an authentic English gas coal fire. Most fire openings can be satisfied. Free literature. Grape Fires Company.

633. **WALL RESTORATION** - Repair cracked plaster walls and ceilings. Costs less than drywall over plaster, guttering, or skim coating. Installs easier than wallpaper; no need to remove woodwork. Stops air infiltration and creates a vapor barrier. Free video.


635. **FIBERGLASS COLUMNS** - Choose from a wide variety of sizes for structural support or decoration. Columns are ready to prime and paint. Light weight, fire and impact resistant, and impervious to insects. Free literature. Chadsworth, Inc.

636. **GUTTER PRODUCTS** - Offering copper and aluminum half-round gutters with accessories; copper and aluminum bay window strip miter; copper-colored aluminum coils; and more. Free literature. Commercial Gutter Systems.


641. **ICE-BOXS** - Manufacturers of premium solid oak ice-box electric refrigerators. Literature, $3.25. Northern Refrigerator Company.


643. **DRAPER HARDWARE** - Decorative metal drapery hardware available as well as a full line of cast iron spiral and straight staircases. 16-page stair catalog along with illustrated curtain information available, $3.25. Stepco & Wife.

733. **TILE** - Ceramic tile, terra cotta, and natural stone products. The line ranges from hand-painted wall tiles to rustic stone pavers. Free catalog. Tile Showcase.

**Doors & Windows**


20. **WOOD SASH** - Any size and shape: divided lite, round top, curved, double-hung, fixed, casement, or storm sash. Insulated glass, shutters, screen doors, and trim. Illustrated brochure, $2.75. Midwest Architectural Wood Products.

21. **WOODEN SCREEN DOORS** - Blending function, fine craftsmanship, and styling. Dozens of innovative styles ranging from the classic design to highly ornamental. Catalog, $5.25. Oregon Wooden Screen Door.

22. **SPECIALTY WOOD WINDOWS** - Palladian, straight, and fan transoms. Single, double, or triple glazed. Solid wood entry doors with insulating core available. Brochure, $2.25. Wood-
stone Co.

**410. COLONIAL WOODWORK** — Handcrafted custom-made interior and exterior 18th-century architectural trim. Finely detailed Colonial doors, windows, shutters, wariscot, and wall paneling. Catalog, $2.25. Maurer & Shepherd Joynes.

**455. WOOD ENTRANCES** — Solid native wood entrances to match the style of your house. Traditional doors with bull-eye glass, sidelights. Catalog, $2.25. Lamson-Taylor Custom Doors.

**582. THE WINDOW QUILT** — Save 80% of heat loss through windows and sliding glass doors. Quadruple insulation value of single-pane windows. Triples insulation value of double-pane windows. Stops infiltration and cold convection. Free literature. Appropriate.

**753. MAGNETIC WINDOW** — Manufacturers, distribution, and installers of the Flexible Window magnetized interior storm window, the most effective magnetic window ever developed. Free literature. Petit Industries, Inc.

**Finishes & Tools**

**31. ROTTED WOOD RESTORATION** — 2-part epoxy system restores rotted wood so you can save historically significant and hard-to-duplicate pieces. Repairs can be sawn, drilled, sanded, and painted. Free brochure. Abatron, Inc.


**365. FIREPLACE REPAIR** — Offering a full line of chimney and fireplace maintenance and repair products for over 100 years. Caskets, cleaners, caulkings, patching, and specialty paint products. Free catalog. Rutland Products.

**459. MOLDER-PLANER** — Reproduce railings, sashes, crown, rails, window and door stops, and curved moulding with chatter free finishes. Free information kit. Williams & Hussey.

**539. REFINISHING PRODUCTS** — Manufacturer of paint strippers, clear finishes, lacquers, sanding sealers, caulking compounds, linseed oil putty, and glazing compounds. Free information. Sterling-Clark-Linton Corporation.


**595. ROCK-HARD PUTTY** — Ideal for repairing walls, woodwork, and plaster. It can be sanded, chiseled, polished, colored, and molded. It stays put and will not shrink. Free literature. Donald Durham Company.

**611. PAINT SHAVER** — This patented ecologically-safe power tool strips paint from shingles and clapboards. The dust collector allows encapsulation of debris for retrieval. Free literature. American International Tool Industries.


**643. WOODWORKING SUPPLIES** — Offering domestic and exotic hardwoods, veneers, wood parts, specialty hardware, kitchen accessories. Color catalogue, $2.25. The Woodworker's Store.


