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- ELBERT HUBBARD

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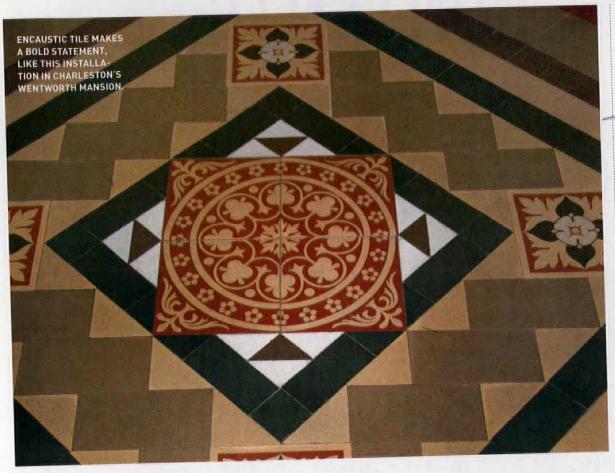
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## Flooring is one of those details we take for granted.

It's always underfoot, but we don't think about it much. And yet, when it goes wrong—whether through wear and tear, or a new installation that just doesn't fit the house—we notice. In this issue, we dissect the subject in two comprehensive articles. Our Restore feature (page 46) deals exclusively with wood, and looks at the myriad products available today, from exotic hardwoods and reclaimed old-growth boards to engineered flooring. Don't be surprised if you learn something new about the subject. Our

Design article, meanwhile, looks at the number of materials that can work specifically for kitchen floors—from tile and linoleum to brick and cork (see page 70). Having installed both linoleum and cork myself in two very different houses, I can't speak enough about the necessity of matching your flooring material to the architecture.

If you like Arts & Crafts houses, we've got a treat for you in our first house tour, "Old and New"—a home that highlights the best elements of the style, from the woodwork and furnishings to clever uses of uncommon wallpapers (see page 8). Maybe you've admired Arts & Crafts style, but don't know much about its history—if so, then the video Patricia Poore and I shot on the subject might be of interest. Check it out at bit.ly/whatisAC.

And if you've been following our Field Tested department all year, you won't want to miss our Ultimate Tool Kit Giveaway, running now through the end of the year. Learn how to enter the contest at right, and good luck!



#### THIS MONTH



#### ULTIMATE TOOL KIT GIVEAWAY

You know that we've been testing some really cool tools in our Field Tested section, right? Well, now we're giving them all away! That's right-one lucky winner will get each of the highest-rated tools we've reviewed this year. Enter to win at oldhouseonline. com/ultimate-toolkit-giveaway-it only takes a few minutes, and you could be the proud owner of a fantastic set of tools.



## Old Hous

My dream floor for a sunroom, entry, or bath would be Flint Faience tiles in a rainbow of colors, accented with a smattering of their figural tiles, too.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Demetra Aposporos

GROUP CREATIVE DIRECTOR Matthew Bates

MANAGING EDITOR Clare M. Alexander

I'd like to put a checkerboard linoleum floor in our mudroom

Enamored of the tiled vestibules in Brooklyn

brownstones, I always

wanted a floor of geo

metric and encaustic tile Now I have one in my

Massachusetts sunroom!

Hardwood floors

been my favorite We put them in

our kitchen in 1987—I still love

them, and they

are easy to take

care of

have always

I would love radiant flooring in a bathroom one day-my feet are always cold!

ASSISTANT EDITOR DESIGNER

Megan Hillman

JUNIOR DESIGNER **Emily Levine** 

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Nancy E. Berry, Mark Clement, Brian D. Coleman, Lynn Elliott, Steve Jordan, Rob Leanna, John Leeke, James C. Massey, Shirley Maxwell, Mary Ellen Polson, Andy Olenick, Ray Tschoepe

Any floor without kitty litter on it. Oh wait, my serious answer: cork

WE ASKED:

WHAT TYPE OF

FLOORING DO

YOU LOVE TO FIND

UNDERFOOT IOR

HOPE TO INSTALL

SOMEDAY!?

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Antique heart pine

My folks recently outfitted a bathroom with ceramic tile that looks like aged wood. I like it; it's great to have in a bathroom or kitchen.

DIGITAL ADVERTISING OPERATIONS MANAGER Ron Goldy

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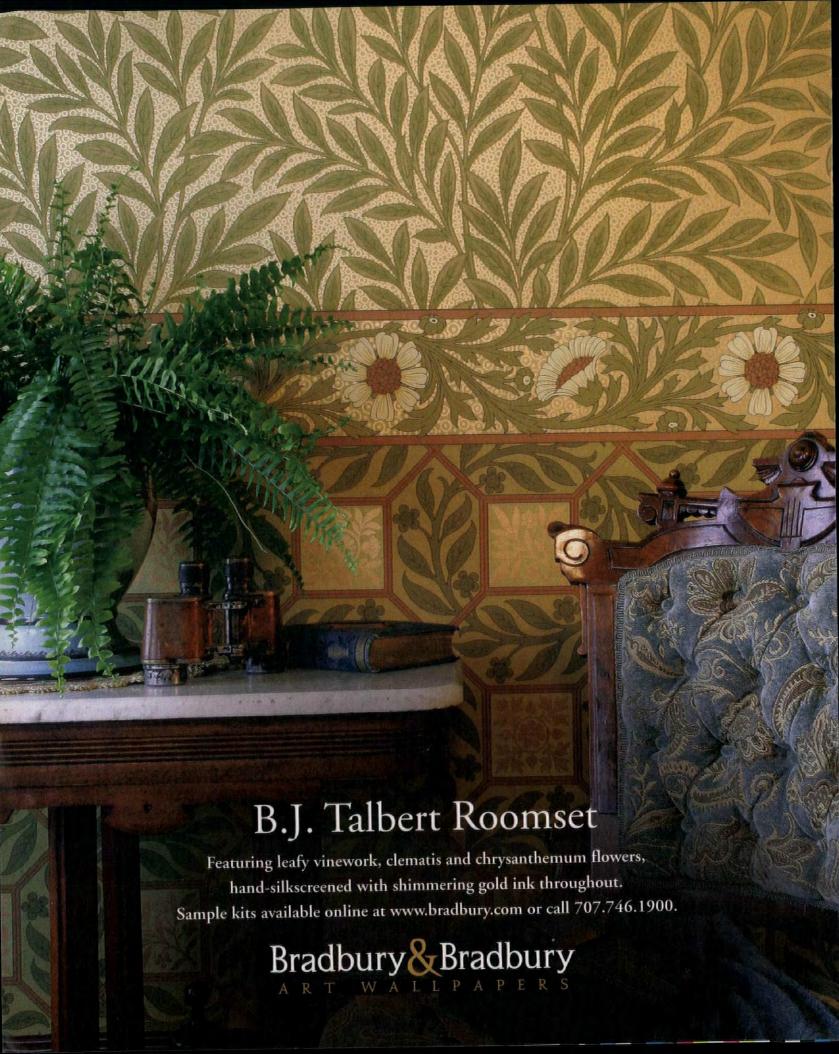
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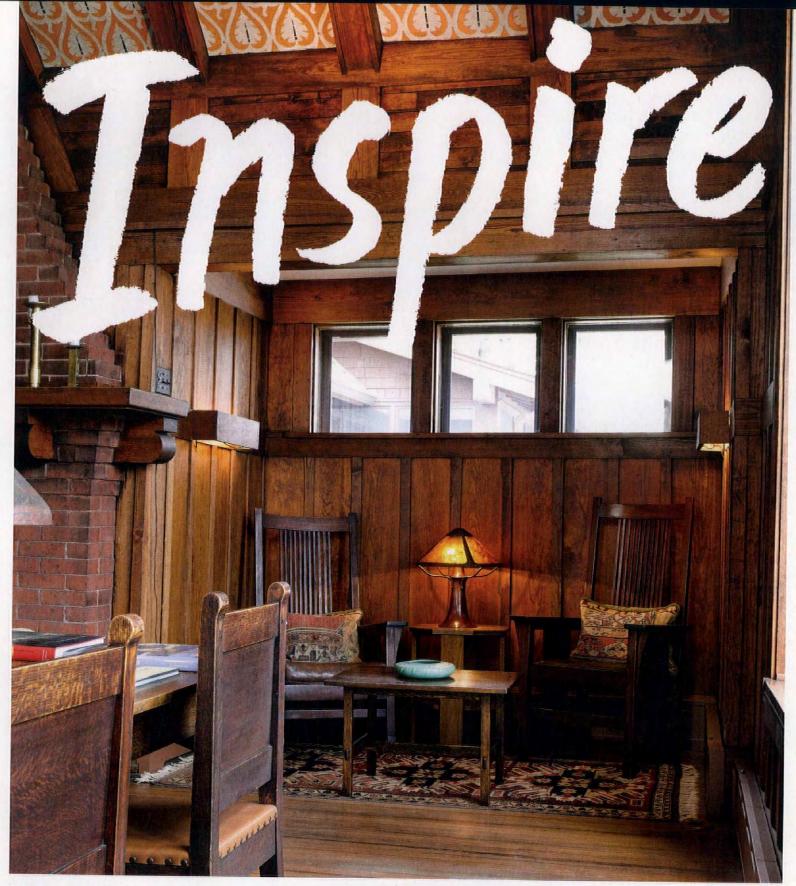
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An 1882 Queen Anne house overflows with exuberance, inside and out.
+ TIPS FOR POLYCHROME PAINT SCHEMES

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## OLDANDNEW

THE OWNER USED HIS PACKAGING-DESIGNER MIND TO



MAINTAIN THE BRAND WHEN ADDING TO A VENERABLE BUNGALOW. STORY BY THOMAS CONNORS / PHOTOS BY GRIDLEY + GRAVES





When Jim Hansen decided to expand his 1901 home on Chicago's North Shore, he couldn't help exercising his package-designer's brain as he planned the project. "There are cues—like color and typeface—that you expect to see when you're used to a certain product," Jim notes. "If a Coke can suddenly went from red and silver to yellow and purple, you'd walk right by it. Designers have to be very sensitive to the visual elements of a brand. I figured the same would apply here."

In fact, Jim had been sensitive to his home's "brand" from the moment he bought it. It was designed by the Harvard-trained architect Augustus Higginson for Edwin Fetcher, an Ohioan who became an executive with Winslow Brothers Company—the firm that created the famous ornamental ironwork for Louis Sullivan's iconic Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company department store on Chicago's State Street. This shingled, bungalow-like residence had been added to as early as 1906, but to this day retains its essential Arts & Crafts character. In reconfiguring several spaces and creating a large new family room, Jim not only immersed himself in the period's aesthetics, but also strove to strike a balance between past and present.

"It's very easy to get caught up in making a museum," Jim says. "My concept: let a room or two speak to what the house was, and make the rest of the house appropriate to living today." He worked with local architect John Fotsch.

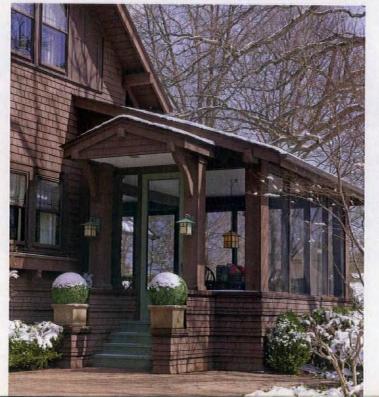
The "what was" and "what is" concept becomes clear in the juxtaposition of the original living room and the recently added family room. The former is a grand space—an 18'-high vaulted room anchored by a substantial brick fireplace; it served as Fetcher's living room, dining room, and music room. The addition, which was built perpendicular to this space with a

UNEXPECTEDLY MODEST FOR AN ARCHITECT-DESIGNED HOUSE OF 1901, THE BUNGALOW WAS CENTERED ON A SOARING GREAT ROOM WITH NOOKS FOR DINING AND MUSIC-MAKING.



BELOW: RATTAN FURNITURE AND ART GLASS LAMPS FURNISH THE ENCLOSED SIDE PORCH. OPPOSITE: THE ORIGINAL DINING ROOM IS ACTUALLY A NOOK WITHIN THE GREAT LIVING ROOM. PENDANT LAMPS ARE ANTIQUE, AS ARE THE CHAIRS, A ROYCROFT SET OF 12 THAT INCLUDES "FATHER'S CHAIR."





#### THE HOUSE EVOLVES

The Arts & Crafts period house was built in 1901, and had already been added to by 1906. With its intimate nooks for dining and quiet conversation, the vaulted, beamed living room remains the architectural centerpiece. A glassed-in sun porch with bungalow lines added seasonal living space. Most recently, a large new family room, even less formal than original rooms, was added in back, perpendicular to the original house and with a kitchen in between. Everywhere is a comfortable marriage of American rustic and English Arts & Crafts design.







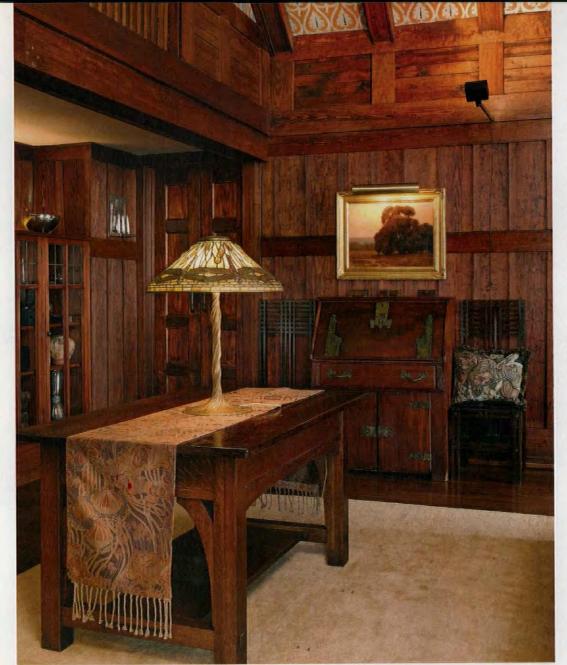
#### TREASURE UNCOVERED

The room Jim Hansen uses as his library was first owner Edwin Fetcher's bedroom during his bachelor days. Later, it was used as a nursery. Traces of the nursery time came to light during Hansen's remodeling, when a covered-over hearth was exposed.

"In the 1920s, the family needed that chimney for a new furnace, so they blocked off the fireplace," Hansen explains. But "today's high-efficiency furnaces don't require a chimney for exhaust. So when I was replacing the heating system, I reclaimed the old fireplace."

Thus a functional remodeling project revealed a delightful fireplace surround of ceramic tiles by English artist Walter Crane, depicting beloved characters including Little Boy Blue and Jack Horner.

WILLIAM MORRIS-DESIGNED WALLPAPER SETS THE MOOD IN THE LIBRARY, WHERE THE OWNERS DISCOVERED TILES BY WALTER CRANE.