**672. OLD FASHIONED APPLIANCES** — Victorian style cook stoves and gas refrigerators, Slater's and blacksmith's tools. Hundreds of 19th-century items you thought they quit making decades ago. Catalog, $2.25. Lehman Hardware.

**702. WATER BASE METALIC COATINGS** — Copper, brass, bronze, mauve and silver. Finishes include green (verdi), blue, burgundy, and black and can be applied to metal paints and solid metals. Free literature. Patina Finishes & Copper Coats, Inc.

**725. HERITAGE VILLAGE COLORS** — Authentic reproductions of 18th and 19th-century architecture. Suitable for most exterior and interior surfaces, as well as furniture and decorative painting. Literature, $2.25. Primrose Distributing.

**735. 18TH & 19TH CENTURY PAINTS** — Using the highest quality traditional materials to reproduce accurate colors and dynamics of the original hand-prepared paints of the Colonial era. Literature, $2.75. Historic Paints Ltd.

**744. POWER TOOLS** — Manufacturing and marketer of a full line of cordless power tools, plus accessories for do-it-yourself, professional, and industrial markets. Free literature. S.B. Tools.

**Furnishings**

**221. ANTIQUE FANS** — Restoring and selling of antique fans and parts. Offering a large changing inventory. Detailed brochure, $2.25. The Fan Man.

**353. RADIATOR ENCLOSURES** — The durability of steel with baked enamel finish in decorator colors. More efficient than paint, and keeps drapes, walls, and ceilings clean. Free catalog. ARSCO Manufacturing.

**722. AMERICAN COUNTRY-STYLE FURNITURE** — Shaker, traditional, and oak tables and cabinets. Accessories include pillows, doorstops, rugs, and specialty items. Free catalogue. Yield House.
CUSTOM DOORS
Which Offer Unlimited Possibilities

Let us work with you to create a personal, distinct entrance.
We build insulated doors of native woods with the highest standards of craftsmanship for beauty and durability.

Color brochure $2
LAMSON-TAYLOR CUSTOM DOORS
5 TUCKER ROAD
SOUTH ACWORTH, NH 03607
603-835-2992

Ready-Laid™ antique heart pine flooring
The Joinery Is Making History
With A Floor That's Easy To Install.

The tools are centuries old. So are the timbers. And through The Beauty Of Recycling, “The Joinery Company is using them to make history with something brand new: Ready-Laid™ antique heart pine flooring.

• Pre-fitted, pre-laid flooring that needs no commercial sanding
• Pre-squared ends, laser-straightened edges
• Easy-to-handle nested bundle packaging
• Kiln-dried stability

Send $5 for a portfolio & price list, or $25 (refundable with your order) for samples of our fine woods.

THE JOINERY CO.
Antique Heart Pine Flooring
Dept. OH • PO Box 518 • Tarboro, NC 27886
(919)823-3306

MODERN VENTILATION
NOW AVAILABLE
WHITE MIDGET LOUVERS
Two styles in four sizes at extremely attractive prices. Ideal for residential construction.
Control Moisture, Vapor, Damp Rot, Corrosion and excessive heat. Easy to install without screws or nails.

MIDGET LOUVER COMPANY
800 MAIN AVENUE
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851
PHONE (203) 866-2342
FAX (203) 867-7147

Fireplace & Chimney Restoration Specialists
• Lining (all types)
• Rebuilding
• Repairs
• Chimney Cleaning
• Chimney Caps

Fully Insured
Serving Tri State Area Since 1960

CERTIFIED CHIMNEY CONTRACTORS
3122 Route 10 West • Denville, NJ 07834
201-361-1783 212-724-9411
Residential • Commercial • Institutional

You Can Save Up To 50% On Home Heating Cost
And never have to buy fuel, wood, oil, gas, kerosene ever again.

REPLACE OLD & INEFFICIENT HEAT
Hydro-Sil is a unique zone heating system that can save you hundreds of dollars in home heating costs.
It can replace your electric heat, oil or gas furnace. Your kerosene heaters and woodstoves.

Your benefits with Hydro-Sil
• Slash Heating Cost - Up to 50%
• Lifetime Warranty - no service calls
• Safe for children & furniture
• Clean - no fumes - no smoke
• U.L. Listed
• Preassembled - ready to use
• No furnaces - ducts - chimneys
• Portable (110V) or permanent (220V)
• Whole House Heating or Single Room
• Room by Room Control

Hydro-Sil works like this: inside the heater case is a sealed copper tube filled with a harmless silicone fluid that will never spill, leak, boil or freeze. It’s permanent. You’ll never run out. Running through the liquid is a hydroelectric element that, when the thermostat is turned on, quickly warms the liquid. The silicone liquid with its heat retention qualities continues to heat after the Hydro element shuts off, saving you money. The heat radiating from the tube is directed into a gentle convection flow that delivers warm, comfortable heat into the room. It’s just that simple. The principle is the same as hot water heating and provides the same comfortable benefits.

S.C. & N.C., added sales tax
$15.00 shipping per heater

Credit Orders-Toll Free 1-800-627-9276 (M/C-VISA)
Or Mail To: Hydro-Sil
PO Box 662, Fort Mill, SC 29715

MARCH/APRIL 1995 95
From the Heart of the South...
The BEST for Less$\n
ANTIQUE HEART PINE FLOORING
T&G Floors • Stairparts • Doors
Cabinetry • Paneling
Custom milled from Antique Beams
EXPOSED BEAMS
Dry • Aged • Superb

ANTIQUE HEART CYPRESS
Custom Milled • Quality Guaranteed
Albany Woodworks
P. O. Box 729 • Albany, LA 70711 • 504/567-1155

EMPIRE
Products Network (cont.)

Victorian and turn-of-the-century, electric and gas, chandeliers and wall brackets. Solid brass with a variety of glass shades. Catalog, $5.25. Victorian Lighting Works.

CRAFTSMAN LIGHTING — Reproduction craftsman chandeliers and sconces fit right into any bungalow, mission, foursquare, or traditional home. Fixtures in solid brass or cast iron. Free catalog. Rejuvenation Lamp & Fixture Co.


EARLY-AMERICAN LIGHTING — Hand-made reproduction fixtures include wall sconces, chandeliers, copper lanterns, and hall fixtures. Catalog, $2.25. Gates Moore Lighting.

ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT LAMPS — Exceptional handcrafted desk, table, and floor lamps with carved or inlaid bases and subtly decorated inlay shades. Literature, $5.25. Lumens Art.


CUSTOM-MADE PLAQUES — Historic markers for indoor or outdoor use. Standard solid bronze cast plaques, 7" x 10", are $90 plus shipping. Other dimensions and styles available. Free brochure. Erie Landmark.


SPIRAL STAIRS — Magnificent for Victorian settings. The beauty of cast iron, but not the weight. All components, except handrail, are solid castings of high-strength aluminum alloy. Free color brochure. The Iron Shop.

GRILLES & REGISTERS — Manufacturers of complete line of elegant cast brass and traditional cast iron decorative grilles and registers. Color catalog, $4.25. Reggio Register Co.

SHUTTERS & BLINDS — Custom-made colonial wooden blinds, movable louver, and raised-panel shutters. Pine or cedar, painted or stained. Free brochure. Devenson Louver Products.

PLASTER ORNAMENT — Restoration and reproduction with fiber-reinforced plaster. Complete catalog of 1500 items, $10.25. Fischer & Jitrow.

WOOD MOULDINGS — Internationally recognized company offering over 500 beautiful wood mouldings. 104-page catalog, $6.00. Avid's Historic Woods.

CUSTOM TURNINGS — Newel posts, porch columns, capital bases, fluting, spiral rope twists, and more. Catalog $5.75. Custom Wood Turnings.

CUSTOM MILLWORK — Serving architects, designers, builders, and homeowners. Custom specialties include spiral stairs, doors, bookcases, and paneling. Catalog, $5.25. American Custom Millwork, Inc.


CUSTOM TURNINGS — Providing a custom turning service of porch posts, newels, balusters, and stair parts. Prompt, quality service with capacity to 12 feet. Free quotes. CiderWhit & Company.