#### THE FURNISHINGS

When the grandchildren's toys are scattered wall-to-wall across the family room floor, it's clear the Hansen house is no museum. Still, in keeping with the property's history and character, these homeowners have assembled a sympathetic collection of furniture and decorative pieces. They include a Tobey fall-front desk, Roycroft chairs, and a commemorative bowl made by the Chicago silversmith Robert Jarvie for author Hamlin Garland.

On a visit to St. Louis, Jim Hansen acquired a Stickley sideboard and table purchased by a local family when the Stickley Brothers Company exhibited at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Complementary contemporary pieces include a cocktail table fashioned from a custom steel base and leaded-glass window, and a drop-leaf harvest table purchased through Chicago's Sawbridge Studios.

kitchen in between, echoes the area of the older room. But with a flat ceiling, a smaller hearth, and white-painted millwork, it makes no effort to mimic the construction, detailing, or even ambiance of the distinctive space Higginson designed in 1901.

A bachelor when he built the residence, Fetcher then married Margaret Root, daughter of architect John Wellborn Root. The couple raised five children in the house and lived here until 1954. Jim, who reared his own blended family in the home, has been as assiduous in exploring Fetcher family history as he has in maintaining and mediating the building. The Fetchers, he learned, were passionate about education and music; they put on plays and recitals in the main room, and hosted such visitors as Margaret's aunt, Harriet Monroe (founder of *Poetry* magazine), and the Nobel Prizewinning poet William Butler Yeats.

Through a local resident who had known the family, Jim made contact with Fetcher's son John, a retired surgeon living in St. Paul, Minnesota. "He was just thrilled that someone was living in his old house, and he came down to visit," says Jim. "Once he started talking, he was a spigot!" In one conversation, Fetcher remarked on the running pine-tree stencil that decorates the ceiling area between beams in the living room. "John Fetcher said that his uncle, John Root Jr., had done it," Jim explains, "and his uncle, a practical joker, told the family that he'd signed his work. But they couldn't find the signature. So I'm looking at the ceiling, and I say to John, 'Is it possible he signed it everywhere, with the root of the tree?' And this look of 'Duh!' came over his face."

LEFT: A TIFFANY DRAGONFLY LAMP ILLUMINATES A READING CORNER IN THE LIVING ROOM. THE LIBRARY TABLE IS VINTAGE, BY LIMBERT; THE TABLE RUNNER IS CONTEMPORARY, FROM SAWBRIDGE STUDIOS. THE PAINTING IS BY ARTIST BRIAN BLOOD. OPPOSITE: THE 1904 GUSTAV STICKLEY INLAID CHAIR IS A HARVEY ELLIS DESIGN.





#### DECORATING

From the beginning, this residence had an unusual, almost modern design-with bungalow lines, rustic wall finishes, and some English allusions. The current owners have extended those influences in a cohesive scheme featuring English wallpapers and colors alongside American Arts & Crafts furniture, including pieces by Roycroft and Stickley, and the early Prairie School chest in the foyer (opposite). Art lighting, mostly bought through auction, is vintage. Rugs are a mix of oriental, Turkish, and contemporary designs. A few Arts & Crafts revival furnishings fit right in.



OPPOSITE: IN THE FOYER, WILLIAM MORRIS-DESIGNED WALLPAPER SETS THE TONE IN THE ARTS & CRAFTS-ERA HOME. THIS IS "IRIS," AVAILABLE THROUGH MORRIS & CO./SANDERSON. RIGHT: SOFT PAINT COLORS ARE USED IN THE NEW ADDITION'S FAMILY ROOM.

An avid researcher, Jim turned to the estimable Burnham Ryerson Library at the Art Institute of Chicago to further explore the history of the house. Although it is a modest property, built simply with board-and-batten interior walls rather than plaster, Fetcher's home earned press coverage early on, with articles in *Architectural Record* and *Inland Architect*. In 1905, *The House Beautiful* said of the home: "It is first of all livable, and being livable, it is simple, sincere, and unpretentious."

As the family grew, the relatively small house did, too. A two-story, two-bedroom addition was added, and a sleeping porch was roofed and enclosed to become another bedroom. Little was done to the house after the Fetchers departed in the 1950s, except for a questionable enhancement to the exterior. Jim explains, "An artist lived here, and she had painted all the trim in neon orange. She thought that made a statement, but it was a real turnoff."

Inside, Jim addressed not-unexpected mechanical issues, updated the kitchen and bathrooms, and installed built-ins that evoke the period of the house. He also outfitted the original living space with a seemingly incongruous lighting system: 250-watt up-lights affixed to plain, industrial arms that jut out from the walls. "When I bought the house, there were six hanging fixtures—not original ones—fitted with 75-watt bulbs," he says. "They lit the room, but not the ceiling." Jim's solution is simple and effective. The silver and sienna tones of the ceiling are beautifully lit, and attention goes to period fixtures and lamps. The brand endures.



#### Watch the Video

Editors Demetra Aposporos and Patricia Poore discuss how Arts & Crafts style developed at **bit.ly/whatisAC**.

#### STRATEGIC LIGHTING

HIGH-TECH LIGHTING ILLUMINATES PLACES THAT PERIOD LAMPS DON'T REACH.

High-tech lighting in an old house? Why not, provided it's well-placed and unobtrusive? Even the most ardent lover of vintage lighting must admit there are certain situations where recessed spots, LED bars or strips, and wall washers are indispensible—or at least convenient. Where would we be in the kitchen, for example, without under-cabinet lighting? Perhaps in the hospital, getting a finger stitched up. (A 60-year-old needs 10 times as much light as

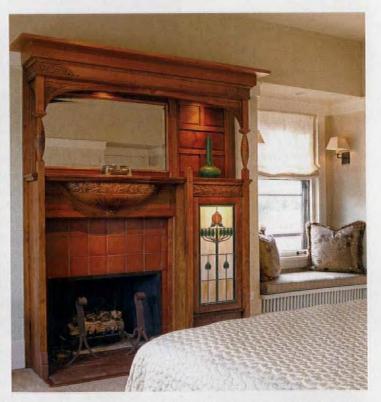
a 20-year-old to perform a given task with equal speed and accuracy.)

While we wouldn't recommend ripping out a plaster ceiling for recessed lights, "points of light" have their purposes. Use them to light a dark corridor or amp up the illumination in rooms where traditional forms of lighting just aren't bright enough. (Recessed lights are easy to place on dimmers, too). The directional lamps called wall washers will bring out the details in, say, a painted frieze. By Mary Ellen Polson



In the original great room of the bungalow shown on the previous pages, very plain lamps on industrial arms throw light toward the beautifully stenciled ceiling.

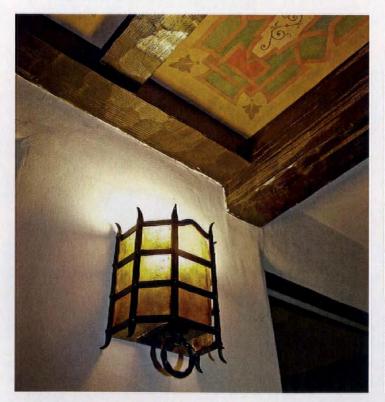
Antique lamps add ambiance.



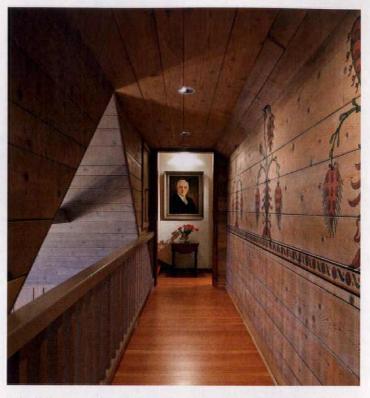
In the same house, a bedroom mantelpiece is softly and subtly lit by hidden rope lights behind the wood apron. The art-glass panel, original to this vintage mantelpiece, has also been backlit. A simple sconce provides light to read by.



Recessed lights illuminate banquette seating without getting in the way of the casement windows.



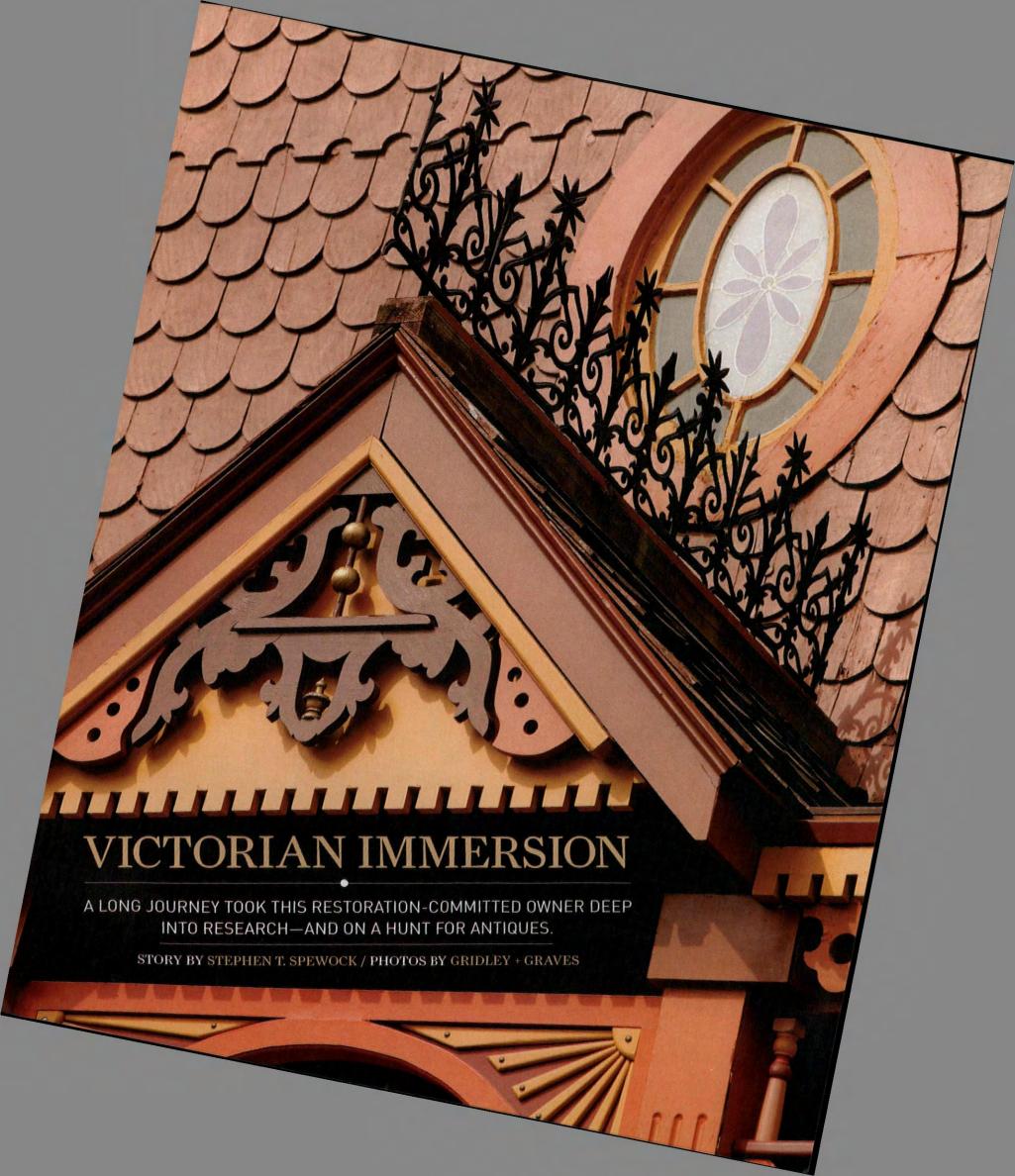
Not all accent lighting has to be contemporary. This original California Mission sconce washes the wall just enough to illuminate paint decoration between the beams.



In this 1930s cottage, Norwegian decorative painting known as rosemaling would be lost in the darkness of a long hall without an unobtrusive row of recessed lights.



In an expansive living room in a 1918 Colonial Revival house, recessed ceiling spots are there when needed, but the eye is drawn to vintage lamps.









LEFT: SPINDLES ON THE PORCH; THE PAINTED LADY AT DAWN. BELOW: THE EASTLAKE MANTEL AND TILE SURROUND WERE SALVAGED FROM A NEIGHBOR'S HOME AFTER A FIRE: NOW THEY OUTFIT AN ORIGINAL FIREPLACE REDISCOVERED DURING RENOVATIONS HERE. **OPPOSITE: THE FORMAL** FRONT PARLOR IS BE-YOND THE ENTRY'S SITTING ROOM: THE CHAIR MATCHES A SETTEE IN THE PARLOR.





#### Saginaw Bay lies in the heart of Michigan's

\*\* "gap," the area between the state's mitten and thumb. The bay feeds into Lake Huron to the northeast, and in turn is fed by the Saginaw River running up from the southwest. Centuries ago, these waterways were used by lumber barons to ship massive loads of old-growth timber around the thumb and down to Detroit's lumber, furniture, housing, and later auto factories.

The timber floats were so broad that at times workers could walk across the mouth

of the river, more than 200 yards, on the massive logs—some up to 30 feet wide. The hub of activity was in Bay City, where an influx of new money went to building homes along Center Avenue, which remains a parade of mansions.

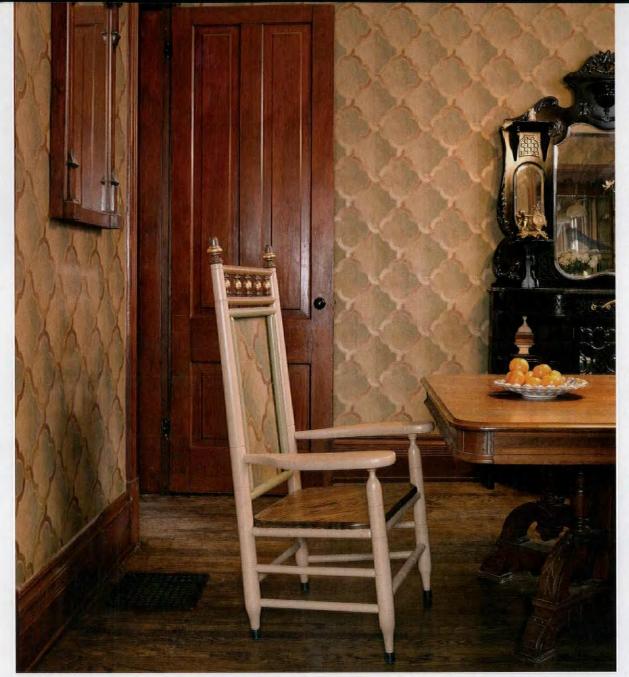
Today, struggling farms have replaced the massive forests. Detroit has endured sinking budgets and blossoming debt; once handsome neighborhoods have been vacated. The glory years seem tied to yesterday. Still, in the midst of the region's problems, a few proud home-

owners are committed to preservation.

One such person of remarkable vision and resourcefulness is college historian Patricia Drury of Bay City, Michigan, who purchased her 1882 Victorian just off Center Avenue in 1982. She has been on an incredible 30-year journey, restoring the unique Queen Anne house inside and out. "The house had sat on the market for some time," Pat remembers. "I made them an offer they couldn't refuse.