A HAND-DRAWN PORTRAIT OF YOUR HOME
BY ILLUSTRATOR DAVID LYMAN

PRINTED ON FRAMING QUALITY ART PAPER
ART SIZE: APPROX 20" X 26" PERFECT FOR FRAMING
YOU MAY ADD $5 FOR 100 PREMIUM QUALITY
5" X 7" SINGLE-FOLD NOTES & ENVELOPES, ALONG
WITH THE LARGER PRINT!
BEAUTIFUL HOUSEWARMING, HOLIDAY OR
FIRST HOME GIFT.
PLEASE INCLUDE CLEAR PHOTO AND $195
(WA RESIDENTS - I'LL PAY YOUR TAX)
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
DAVID LYMAN 20266 37TH AVE. N.E.
SEATTLE, WA 98155

Art SEE APPRC«
A HAND DRAWN PORTRAIT OF YOUR HOME
BY ILLUSTRATOR DAVID LYMAN

B. VICTORIAN MILLWORK — High-quality 19th and 20th century reproduction hardware for doors, windows, shutters, cabinets, and furniture. High-security locks with period appearance also available. 168-page catalog, $5.25. Ball & Ball.

RENOVATION HARDWARE — Hard-to-find supplies including brass cabinet hardware, lighting, weather vanes, pedastal sinks, old-fashioned bathtub showers, and fixtures. Mail-order catalog, $3.25. Antique Hardware Store.

BATHROOM FIXTURES — A wide variety of antique and reproduction plumbing, tubs, porcelain faucets and handles, pedestal sinks, high-tank toilets, and shower enclosures. 96-page color catalog, $6.25. Mac The Antique Plumber.


HARD-TO-FIND HARDWARE — Covering all periods from the 16th century through the 1970s; using brass, iron, pewter, and steel.
Cataloog includes 34 pages of informative text and 372 pages of high-quality restoration hardware, $6.75. Crown City Hardware.

FIXTURES & ACCESSORIES — Bathroom fixtures and accessories such as door, window, and cabinet hardware. Lighting fixtures also. Free catalog. Renovation's Supply & Service.

SQUARE DRIVE SCREWS — With over 200 sizes and styles in stock, virtually every desired
Available for the First time this Century!

For years, serious restorers have put everything into getting that period look only to be disappointed when buying paints. Finally, accurate reproductions which match the original dynamics, texture, and colours of hand-prepared historical paints are for sale. These pure linseed oil paints, based on years of research by Matthew J. Mosca, internationally respected consultant on historic finishes, are formulated according to early recipes to bring you the most accurate reproductions of the paints used in Early America.

**HISTORIC PAINTS Ltd**

*Makers of 18th and 19th-Century Paints for the Serious Restorer*

We use only the finest Linseed Oil, Spirits of Turpentine, Pigments, and Natural Resin Varnishes. We offer Venetian Red, Prussian Blue, Verdigris, Massicot, Spanish Brown, and sundry other colours, brushes, and early painters' materials.

1-800-664-6293

Burr Tavern • Route 1, Box 474
East Meredith, NY 13757

These paints contain no lead or mercury.

---

Quartersawn Clapboard Siding and Building Materials including Wide Pine and Hardwood Flooring

Quartersawing produces a vertical grain clapboard, • Twists and warps less • Wears more evenly • Bonds paint and stain better

Also featuring... Olympic Machinecoat™ Exterior Finish for all types of siding, Allows priming or finishing prior to installation with 15-year warranty:

- Crack, Peel and Flake Resistant
- Washable
- Non-Yellowing
- No Chalk Washdown

Granville Manufacturing Company, Inc. • Est. 1857
Granville, Vermont 05747
802-767-4747

Call or Write for Free Brochure

---

Classic Hardwood Reproductions of BORDERS and Full Room PATTERNED FLOORING Circa 1880-1920

Geometric & Laser-cut MEDALLIONS

Call or write for free literature and local distributor

HISTORIC FLOORS OF OSHKOSH, INC.

P.O. Box 572
Oshkosh, WI 54902
(414) 233-5066
FAX (414) 233-7644

The Glenwood Baseburner 8, manufactured in 1905, is one of the finest cylinder stoves made. It can burn wood or coal and maintains a fire for 10-16 hours. Its lines are timeless making this stove a fine piece of functional art. A definite must for the family that wants the best in quality, artistry and efficiency. Other models, various sizes available.

For more information call: (413) 268-3677

Granville Manufacturing Company, Inc. • Est. 1857
Granville, Vermont 05747
802-767-4747

Call or Write for Free Brochure
Save Your OHJs
The Easy Way.

Your copies of Old-House Journal are your best restoration resource. So shelve them — protect them — the way the OHJ editors do: in a handsome slipcase or binder. Back copies are then easily retrievable whenever you want to consult them about a specific restoration job. Each slipcase (8 5/8" x 11 1/2") and binder (9 1/4" x 12 3/4") holds a year's worth of issues, and comes in library-quality deep maroon leatherette with the OHJ logo embossed in gold. Use the coupon at left to order. For fastest service, call toll-free and charge to VISA, MasterCard or AMEX ($15 minimum): 1-800-824-5671

To: Old-House Journal, c/o Jesse Jones Industries, Dept. OHJ, 499 East Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134
☐ Send me ______ binders @ $11.25 ea. (3 for $33.75; 6 for $60.75)
☐ Send me ______ slipcases @ $8.95 ea. (3 for $26.85; 6 for $43.75)
Enclosed is $_____. Add $1.50 per case/binder postage and handling. Outside continental U.S. (including AK & HI) $3.50 per case or binder (US funds only). Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. PA residents add 7% sales tax.

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY __________________ STATE ______ ZIP ______

OREGON LUMBER COMPANY

Douglas Fir Flooring
Vertical Grain "C" and Better Grade
Tongue & Grooved, End-Matched
Custom milled to specified widths and thickness
Alternate grades available
Sizes for historic Restoration available

call: 1-800-824-5671 for samples and information
Custom Wood Turning

Authentic Replications • Prompt, Quality Service • Will Work From Drawings or Samples
Porch Turnings • Stairway Turnings • Balusters • Newels • Spindles
Lengths To 12 Feet • Call For Free Brochure

Cinder Whit & Company
733 Eleventh Avenue South • Wahpeton, ND 58075
Ph. 701-642-9064 • Fax 701-642-4204

Don't Paint Your Radiators

Paint drastically reduces the efficiency of steam & hot water radiators and wood enclosures are poor heat conductors.

Affordable Ace Radiator Enclosures...
- Offer durability of steel with baked enamel finish in decorator colors
- Keep drapes, walls & ceilings clean
- Project heat out into the room

FREE Estimates
FREE Heat Efficiency Catalog

Write or Phone
1-800-543-7040 Toll-Free
1-513-385-0555 in Ohio (Collect)

Ahrens

Re-lines/Restores Masonry Chimneys

With The ONLY Listed Two-Liner Cast-In-Place Masonry Process
- First insulates and strengthens
- Second seals and protects
- Both are immune to acids and moisture
- No guess work Mechanically applied
- No exterior alterations.
- No metal to corrode
- Improves heating efficiency — All for a fraction of the cost of rebuilding!

Dealership network nationwide. Call or write for more information:
2000 Industrial Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-800-843-4417

Smith-Cornell Impressions

We specialize in:
- Sand cast plaques in Bronze & Aluminum
- GraphicsPlus-Smooth Surface Plaques and Markers
- Combination of cast with a GraphicsPlus Insert
- Old Standard National Register Plaques

1842
MANNERS COURT

Call or write for:
- FREE brochure
- FREE quote

S-C
1545 Holland Rd. • Suite O
Maumee, Ohio 43537
419-891-4335 • 800-325-0248
HANDSOMELY CRAFTED WOODEN SCREEN DOORS

Whether your home is on the Historical Register, or still on the drawing board, Oregon Wooden Screen Door Company has a variety of screen doors and energy-efficient storm doors suited to you.

Designed for interior as well as exterior use, each door component is constructed using the finest materials and joined with wooden pegs and glue (no nails).

For complete information and styles available, send $3 (refundable with purchase) for our catalogue.

Oregon Wooden Screen Door Company
Dept. OHJ, 2767 Harris, Eugene, OR 97405

Six sound reasons to specify a Whitco manual dumbwaiter

- Well-proven design
- Failsafe automatic brake
- One year free service
- Six-year mechanical warranty
- Cabinet grade life car
- Capacities to 250 lbs.

Custom hardwood or stainless steel car, if desired.

Whitco
Five fittings for the finest homes...since 1929.

60 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965
(800) 332-3286 FAX: (415) 332-0816

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY
PRESEVING THE LOOK
OF THE PAST.

If you appreciate the “Olde World” style of gutters and downspouts and desire to restore and preserve your home in harmony with the original intent of its design, Commercial Gutter systems introduces authentic 6” seamless half-round gutter in both copper & heavy aluminum.

We have designed an innovative front lip on our 6” seamless half-round gutter that is compatible with our unique hidden nut and bolt adjustable hanger. Allowing for an efficient, durable fastening system unmatched in half-round application.