"My goal was to be part of a local community," she continues, "and I felt fortunate to stumble upon a property I could research, finding information about the original owners and the history of the house. I liked that all of these houses are





#### Success with Color

Polychromy (from the Greek: many colors) highlights all the textures and ornaments on this house while maintaining its architectural integrity. If ever there were a style that demands "picking out," it is Victorian Queen Anne. Early on, the owner was drawn to this period combination of colors, recommended by both architectural and art historians. She matched the colors to Sherwin-Williams paints. Color placement was key on the unique oriel window, a central motif topped by a sunburst gable. Painting the front porch was a job in itself: 100 spindles taken to the shop to sand and prime.

just a little bit different from each other, reflecting the whims and desires of their respective owners."

As just the third party to own the home since it was built for John Wesley and May Stocking Knaggs, Pat knew her priorities. The structure had some water damage, which was quickly mended, allowing for restoration of the front porch. "The next thing to go was the wall-to-wall carpeting," Pat winces. "We sanded, refinished, and sealed all the hardwood floors, bringing back their original luster." Her initial efforts had merely scratched the surface.

"Realizing I may have bitten off more than I could chew," Pat confides, "I decided to do what any good historian does: immerse myself in research!" After days spent teaching courses in European and Russian history at nearby Delta College, she would burrow into local museums, libraries, and Bay City's own historical society, searching the shelves for anything to do with High Victorian architecture.

"I was fascinated with the inexhaustible combinations of shapes and colors," Pat says. "I find this decorative architecture very joyous, and I found inspiration in the boldness of the Victorians." After poring through volumes of designs and photographs, she had the insight to create plans around her own interpretations. "Planning became more fun because we had to wait for funds to accrue," she says. "We didn't rush to finish everything at once, and being relaxed sharpened our focus. When the time came to do the work, there were no mistakes to be made."

Pat was preoccupied, too, with finding period antiques to fill the house. She shopped at estate sales, stopped by garage sales, and found favorite antiques stores. Little by little, her friends and family began contributing to the effort.

One of her great finds is a Renaissance Revival suite

ABOVE: THE DINING ROOM BUFFERS THE SITTING ROOM FROM THE KITCHEN AT THE REAR OF THE HOUSE. ALL FURNITURE IS ANTIQUE. OPPOSITE: THE ONE-OF-A-KIND ORIEL WINDOW LOOKS OUT OVER THE AVENUE AND WHAT WAS ONCE THE FIRST OWNER'S ORCHARD.





#### VICTORIAN FURNITURE

Homeowner Pat Drury spent many hours hunting for antiques for her Queen Anne house, buying most pieces locally (and often impulsively). Besides scouring estate and garage sales for one-of-a-kind treasures, she often revisited her favorite Bay City shop, Owl Antiques on Midland Road. Her prized score from "The Owl" is a three-piece High Victorian (1880s) bedroom set, with a bed, dresser, and chair made of various hardwoods; she paid just \$7,500. The set resides in her Susan B. Anthony Master Bedroom, so-named because Anthony actually stayed in the room during one of her suffrage-movement campaign stops.

Also from "The Owl" came the sitting room's marvelous 7'-tall bookcase and credenza. Pat's dealer procured for her the magnificent dining table with its beautifully scrolled legs. "I've often wanted to serve dinner underneath the table because the legs are more interesting than the top," Pat jokes. An ornate late Victorian book table was snatched up at an estate sale for a nifty \$40. And the beautiful 1850s sofa was donated by Pat's close friend and Delta College coworker Kathleen Ballard Plum.

In America, the 19th century's Victorian era produced a profusion of historically inspired architectural and furniture styles.



#### **American Empire**

Popular at the same time as late Federal and Greek Revival houses, this furniture is bold and heavy with classical details.



#### **Gothic Revival**

This pointy, ecclesiastical style [1840–1860] features such motifs as lancet arches, crocket finials, and trefoils on walnut furniture.



#### Rococo Revival

Associated with early Victorian Italian architectural styles, Rococo is a baroque style with heavy carvings and rounded shapes.



#### Renaissance Revival

Embellished but more delicate than Rococo, the immensely popular neoclassical style was in vogue from the 1850s through the 1880s.



#### Eastlake/Aesthetic

Reformed Gothic art-movement furniture was often ebonized and incised, and featured Anglo-Japanese motifs.



#### **Colonial Revival**

Ranging from high-style reproductions to odd pieces that borrowed from multiple sources, it's an enduring furniture style.



Tour more Queen Anne houses at oldhouseonline.com/queen-anne.



of bedroom furniture, bought at an antiques store in Bay City. The ornately carved bed frame, dresser, and chair, all made from an assemblage of hardwoods including walnut, beech, and oak, found a place in the large front bedroom upstairs. "Once the owner knew what I liked, he began calling often with similar finds," Pat explains.

Another great find is a person with whom she's shared the journey. On a trip to the local Ace Hardware, Pat asked for a contractor referral. "A clerk gave me a neighborhood handyman's business card, saying 'he can do everything."

Marshall Lupp attended Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and spent years as a professional photographer, then as an art teacher at a high school nearby. All of it contributed to his role in this restoration. "I've always been curious about people who decide to buy a Victorian house and make it theirs," he says. "Pat had an idea of turning the restoration into an art project.

We have added some whimsy and thrown things a little off balance."

And so what began as a visit to fix a leaky bathroom sink turned into a 10-year partnership. The list is long: refinish-

ing the original woodwork, installing wood inlays in porch risers, rebuilding the front porch, painting the complex exterior, inscribing Susan B. Anthony's initials on corner blocks in a bedroom, uncovering original fireplaces buried behind makeshift walls, hanging period wallpaper, reworking the exterior of the 1912 garage.

"Working with Marshall has been like working with an artist," Pat says. "The plan started out a certain way, but changes would develop in real time, sometimes for consistency, sometimes to do something unique. And to think I found him over a washbowl!"



**ABOVE: THE LARGE** FRONT BEDROOM IS NAMED FOR SUSAN B. ANTHONY; THE RENAISSANCE REVIVAL **FURNITURE IS AN** ANTIQUE SUITE. **INSET:** A STENCILED **SBA MONOGRAM DECORATES CORNER BLOCKS ON THE BED-**ROOM TRIM. OPPOSITE: A TALL BOOKCASE **FEATURING BIRD'S-EYE** MAPLE COMMANDS ATTENTION IN THE SITTING ROOM. THE **CANED CHAIR IS** A VICTORIAN-ERA REPRODUCTION OF A 17TH-CENTURY CHARLES II ENGLISH DESIGN.



### POLYCHROME RULES

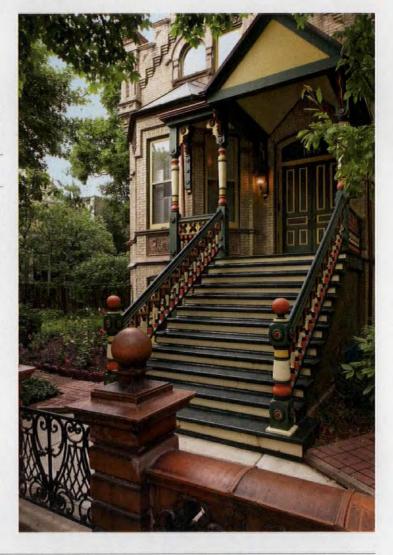
#### 12 TIPS FOR VICTORIAN POLYCHROME SCHEMES



Exactly which colors to use is up to you. The rules below apply to color placement and harmony. These are basic principles—rules that may be bent or broken after you've taken

them to heart. Of course, there's no substitute for artistic instinct or years of practice. The first guideline, perhaps, is to keep it simple, especially if you are a novice.

Most unsuccessful polychrome schemes fail because the colors used are too bright, and the contrast between adjacent colors is too great. One way to avoid too-bright colors is to stick to a pre-selected historical paint line. Their colors generally are grayed enough to create a restful effect, and they go together. By Patricia Poore





Use breaks between colors to enhance and highlight architectural components. This doesn't mean merely making them stand out or look pretty, but rather using color to clarify the role and relationship among architectural elements.

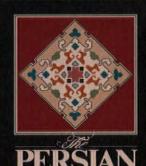
Remember that intensity appears greater when seen on a large surface (as compared to a small color chip or card). Similarly, the apparent contrast between two colors is greater when viewed on a large scale—on the building vs. on paint chips.



Avoid violent contrasts. Stark contrasts render one portion glaringly prominent and detract from architectural unity.

Avoid excessive highlighting of small architectural elements, incising, etc. You run the risk of getting a choppy polka-dot effect, rather than a harmonious architectural whole.





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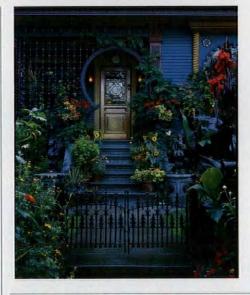
LEY WILLIAM WRIGHT (TOP): COURTESY OF PRESERVATION PRODUCTS INC. (LEFT); COURTESY OF DESIGNER DOORS

Use a transition color to buffer high contrast. For example, if you want to use burgundy moldings with pale putty walls, know that the two colors will present too high a contrast. A solution: transition bands or accents of warm gray and dusty rose between the putty and burgundy.

Don't feel you must break color right at the edge of a molding or change in plane. Sometimes bringing an adjacent color up over the first plane in a molding will knit the parts together, avoiding a static appearance.



In general, paint projecting elements in lighter colors and recessed elements in darker colors (or shades). That way you're working with the effect of natural light and shadow, not against it.



8

Use a bright or strongly contrasting accent color effectively in small amounts: for example, as a stripe or as an accent color on a chamfered edge.

7 Do make any changes of color at changes in plane. Changes in color or value suggest shadow, which occurs naturally at plane breaks.

In general, use darker colors at the bottom and lighter colors at at the top of an architectural element. This arrangement is grounding and avoids a top-heavy appearance. That said, dark over light (as when the second story or top gable of a Queen Anne house is painted darker than the first floor) is an effective way to lower apparent height and bring scale to a building.



11

Try mixing a little of Paint 1 into Paint 2, or vice-versa, if you find that two colors are not harmonizing. This trick often helps two colors relate to each other.

#### Victorian/19th-century Color Palettes

Historic Color Collection benjaminmoore.com

Historic Colors of America californiapaints.com

Homes in Harmony Palettes prattandlambert.com

National Trust Color valsparatlowes.com

Olde Century Colors oldecentury colors.com

Painted Ladies Collection martinsenour.com

Preservation Palettes sherwin-williams.com

12

Paint large-scale samples of chosen colors in place. Buy quarts. Paint a section at least 4' square where your body, trim, and accent colors come together (say, clapboards/corner board/shutter). If you are not satisfied with your sample, it's not back to square one. You'll know, looking at the colors in place, what the problem is: red is too strong, too much contrast, or what have you.

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Nestled by the water, snug in pretty new outerwear, our cottage will weather another century. By Catherine Lundie

The first thing we noticed was the smell of rot. But second was the view: Set right at water's edge, the little lake cottage felt as though it were afloat. Our agent had just let us in; 24 hours later, the house was ours, rot and all.

Uninhabited for a decade, crammed with showy 1970s wallpapers and shag carpeting, the cottage nonetheless possessed a grubby charm. The staircase seemed to promise that something good (and old) lay beneath the groovy décor. Although we'd been given a build date of 1938, the staircase's three different newel posts and fanciful trim suggested the cottage was earlier. The upstate New York lake had been a "pleasure resort" at the turn of the last century. Old postcards show a rambling hotel and a shoreline dotted with buildings-tiny, ornate Victorian camps like you'd see at Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, and relaxed Arts & Crafts cottages and rustic fishing shacks.

We were eager to restore our blandly modernized weekend cabin to its period charm. But which period? We ripped up the filthy carpeting and peeled layers of mildewed wall materials back to the studs, gradually discovering that the original structure was a petite Victorian is a noncombustible fiber-cement board

product that resists hail, wood rot, cracking, warping, termite damage, and winds up to 150 mph. Hardie siding has gained acceptance in the historic preservation world, particularly in areas of the country hit by disasters like Hurricanes Katrina

and Sandy.

Its disadvantages? Although it is a good-looking product, up close it's a bit too smooth and uniform to fool anyone who knows old houses. It does not, however, look like vinyl.

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THE INTERIOR ISN'T FINISHED YET—BUT IT ALREADY LOOKS A LOT BETTER THAN IT DID IN THE SHAG-CARPETED GLORY DAYS!



At some point the porches were closed in, and nondescript windows and doors replaced the originals, erasing Victorian character. Our cottage was not alone in its fate; none of the delightful Victorian camps remains. Among the vintage structures that do survive, most have a comfortable Arts & Crafts vibe, so we adopted the later aesthetic. Decisions were further determined by the lakefront location. The entire front exterior wall had rotted over the years; boat traffic and severe weather cause water to smack the break wall, splashing the cottage. Upstate New York winters are severe; the lake freezes so hard, motorcycle races are held on the ice. We elected to renovate our seasonal house using sturdy synthetic materials.

We used different types of Hardie cement-board siding to narrate how the structure had evolved over time. The original 1890s cottage is now shingled, and its later additions are clad in lap siding. New windows are Pella's EnduraGuard aluminum-clad wood. We chose factory-finished colors for all products: Pella's Brick Red, and Hardie's Monterey Taupe for the body with Cobblestone for trim. Benjamin Moore reproduced those colors for painting the screened porch. A new standing-seam steel roof caps the project with vintage charm.







#### HISTORIC FEDERAL

Built in 1810, this is a typical small house of the Federal period, located in the historic district. This type is found throughout the Mid-Atlantic region: three bays wide, two stories high, with a gable roof (here clad in metal), weatherboard walls, and doublehung windows with shutters. The simple entry with transom above is common, though the three-panel door is unusual and was perhaps added later.

#### **RURAL GOTHIC**

Reminiscent of A.J. Downing's designs, the Roberts-Mitchell House was built in 1865 on King's Highway. It is in the popular Gothic Revival style, with a rear addition dating to 1883. The house has been nicely restored and painted in period colors. Notable features include front and side porches with handsome jig-sawn ornament and a distinguished two-story side window bay.

CLASSICAL-STYLE PORTICO



"Haddonfield is so communitycentered—parades, library book sales, and walking tours are things that bring people together."

**ANGIE CHEATHAM** 



The 1876 Italianate house called "Old End," on King's Highway, has a complicated, though not unusual, architectural history. The rear kitchen wing is actually a 1743 house that was moved to the site; the façade, built with Victorian features in 1876, was later "colonialized" with a classical portico and an antique entryway rescued from an old Philadelphia house.