- 32’ lengths shipped without fear of damaged material
- Complete line of half-round accessories
- Samples available upon request

5621 East D.E. Avenue • Kalamazoo, MI 49004
Phone: 616-382-2700 • Fax: 616-343-3141

Send $5 for our full color catalog. (catalog fee refundable with order)

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY
PRESERVING THE LOOK
OF THE PAST.

Associate Degree in Building Preservation

Develop your appreciation for traditional craftsmanship, and the built and natural environments while learning to apply preservation theory in real life situations. Get hands-on restoration training at our two field lab houses (1907 Colonial Revival, 1846 Federal) and in the preservation workshop. Our curriculum is a rigorous examination of preservation theory balanced by practical applications of specialized construction and craft techniques. To learn more, please contact the Building Preservation Program for further information.

BELMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
120 Fox-Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, OH 43950 614/695-9500 ext. 48

100 OLD-HOUSE JOURNAL
screw is available in the high-torque square drive. Free catalog, McFeely’s.

565. ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL ITEMS
- Brass lighting, hardware, fireplace accessories, plumbing fixtures, and more. Primarily Victorian period. Leasing is available; always interested in buying. Free brochure. Architectural Antiques.

566. FORGED-IRON HARDWARE - Manufacturer of forged-iron builder’s and home hardware. Catalog, $6.25. Acorn Manufacturing Co.


Restoration Supplies & Services


35. PLASTER WASHERS - These inexpensive washers can rescue loose ceilings and walls. Starter packet of 2 dozen washers with instructions, $4.75. Charles Street Supply.


669. DESIGN/BUILD SCHOOL - Teachers of home design, renovation, woodworking, and related trades to homeowners and professionals. Free literature. Yeastmorrow.


725. BARN HOUSE KITS - 100-year-old-plus south east Pennsylvania bank barn frames disassembled and ready to be converted into barn houses. Complete kit delivered to your site. Free catalog. Pitcaim-Ferguson & Associates.

726. PRESERVATION & RESTORATION - AcryMax Tin Roof restoration systems is high performance acrylic technology assuring years of waterproof protection. Free catalog. Preservation Products.


726. ANTIQUE STOVES - Stoves bought, sold and reconditioned. Wood, coal or gas, parlor stoves or kitchen ranges. Free literature. Keokuk Stove Works.

756. SANYO TRIO-ZONE DUCTLESS AIR CONDITIONING - Sanyo offers the perfect AC system for cooling bi-level and adjoining room situations. The Trio-Zone system consists of three attractively styled indoor wall units supported by one quiet outdoor condenser.

758. HOUSE PLANS - Offering a collection of cozy cottages in designs influenced by early European architecture. Also offered is the Craftsman Collection; traditional homes which gained popularity in the early 1900s. $12.25 per collection. Princeton Plan.

792. FLUE LINING - Cementitious, pumped-in-place lining for single, multiple, straight, or offset flues. Free literature. Golden Flue System.

**LITERATURE REQUEST FORM**

Circle the numbers of the items you want, and enclose $5 for processing. We’ll forward your request to the appropriate companies. They will mail the literature directly to you which should arrive 30 to 60 days from receipt of your request. Price of literature, if any, follows the number. Your check, including the $5 processing fee should be made out to Old-House Journal.

3. $5.25 91. $5.25 397. $7.75 590. Free 864. Free
5. Free 110. $5.25 410. $2.25 582. Free 764. Free
7. Free 122. $3.25 435. Free 509. Free 714. $5.25
8. $2.00 125. Free 439. Free 509. Free 714. Free
9. $2.25 128. $3.25 445. $2.25 508. $6.25 725. Free
10. $2.25 129. $3.25 446. Free 508. $6.25 725. Free
11. Free 212. $2.00 450. $3.25 609. Free 728. Free
13. Free 221. $3.25 492. $10.25 615. Free 733. Free
14. $2.25 242. $3.25 517. $1.25 615. $15.25 733. $2.75
15. $0.25 245. $7.25 518. $9.75 643. $2.25 736. Free
19. $4.75 289. $10.25 559. Free 652. Free 753. Free
21. $4.75 314. $3.75 557. $1.25 663. Free 758. $12.25
22. $1.25 340. $6.00 559. Free 663. Free 773. Free
23. $1.25 353. Free 560. $2.25 672. $2.25 791. $9.25
24. $3.25 359. Free 561. $3.25 675. Free 792. Free

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company</td>
<td>P &amp; H</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>Zip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail to: Old-House Journal, Products Network, 2 Main St, Gloucester, MA 01930</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This card must be mailed below July 30, 1995.

MARCH/APRIL 1995 101
Once in a lifetime savings on heirloom-quality solid brass and white iron beds. Buy factory direct and SAVE UP TO 50%!! Special Bridal Layaway and payment plans. Send for our FREE CATALOG.

12421 CEDAR ROAD
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
(216) 229-4900

Handmade reproduction period tiles
Custom colors and sizes

Sun House Tiles
9986 Happy Acres W.,
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-3651 or 587-1175

FULPER TILE
Revised by the family in 1984, this Arts and Crafts inspired tile is handcrafted from a stoneware body and uses the original glaze formulas Fulper made famous on their Vasekraft line almost a century ago.

Call or write for a brochure. Seconds available by appointment.
Fulper Tile
P.O. Box 373
Yardley, PA 19067
(215) 736-8512

GENUINE MILK PAINT
Authentic Colonial and Shaker Finish

In powder form Add water and mix
environmentally safe non-toxic odor-free easy to use long wearing will not fade

16 colors include: Bam Red, Salem Red, Pumpkin, Marigold Yellow, Mustard, Buttermilk, Bayberry Green, Tavern Green, Lexington Green, Sea Green, Federal Blue, Soldier Blue, Slate, Patch Black, Oyster White, Snow White

See your local dealer
If none locally, write or phone for free literature.

Telephone (508) 448-6336 FAX (508) 448-2754

The Old Fashioned Milk Paint Company
Dept. J, Box 232, Groton, MA 01450-0222

VISA, M/C ORDERS...call 1 800 350-3363
Or mail check to
AMERICAN BUNGALOW MAGAZINE
123 S. Baldwin Ave., Post Office Box 756
Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0756.

MARCH/APRIL 1995 103
GLASS INTERIOR

Storm Windows

ELEGAKT, SOLID BRASS

Holds Stairway Carpet in Place

Large 3/8" x 30" Polished Brass Rods

Ball, Urn or Pineapple Finials

Set of 15 $158.00 p.p.

Includes Rods, Finials & Fasteners

Singles $11.00/EA. MC, VISA, CK.

Easy, Fast Installation

Custom Lengths

(814) 887-6032

HERITAGE BRASS CO.

5 Long St., Smethport, PA 16749

Antique Flooring

Wide country plank or elegant quarter-sawn plank. Antique Heart Pine, Oak and special hardwoods at reasonable prices. Pre-finished or unfinished.

Brochure $5

(919) 977-7353

Sample Kit $25

Dept. OH • PO Box 7366 • Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Custom Shutters

Interior and Exterior

Wholesale to the Public

2 1/2" Moveable louver, raised panel and fixed louver shutters. Custom finished or unfinished. Complete selection of hardware.

$2.00 Brochure

Shutter Depot

81.2 Box 167

GREENVILLE, GA 30222

706-672-1214

AMSTERDAM CORPORATION

150 East 8th Street

New York, NY 10015

Tel. (212) 9644-1350

Fax. (212) 993-6291

WHATEVER YOUR

CERAMIC TILE

RESTORATION NEEDS

WALLS: 6" x 3" and 6" x 6" Crown Moldings Decorative Liners Victorian Print Tiles Hand Painted Ditch Tiles

FLOORS: 1" Hexagons White & Colors 3/4" Penny Rounds

AND MORE...

Lampshades of Antique

Dept. 8, P.O. Box 2, Medford, OR 97501

96 styles $35-$95 • Phone (503) 826-9737

We can recover your frame. Catalog $4

Antique PA. Bank Barn Kits

Complete Original Post & Beam Structural Frame

Witzeman Barn Kit

$25,154.23

30 Ft x 40 Ft

$20.96/Seq.

More Sizes & Designs

in Stock

Call for Free Photo Brochure & Price List

Send $10 (Check, Visa, or MC) for VHS Catalog

Pitcairn-Ferguson & Associates Inc.