Revolutionary | Haddonfield, New Jersey

This village across the Delaware from Philadelphia emerged in 1713. With Philly now 20 minutes away by high-speed rail, urban sprawl encroaches. Yet Haddonfield remains a distinct community. Youthful families are lured by a great school system; children safely bike he neighborhood. Built on farmland inherited by Elizabeth Haddon

around the neighborhood. Built on farmland inherited by Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, the village clusters around the pre-Revolutionary King's Highway, today's Route 41. Its centerpiece was the Indian King Tavern, now a museum. Peaceful streets are lined with 18th- and 19th-century houses in styles from colonial and Greek to Gothic, Mansard, and Queen Anne, many of them in a national historic district. **Text and photos by James C. Massey & Shirley Maxwell** 



#### STICK STYLE

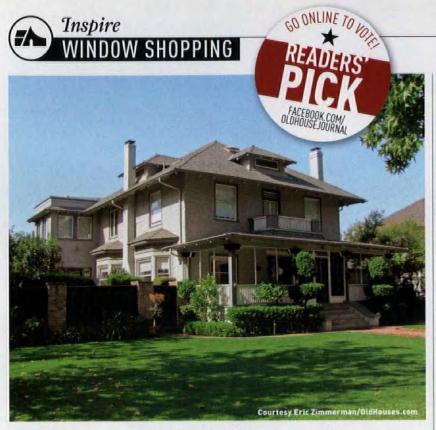
This imposing home built in 1873 was designed by Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan. It has the picturesque qualities of Queen Anne style with Stick Style embellishments. The unusual roof is technically a gambrel, but reads from the front as a mansard roof. A sawtooth arch decorates the front center gable. The wraparound veranda is typical of the period.

#### **FEDERAL TO FOLK**

Built ca. 1821, the Githens House retains its Federal-era underpinnings but exhibits changes made to this three-bay, two-and-a-half-story townhouse. The entry porch is a recent restoration of a Victorianperiod addition. Dormers with low-arch heads are more typical of the Greek Revival style.

#### MANSARDED STICK

Samuel Sloan designed this house in the Stick Style. Such panelized wood siding with prominent "stick" decoration gave rise to the style term. The slate-covered mansard roof has an unusual kick at the eaves. Note the hoods, or pent roofs, over windows and porch. The house wears historic colors from Sherwin-Williams: Topaz, Raisin, and Indian Red.

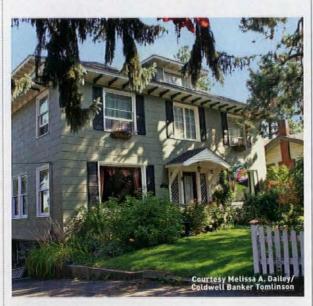


# Hip to square box

Instantly recognizable by its blocky two-story façade, hipped roof, and deep front porch, the Foursquare can be found from coast to coast.

#### COLUSA, CA / \$495,000

Designed by premier California builder/architect Samuel Newsom, this 1908 Craftsman-style house features exposed rafter tails and a full-width porch supported by square posts topped with trestle-style supports. Interior charms include a fireplace with inglenook seating, a box-beam dining room ceiling, built-in bookcases and cabinets, and original wood windows and floors.



#### SPOKANE, WA / \$324,500

An original oak entry door flanked by diamond-paned sidelights offers a warm welcome to this 1912 house. Period details include a box-beam ceiling, an Arts & Crafts tile fireplace, and a built-in buffet with leaded glass cabinets. Upstairs is an enclosed sun porch.



#### DAMASCUS, MD / \$599,900

Situated on 10 rolling acres, the refurbished ca. 1900 Moxley Farm boasts such original features as heart pine floors, a quarter-turn spindle staircase with newel post, and casement trim and moldings. The property also includes a restored bank barn, chicken coop, and other outbuildings.



#### BARTLETT, IL / \$225,000

Constructed by builder/carpenter Fred Wendler in 1914 as his own home, this deep-eaved house features a two-tone clapboard and shingled exterior, a full-width porch supported by Tuscan columns, and a side bay window. Inside, the original woodwork is unpainted, and the flooring is original, too: oak on the main level and Southern yellow pine upstairs.

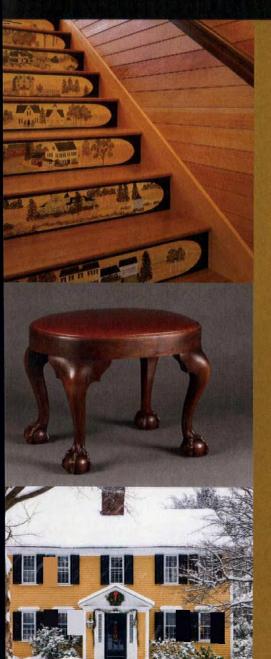


#### OMAHA, NE / \$200,000

Original characteristics of this 1906 Prairie-influenced house include a full-width porch, deep eaves, original oversized windows with stained and leaded glass, and a projecting bay window. The large foyer leads to a quarter-turn spindled staircase lit by vintage windows.



# DESIGNER CRAFTSMEN SHOW \*\* HISTORIC HOME SHOW



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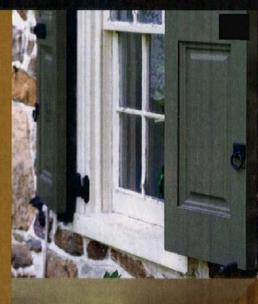
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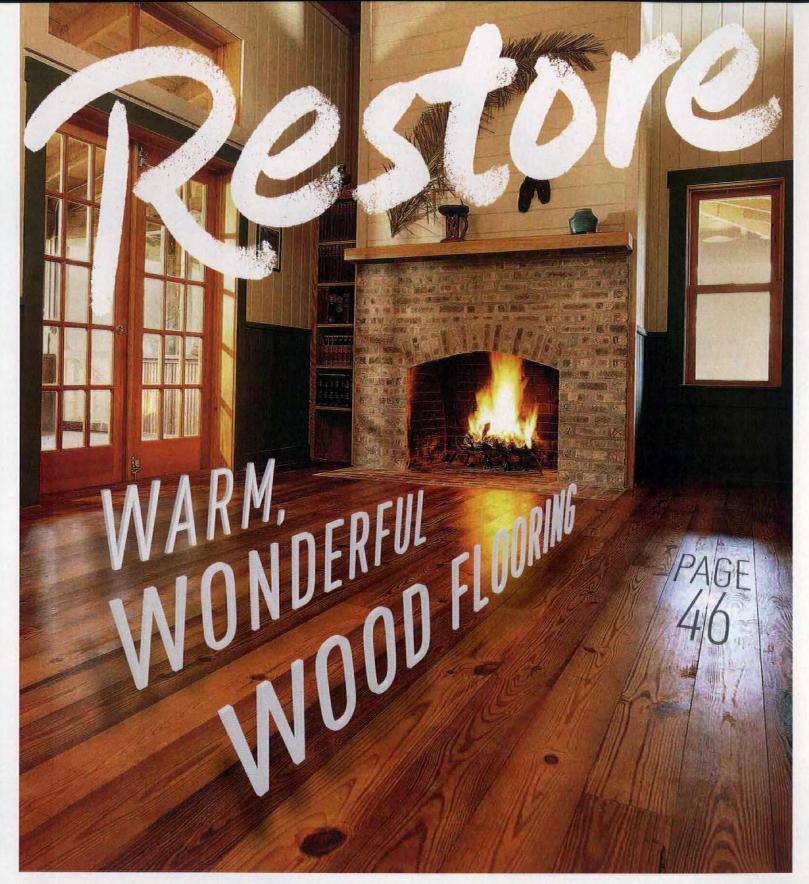
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Old House



OCTOBER 2014



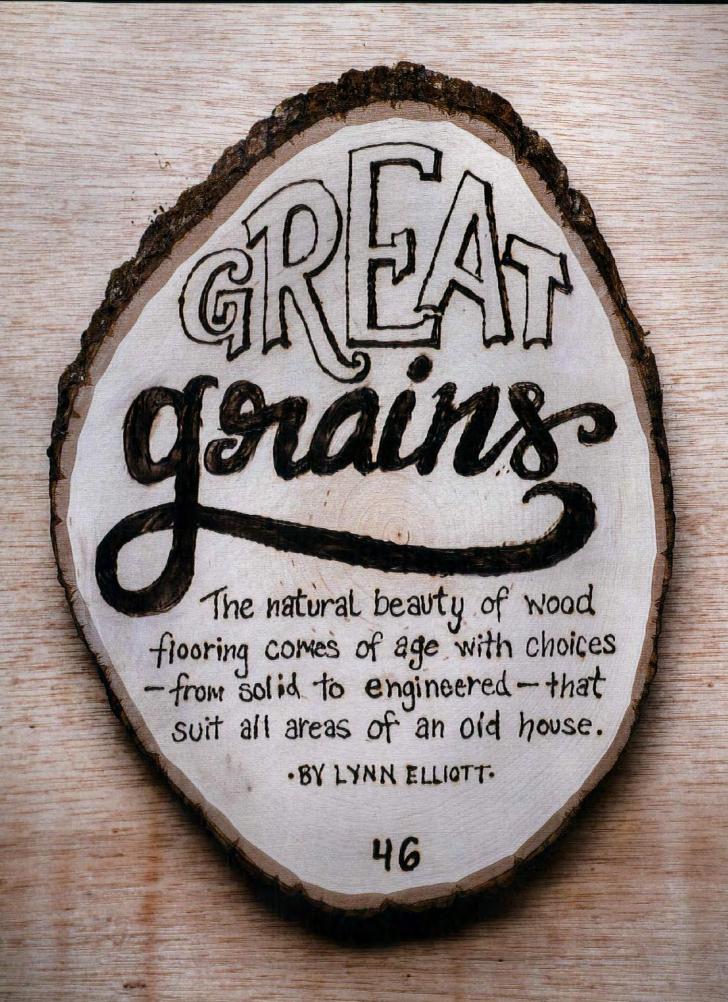
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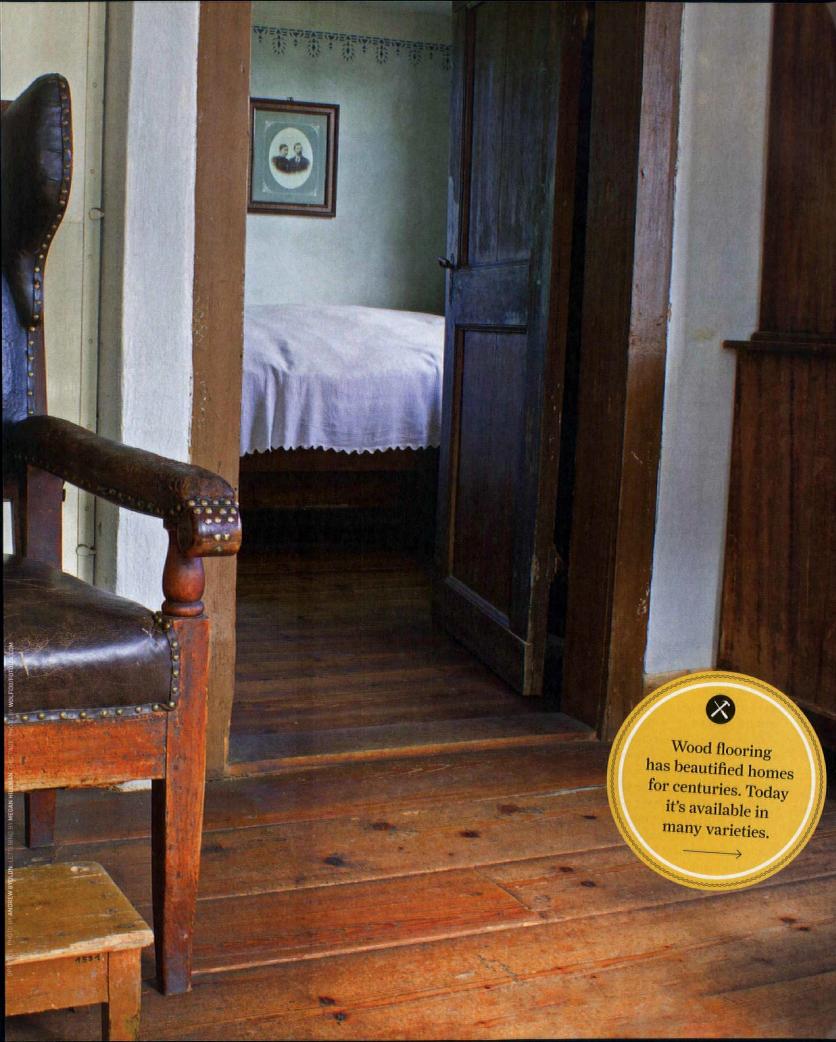
**LOST ARTS:** RE-CREATE A WINDOW PEDIMENT Learn how to use an existing pediment as a guide to replicate a new one.



- 56 FIELD TESTED: COMPACT ROUTERS
- 58 QUICK MAKEOVERS: BEAUTIFY THE BATH
- **60 STUFF I SCREWED UP**

- **62 SALVAGE IT**
- 64 DO THIS, NOT THAT
- 66 ASK OHJ





Floors—we learn to crawl on them and then walk, we flow from room to room on them, and sometimes we even dance across them. Historically and currently, we've turned to wood flooring to bring warmth and character to our homes.

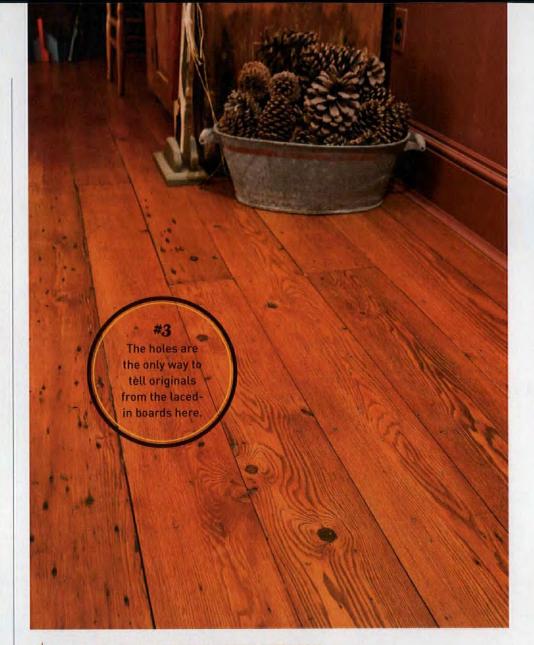
Thanks to the abundance of wood in the New World, the earliest American flooring was wood, usually old-growth pine that was denser than today's trees. These floors were generally left unfinished and swept clean, burnished only by use. As varnishes and rugs were too expensive for the average homeowner, they were used only in wealthier homes.

Through much of the 19th century, wood floors were just backup singers to the stars of the show: carpeting, such as Brussels and Axminster, which had become easier to obtain thanks to manufacturing improvements, and also linoleum, which was invented in 1864.

But in the late 19th century, William Morris and Charles Eastlake pushed for simpler interiors, and wood floors became a focal point of the "hygienic" home because they were easy to keep clean. Wood grew to become a desirable flooring choice, and parquet borders and medallions gained traction in wealthier homes.

In the early 1900s, the widths and grades of wood flooring began to be standardized, and oak, maple, fir, and yellow pine were the favored choices for floors.

Wood flooring peaked in 1949 when plywood, synthetic fiber carpeting, and vinyl floors were ushered in. These dominated the market in the 1960s, along with another newcomer: engineered flooring. By the 1980s, solid wood flooring was back in demand, and its popularity continues to grow. But the demand for its cousin, the engineered floor, also has risen. So how do these two flooring options compare?



#### 5 WAYS TO MATCH AN EXISTING FLOOR

It can be difficult to exactly match new floors to old; these methods will make the transition between the two less drastic and more pleasing to the eye.

- 1. Check **reclaimed lumber suppliers**, who may have old-growth species that match your original one. Keep in mind whether you need strip or plank boards, and the grade of your original floor.
- 2. When matching new flooring to old, make sure to **purchase the new in the same profile**. The new floor can be slightly thicker because it can be sanded to match the old floor—but it should never be thinner.
- 3. Consider **lacing in the new boards**. The process involves removing some planks of the original floor and integrating the new flooring, staggering the new boards into the old ones. It works especially well in wide openings, as above.
- 4. To match the color of the original floor, try **making a custom mix** by diluting the stain—but it can be tricky to get the color right. For the best results, both the original and the new floor should be sanded and refinished to match.
- 5. Install transition strips, also called T molding, which act as a bridge between floors that don't match.

# REMOVING WATER STAINS

#### FOR WHITE RINGS:

White rings form when water gets trapped in the floor's finish. If the rings don't disappear after drying (some do), here are three methods to try:



#### IRON

Place a clean cotton cloth such as an old T-shirt over the white ring. Then rub the stain with an iron-make sure it's not set to steam!-for two or three seconds. Don't press for too long, or you may damage the floor's finish.



#### STEEL WOOL

Generously coat very fine steel wool (#000 or #0000) in lemon oil so that it won't scratch the wood. (Lemon oil doesn't remove the stain.) Gently buff the white ring with the steel wool until the stain is gone.



#### **DENATURED ALCOHOL**

Dampen a clean cotton cloth with denatured alcohol, and gently rub the stain for two to three seconds.

#### FOR BLACK MARKS:

Black marks are formed when water penetrates beyond the finish and into the wood. They are more difficult to remove, but it's still doable.

#### STEP 1

Sand the stained section of the floor to remove the finish.

#### STEP 2

Brush bleach onto the black mark and let it dry. If needed, repeat. Allow the bleached area to dry overnight. Still stained? Try a commercial wood bleach.

#### STEP 3

Once the stain is gone, neutralize the bleached area using a sponge and a mixture of two parts water and one part white vinegar.

#### STEP 4

Refinish the floor to match the existing.



# a timeline of american wood flooring

DUE TO PLENTIFUL TIMBER, UNFINISHED PLANK FLOORS OF OLD-GROWTH YELLOW PINE ARE AFFORDABLE FOR MOST HOMES.

MACHINE-SAWN PLANKS ARE INTRODUCED.

MASS PRODUCTION OF WOOD FLOORS GROWS; THEY ARE NOW POLISHED. THEY BECOME FASHIONABLE AND ARE CONSIDERED EASY TO KEEP CLEAN, SO THEIR POPULARITY SOARS.

1901-1914 TONGUE-AND-GROOVE WOOD BOARDS ARE THE MOST POPULAR

THE TECHNIQUE FOR MANUFACTURING PLANKS IS IMPROVED AND MADE CONSISTENT. TONGUE-AND-GROOVE BOARDS COME INTO USE. WEALTHIER HOMES FEATURE PARQUET IN PUBLIC ROOMS.

FLOORING, OFTEN WITH PARQUET BORDERS. ANOTHER FAVORITE IS HERRINGBONE-PATTERNED PARQUET

#### 1920

**VARNISHES IMPROVE** 

**POLYURETHANE COMES** ON THE MARKET

#### Early 1950s

THE FIRST ENGINEERED FLOORING IS DEVELOPED: SALES OF WOOD FLOORS PEAK

THE FIRST PREFINISHED WOOD FLOORING BECOMES AVAILABLE AS MANUFACTURERS TRY TO FIND WAYS AROUND GOVERNMENT WARTIME RESTRICTIONS ON RAW MATERIALS.

#### 1950-1980

HARD YEARS FOR WOOD FLOORING AS THE MARKET BECOMES DOMINATED BY INEXPENSIVE CARPETING WITH A PLYWOOD SUBFLOOR; ENGINEERED FLOORING BECOMES MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE.

#### 1980s-1990s

BETTER MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES RENEW INTEREST IN WOOD FLOORING, LAMINATES BECOME AVAILABLE

#### 2000s

ALL TYPES OF WOOD FLOORING-SOLID AND ENGINEERED-DOMINATE THE MARKET. HERRINGBONE RETURNS AS A POPULAR PARQUET CHOICE.

# SOLID HARDWOOD

As the name implies, solid hardwood flooring is one solid piece of wood sawn from a log. The standard thickness is <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", but there are also options <sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" thick. Older homes often have even thicker boards—pre-1850 houses can have floors as thick as 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>". Solid hardwood comes in three types of cuts:













PLAIN-SAWN

RIFT-SAWN

QUARTER-SAWN

- **PLAIN-SAWN** is cut straight across the log, with rings 30 degrees or less to the face of the board, and has a flame pattern. It was often used in houses built from the early to mid-20th century, commonly in 2" to 3" red oak.
- **QUARTER-SAWN**, cut after the board is divided into fourths, shows off the growth rings of the wood at a 60- to 90-degree angle, as well as some flecks. It was the most common cut prior to the early 1900s, with white oak a favorite, as well as walnut, maple, and chestnut.
- **RIFT-SAWN** boards are cut perpendicular to the grain, with growth rings showing at a 45- (and up to 60-) degree angle. Its straight grain is often mixed in with quarter-sawn boards, and it came in all of the same species.

When dealing with swelling and shrinkage due to moisture, rift-sawn and quarter-sawn boards are known for their stability; plain-sawn ones have more movement.

The boards can have either a square edge, which creates a smooth surface with no gaps from board to board, or a beveled edge, with a groove between boards, giving them a rustic look. A microplaned beveled edge has yet a smaller groove, but hides uneven planks better.



#### WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Hardwood flooring varies in width. Wide-plank flooring measures 8" to 12" wide and was mostly used in pre-1850 houses. It gives rooms a more rustic, homey look that's suitable for colonial homes. Plank flooring, favored in houses after 1850, ranges from 3" to 8". The narrowest selection, strip flooring, can run from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 3". This width came into vogue in the early 20th century and can make a room seem larger.

For flooring with character and an aged patina, look to reclaimed wood flooring. Made from old-growth timber that has been cleaned and resawn, reclaimed flooring comes from dismantled buildings. A reliable supplier will check that the wood is free of nails with a metal detector or hand, and also will kiln-dry the planks to rid them of pests like termites and to stabilize the wood and prevent warping. Reclaimed hardwoods are denser than new timber, sustainable, and often come in a choice of wood more difficult to find anywhere else, such as heart pine.



#### WHERE TO USE IT

Hardwood floors are recommended for almost all the rooms of a house—living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, and hallways. They are often featured in kitchens, but be aware that moisture can cause warping over time. Use mats or throw rugs in areas where water might drip, such as by the sink, to maintain the floors. Solid wood floors usually aren't recommended for bathrooms because the high moisture level makes it hard to keep them in good condition, but with proper care, they can work here. It's best not to use hardwood floors in basements—the culprit, again, is moisture.



RECLAIMED SOLID WOOD FLOORING, LIKE THIS EXAMPLE FROM AUTHENTIC WOOD FLOORS, COMES WITH THE PATINA OF AGE.

#### DESIGN OPTIONS

There are more than 50 domestic and exotic species available to choose from for solid hardwood-from historic favorites like maple, red and white oak, and pine to more modern options like bamboo (not technically a wood, but listed as one), jarrah, and purpleheart.

Solid hardwood is available prefinished and unfinished. Flooring that is unfinished is best for matching existing flooring because it can be stained to the right hue. Finishes include wax, oil, and urethanes, which come in a range from matte to high gloss. Hardwood also can be distressed or hand-scraped to create an aged patina.

Parquet, which is both a technique and a type of flooring, creates geometric patterns with small pieces of wood. By the late 1800s, machine-cutting wood made parquet more affordable. Borders and medallions also were introduced. In Victorian homes, a border could be as simple as a single contrasting band of wood or as elaborate as a Greek key design of two or three contrasting woods. Herringbone became a popular parquet design in the early 20th century.



#### HOW LONG IT WILL LAST

SOLID WOOD FLOORING CAN LAST 100 YEARS OR LONGER, AND RARELY NEEDS TO BE REPLACED.

## fill in the gaps

When solid hardwoods develop gaps between boards, usually after decades of use, it's easy to fill them in with this tried-and-true technique.

Vacuum the gap to remove any debris.

#### STEP 2

Choose the right filler: Wood putty can harden and crack, so use a flexible latex- or silicone-based filler for gaps that are less than 1/8" wide in a color that matches your floor's finish. (Larger gaps will require a different treatment, such as filling with rope, wood slivers, or commercially made products.)

Cut the tube of filler at a slight angle to make application easier; these tubes fit into a standard caulk gun. Press the caulk gun trigger, and run a bead of filler along the length of the gap.

Remove excess filler by running a plastic caulk trimmer along the seam.



#### More Online

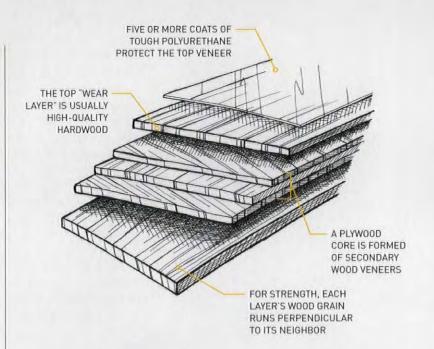
Find out how to disguise floor damage at oldhouseonline.com/floor-damage.

#### RESTORATION OPTIONS

Hardwood floors can be sanded five to seven times (if not more) over the span of their lifetime. Avoid sanding to the point where the nails securing the flooring are exposed. For instance, if a plank is 3/4", it shouldn't be sanded beyond the wear layer, which has approximately a 5/16" thickness. Keep in mind that the finish on a hardwood floor can be lightly sanded and recoated numerous times without affecting the hardwood itself. Plus, not every issue or stain on a hardwood floor reguires sanding—see page 49 for other techniques.

# ENGINEERED FLOORING

Engineered flooring is a sandwich of layers, called "plies," of hardwood and plywood bonded together via a heating and pressing process. The top layer, the one you see, is a veneer of hardwood 1/16" to 1/8" thick. Beneath that veneer is a core of plywood, with each ply lying perpendicular to the other to give the flooring strength and stability, and make it less susceptible to expansion and contraction. Engineered flooring can have as few as three plies or as many as 12—the more layers, the better the quality of the floor. On average, most boards have five layers.



#### WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Because of the veneer, it's visually difficult to tell the difference between a solid wood floor and an engineered one once they have been laid. (The wood flooring industry considers engineered and solid wood floors to be interchangeable.) The plies are visible from the side before engineered flooring is installed, however.



#### **DESIGN OPTIONS**

Engineered floors come in many species, and are prefinished with seven to 10 coats of aluminum oxide, which is stronger than most applied finishes. Engineered planks range from 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" to 7" wide, in thicknesses from 3/<sub>8</sub>" to 3/<sub>4</sub>". Thinner engineered flooring—3/<sub>8</sub>"—is nailed to the floor for stability. Thicker ½" types can either be nailed to a wood subfloor or glued to dry concrete slabs. The thickest planks (5/<sub>8</sub>" and up) can be used as a floating floor.

#### WHERE TO USE IT

Engineered flooring holds up in spaces that get light moisture, such as bathrooms, kitchens, basements, and over concrete floors, but it isn't going to last in a high-moisture situation—a basement that tends to flood, for instance. When using engineered flooring, the moisture content in an adjacent concrete slab cannot exceed 4 percent (the space must be tested first to pinpoint exact levels of moisture), and a vapor barrier underlayer is recommended in moisture-prone areas.



THE BEAUTY OF OLD-GROWTH WOOD IS EVIDENT IN

GOODWIN'S RECLAIMED SOLID PINE FLOORING.



#### HOW IT'S INSTALLED

Engineered flooring
favors the Click Loc system,
tongue-and-groove boards
that lock together to create
a tight seam. The system
requires no glue, so the floor
is floated over a foam or cork
sublayer, and it can be used
over any secured subfloor—
plywood, concrete, old
hardwood, tile, etc.



Like a solid wood floor. engineered flooring can be scratched and dinged. Unlike solid wood floors. however, not all engineered flooring can be sanded. The thickness of the veneer impacts how many times an engineered floor can be sanded. Some claim that thickest ones can be sanded up to five times, but a more conservative view is probably best when dealing with veneers: one to two times. And the thinnest veneers, 1/16", can only be coated with finish. They also are not very forgiving when being sanded, so professional refinishing is recommended. Deep scratches and dents can't be sanded out.



#### **HOW LONG IT WILL LAST**

THE LIFESPAN OF ENGINEERED FLOORING DEPENDS ON THE THICKNESS OF THE PLANK: THINNER TYPES LAST 20 TO 30 YEARS, AND THICKER ONES HAVE A LIFESPAN OF 40 TO 80 YEARS. THESE PROJECTED LIFESPANS MAY HOLD TRUE FOR HIGH-QUALITY ENGINEERED FLOORING, BUT NOT SO FOR THE MANY CHEAPLY MADE ENGINEERED FLOORING PRODUCTS OUT THERE, IT'S HARD FOR A CONSUMER TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE VISUALLY BETWEEN QUALITY ENGINEERED FLOORING AND CHEAPER VERSIONS, PRICE POINT CAN BE ONE INDICATOR. BUT THE NUMBER OF LAYERS IS A BETTER ONE. THE HIGHER. THE BETTER: DON'T CHOOSE AN ENGINEERED FLOOR WITH FEWER THAN FIVE LAYERS.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 95.



**THE VERDICT:** In the right circumstances, an engineered floor can bring all the best qualities of solid wood floors to a space in the house where you might not have been able to use wood. Although engineered flooring can be a good choice for basements or over concrete slabs, solid wood is the more durable, long-lasting, and historically appropriate option for any old-house space.







#### **SUPPLIES**

#### **PROTECTIVE GEAR**

- □ Goggles
- □ Dust mask

#### **TOOLS**

- ☐ Measuring tape
- □ Bevel square
- □ T-square
- □ English bead or rabbet plane
- □ Smoothing plane
- □ Gutter plane
- □ Table saw
- □ Band saw
- □ Profile gauge
- □ Chisel
- □ 100-grit sandpaper

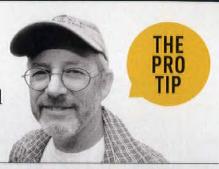
# Replicate a Window Pediment

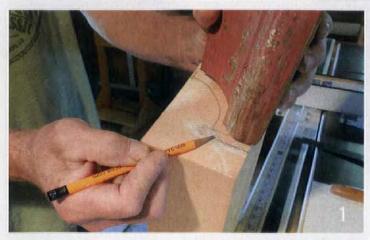
Window pediments are designed to shed water away from the sash while adding a decorative embellishment. This classic 18th-century Georgian design, a shed roof with cavetto cove and thumb bead base, can be readily reproduced by a handy DIYer. An existing window pediment will yield measurements and the molding profile, but it's also possible to determine dimensions by examining paint shadow lines on the clapboards. By John Schnitzler

#### **BEFORE YOU START**

Select a block of wood that's larger than your original window pediment to make your reproduction. In New England, white pine is a local, available, and traditional wood. Other wood species that work well are mahogany and cedar. Their dense growth rings afford longevity and a high resistance to decay. Be sure to select a premium, quality piece of wood.

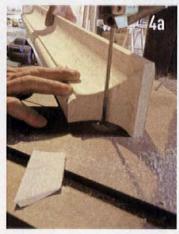
Recognize that there were no standard sizes in 18thcentury woodwork-each piece was handmade and will have unique dimensions, and variations in size often occur within the same house. -7obn Schnitzler













#### STEP 1

Trace a cross section of the original pediment's profile on a clean end of block as a guide. If you don't have the original, use a profile gauge to capture the dimensions from another pediment on the building, or make a cardboard cutout as your guide. Start with a short waste block to check all setup alignments and cuts on your table saw before you move on to the full-length board.

#### STEP 2

Rough cut the block on a table saw, using the bevel square to rip the roof angle: Place the bevel square on the original pediment to find the roof angle. and duplicate this angle on the new piece. Make another pass along the table saw to remove most of the cavetto's angle. Next, using an angled fence, pass the piece of wood through the saw to finish the cavetto (shown). Do this slowly, 1/8" at a time. (The angle will be determined by the original piece: each will be different.)

#### STEP 3

Use a molding plane to make the pediment's bead. There are different ways to do this, but my preferred methods are to use an English bead plane (shown) or a rabbet plane and sandpaper. A bead plane will make the process quick-you'll only need maybe five or six passes. The rabbet plane is slower, and you'll need to use more care to form the bead, but it's doable if you don't own a bead plane. You also can use a mechanical molding wheel or a router.

#### STEP 4

Cut the pediment to length, using the cut pieces as a template to trace and finish your returns. Cut returns out on a band saw [4a], using measurements from the original or a copy. To finish, refine surfaces with planes-a smoothing plane to clean up flat edges and the roof of the return, a gutter plane to refine the cavetto's shape [4b], and a hand chisel on your bead return. Smooth edges with sandpaper. To install, face-nail the corners to the building, then toe-nail down through the pediment's roof. Cover the roof with lead flashing.



# **Compact Routers**

By Brian Campbell

Before World War II, most carpentry tasks were accomplished with hand tools. If a carpenter needed to mortise a door jamb to inlay a hinge leaf, he would use a router plane or a hammer and chisel. Today, professionals and DIYers alike can achieve similar results in less time with an electrically powered router. Routers can execute a dozen different cutting tasks (from mortises and rabbets to dados and dovetails) to create common joinery, which is why they're considered one of the most versatile woodworking tools out there.

The router is a simple machine that is durable and relatively inexpensive. Its electric motor turns a shaft tipped by a collet, which can hold a wide array of cutting bits. The motor sits in a housing attached to a base that has handles for secure control. The base can either be fixed

(for edge work, open-ended flutes or dados, or mounting under a router table) or plunge (for mortises, stopped flutes or dados, and most template-guided work); the routers we tested here come with both types for extra versatility.

Routers range in size from small 1-hp laminate trimmers to large 31/4-hp plunge routers. Compact routers bridge the gap between small, nimble trimmers and the more substantial 21/4-hp and larger routers. Reasonably powerful and capable, yet small enough to be comfortable for beginners to use, a compact router is a good choice as a first router purchase.



#### **HOW TO USE IT**



Don't try to remove too much wood in one pass-aim for three passes instead: the first to "hog out" most of the material, the second to remove up to 95 percent of the wood, and a final cleanup pass to create a smooth, clean surface. Make continuous progress; pausing in one place too long can cause burn marks on your work.



When doing edge work, route from left to right with the router between you and the work piece. As a beginner, you may feel more comfortable with the work piece between you and the router, in which case your router should move from right to left.



It's often easier to change bits by removing the motor from the base, as the base can interfere with turning the wrenches. If you need two wrenches to change bits (on routers without a spindle lock), positioning the wrenches as shown allows them to be operated with one hand. After initially freeing the collet nut, you'll then thread it down the spindle until it binds again; use the wrenches to continue moving the nut until the bit is free.

## Head to Head

IF YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO OWN ONE ROUTER, A COMPACT MODEL WITH A COMBINATION BASE OFFERS THE MOST FLEXIBILITY.



#### **PORTER-CABLE 450**

More of a souped-up trim router than a true compact, Porter-Cable's 11/4-hp router nonetheless ably handled dados, roundovers, and mortises-but "you're limited to the size of router bits you can use safely," points out woodworker Stan Wolpert. Our testers liked the smoothness and depth of the plunge action, as well as an easy-to-use depth adjustment and a collet lock button that facilitates single-wrench bit changes. With its light weight and small profile, this is a good router for first-time buyersthough the relatively high price for its size is a bit of a drawback.

Get It: \$189, portercable.com



#### **CRAFTSMAN 320-26783**

Craftsman's 2-hp router proved to be divisive: Amateur woodworkers raved about how many features it offers for the price (soft start, LED lights, an edge guide, dust collection), but our pro thought it lacked the quality of other models in the test. Vibration was an issue as well: "This is not a router that a professional or avid woodworker would enjoy using for hours on end," said our expert, Brian Campbell. But as the only router with a variablespeed motor (which allows for mounting in a table), the Craftsman wins the "most bang for your buck" award.

Get It: \$108, craftsman.com



#### **DEWALT DW616**

Features like comfortable handles, fine-tuned depth adjustment, and a superb dust collector on the plunge base helped propel DeWalt's 1%-hp router to the top of the heap among our testers. "This was the only router in the test where the dust collection is central to the design of the tool, not an afterthought," Campbell said. However, the size of the opening on both bases places some limitations on this router's versatility-our testers couldn't cut dados deeper than 3/6" and were limited to 3/4" x 3/8" roundover bits.

Get It: \$190, dewalt.com



#### **MILWAUKEE 5615-20**

It falls in the same power class as the DeWalt router, but our testers found the 13/4-hp Milwaukee to be slightly more versatile, thanks to a larger base opening that allows for bigger bits, as well as a vacuum attachment that can be used on both bases. Its unique plunge lever drew a few gripes ("It was too short and difficult to get to," said woodworker Doug Pinney), as did its lack of a soft start. It got top marks for ergonomics, thoughour testers liked the well-placed controls and comfortable grips on both bases, as well as the extra strap on the fixed base.

Get It: \$210, milwaukeetool.com

# Make a Splash in the Bathroom

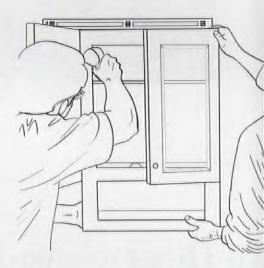
Perk up your bathroom with a vintage-inspired medicine cabinet or a retro faucet, and stop leaks in their tracks with new grout.



# Hang a medicine cabinet

If you've been brushing your teeth while looking in a chipped mirror, ditch your old medicine cabinet for a surface-mounted replacement. To hang it, first mark the center of both the wall and the cabinet's bottom. Using the marks as a guide, hold the cabinet against the wall to find the right height—73" is a standard starting point. Use a level to check the placement, then trace around the corners with a pencil.

Prep the cabinet by drilling holes about 2" in from the corners, then return the cabinet to the wall and mark through these prep holes. Remove the cabinet, and drill holes in the wall on these marks, inserting a drywall anchor in each one. Repeat the process for the bottom holes. Hold the cabinet against the wall and line up the holes (a level helps here, too), then secure the cabinet to the wall with drywall screws.

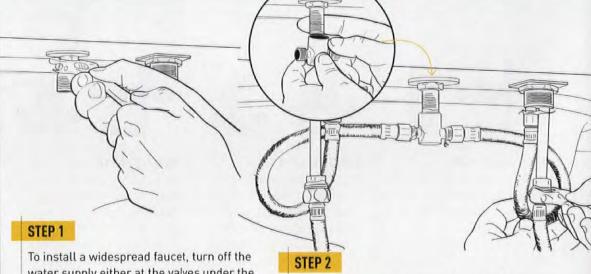




## Install a retro faucet

If your bathroom faucet is a remuddled replacement, upgrade to a new assembly with retro appeal.

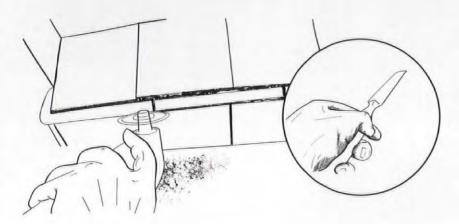
Faucets come a variety of finishes—from brushed nickel to chrome to oil-rubbed bronze—to match every space.

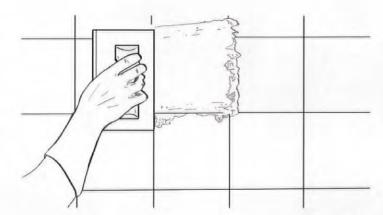


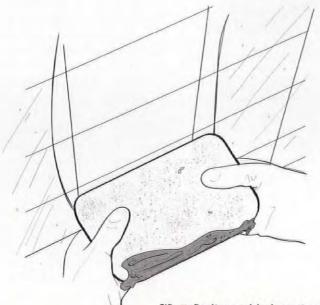
To install a widespread faucet, turn off the water supply either at the valves under the sink or the main line, and clear everything out under the sink. Remove the old faucet by loosening the nuts holding it in place with a wrench; clean the area where the faucet sat with vinegar or rubbing alcohol. Run a bead of caulk around the center hole (skip if there is a gasket) and slide the new faucet into it. From beneath the sink, slide a washer onto the faucet stem, and then screw on the nut by hand, using a wrench for the last turn. Check to make sure the faucet is aligned correctly; adjust as needed, and wipe up any excess caulk. Repeat this process for the handles.

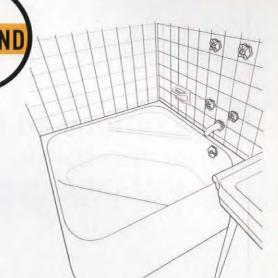
Screw in the three-way spout tee so the bottom opening faces the hot and cold handles, then cover the threads on the spout tee and the handles' stems with plumber's tape. Connect the braided water supply tubing to each handle, then gently bend the tubing and attach its nut to the spout tee. Connect the water supply tubing to each valve stem by tightening the nut, and then connect those lines to the shutoff valves. Turn on the valves and check for leaks. Remove the faucet's aerator, turn on both handles, and run the water for a minute to remove any debris in the line.

Don't ignore deteriorating grout around your tub and tiles—water will start seeping into places you don't want it to go. Tackle it this weekend, and later enjoy a nice soak while you admire your work.









#### STEP 1

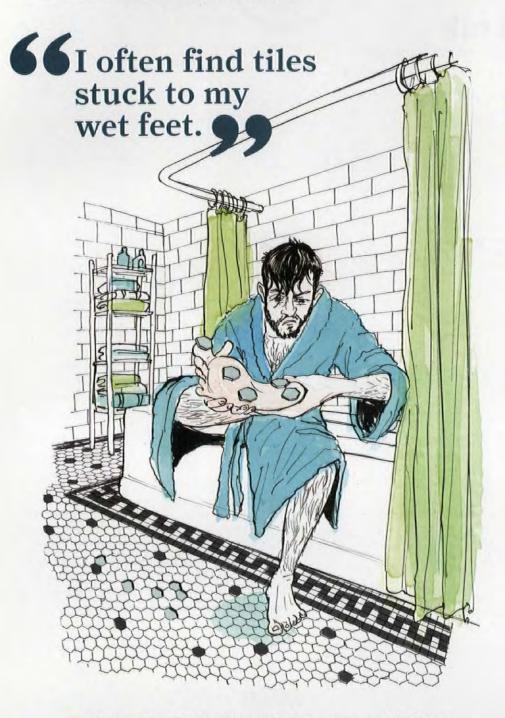
Remove the old grout with a handheld tool (such as a putty knife or 5-in-1 tool) or an oscillating multi-tool with a diamond-tip blade, scraping out the grout to half the depth of the tile. If you're using a multi-tool, take care not to damage the tile (get tips at **oldhouseonline.com/multi-tools**), and wear safety goggles and a mask. Clean any residue with a nonabrasive sponge; use a bleach solution (one cup bleach per gallon of water) or rubbing alcohol to get rid of any mildew. Let it thoroughly dry.

#### STEP 2

Using a polymer grout, apply it at a 45-degree angle with a rubber float on the tiles and where the tub meets the wall. Make sure to work the grout into the seams so there are no gaps. Work in sections of a few feet at a time, as the grout will begin to dry in 20 to 30 minutes.

#### STEP 3

Wipe off excess grout as you go. First, scrape the tile with the float at a 90-degree angle. Once the grout has firmed up a bit (15 minutes or so), use the clean edge of a wrung-out damp sponge to remove remaining residue from the tiles, taking care not to push too hard on the grout lines. Smooth the grout along the rim of the tub with your finger. Let it dry for at least 24 hours, then wipe off any remaining film with a damp sponge or cloth.



When we installed hex tile in our bathroom, we were advised to mix the mortar ourselves instead of buying premixed. It didn't mix well, and we've had poorly adhered tiles ever since. They pop off, and we try to reattach them with very little success—I often find them pulling up and sticking to my wet feet. —Todd Smith, via Facebook

#### Share Your Story!

What have you, your spouse, pet, contractor, previous owner (you get the picture) screwed up? Email us at **ohjeditorial@aimmedia.com**.

#### THE FIX

Tiling a bathroom floor is a pretty straightforward DIY project, but it does have the potential to go awry if you're not being careful (as anyone who's consistently tortured by a slightly misaligned tile can attest).

The recommendation to stay away from premixed thin-set mortar was a good one-premixed thin-set is a mastic that doesn't contain Portland cement, which means that while it might be perfectly suitable for laying tile on plaster or drywall (such as for a kitchen backsplash), it's not going to hold up on a consistently wet, highly trafficked bathroom floor. Mixing thin-set yourself-by adding water to a powdered mix-has "a wide latitude for error," says veteran tilesetter Riley Doty, but you should always make sure that the consistency isn't too stiff or watery: It should resemble frosting or peanut butter.

For the substrate that goes under the layer of thin-set, Doty recommends using 1/4" cement backer board over plywood when installing 1" hexes. If the plywood subfloor has a considerable amount of bounce, he recommends adding another layer of 1/2" plywood to form a stiffer substrate. If you're laying the tile on top of a concrete slab, he says, you have the option to set the tile directly on the slab, as long as it's smooth and free of cracks. ("If the slab has cracks, the tile is likely to crack, too," he explains.)

The bad news here is that there's really no way to salvage your previous efforts—tearing out the existing floor and starting over is the only way to get this project to stick. Plan on purchasing new tile, too: "If the tile is coming up pretty easily, it's likely it can be saved," Doty says, "but you'd be spending a lot of time to save a little bit of money."

#### DISCOVER THE CHARM of Early New England Homes



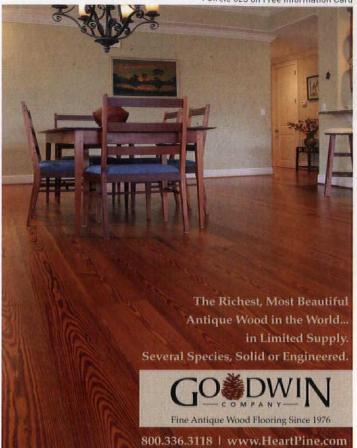


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# Old Knob or handle Window Cabinet

As much as we wish they would, old windows don't always stay on old houses. But they don't have to end up in landfills, either architectural salvage stores are chock full of charming old windows just waiting to be given new life. For this project, blogger Bliss of Bliss Ranch used a vintage window as the door for a small bathroom cabinet. Here's how she did it.

#### 1. MAKE THE CABINET FRAME

Bliss created her cabinet from roughsawn 2x6 timbers salvaged from an old shed, cut to the same size as her window. (The top board is about an inch wider for overhang.) Use three of the timbers to create a U shape, fastening them together at the corners with four 31/2" wood screws spaced evenly along the width of the board, about 1/2" in from the edge. Then create four pocket holes (one in each corner) on the inside of the cabinet frame and use 31/2" drywall screws to attach the top.

#### 2. ATTACH THE DOOR

To turn the window into a door, add surface-mounted hinges to the top and bottom of one long side. Place each hinge on the window, mark the location for the screw hole, and then drill a pilot hole before screwing the hinge in place. Lay the window on top of the cabinet and repeat this process to attach the other side of the hinge to the cabinet frame. On the opposite edge of the door, measure to the center and mount a magnetic catch on the interior of the door and frame.

#### 3. ADD ACCESSORIES

Finish the cabinet by adding a shelf, feet, and a knob or handle. Measure and cut a piece of wood for the shelf, mounting it with four L brackets. Add bun feet to the bottom by inserting 31/2" screws down through the inside of the cabinet frame, then tightly screwing on the feet. If you'd like, you also can add a knob or handle on the outside of the door-mount it in approximately the same location as the magnetic catch.

#### 4. MOUNT THE CABINET TO THE WALL

This cabinet rests on the floor, but Bliss further secured hers by screwing 31/2" drywall screws at an angle through the inside of the top board directly into the studs. If you'd rather have a freestanding cabinet, you can use wood screws to attach a backing material to the cabinet frame at the end of Step 1. [Bliss suggests beadboard, painted a contrasting color and distressed.)

#### STEALS & DEALS



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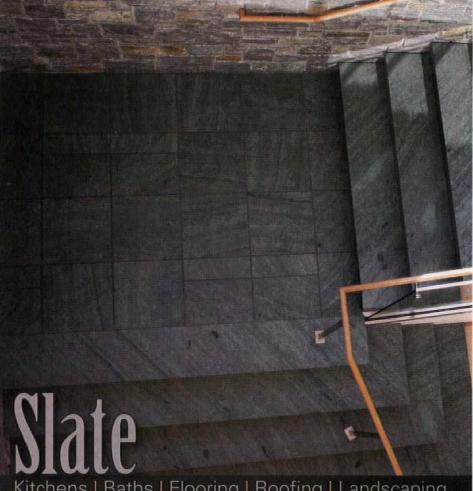
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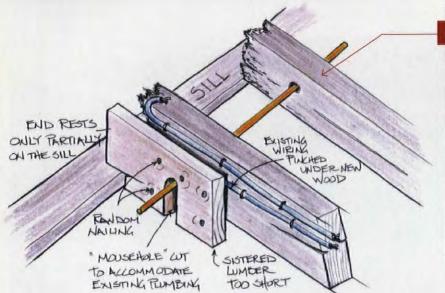
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# Sistered Floor Joists

Floor joists can fail for a variety of reasons: rot from exposure to damp environments, splits from overloading, or overzealous cuts made to allow for large electrical, plumbing, or ventilation passages. Failing joists can be replaced (a major investment of time and labor) or sometimes supported by a judicious use of posts, but the simplest means of fixing them is through sistering-attaching a timber of roughly the same dimension to pick up the partial or entire load carried by the failed joist. By Ray Tschoepe



#### **WRONG WAY**

#### **USE SHORT CUTS**

It's easiest and most tempting to install a short length of wood to fit the available space or cover the defect. Unfortunately, 3' and 4' lengths don't provide enough points of attachment to hold the original load for long periods of time.

Cutting a "mouse hole" around penetrations such as wiring or plumbing for ease of installation also will greatly reduce the load-carrying capacity of the sister. Similarly, gaps between the sister and the original joist should be avoided. Finally, while it's convenient to attach sisters with common nails, they will not provide the most secure and lasting connection.

> PLUMBING SHOULD BE DISCONNECTED AND PASSED THROUGH ...

> > ... OR RE-ROUTED

RELOCATE EXISTING WIRING

# **RIGHT WAY**

#### SISTER LONG BOARDS

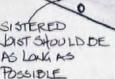
Make the sister as long as you can. More attachment points and close approximation to the existing timber will allow it to shoulder the largest load. Attach it using bolts and nuts, like hex head bolts or carriage bolts (1/2" or larger). Lag screws will do in a pinch.

Make sure to re-route or disconnect and reconnect any plumbing, electrical, gas, etc. lines that penetrated the original joist. These should be repositioned with the new wood in place. Make sure the new joist rests

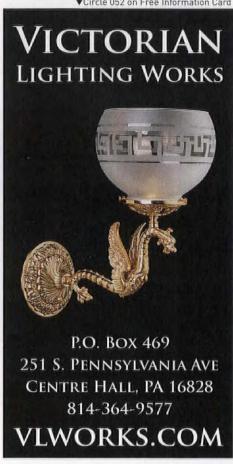
squarely on the sill and travels as deep into the wall space as possible. In masonry walls, you may have to remove several stones adjacent to the old joist to make room for the new timber. Use flat stones and/or a no-shrink grout to form a shelf onto which the new wood will sit. Wedge to level it. Finally, make sure that you seal the new wood's end grain so it doesn't begin to absorb water once it's in position. Primer and paint are a good choice; an epoxy consolidant can work even better.

SISTERED BOARD RESTS

ACROSS THE ENTIRE SIL



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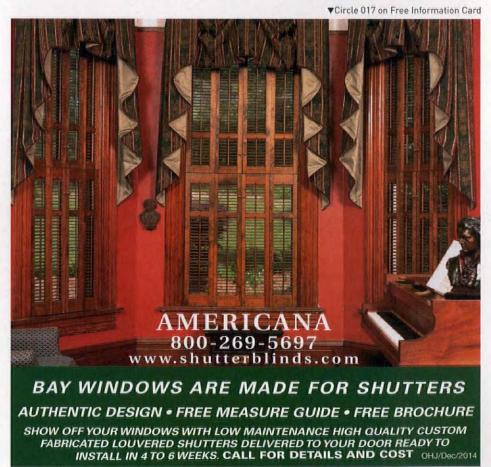
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IN A HISTORIC DIAMOND PATTERN: STANDING-SEAM (VERTICAL PANEL) METAL ROOFS ON A GREEK REVIVAL AND A VICTORIAN HOUSE.

# • We have a 100-year-old, side-by-side two-family house, brown shingled. Would a metal roof be appropriate?

-Adriana O'Toole, Montclair, New Jersey

Metal roofing was (and is) widely used in some areas, less so in others. A metal roof is a smart choice and perfectly appropriate for a hundred-year-old house. Advantages include a Class A fire rating, light weight (so the new roof often can be installed over the old shingles), weather resistance, durability (assume 50+ years of service, as opposed to 15-25 for asphalt), and good looks.

Metal roofing is available in sheets (seamed on site), or in products that mimic the look of wood shingles and slate or clay tiles. Today's factory-applied coatings are

rustproof and long-lasting.

One reason metal roofs are not more common is their higher upfront cost. For more information, get advice and quotes from roofers in your area. Two with good, educational websites: metalroofingnj.com (Hoboken) and americanroofingandsiding .com (Belleville).

A more general site is metalroofing.com, an industry-group site that includes a photographic product gallery. You'll get a quick course on steel vs. aluminum, coatings, metal gauge, costs, etc. An Internet search will turn up a dozen more metalroofing companies near you.



TRADITIONAL INDO-PERSIAN PATTERNED RUGS ARE AVAILABLE IN MANY PRICE RANGES.

In OHJ's September issue, I came across a rug I like in "Putting the Bungalow Back." Do you know who makes it or where I can buy it?

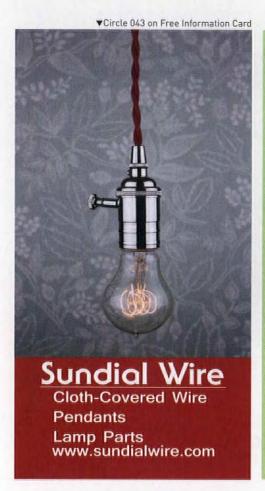
-Marilyn Ellison, via email

David Heide DesignStudio tells us that rug is a custom-ordered, handknotted Persian carpet, and the homeowners do not recall the maker. It's a traditional Indo-Persian pattern in a muted palette that complements a bungalow interior. You might try to find a similar rug at The Persian Carpet (persiancarpet.com) or Tiger Rug (tigerrug.net). Both sell traditional rugs as well as those in the Arts & Crafts genre.



More Online

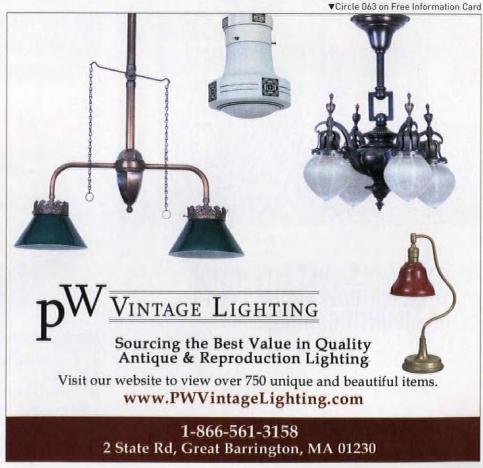
Learn how to install a standing-seam metal roof at oldhouseonline.com/metal-roof.





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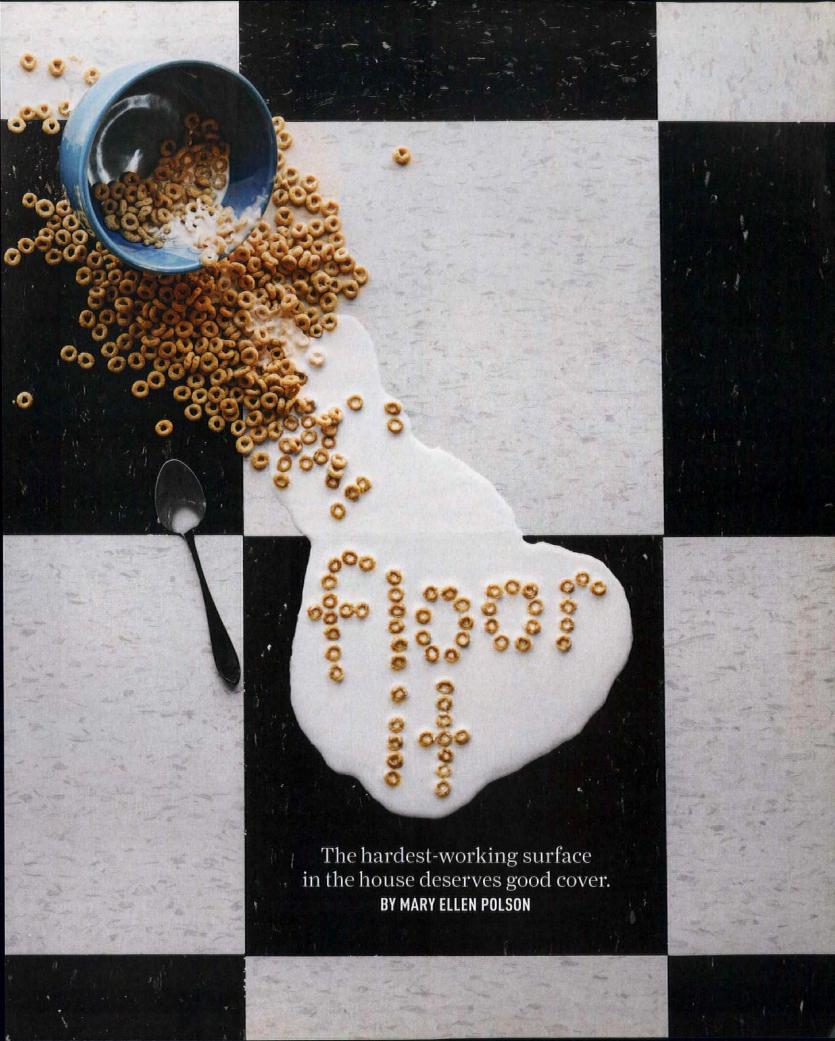


80 VINTAGE VISION: BETWEEN TWO STYLES | 82 FAVORITE THINGS: HEARTH WARMERS | 84 KEY DETAIL: INLAID WOOD FLOORS | 86 THEY STILL MAKE: LACE CURTAINS

ood floors are an old-house staple—but in the harsh environment of the kitchen, wood will splinter, flake, and warp when exposed repeatedly to water. That's why early Americans quickly learned to seal wood floors with whatever was available, from homemade paint to wax and tung oil. Similarly, Victorian homeowners jumped at the chance to install water-resistant materials like linoleum and mosaic tile as soon as they became widely available in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Alternatives to wood floors in the kitchen

Alternatives to wood floors in the kitchen are not only diverse but historically innovative, ranging from some of the oldest materials (stone, brick, and cork) to classics perfected more than a century ago (linoleum) to the ever-evolving wonder material of the first half of the 20th century, vinyl composition tile. Whether you choose a floor that could have been in the house when it was built, or something further along in its history, you'll be in good company.





#### LINOLEUM, CORK & VINYL ▶

Invented in England in 1864 by Frederick Walton, linoleum began to catch on in the 1880s. The earliest cork floor tiles were installed later, around 1900. The predecessor of vinyl tile was asphalt tile, first available as 9" x 9" squares in the 1920s.

Linoleum is still made using the original formula, which includes cork and linseed oil. Cork, grown on the tree of the same name, is almost wholly natural. Vinyl composition tile (VCT) is typically made of polyvinyl chloride chips, in a blend that usually includes a hefty percentage (20 to 25) of

recycled or natural materials like limestone.

All three resilients come in a range of colors and textural patterns—marbleized, flecked, confetti, swirl—making them ideal camouflage for wear and tear. They are also excellent mediums for creating custom floor designs, especially since all three are available as both tiles and sheet goods (see page 76 for more). While cork always seems to maintain its essential character even when tinted, linoleum and VCT have been mimicking each other in terms of color, pattern, and use for nearly 100 years.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 95.



#### STONE

Nothing gives a kitchen a more timeless quality than stone. The best flooring stones have a bit of texture and a minimum of shine. They, too, can be laid in interesting patterns: squares of alternating tones, sometimes accented with small inlays of stone or art tile; random rectangular blocks that have the feel of a European farmhouse; or as field tile with borders and inlays that rival the detail and beauty of the mosaics of ancient Rome.

- Best for: Early American, Georgian, Neoclassical Revival houses
- Colors: Full spectrum of earth colors (many bluish tints)
- Lifespan: More than 100 years
- Maintenance: Clean and buff; seal to prevent staining

#### MOSAIC TILE ▶

Mosaic tile came on the scene in the United States in the 1860s and remained popular well into the 20th century. Most commonly seen in bathrooms, it's also a legitimate choice for kitchens. Choices range from classic 1" hexagons and penny rounds (often with inlays or borders) to more sophisticated patterns such as herringbone, double basketweave, and pentagon. Think of them as tile "rugs" and you've got the idea.

- Best for: Queen Anne through Colonial Revival houses
- Colors: White, black, gray, plus color accents (blues, floral colors)
- Lifespan: More than 50 years
- Maintenance: Occasional cleaning; matte-finished mosaics can be waxed

+
For the most authentic look and a slip-resistant surface, choose mosaic tiles with a matte finish.

#### Vinyl

- Best for: Colonial Revival to Mid-century Modern
- Colors: Full spectrum, plus patterns; commercial grades are patterned throughout the tile
- Lifespan: 10-30 years
- Maintenance: Clean and buff; seal with specialty sealers
- + Although early vinyl tiles contained asbestos, they've been free of the hazardous material for decades; some types of VCTs are even eligible for LEED certification.

#### Cork

- Best for: Queen Anne to Modern houses
- Colors: Light buff to dark brown, primary colors, inlays, patterns
- Lifespan: More than 50 years with care
- Maintenance: Wax and buff; factorysealed finish can be revived with polyurethane



### Historic Pattern Choices

It's easy to create authentic patterns with linoleum, cork, or VCT. Tile squares are easy for DIYers to work with, but if your design requires sheet goods, it's best to tap a pro for installation.



#### Inlay

Inset a 1" to 2" strip in a color that contrasts with the main field color around the perimeter of the floor. For more dimension, use a different pattern for the inlay, or a second border in a color that complements the first two. Or add architectural details like diamonds, a Greek key, or a Celtic knot into the inlay.

A linoleum inlay by Crogan Inlay Floors includes a deep border, a corner accent, and a secondary border that creates a threedimensional effect.





#### Border

Edge walls and floor cabinets with a deep (6" to 12") border in a dark shade like charcoal to add drama to a plain, mottled, or checkerboard design. For extra punch, extend the border as a baseboard molding.

Left: A checkerboard linoleum floor in a 1908 butler's pantry gets a decorative boost from a border. Above: Ready-made borders from Marmoleum make short work of adding interest to a linoleum floor.



#### Plaid

Add a third color to a checkerboard layout to create the impression of plaid or gingham. Begin with two contrasting colors, and choose a third shade that appears to be a blend of the two colors. For every group of four tiles, use the lightest and darkest tiles at opposite corners, and the "middle" shade in the other two.

Three colors create a plaid effect.





#### More on the iPad

Create your own linoleum pattern in our digital edition. oldhouseonline.com/ohjdigital

#### Checkerboard

Cut 12" x 12" tiles into the smaller sizes [4" x 4" or 9" x 9"] common in older kitchens. Set patterned tiles [like jaspé] in a "quarter turn" design—all the light tiles in one direction and the darker or contrasting tiles turned 90 degrees in the other—for best effect. For more impact, use four complementary colors.

A checkerboard linoleum floor warms up a bungalow kitchen.



#### Geometric

Especially popular in the 1920s and '30s, these highly graphic patterns mix elements of various shapes—primarily squares and rectangles in seemingly random arrangements—to create a floor with color and punch. You'll need to make a template of your design that can intersect at multiple points throughout the floor, like a wallpaper repeat.

A ziggurat pattern in two contrasting earth colors.



#### Basketweave

Alternate strips of contrasting colors (6" x 12", for example), set at 90 degrees to each other. [They will appear to be going over and under each other.) Fill the square gaps with a third color to finish the pattern. For a looser pattern, use 12" tiles. On a 36" template, lay four tiles of the lightest color in each corner. Then lay three tiles in the next-lightest color in a vertical strip between the tiles. Finish the square with two tiles of the darkest color on either side of the medium-shaded tiles.

This DIY basketweave pattern uses Armstrong's Excelon 12" vinyl composition tile.

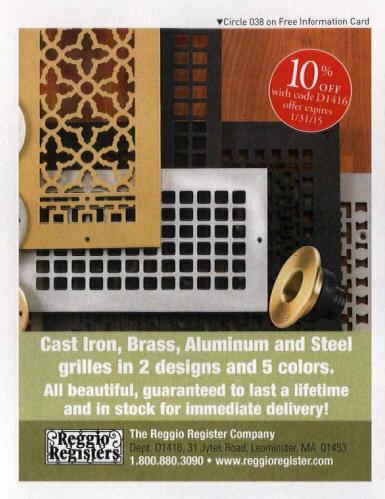


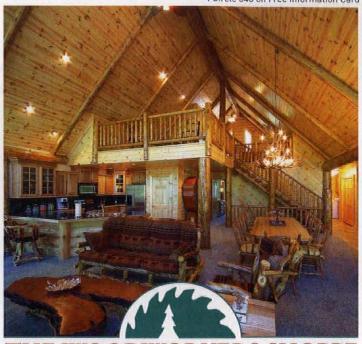
#### Accent

Cut accents in diamond, square, or other shapes into sheet linoleum or vinyl (or arrange them between tiles) in a repeating pattern across the floor, as a centerpiece, or to add decoration to an inlay. The same effect can be achieved with tile or stone.

Marmoleum tiles are laid on the diagonal and inset with tiny square accents.





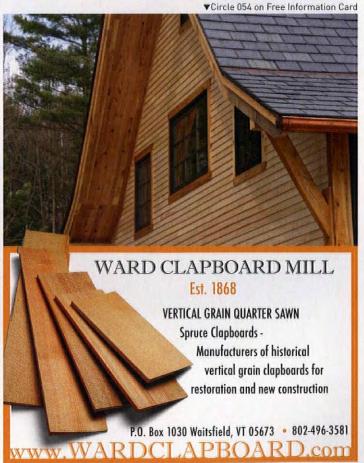


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## The Woman's Book / 1894

Victorian and Colonial Revival trends merge in a late 19th-century living room.



Add throw pillows and a small area rug to help define a window seat as a distinct section within a larger room. With its columns and floral swags, this mantel hints at the era's burgeoning Colonial Revival; a reproduction with classical pilasters and eggand-dart molding will do the same. Lindenwood mantel, from \$2,946, whiteriver.com



Wrought iron andirons with fanciful twisted finials like these were popular around the turn of the century for Victorian and Arts & Crafts homes. Basket twist andirons, \$500, irontable.com



Before the universal adoption of electricity, oil-lit table lamps were de rigueur. You can still buy new ones from Aladdin, which has been making them for more than 100 years. Lincoln Drape lamp, \$299, aladdinlamps.com

Monochromatic wallpaper with a scrolling floral design is both subtle and sumptuous, especially when the pattern is rendered with a metallic sheen. Montreal wallpaper, \$210 per roll, thibautdesign.com





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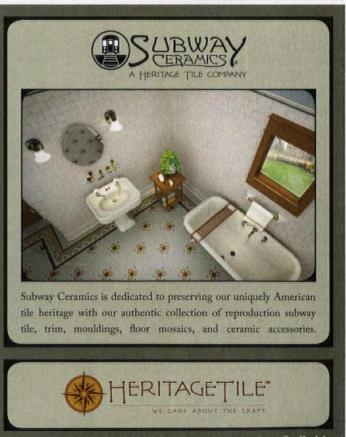












# Close to the Hearth

Put the finishing touch on your fireplace or give it an authentic makeover with these period finds. By Mary Ellen Polson

#### 1. DIAMOND FRAME

Keep burning logs firmly in place with an elegant pair of brass and forged iron knife-blade andirons with a diamondand-flame finial. \$860. Ball & Ball, (800) 257-3711, ballandball.com

#### 2. AROUND THE HEARTH

Hearth tiles for turn-of-the-20th-century fireplaces usually measured 1½" x 3". These Victorian-style replicas come in dozens of glazes, including the mottled, multicolored ones shown here. \$105 to \$115 per square foot. L'Esperance Tile Works, (518) 884-2814, lesperancetileworks.com

#### 3. VICTORIAN BREAK

Give new life to a Victorian fireplace surround with 6" x 6" diagonal tiles—a popular period treatment—in a traditional tricolored glaze. The central diagonal break separates two nature-inspired patterns. \$45 per tile. Derby Pottery & Tile, (504) 586-9003, derbypottery.com

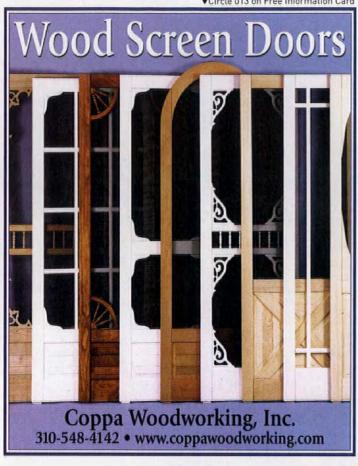
#### 4. TOOLS WITH A TWIST

This hand-forged, wall-hung tool set (which includes a hand-tied broom) would look equally at home beside a walk-in colonial fireplace or graceful Colonial Revival mantel. Historic Housefitters, (800) 247-4111, historichousefitters.com

#### **5. ADIRONDACK BLUES**

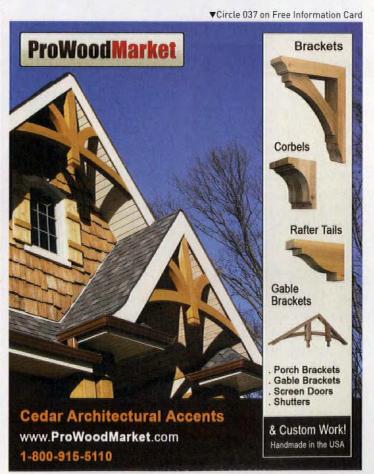
A colorful accoutrement for an Arts & Crafts or rustic fireplace, the Tall Pines folding screen features a stand of trees silhouetted against blue and green art glass. \$2,525. Meyda Tiffany, (800) 222-4009, meyda.com











## **Inlaid Flooring**

Artisan-inlaid wood floors became popular in France during the Renaissance, thanks to installations by nobility. Soon they were a mark of good taste everywhere, as expressed in New York's 1883 Osborne Building.

#### **PARQUETRY**

Geometric, straight-lined patterns called parquetry became increasingly common. This pattern of squares is called Chantilly, after the city in which it was first installed.

#### **GRAINS & STAINS**

Wood often was cut to showcase the grain, with alternating grain patterns abutting to highlight patterns. Stains were strategically used to accentuate designs for maximum impact.

#### BORDERS

Floors often bore decorative borders to further demarcate formal spaces. Here, a double border—contrasting lines inset with a Chantilly runner—announces a visitor's entry to the parlor.





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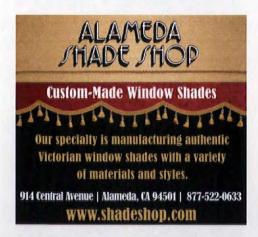
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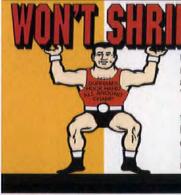
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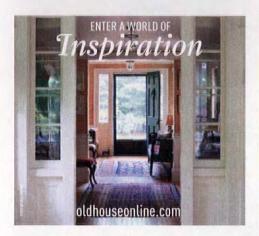
Delicate yet enduring, lace has made a fashionable statement on high-end clothing since at least the 16th century, when the handmade and dearly expensive openwork was a highly prized accessory. It wasn't until machine-made lace arrived in the early 1800s-and became perfected and commonplace around 1870that lace panels became ubiquitous in Victorian windows (especially in parlors) as a way to express good taste. Today, many historic lace patterns are available once more, their designs rooted in Victorian, Arts & Crafts, Colonial Revival, and Art Deco styles, and their patterns perfected by modern computers and technology.

Neo-Grec lace panel from Cooper Lace, cooperlace.com













In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of *Old House Journal*, we've launched a virtual design site: **OHJ Concept Additions**. The editors have partnered with respected architects to showcase additions to basic house forms, their styles running from Federal to bungalow.

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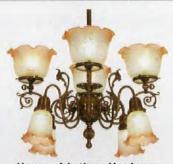
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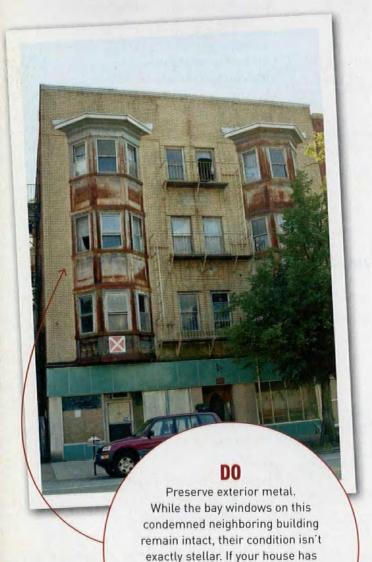
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### 66 When do the bandages come off?

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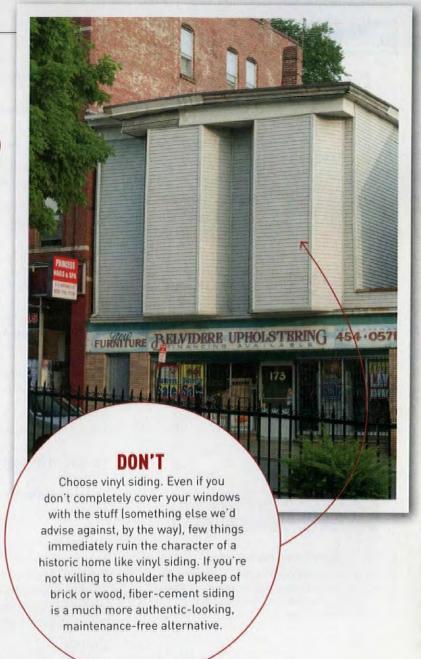




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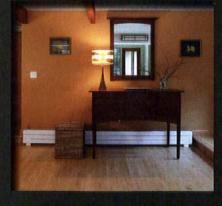
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