Suppliers of Antique Pennsylvania Bank Barn Kits

Phone (510) 756-6602 Fax (610) 756-6849

Eastern White Cedar Roof Shingles

Colonial clapboards

AUTHENTICALLY PRODUCED EARLY AMERICAN CLAPBOARDS QUARTERSAWN SQUARED EDGE

Sky Lore Farm

46 Wendell Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072

1-413-259-1271

Historic York, Inc.'s

Architectural Warehouse

There's nothing new to see

Parures of salvaged doors, windows, shutters, hardware, mantels, lighting, plumbing fixtures, and much more.

224 North George Street

York, PA 17404

(717) 363-7152

All Radiator Steel Enclosures

FOR HOMES, OFFICES, CHURCHES, INSTITUTIONS

FROM THIS TO THIS

FROM $2185

BUY FACTORY DIRECT & SAVE • EASY TO ASSEMBLE MANY STYLES & COLORS • BAKED ENAMEL FINISH

Send $1.00 for Brochures. Refundable with Order.

MONARCH

Dept OH

2744 ARKANSAS DRIVE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11234

(201) 796-4117
Return to Sender

Can you guess what's in this package (above)? We'll give you a few hints: 1) The original bay windows and open porch are boxed; 2) it's wrapped in vinyl siding; and 3) a ribbon of windows provides the finishing touch. What we have here is a parcel that is signed and sealed, but which, unfortunately, doesn't deliver.

Like kraft paper on a birthday present mailed from far away, the covering conceals almost all clues about what's inside. It's bigger than a bread box. In fact, it looks like a Victorian townhouse.

Check out the squarish massing and decorative brackets along the cornice. Surprise! There's an Italianate townhouse inside this carton. Its character was lost to the mailing envelope.

The structure once looked like this handsome house (right), in the same Astoria, Oregon, neighborhood. It proudly displayed similar floor-to-ceiling windows, decorative moldings and panels. It wore traditional clapboards and turned posts. Perhaps, someday, someone will unwrap this remuddling and reveal the true contents inside.

Win Fame and $50. If you spot a classic example of remuddling, send us clear color slides. We'll award you $50 if your photos are selected. The message is more dramatic if you send along a picture of a similar unremuddled building. (Original photography only, please; no clippings.) Remuddling Editor, Old-House Journal, Two Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Top: The building looks more like fourth class mail than a Victorian townhouse. Above: A nearby home indicates how the Oregon structure looked originally. Thanks to Doug Fast, Astoria, Oregon, for sending in the photos.
Most Complete Source
of Old Style Hardware
in The World!

Visit our 2 stores:
- 7930 Easton Rd., Rt 611
  Kintnersville, PA 18930
- IC Mathews Ctr.
  Hilton Head, SC 29926

WE HAVE ALL THAT OLD-FASHIONED STUFF FOR YOUR HOME...
CALL 800-422-9982 TODAY FOR FREE CATALOG!
Protective parging on tabby houses — such as this c. 1786, Beaufort, South Carolina, example acted as a sacrificial skin for the soft oyster-shell lime concrete.

Tabby Houses of the South Atlantic Seaboard

Sattered from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida, are examples of an early, incredibly strong, cementitious building material that exploited the resources of the ocean shore. Tabby construction, which thrived in the 18th century, relied on great oyster shell middens — refuse piles left behind by the decimated Native American population.

Spanish settlers introduced tabby (or tapia, as they called it) to the region in the 1500s. Equal parts oyster-shell lime, beach sand, whole oyster shells, and water were mixed and poured into pegged wood forms to make walls. After one course hardened, the 10" to 12" tall boards were knocked apart, moved to the top of the wall, then reassembled for pouring a new course. The completed concrete-like wall was very porous, so stucco or whitewash protected tabby from the elements on the outside; plaster finished off interiors. Hand-hewn beams let into pockets in the walls supported the upper floors and roofs, which were typically wood shingles. Standard clay brick was most often used for chimneys.

Tabby construction was used for houses of every social class from the 1730s to the 1860s, and nearly 100 of the estimated 350 original tabby houses still stand. It was a labor-intensive technology, however, and the large, high-style houses were built by slaves. After the Civil War, with the forced labor pool freed, tabby use declined. It came back in the late 19th century when portland cement replaced the lime. This mixture produced harder walls that did not need protective parging, and Victorian tabby houses show the distinctive lines of successive poured courses. There is also a recent tabby revival: modern, poured-concrete houses embedded with shells — not necessarily from oysters — for effect.

— Dr. Lauren Sickels Taves Northwester State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches