

free gifts *inside!*

# This Old House

9 SECRETS  
OF  
COTTAGE  
STYLE  
p. 82

**\$728,000  
GIVEAWAY!\***

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**KITCHEN APPLIANCES,  
SINKS, FAUCETS, TILE,  
STEAM SHOWERS,  
WINDOWS, ROOFING,  
WINDOW SHADES,  
AC, WOOD FLOORS,  
EVEN A VACATION!**

**Plus!**

Little upgrades  
for a big charm  
boost, p. 47

**INSTANT  
CURB APPEAL:**  
Entry lights  
done right

**QUICK  
GARAGE-DOOR  
MAKEOVER**

\* No purchase  
necessary. For  
details, turn to  
page 14.

AUGUST 2014 | THISOLDHOUSE.COM



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For people with a higher risk of stroke due to  
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem



ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.**
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.** While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- **Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:**
  - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches; feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valve.**
- **Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma)** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).



# I focused on finding something better than warfarin.

## NOW I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

- 1 ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
- 2 ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
- 3 Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

## Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

**Before you take ELIQUIS**, tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

**Do not take ELIQUIS** if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

*You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.*

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit [ELIQUIS.COM](http://ELIQUIS.COM)  
or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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432US14BR00451-01-01 04/14



**Eliquis**®  
(apixaban) tablets 5mg  
2.5mg



## IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

**Rx ONLY**

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss).

### What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation: **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

**ELIQUIS can cause bleeding** which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

**You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS** and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

### While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

**Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:**

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often

- menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

**ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**

### Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma).

People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

### What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.

- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery.

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

### Who should not take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

#### Do not take ELIQUIS if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

### What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

**Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:**

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have any surgery, medical or dental procedure.

**Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.** Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

### How should I take ELIQUIS?

**Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor.** Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do

not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS (apixaban). Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

### What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See "What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"

- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- chest pain or tightness
- swelling of your face or tongue
- trouble breathing or wheezing
- feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to [www.ELIQUIS.com](http://www.ELIQUIS.com).

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This independent, non-profit organization provides assistance to qualifying patients with financial hardship who generally have no prescription insurance. Contact 1-800-736-0003 or visit [www.bmspa.org](http://www.bmspa.org) for more information.

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March 2014  
432U514BR00770-04-01



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SEEN**

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# Contents

THIS OLD HOUSE AUGUST 2014

## The Great TOH Giveaway

### 14 \$728,840.12 in prizes!

Check out the complete list of giveaway products in this issue

### idea file

### 28 before + after: kitchen

A culinary couple creates the roomy, functional cook space they had a taste for

### 35 before + after: bath

A gut reno brings style, comfort, and coherence to a muddled master bath

### 41 before + after: front yard

Storm damage is the catalyst for turning unused space into a colorful, secluded garden hangout

### 53 Photoshop redo

Period touches put an aging Queen Anne right

### 66 looks small, lives large

After a whole-house reno, a cottage emerges with an updated—and expanded—interior, seaside charm intact

### 74 timeless treasure

Tour a glorious garden with a “been there forever” look

### 82 9 secrets of cottage style

Tips from an interior designer that will perk up any room's personality



BEFORE + AFTER:  
BATH



BEFORE + AFTER:  
FRONT YARD



9 SECRETS  
OF COTTAGE  
STYLE



p. 14

pp. 88,  
61



# Contents

THIS OLD HOUSE AUGUST 2014



## Watch videos and see more photos!

Now on the iPad, the Nook, and other select tablets. Available at [thisoldhouse.com/tablet](http://thisoldhouse.com/tablet) and iTunes.



**66**  
LOOKS SMALL,  
LIVES LARGE



**95**  
ASK THIS  
OLD HOUSE

THIS OLD HOUSE ©2014  
THIS OLD HOUSE VENTURES INC. AUGUST 2014



**56**  
GET THIS LOOK  
FOR LESS

**19**  
HOME  
SOLUTIONS



## home solutions

- 19** Repurpose ladders as shelf supports; mosquito facts you're itching to know; alfresco mason-jar chandelier; tips for late-summer veggie gardening; budget-friendly office alcove; and more

## upgrades

- 47 shopping**  
Vintage style, pick your price
- 56 get this look for less**  
Well-traveled terrace
- 88 all about**  
Front entry lighting

## how-to projects

- 45 paint ideas** Stair risers get a vibrant style step-up
- 58 animal house** Your dog will have it made in the shade lounging in a canopied outdoor bed you made yourself
- 61 weekend remodel**  
Give your garage's facade a tune-up with a DIY pergola

## ask this old house

- 95 Q + A** Turn dirt and stump grindings into rich compost; rebuild a walkway that will last; smooth out a bumpy plaster job; make a cabinet's old hardware screw holes vanish; and more
- 98 step-by-step**  
Mini-split system
- 102 Norm's tricks of the trade** Finesse a prebuilt interior wall into place

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 9** letter from This Old House
- 10** reader mail
- 16** checklist
- 104** directory
- 110** save this old house



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## Get something for nothing? You betcha

**W**e've got a long history of helping out here at *This Old House*. Not only have we been aiding homeowners on our flagship TV show for three and a half decades, the TOH staff has also spent the past 14 years participating in HomeFront, a daylong volunteer effort to help disadvantaged but deserving homeowners restore a little livability to the place they, well, live. A few weeks ago, our staff gathered on a Saturday to help a hardworking great-grandmother in Norwalk, Connecticut, rejuvenate a small deck, install a new vanity and water heater, and replace tired and overgrown landscaping with new shrubs and perennials.

Though such events aren't without the occasional sunburn, blister, or hammered thumb (or, if you're like me, all three), they're great days. And this year it was a bit less painful, thanks to Advil, which not only sponsored the event but also provided actual, practical relief in the form of over-the-counter aid to a few folks. For that, we are grateful. You can see pictures of the TOH crew at work on HomeFront day at [thisoldhouse.com/homefront](http://thisoldhouse.com/homefront).

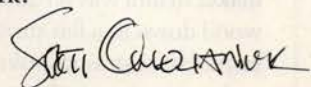
Now, there's another way we like to help out, too, and that's with this issue, the Great TOH Giveaway. That's giveaway. As in prizes. For free.

What started out just a few years ago as a modest sweepstakes to win some \$30,000 worth of product has blossomed into a full-grown phenomenon, with hundreds of thousands of people clicking boxes millions of times to get their hands on the goods they need to make their homes a better place. And this year that's \$728,000 in goods, to be exact. Actually, if I were being truly exact it would be \$728,840.12. But you get the idea.

That huge dollar number is a testament to the TOH reader. So valuable do manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers find your passion for home improvement that they're anxious to get their products in front of you any way they can.

And we're not talking about trinkets, either. Our terrific long-term partners DaVinci Roofscapes and Simonton Windows, for example, are giving away \$75,000 and nearly \$50,000 of product, respectively. American Standard is ready to ship out more than \$55,000 worth of bathroom and kitchen necessities to winners. And there are dozens more products, from Clopay garage doors to TimberTech decking and railings to Unico small-duct HVAC to engineered siding from BarkClad to window treatments from The Shade Store to, my favorite, steam showers from both Steamist and Mr. Steam.

You can even win trips from the American Queen Steamboat Company and CroisiEurope, which is great because, as we all know, the only thing better than getting free stuff for your remodel is being able to take a vacation from the remodel work!

  
SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR  
[scott@thisoldhouse.com](mailto:scott@thisoldhouse.com)



For the editor, the Great TOH Giveaway is like giving presents to lots of readers.



### How to enter the Great TOH Giveaway

Download the free Blippar app from your app store and scan any page with the icon shown above to start the entry process. Or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](http://thisoldhouse.com/win). See page 14 for details.





PRESENTS

# Kitchen Solutions

An all-new online mini-series from the producers of *This Old House*!



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# Reader mail



**FAMILY STRIKES A DEEP CHORD**  
*with TOH folks, as we saw in the heartfelt responses to the editor's advice to his young son, in his June 2014 column. Plus: One reader looks forward to a project, while another sees her dream remodel come true.*

## Home-improvement legacies

Re editor Scott Omelianuk's Letter From *This Old House*, June 2014: I'm writing to thank Scott for helping me to realize my three little boys will be adults soon, but they will always be my little men—a difficult thought, but deeply insightful. Thank you for inspiring me to get over not knowing how to do it all and to learn in front of them, teach them along the way that mistakes are part of the process, get over the pride of perfection, and enjoy the presence of those little helping hands.

—JAMIE SMITH, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

My advice to my daughter: (1) Treat a house like it will be your home forever, especially when you know it won't. (2) Owning a house doesn't mean you own the neighborhood. (3) Girls can do anything boys can.

—DAVE VAN DER WIEL, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO

My father taught woodworking and cabinetmaking for 30 years. His father and grandfather were carpenters. He has a great depth of knowledge. He can be the best asset in the world and your toughest critic. Recently he helped me build a kitchen island using rough-sawn heart pine from an old barn. I know the cabinet-maker in him was screaming to plane the wood down to a flat surface, but he held back. His restraint spoke volumes.

I am now a teacher of culinary arts. I teach people every day a set of skills

they can use to create something. I am glad I grew up in a household that respected the skills of a craftsman. It has shaped everything I have done.

—JEFFREY BUTLER, WEST ORANGE, N.J.

## Easy carrier

Thanks for the instructions on the garden-tool tote [Build It or Buy It, June 2014, or find it at [thisoldhouse.com/aug2014](http://thisoldhouse.com/aug2014)]. It is something even I can build! Another fantastic issue.

—SUSAN MCGLOIN, BY E-MAIL

## Wish book to dream home

I have been cutting out pages from *TOH* for years, saving ideas for my perfect house. Last year, my dream came true when my husband agreed we should do a major gut job on our 60-plus-year-old vacation home. His greatest gift to me was letting me make all the decisions. Now I love the house. Everywhere I look I can visualize pages out of *TOH*: the window seat with storage, the coffee/wine bar, the deck off the upstairs master. My husband said, "This is a pretty neat house. You did a great job." So thanks to him for trusting me to rebuild our home and to *TOH* for the wonderful ideas and suggestions.

—LYNDA DIXON, MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.

## HOW TO REACH US

The editors: E-mail [TOH\\_letters@thisoldhouse.com](mailto:TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com). Please include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.



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## ALISON THOMPSON

Alison is co-founder of WeAdvance.org, a movement to enhance the well-being of women throughout Haiti.

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# ENTER *every day* FOR MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

*Scan the pages listed below and submit your entry once a day for the duration of the sweepstakes. Here are the prizes you'll find throughout this issue*

## Page 16

→ One (1) voucher redeemable toward TimberTech products. Does not include labor or installation (ARV: \$25,000)

## Page 23

→ Two (2) American Queen Steamboat Company cruise packages for two people: one (1) for nine days and eight nights on the American Empress (MSRP: \$9,590) and one (1) for nine days and eight nights on the American Queen (MSRP: \$8,200) (Combined MSRP: \$17,790)  
→ One (1) 10-night Croatian vacation for two, including a seven-night cruise, from CroisiEurope (ARV: \$10,000)

## Page 30

→ Four (4) Sonos Ultimate Home Music Experience wireless speaker packages (ARV: \$2,543 each; \$10,172 combined)

## Page 32

→ Four (4) vouchers toward flooring from Lumber Liquidators (ARV: \$2,500 each; \$10,000 combined)

## Page 37

→ Eleven (11) kitchen and bath packages from American Standard: one (1) 34-piece Master Bath Spa Suite package (MSRP: \$18,204); three (3) 11-piece Home-Starter Packages (MSRP: \$1,787, \$2,017, and \$3,235); one (1) 14-piece Home-Starter Package (MSRP: \$5,944); two (2) 16-piece master bath packages (MSRP: \$6,731 and \$9,152); two (2) six-piece powder room packages (MSRP: \$1,131 and \$1,228); one (1) five-piece powder room package (MSRP: \$1,861); and one (1) eight-piece kitchen faucet and sink package (MSRP: \$3,711) (Combined MSRP: \$55,001)

## Page 38

→ One (1) Liebherr 60-inch side-by-side refrigerator (MSRP: \$12,000)  
→ One (1) Bertazzoni appliance suite, including 36-inch gas range, stainless backsplash, range hood, speed oven, and griddle (MSRP: \$10,110)  
→ Fifteen (15) T-fal Dream Kitchen Makeover Prize Packs (MSRP: \$672.83 each; \$10,092.45 combined)  
→ Two (2) Bona hardwood floor

makeovers, including sanding and finishing, by Bona-selected contractors (ARV: up to \$5,000 each; \$10,000 combined)

→ Five (5) sets of Bormioli Rocco Italian glassware (MSRP: \$2,000 each; \$10,000 combined)  
→ Seven (7) Panasonic Eco Solutions bath-fan packages: two (2) Luxury Bath (MSRP: \$1,604 each); one (1) IAQ (MSRP: \$1,670); one (1) Remodeling (MSRP: \$1,079); two (2) Energy Efficient (MSRP: \$1,808 each); and one (1) Quiet (MSRP: \$557) (Combined MSRP: \$10,130)  
→ Ten (10) \$1,000 OXO shopping sprees (MSRP: \$1,000 each; \$10,000 combined)  
→ One (1) Big Chill appliance package, including a refrigerator, 30-inch stove, hood, and delivery (MSRP: \$10,015)  
→ Four (4) vouchers toward a Wilsonart kitchen laminate countertop makeover, including edging and installation (MSRP: \$2,500 each; \$10,000 combined)

## Page 42

→ Two (2) custom front-yard redesigns by TOH's landscape editor and master gardener (ARV: \$5,000 each; \$10,000 combined)

## Page 53

→ Three (3) packages of DaVinci Roofscapes BellaForté Shake or Slate polymer roofing tile, including freight (ARV: \$25,000 each; \$75,000 combined)  
→ Three (3) packages of Simonton Windows vinyl replacement windows and patio doors (ARV: \$16,666 each; \$49,998 combined)

## Page 56

→ One (1) pair of gift certificates from Mission Stone & Tile to be used toward select materials (ARV: \$8,000) and shipping (ARV: \$2,000) (Combined ARV: \$10,000)

## Page 64

→ Seven (7) prize packages from Clopay's Coachman garage door collection (ARV: \$3,600 each; \$25,200 combined)

## Page 71

→ Five (5) gift certificates toward window treatments from The

Shade Store (ARV: \$5,000 each; \$25,000 combined)

## Page 72

→ Two (2) Mr. Steam spa packages: one (1) Bathroom Spa Makeover (MSRP: \$20,295) and one (1) Affordable Steam@Home (MSRP: \$5,630) (Combined MSRP: \$25,925)  
→ Eight hundred sixty-three (863) Leviton AFCI receptacles (MSRP: \$28.99 each; \$25,018.37 combined)

## Page 81

→ Two (2) packages of BarkClad SmartBark Engineered Poplar Bark Siding, including shipping up to \$1,000 (ARV: \$13,500 each; \$27,000 combined)

## Page 85

→ Fifty (50) packages containing one (1) Gtech AirRAM cordless vacuum cleaner and one (1) Gtech Multi handheld vacuum (MSRP: \$499.95 each; \$24,997.50 combined)

## Page 86

→ Three (3) Steamist Total Sense Home Spa Systems (MSRP: \$8,355 each; \$25,065 combined)

## Page 91

→ Ninety (90) prize packages from Lutron, including: ten (10) Caseta Home Packages (MSRP: \$390 each); five (5) Serena Battery Powered Shades (MSRP: \$500 each); twenty-five (25) Maestro Occupancy Sensor Dimmers with Faceplates (MSRP: \$60 each); and fifty (50) C.L. Dimmers with Faceplates (MSRP: \$45) (Combined MSRP: \$10,150)

## Page 96

→ One hundred (100) \$100 gift cards good toward the purchase of merchandise on carhartt.com (ARV: \$100 each; \$10,000 combined)

## Page 100

→ Twenty-six (26) Elephantrunk parcel drops from Architectural Mailboxes (MSRP: \$399 each; \$10,374 combined)  
→ Seventeen (17) prizes from Broan-NuTone: one (1) BEST Colonne Range Hood (MSRP: \$1,980); one (1) BEST Eclipse Range Hood (MSRP: \$1,645); one (1) BEST Harmonia

Range Hood (MSRP: \$1,890); seven (7) Broan ULTRA Pro Fans (MSRP: \$260 each); seven (7) Broan ULTRA Pro Fan/Lights (MSRP: \$390 each) (Combined MSRP: \$10,065)

→ Thirty-four (34) Wayne Water Systems Sump Minders with one battery (MSRP: \$735 each; \$24,990 combined)  
→ Three (3) Cannon Safe packages containing one (1) Home Series safe and one (1) TV Mount wall safe (MSRP: \$3,450; \$10,350 combined)

## Page 101

→ Two (2) packages of Festool power tools and accessories (MSRP: \$6,006.80 each; \$12,013.60 combined)  
→ Three (3) certificates from Hearth & Home Technologies, good toward the purchase and installation of a Heatilator gas fireplace or gas fireplace insert (ARV: \$3,500 each; \$10,500 combined)  
→ Three (3) Mitsubishi single-zone M-Series split-ductless residential heating and cooling systems, including installation by a Mitsubishi Electric-certified contractor (ARV: \$3,500 each; \$10,500 combined)  
→ Five (5) Nuheat electric floor-heating packages, including one (1) Nuheat Custom mat up to 110 square feet and one (1) Nuheat Signature Wi-Fi-enabled thermostat (ARV: \$2,000 each; \$10,000 combined)  
→ Fifty-three (53) Brisa retractable screen doors from ODL (MSRP: \$189 each; \$10,017 combined)  
→ Ten (10) Rheem tank-type water heater packages and installation (ARV: \$1,100 each; \$11,000 combined)  
→ One (1) Unico iSeries mini-duct heating and cooling system, including high-velocity air handler, outdoor inverter unit, ductwork, and system design, not including installation (MSRP: up to \$25,000)  
→ Twenty-six (26) Schlage packages each containing two (2) Touchscreen Deadbolts (MSRP: \$398 each; \$10,348 combined)  
→ One hundred eighteen (118) prize packages from EnduroShield, including protective treatments for glass and for tile and grout (MSRP: \$84.90 each; \$10,018.20 combined)



# Checklist

AUGUST 2014

*Easy ways to  
improve your home  
right now*

## 6 FAST FIXES

☐ **Keep compost active:** If it gets too dry, the essential bacteria can die. Turn once a week to distribute moisture.

☐ **Maintain dryer ducts:** Lint that gets trapped in ducts poses a risk for fire. Remove each end of the duct and vacuum with a wet/dry vac.

☐ **Wash window coverings:** Outdoor irritants like pollen may have built up on curtains after a season of open windows. Have all drapes washed or dry-cleaned.

☐ **Prevent powdery mildew:** Thin out crowded branches to increase air circulation. If signs are already there, pick off affected parts and throw in the trash to avoid inviting spores back into your garden.



☐ **Plant fall crocuses:** The saffron crocus (shown) will bloom in 6 to 8 weeks; the spice can be harvested for cooking by removing the bright red stigmas at the center.

☐ **Eliminate pest magnets:** Move items touching your house's siding, like firewood, tools, and toys, which create a haven for bugs and mice.

## ☒ **Inspect your deck**

After months of outdoor entertaining, it's a good idea to give your deck a once-over. Tighten any loose connections, and replace corroded fasteners. Check for split or decaying wood, paying special attention to areas that tend to be damp. Try puncturing soft-looking wood with a screwdriver; if you can drive it in  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, the wood may be rotted. Call in a pro or make any necessary repairs yourself right away.



## ☐ **Edge garden beds**

Maintaining a pocket of air between your grass and mulch will keep weeds from hopping the barrier (and make mowing closely easier). Freshen up garden-bed edges by digging a trench 4 to 5 inches deep using a half-moon edger. But take care not to toss the soil back into the bed—stray pieces of grass could take root.

## ☐ **Prep your home for vacation**

Going out of town for more than a week? Make sure you don't return to any nasty surprises by planning in advance: **1\_** Turn the thermostat up to 85 degrees F to decrease cooling costs. **2\_** Turn off the main water valve and turn down the temp of your water heater to a low or VACATION setting. **3\_** Throw out perishables in the fridge. **4\_** Set lights on timers and have a friend or neighbor collect your mail.



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in prizes!**

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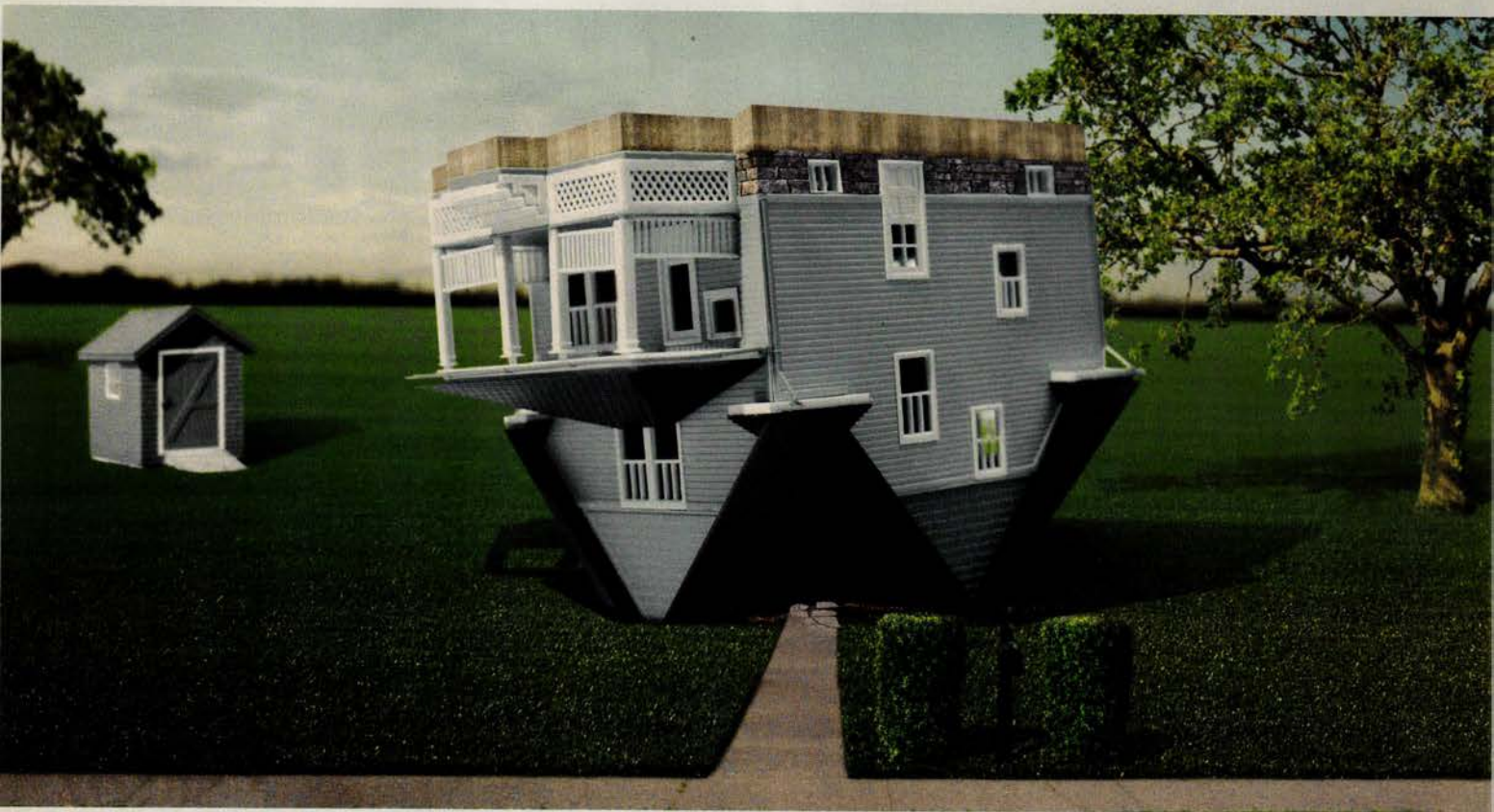
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# home solutions

Edited by Michelle Brunner

INSIDE CLEVER IDEA GARDENING REDO ADVICE HEALTHY HOME MORE

Add a hit of color (like Glad Yellow from Sherwin-Williams) to the top shelf.

## New life for old ladders

Combining rustic charm with unexpected functionality, freestanding ladder shelves are a stylish, airy alternative to traditional bookcases or display cabinets. You can get the look by repurposing old ladders you have on hand or Craigslist finds (ours started at \$9). To make shelves, cut 2×12 planks to size and paint, then secure them by drilling deck screws through the underside of the rungs. If one ladder is taller, shim up the shelf on the short side with blocks or books to level it. Line up your favorite objects, and you've got a display piece that's a step up from off-the-shelf.





## DIY mason-jar pendant

Old-school canning jars are good for lots more than putting up peaches. We used the versatile vessels to make the porch-worthy outdoor chandelier at right. The ingredients: 14 pint-size jars, two stainless-steel canning racks wired together, and lengths of chain attached to the top rack with four evenly spaced link connectors. To hang, secure an eye hook into a support beam overhead, add some heavy-duty chain, and attach the chandelier's chains with a sturdy hook. Place remote-control LED votives (\$20 for four; pier1.com) inside the upside-down jar lids, twist on the glass jars, and position on the racks. Now you've got ambience—at the touch of a button. —M. BRUNNER

Ball Heritage blue pint jar, \$13 for a set of six; [freshpreservingstore.com](http://freshpreservingstore.com)



## Sow cool-season crops now

Think you missed out on having homegrown veggies because you didn't plant in spring? Mid-to-late summer is actually a great time to get seeds in the ground for a fall harvest. The warmer weather encourages germination, and there's plenty of time for plants to mature before frost. To know when to plant, check soil temperature using a soil thermometer (\$12; [johnnyseeds.com](http://johnnyseeds.com)) a few hours after sunrise. And be vigilant about watering. Budding crops need an inch of water a week. For repeat harvests, sow seeds two to three weeks apart. Here are four veggies to start this month. —KATELIN HILL



### Swiss Chard

WEEKS TO HARVEST 6–8\*

OPTIMUM SOIL TEMP FOR GERMINATION 86°F



### Beets

WEEKS TO HARVEST 8–10\*

OPTIMUM SOIL TEMP FOR GERMINATION 86°F

### Spinach

WEEKS TO HARVEST 6–10\*

OPTIMUM SOIL TEMP FOR GERMINATION 75°F



### Carrots

WEEKS TO HARVEST 10–12\*

OPTIMUM SOIL TEMP FOR GERMINATION 77°F



\*Time to maturity adjusted to account for fall's shorter days.



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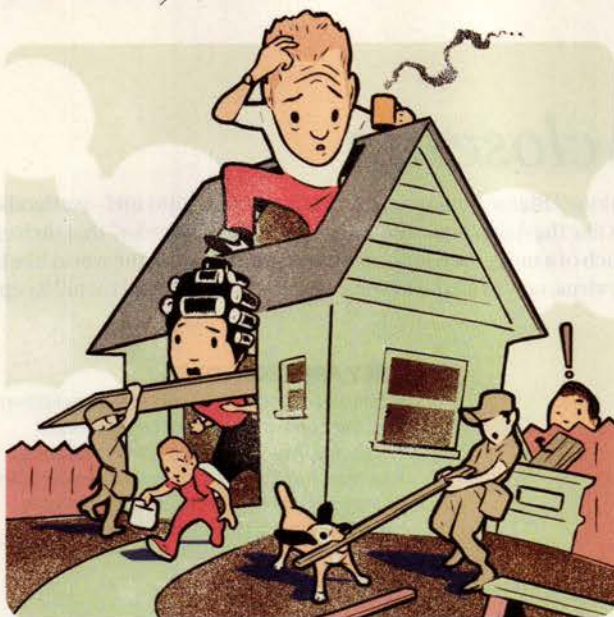
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## Four surprising reno stressors

You've heard about broken budgets and shady contractors, but other headaches can catch you off guard during a renovation. Below, a few unexpected hassles—and how to cope.

—KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS



**1 Anxious pets** If your pooch doesn't like strangers, he's definitely not going to enjoy heavy-booted contractors tromping around his turf. Angie Hicks, founder of the service-provider referral network Angie's List, has a simple fix: "Send him to a kennel. Or, even better, to stay with a trustworthy family member."

**2 Cranky neighbors** "People have a proprietary feeling about their street, so it's worth giving everyone on your block a heads-up about your project—especially if you're installing a dumpster or if the crew is going to take up valuable parking spaces," says Robert Degni, a New York-based contractor. Also, construction is noisy. The last thing you need is your neighbor, who was asleep after working the graveyard shift, calling the police.

**3 Dust—everywhere** "Plaster dust travels on the thinnest current of air. It can even get into your electronics and destroy them," warns Degni. He recommends isolating the construction area with portable plastic barriers (ZipWall ZipDoor kit, \$40; homedepot.com). Another tip: "Keep a wet towel or rag near the entrance so that people don't track grime or dust into the rest of the house."

**4 Comings and goings** Consider your usual day before arranging a work schedule with your contractor. "For example, ask the crew to not show up before 9 A.M. if you need to get the kids out the door," Hicks says. If the work is especially onerous, it might even be worth getting out of town for a bit or booking a short-term rental.

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**\$17,790**

One of two prize packages (worth \$9,590 and \$8,200 each) of a nine-day, eight-night cruise for two from **American Queen Steamboat Company**



**\$10,000**

One 10-night Croatian vacation package for two, including a seven-night cruise, from **CroisiEurope**



# The mosquito, in close-up

Why can't these evil buzzing buggers just leave us alone? Blame humans encroaching on mosquito turf—wetlands and salt marshes paved for second homes and suburban sprawl—and arrivistes like the Asian tiger mosquito, a “container breeder” that thrives in damp tires and yard toys. Mosquitoes are short on predators, not offering much of a meal, even for bats. But few quests unite the world like the mission to stomp out itch-inducing insects that spread disease, like West Nile virus, now in all the lower 48 states. Want to avoid them? Keep reading. —DEBORAH BALDWIN

## THEY DON'T ALL BITE

A male mosquito won't poke you with its proboscis, but females need blood to procreate. They pick up on the carbon dioxide in exhaled breath; the larger the person, the more CO<sub>2</sub>. They are also drawn to fashionable black, navy, and red clothing and to quick movements like fidgeting (or swatting). Scientists are still studying why mosquitoes find some people tastier than others; body chemicals, like lactic acid in sweat, are factors.

## THEY ARE LOCAVORES

While an occasional species has been known to travel tens of miles, most mosquitoes (including imports) traffic within a radius of less than three miles. Container breeders like to stay put within a backyard stocked with puddle-inducing clutter and bare skin.

## How to beat 'em

### ▶ AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Patch screens and window cracks, dump standing water, and avoid the outdoors at peak biting time, usually dusk to dawn. Wear loose, light-colored clothes—they can bite through skintight fabric.

### ▶ RELIABLE REPELLENTS

DEET, which seems to disable mosquitoes' homing apparatus, is considered the gold standard. A 25 to 30 percent solution, applied all over, except around eyes, mouth, and nostrils, lasts up to 5 hours. (It goes on top of sunscreen.) Odiferous lemon-eucalyptus sprays, applied about every 2 hours, work well, and clothes impregnated with the insecticide permethrin will ward off skeeters too. Lanterns that waft pyrethroids (synthetic versions of plant-derived insecticides) may work as long as the air is still. Forget taking vitamin B or setting up a bug zapper or burning citronella candles (hungry mosquitoes will simply fly around the plume). But do set up a fan—they hate a strong breeze.

### ▶ FATAL ATTRACTION?

Mosquitoes live on plant nectar, inspiring sugary baits. One new pro-only service aims to reel them in with sugar-encapsulated garlic oil, which the company says is toxic to the little biters.

## THEY CRAVE WATER

You won't hear mosquitoes complain about climate change: More rain means more moist areas where they can lurk until sundown, like Count Dracula. (Though mosquitoes hate full sun, tiger mosquitoes will bite by day and, creepily, under a full moon.) Standing water is a skeeter sanctuary, be it in gutters, soggy fire pits, plant saucers, or wrinkles in a tarp thrown over a log pile.

## THEY HAVE TRAINED NOSES

Mosquitoes zigzag like sharks, sniffing for target giveaways like CO<sub>2</sub> and the bacteria found in smelly socks (and, oddly, Limburger cheese). Tiger mosquitoes actually prefer ankles and calves—the drumsticks, so to speak. For some of the 160 identified species in the U.S., no human will do. In Florida, types carrying the West Nile virus have zeroed in on smelly alligators (and done some of them in).





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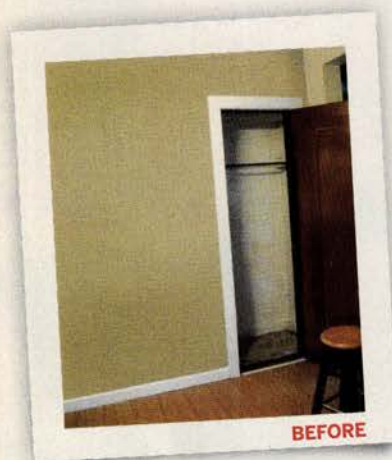


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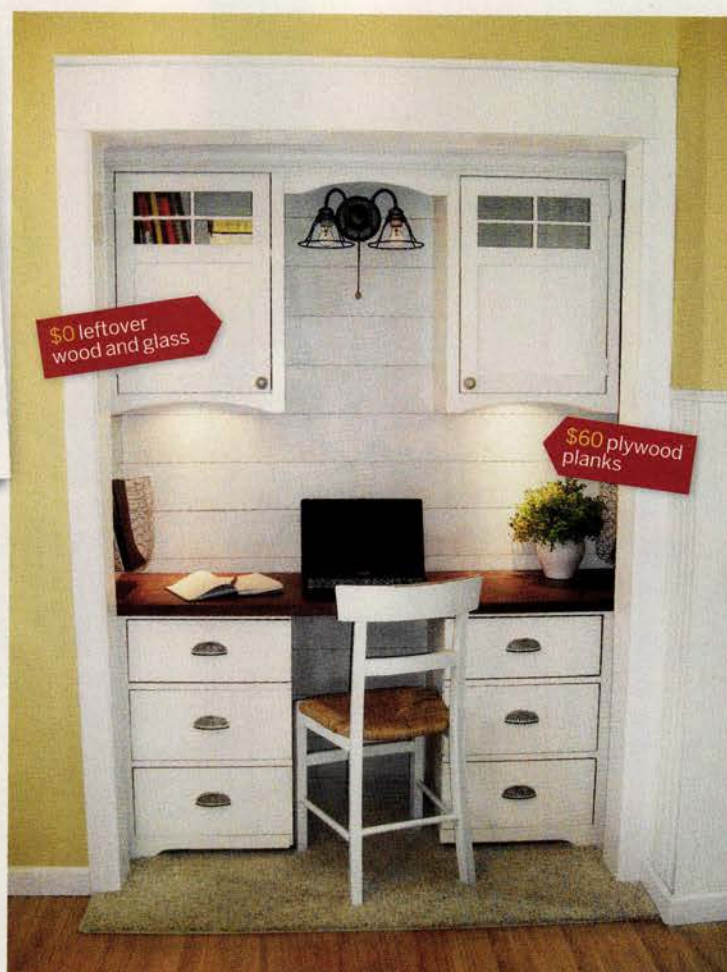
# An office alcove for \$209

Opening up a little-used closet creates a compact work area in a space-starved family home



BEFORE

**BEFORE** The wide closet had a narrow doorway, making it a tricky storage spot with a lot of wasted space. **AFTER** Opening up the closet helped give the family access to more precious floor space. Planked walls and a desk finished with bin pulls fit with the home's Craftsman cottage look. Six drawers and two upper cabinets offer plenty of room for stashing school supplies and paperwork.



\$0 leftover wood and glass

\$60 plywood planks

## THE PROJECT TALLY

Removed the closet wall to make an open nook.....\$0

Covered the walls, ceiling, and floor with plywood cut into planks.....\$60

Added an area rug underfoot, cut to fit the shape of the space.....\$15

Cut out the middle section of a dresser to create a desk, then painted it and added new hardware.....\$75

Mounted secondhand cabinet boxes and attached doors made with lumber scraps and some of the home's original glass.....\$1

Wired in undercabinet lighting and a vintage-look sconce purchased secondhand.....\$18

Painted all the cabinets, and stained the desktop.....\$40

Cased the opening of the office alcove using leftover plywood, MDF scraps, and the wall's old baseboards.....\$0

**TOTAL.....\$209**

**TIGHT QUARTERS OFTEN INSPIRE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.** Just ask Carrie Gray, who dreamed up this charming office nook after years of having only a single drawer in which to store supplies and lesson plans for homeschooling her four children. To create a workspace in their small 1914 bungalow, in Chardon, Ohio, veteran DIYers Carrie and her husband, Mark, cleared out a wide catch-all closet in the family's dining room and cut away the wall beside the door to open up the recess. Finding the closet's plaster in rough shape and not wanting to invest the time or money for a redo, Mark used a nail gun to attach 6-inch planks of plywood to the walls, ceiling, and floor; then Carrie painted them white. Mark added an area rug underfoot, cut to fit the space. To make a perfect-size desk from a secondhand dresser, he cut out the middle drawers to create knee room; Carrie painted the base white, and Mark added new cottage-style bin pulls and reattached the top. After wiring in a new sconce, Mark installed two wall cabinets made from old cabinet boxes, leftover lumber, and 100-year-old glass taken from their kitchen in a previous remodel. To finish the nook, he trimmed the opening using leftover plywood, baseboards, and MDF. Now, Carrie says, "It's the one space that I have to myself in the house, and I love it." —MEGAN BAKER



# Let's make today fun.



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Go  
Places

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# Busted open, brightened up

Taking down walls cleared the way for a free-flowing space fit for two cooks, two kids, plus party guests BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX HAYDEN

→ **OPEN UP THREE SPACES** arranged like a barbell and suddenly you've got breathing room. For 10 years, Michael and Susan Assadi, serious cooks, parents of two young children, and owners of a 1924 house in Seattle, fought a skinny little kitchen that had a breakfast room stuck at one end and a dismal den at the other. The kitchen had an electric cooktop with a downdraft vent embedded in a traffic-slowing peninsula, and not enough storage or prep space.

Finally, Michael, an engineer, tapped his computer-assisted design skills to help solve the problem, deleting walls at either end and a door to the basement in the middle. Working with cabinet designer Lisa Wilson and her design-build firm, the couple gutted all three rooms, added insulation, pipes, wiring, and ductwork, and reorganized the layout so that two could cook at once. The den became a dining and homework spot, and the breakfast room an airy walk-in pantry. "The island gives us extra prep space," says Michael, "and when guests arrive we simply wheel it to one side." Boom—room for everyone.

**BEFORE** It was a challenge for two people to cook and keep an eye on the kids.

**AFTER** Opened up at each end, the kitchen has a cleanup zone on one side, prep and cooking space on the other, and an island floating at the middle. Island: Crate & Barrel. Pendant lights: Restoration Hardware









• **before + after:**  
**kitchen**



**\$10,172  
in prizes!**

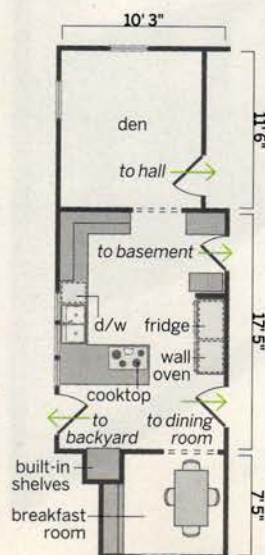
Blipp this page or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](http://thisoldhouse.com/win) for a chance to win one of four multi-room wireless sound systems from **Sonos**. See page 14 for details.



A library-ladder rail runs between two rows of upper cabinets. Twin wall ovens and a pro-style cooktop with a pot filler and a stainless-steel-tile backsplash make meal prep a breeze. Cooktop: Wolf. Wall ovens: GE. Tile: Eden Mosaic. Range hood: Vent-a-Hood

## before

The kitchen was small and trapped between rooms.



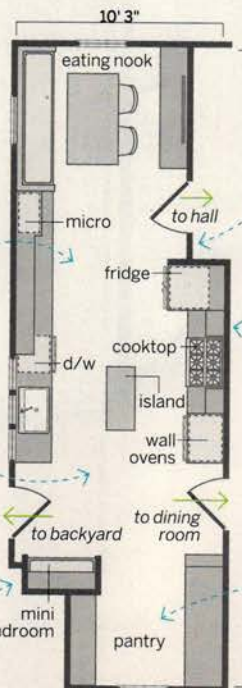
## after

A 360-square-foot open plan holds the new kitchen, eating nook, pantry, even a mini mudroom.

1] Removed a wall to open the space and allow the eating nook to move to the former den.

2] Eliminated the peninsula, making way for a small island.

3] Tucked a mudroom built-in behind the back door.



4] Rejiggered this area, relocating access to the basement and removing a partition wall next to the old fridge.

5] Added prep space (and a gas line) to serve the relocated cooktop.

6] Took out a wall and cased opening to the breakfast room to create a wide-open pantry.





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• **before + after:**  
**kitchen**

Banquette seating and built-in storage maximize space in the eating nook. Cabinets: Canyon Creek Cabinet Company

A niche for the microwave gives it a built-in look. The custom appliance garage has its own outlets and a stainless-steel roll-down door.



**homeowner tip** MICHAEL ASSADI, SEATTLE

"To keep our galley kitchen from looking like a bowling alley, we ran beadboard across the ceiling, perpendicular to the floorboards, to help the room feel wider."



**\$10,000  
in prizes!**

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ABOVE: The mini mudroom has hooks, drawers, and baskets to catch bags and outerwear just inside the heavily trafficked back door. LEFT: The former breakfast room became a spacious walk-in pantry with a hutch-like built-in. During parties it becomes a bar. Knobs and pulls: Schaub and Company





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# Designed to pamper

A master retreat gains comfort and function with sleek finishes and a streamlined layout BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN GILMORE



**BEFORE**

**BEFORE** The bath had a disjointed, uninviting feel. **AFTER** Reflective finishes and a new layout make the same-size space feel roomier and more luxurious, with touches like an air-bubble soaking tub and radiant floor heat timed to kick on at dawn. Chandelier: Schonbek

➔ **A MASTER BATH** should help to usher you smoothly out the door in the morning and back into a state of grace by day's end. But when Bridget and Joe Alexander, both with busy full-time jobs, cracked open the door to the old bath in their Edina, Minnesota, home, they winced. "It was dark," Bridget recalls, with a whirlpool tub that was beginning to fizzle and perpendicular sinks that put the couple at odds. To make the bath more seductive—and useful—they asked designer Paul Knutson and general contractor Ben Quie to gut and revamp the space while making it feel more at one with the bedroom. "We wanted to open the door and see a beautiful fixture," Bridget says. The team widened the doorway to frame a pedestal soaking tub set off by a marble-tile "rug" and a ceiling recess finished with silver leaf highlighting a glass chandelier. A double vanity has the run of one wall, and a double shower enclosed in frameless glass and mosaic tile occupies the far corner. Recessed lights and sconces help brighten the room, as do frosted-glass French doors and a soft palette that carries over into the bedroom. "Now we have a spa-like space that's calming and pleasant to be in," says Bridget. "And in the morning we can both be there without getting in each other's way."



• **before + after:**  
**bath**

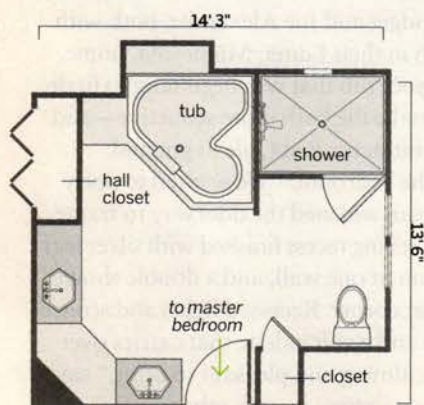


The double vanity offers maneuvering space and clutter-busting storage.

Vanity: Aanes Furniture Company. Stool: Target

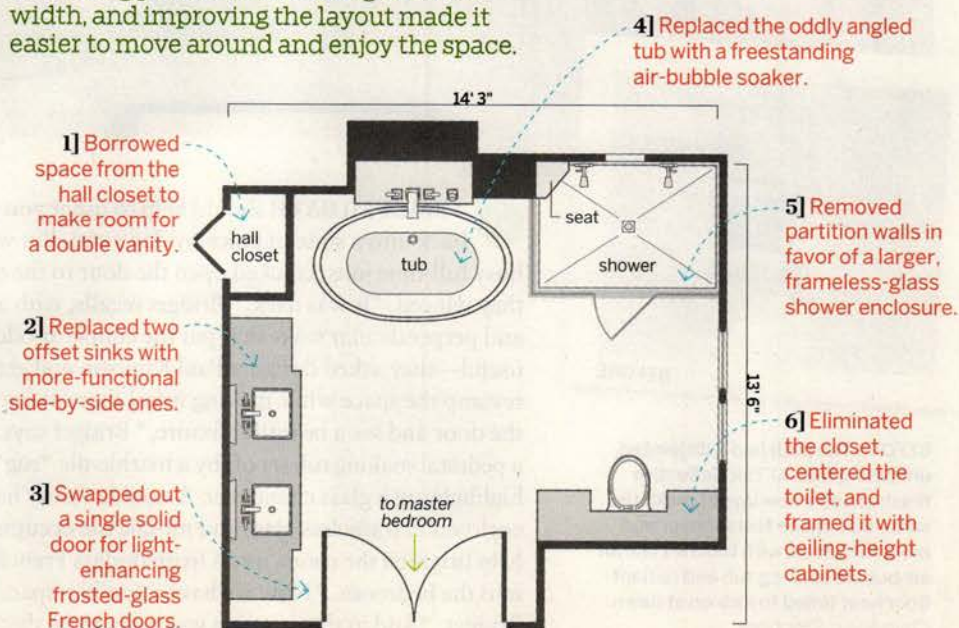
## before

Partition walls and poor lighting made the 190-square-foot bath feel dark and crowded.



## after

Removing partitions, doubling the door width, and improving the layout made it easier to move around and enjoy the space.



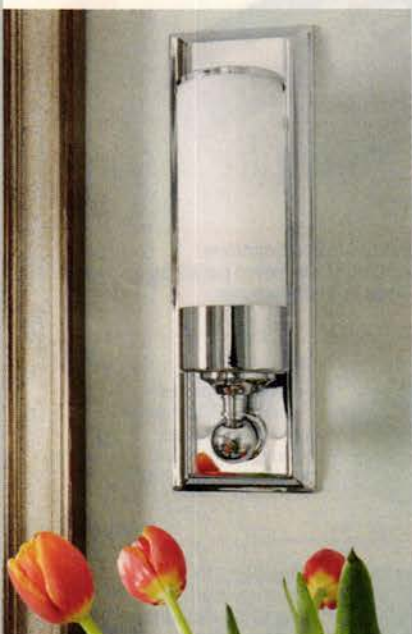


Traditional cabinets with oversize crown molding and furniture-style feet balance the clean, unadorned look of the shower enclosure.

*Door: Simpson*

Sconces and recessed lighting over the vanity ensure even light for shaving and makeup.

*Sconce: Restoration Hardware*



### homeowner tip

BRIDGET ALEXANDER  
EDINA, MINN.

**"To amp up the light, we used lots of reflective glass—from the chandelier to the mirrors, shower enclosure, and mosaic tile."**



A rug-like inset of slip-resistant honed Calacatta marble with a mosaic border anchors the tub area and breaks up the scale and rhythm of the herringbone field tile. Mosaic floor tile: New Ravenna



A mix of marble and glass mosaic tile lines the shower enclosure.

Shower wall tile:  
Crossville. Teak  
and yellow stools:  
HomeGoods



### \$55,001 in prizes!

Blipp this page or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](http://thisoldhouse.com/win) for a chance to win one of 10 bath suites, from a powder room to a luxury master bath, or one semipro kitchen collection from **American Standard**. See page 14 for details.







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## PROJECT OF THE WEEK

### HOW TO BUILD A CEDAR ICE CHEST



Photo: Kolin Smith

That frosty summer beverage will taste even better after chilling in this DIY beauty. Built to house an off-the-shelf 50-quart plastic cooler, this cedar chest features a brass spigot to take the heavy lifting out of draining melted ice, a stainless-steel continuous hinge for the lid, and a classic bottle opener right out front.

We've even created a cut list to make easy work of cutting pieces for the lid, box and base, so it will only take a weekend to create this classic chest for your backyard.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for this—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

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## Kitchen and bath giveaways

Looking to upgrade these rooms at your house? We've got great prize packages for everything from kitchen appliances to bath fans to countertops to cooking gadgets. Check them out, below.



### \$92,347 in prizes!

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One \$12,000 60-inch side-by-side refrigerator, with quick-chill and quick-freeze functions, from **Liebherr**



One \$10,110 kitchen-appliance package from **Bertazzoni**, including a range, a wall oven, a stainless-steel backsplash, and a vent hood



\$10,130 in Eco Solutions bath-ventilation fans, seven packages in all, from **Panasonic**



\$10,092 in kitchen-supply packages (15 prizes worth more than \$600 each) from **T-fal**, including an indoor electric grill and a low-fat cooker



\$10,000 in gift cards—10 prizes worth \$1,000 each—good for kitchen gadgets and bath products from **OXO**



\$10,000 in wood-floor makeovers from **Bona**—two packages in all—including sanding, finishing, and sealing



One \$10,015 package from **Big Chill**, including a refrigerator, a 30-inch stove, and a range hood



\$10,000 in Italian glassware (five prize packages worth \$2,000 each) from **Bormioli Rocco**



\$10,000 in premium laminate kitchen countertops, installed (four prizes in all), from **Wilsonart**

→ **MORE GIVEAWAYS!** To check out all 1,500 prize packages in this issue, download the Blippar app to your smartphone or tablet, or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](http://thisoldhouse.com/win). Details on page 14.





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# Private and inviting

A revamped facade and lush border plantings deliver street-side charm BY ANN E. STRATTON + PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN

→ **FAVORITE** outdoor spaces usually have two things in common: comfy seating and a little screening. The front yard at Leni and Fred Wiener's lacked both. Add in heavy shade and the traffic of their New Rochelle, New York, neighborhood, and it's no surprise the couple went decades without using the space. But when a nor'easter took out a few old trees, they seized the chance to start over.

"The yard went from total shade to full sun," says Leni, who realized she now had a perfect site for the naturalistic garden she'd always wanted. Robert Welsch, a Tarrytown, New York-based landscape designer, pushed Leni's vision even further. His design—a smaller lawn with a circular gravel seating area, exuberant borders, and a low fence—gave the space purpose and privacy as well as beauty. When he suggested extending the house's front landing to tie it in to the garden, Leni was inspired to design a new portico and an art-glass transom and sidelights. A charcoal-gray roof followed, along with a darker paint palette that shows off the plantings. "The backyard is more secluded, but the front is more peaceful," says Leni. "When we close that gate, the space becomes ours. It's where we go to relax."

**BEFORE** The 1920s Dutch Colonial lacked privacy from a busy street. **AFTER** Flowers, shrubs, and a picket fence shield the homeowners from passersby without feeling unfriendly. Flagstones form a rustic path from the street to the front door.



BEFORE



• **before + after:**  
**front yard**

RIGHT: 'Limelight' hydrangeas, Ivory Halo dogwoods, and daylilies soften the street side of the fence. BELOW: The white portico echoes the arch of the new transom and pops against the gray siding. Paint (siding): Sherwin-Williams's Gibraltar



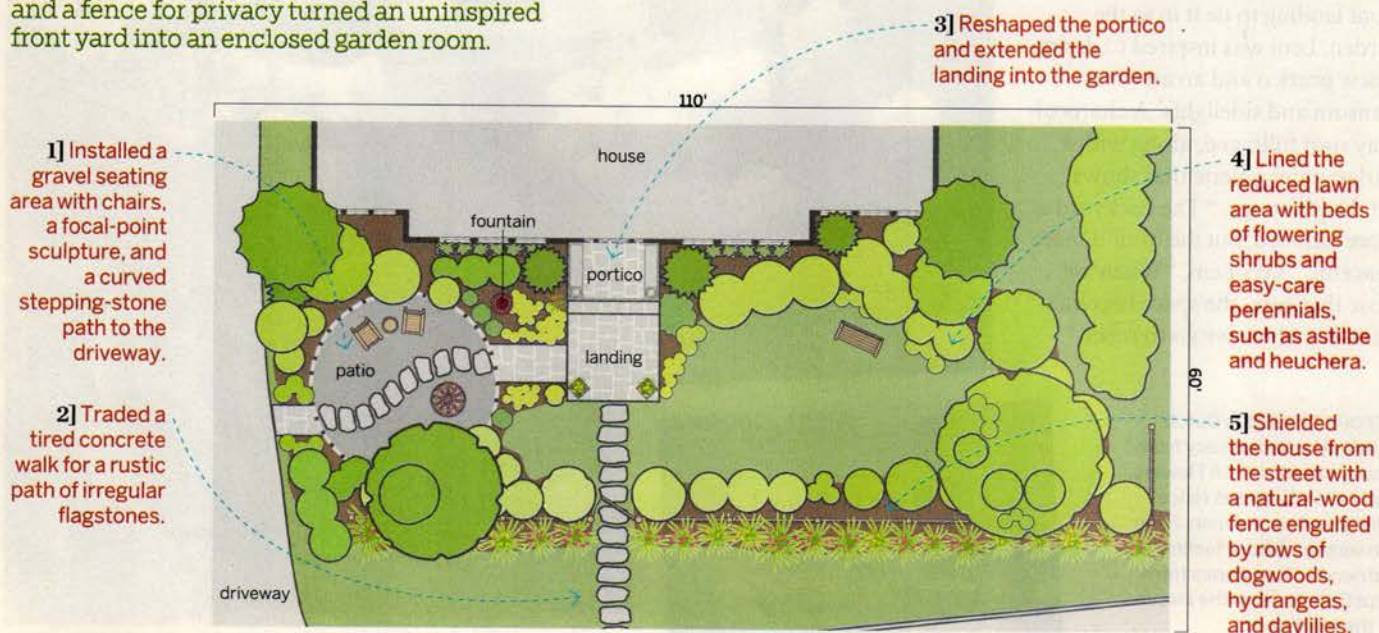
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## the plan

A patio with seating, shrub-based plantings, and a fence for privacy turned an uninspired front yard into an enclosed garden room.





Landscape designer Robert Welsch converted this urn into a fountain by drilling a hole in the bottom and inserting a pump inside. It runs day and night, yielding the soothing sound of flowing water.



A glass artisan in the neighborhood handcrafted a custom transom and matching sidelights for the remodeled entryway. Art glass: Giacomo's Stained Glass



### pro advice

ROBERT WELSCH, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, TARRYTOWN, N.Y.

**"I use three-quarter-inch crushed stone for patios and walks because it doesn't slip underfoot."**



ABOVE: Hydrangeas and dogwoods backed by doublefile viburnum make a showy border year-round. LEFT: More shrubs screen the driveway, while the sculpture, made by a Connecticut metalworker, commands attention in the quiet space. Sculpture: RF Steelwork



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# Upbeat risers

Raise your stairs' profile with a five-color palette of related hues

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPH BY GEOFFREY HODGDON

→ A **STAIRWAY** naturally sets the tone inside the entry of a house. Open the front door at this waterside guest cottage and you glimpse painted stair risers that strike a note as zingy as the keys on a kids' xylophone. Saturated blues, from deep marine to Caribbean turquoise, are interspersed with cool gray and set off by lots of clean white, giving them a sophisticated edge.

During a cottage-inspired redo of the little house, which is a converted garage, interior designer Erin Paige Pitts painted the upstairs floor white and connected it to the foyer by painting the stairwell white too. She drew colors for the risers from adjacent rooms. "I like to start out with a palette and let it flow throughout the interior, but without repeating the colors exactly," Pitts says. After playing with large-size color samples at her desk, she chose five shades that were "vibrant but not too bright" and carefully worked out a pattern. Something similar could be done with any color scheme, from warm autumnal tones to icy pastels.

What about scuff marks on all that latex semigloss? "Invest in Magic Erasers," she says with a laugh, referring to those miraculous Mr. Clean sponges. "And tell the kids to leave their shoes by the door." ■





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# Vintage style, pick your price

Our floor-to-ceiling finds give you the option to spend or scrimp

BY MEGAN BAKER + PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL T. WEBBER

→ IN ANY REMODEL, there are myriad decisions to make. Yes, there are choices of colors, finishes, and materials—you know, the fun stuff. But there's also the less glamorous task of choosing what fits the budget. The good news: Splurging on a to-die-for finishing touch here and there won't relegate you to subpar product choices on the lower-priced end. From tile to lighting to hardware, each of the following old-school styles is sure to boost the charm in any interior—and all come in a range of prices. So whether you're eyeing an investment piece or a cost-cutting solution, we've got you covered.

## STAIR RUNNERS

**SPLURGE** This fine hand-loomed cotton weave in cream and royal blue stripes—inspired by 19th-century American designs—comes 27 inches wide, cut to any length you like. \$21 per square foot; woodardweave.com

**SAVE** Thicker cotton and a looser hand weave create a more casual look. Comes 30 inches wide, in two lengths; string a few together to cover your stair run. \$133 for a 30-square-foot runner; dashandalbert.com

**SPLURGE**

**SAVE**

**SPLURGE**

**SAVE**

## PENNY-ROUND TILES

**SPLURGE** These cream-colored ceramic rounds are edged in pale blue for a lovely hint of color on walls or underfoot—a modern interpretation of the unglazed porcelain disks that graced kitchen, bath, and foyer floors in the early 1900s. \$15 per square foot; annsacks.com

**SAVE** These porcelain penny rounds in a glossy bright blue are a surefire way to cheer up an otherwise all-white cook space or bath. \$7 per square foot; homedepot.com





**SPLURGE**



**SAVE**

### SCHOOLHOUSE LIGHTS

**SPLURGE** With a sturdy painted copper base and a hand-painted glass shade, this flush-mount fixture moves the classic early-20th-century shape to a higher level. \$295; [rejuvenation.com](http://rejuvenation.com)

**SAVE** A graceful opaque-glass shade and a more diminutive painted steel base offer a simpler take on the style. Missing the stripes? Add your own with glass paint. \$38; [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



**SPLURGE**

**SAVE**

### GLASS DRAWER PULLS

**SPLURGE** These Victorian-style bar pulls have trim hexagonal end details and integrated hardware that attaches from inside a drawer or door (with nuts, not shown) for a clean look. \$17 each; [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com)

**SAVE** These fluted-end pulls are lighter weight and fasten through the front, leaving screwheads (not shown) on display. \$9 each; [houseofantiquehardware.com](http://houseofantiquehardware.com)



**SPLURGE**

**SAVE**

### CRAFTSMAN-STYLE WALLPAPER

**SPLURGE** Silk-screened by hand, this bird-and-tree-print paper is a faithful reproduction of an 1897 design by C.F.A. Voysey. \$62 for a 30-square-foot roll; [bradbury.com](http://bradbury.com)

**SAVE** A woodsy pattern of flora and fauna gives this washable coated wallpaper a similar Arts and Crafts feel. \$48 for a 60-square-foot roll; [yorkwall.com](http://yorkwall.com)



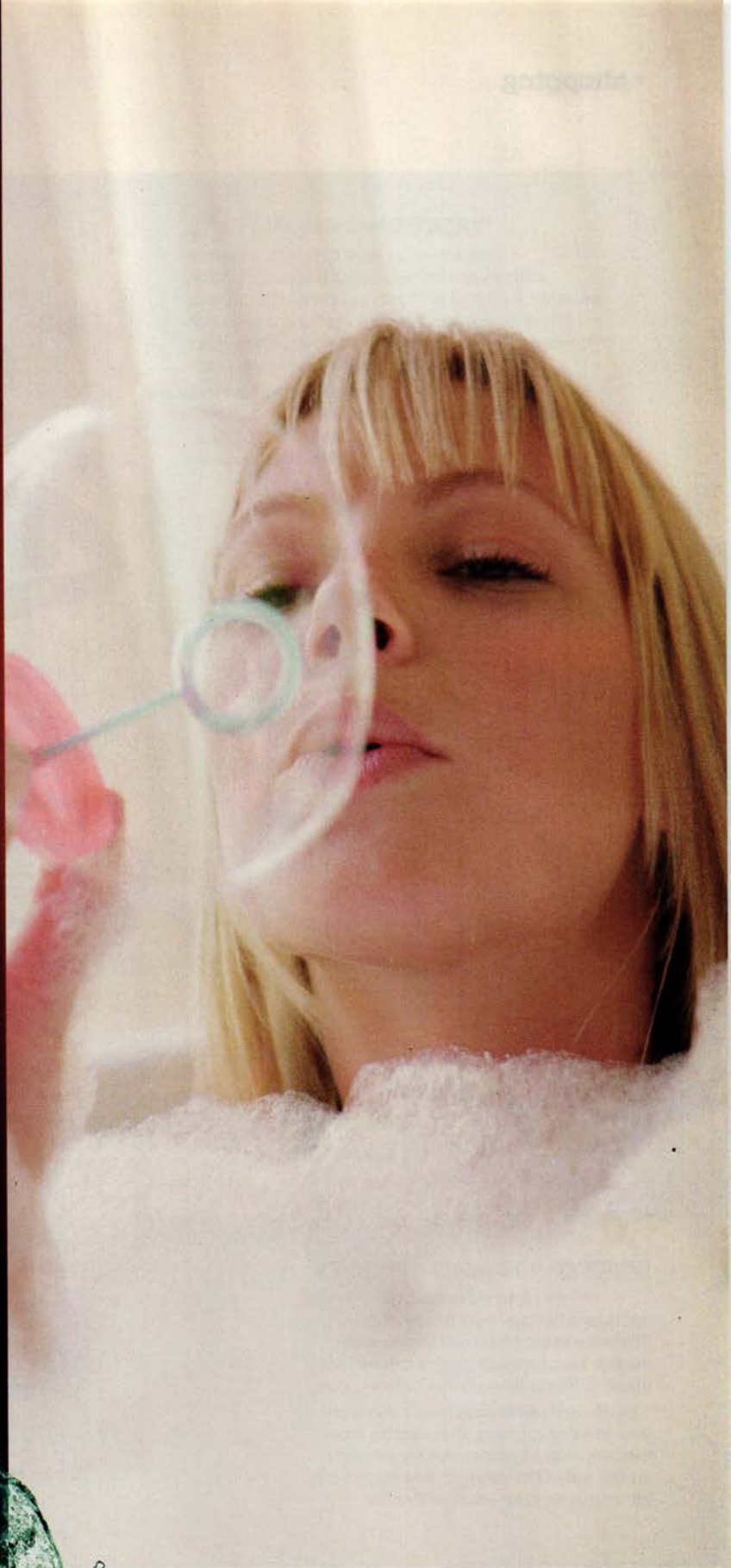
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**SPLURGE** Space-saving caged ceiling fans hung in corners and hallways circa 1910 and could be swiveled and tilted to direct the breeze. This 18-inch tilting version has five steel blades and an 8-inch downrod, and is UL-rated for damp locations, like a covered porch. \$229; lampsplus.com

**SAVE** Three oak blades sit in an 18-inch-wide black housing with bronze highlights that extends from a 4½-inch downrod; it also has a UL damp rating. \$139; homedepot.com



SPLURGE

SAVE

### BRIDGE-STYLE FAUCETS

**SPLURGE** This hefty chrome-finished brass faucet with a high-arc gooseneck has a period-transcending traditional look. Bonus points: Its low spout reduces splashing, and its three-hole setup can be modified to fit two. \$820; moen.com

**SAVE** Premier's chrome-over-brass faucet has a slimmer overall look and feel and a Victorian-era shepherd's crook spout. \$165; overstock.com



SPLURGE

SAVE

SPLURGE

SAVE

### BEADBOARD-FRONT CABINETS

**SPLURGE** Painted cabinets with beadboard doors lend cottage style to any kitchen. These are made from solid maple, with a durable factory-applied paint finish in sage green. \$126 per linear foot; kraftmaid.com

**SAVE** Install paint-ready maple doors on your existing cabinets after coating them with the color of your choice for an easier-on-the-wallet DIY solution. \$54 for a 15-by-24-inch door; cabinetauthority.com



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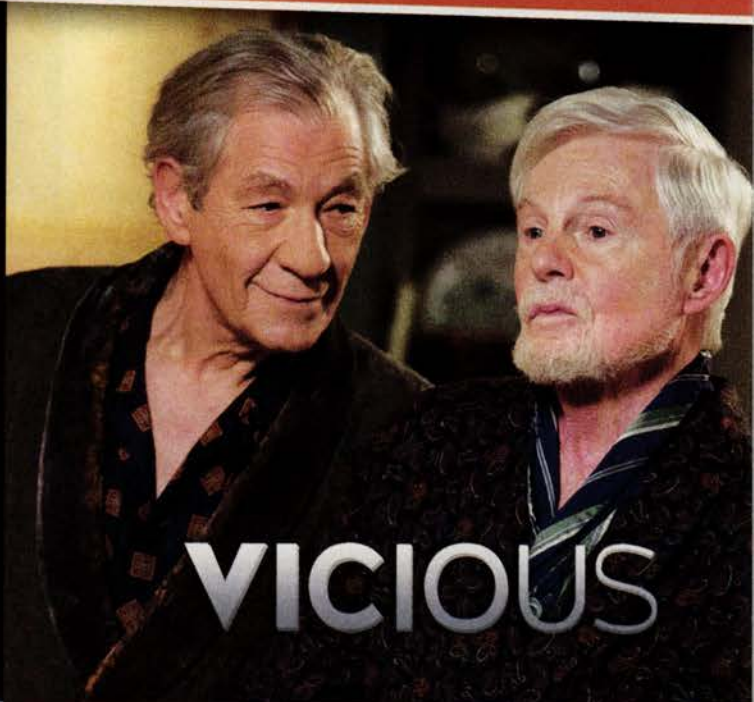
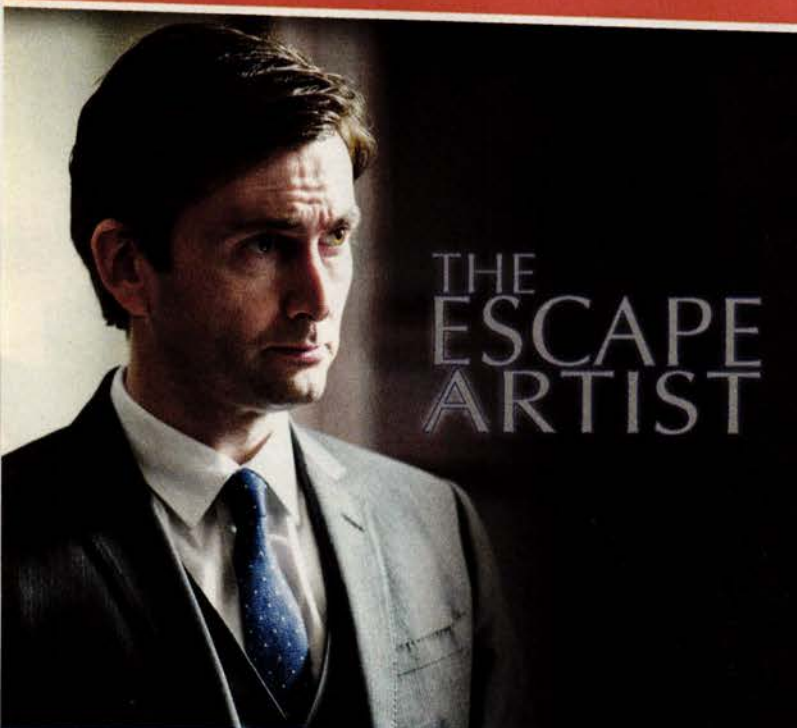


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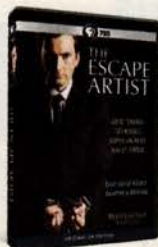
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# Prettying up a period house

Uncovering the front porch and restoring facade details help a Queen Anne-style home assume its former shape

BY DEBORAH SNOONIAN + ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.



BEFORE

→ **DECADES OF** “updates” have stripped many an older home of its architectural integrity. Take this 1912 house in Huntington Station, New York. “The gambrel roof and the construction date suggest that this house was built in late Queen Anne style,” says Chicago-based architect John Myefski. “But the elements that made it distinctive have been removed or covered up over the years.”

Paring back the first floor to reveal the porch, which was enclosed at some point, and widening the entry portico would immediately improve the facade’s proportions and make it more inviting, says Myefski. He also proposes some less pricey adjustments: period-appropriate square-cut shingles on the third story with fish-scale shingles above the cornice at the top to add texture. As Myefski points out, “It’s a big project, but these changes could be made in phases, as budget permits.” ■



← The angle of the entry gable was modified to match the roofline above the third story.

## finishing touches

Easy-care details break up the existing flat, towering facade



### porch light

An oil-rubbed-bronze fixture warms up the portico’s white trim. Wayfair; \$117



### roof shingles

Polymer shakes look like real cedar but stand up to the elements. DaVinci Roofscapes; \$2.95 per square foot



### windows

Divided-light grids give low-maintenance vinyl models a timeless look. Simonton Windows; \$400



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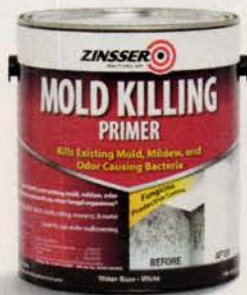
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# Well-traveled terrace

Eclectic furnishings and colorful patterned fabrics lend this outdoor room worldly panache. Here's how to create an equally spirited spot at your place BY GILLIAN BARTH + PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM BEDDOW

➔ **IN THE AUGUST HEAT**, there's nothing more inviting than a shady alfresco hideaway—especially when it's as lively as summer itself. Take this globally inspired outdoor room, put together by California-based interior designer Kathryn M. Ireland. "The homeowners wanted it to feel exotic, like someplace in Mexico or Morocco," says Ireland. So she assembled handcrafted pieces from a variety of cultures for the Spanish Mission-style home's covered patio. To add a sense of playfulness—and complement the climbing bougainvillea—she lightened the dark, hand-carved furniture with bright cushions from her own fabric line. Their vibrant colors offer a cheery contrast to the aged patina of the furnishings and accessories.

Read on for ways to assemble a globe-trotting corner in your own backyard.



## carved chair

This Himalayan Sheesham wood perch evokes the homeowners' antique find at right. \$279; [homedecorators.com](http://homedecorators.com)

PHOTOS: (PILLOWS, GLASSES, SCIENCE, CANDLE LANTERN, PAINTBRUSH AND STENCIL) TED MORRISON; (CABINET) WENDELL T. WEBBER; (CLIMBING ROSES) COURTESY OF DAVID AUSTIN ROSES



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## colorful climber

Live in a cool climate? Try a climbing rose to create a leafy canopy. Tess of the d'Urbervilles rose, \$26 per bare-root plant; [davidaustrinroses.com](http://davidaustrinroses.com)



## wall-hung cabinet

A rustic pine shelf from south of the border offers a spot to stow pottery and servingware. \$77; [directfrommexico.com](http://directfrommexico.com)



## scrollwork sconce

The design of this candleholder is modeled after old-world decorative wrought iron. \$15; [worldmarket.com](http://worldmarket.com)

## DIY

## stenciled furniture

To re-create the look of the homeowners' hand-painted side table at left, we used painter's tape to isolate a portion of a large stencil design inspired by Spanish tile. Then we used it to sponge-brush exterior house paint in yellow onto a red octagonal table. Table, \$145; [moroccanprestige.com](http://moroccanprestige.com). Barcelona Tile stencil, \$21; [shop.modernmasters.com](http://shop.modernmasters.com)

get this look  
for less



## candle lantern

This fixture with filigree openwork and an antiqued brass finish provides twinkly charm overhead. \$45; [jamaligarden.com](http://jamaligarden.com)



## tile-print pillows

Add color and pattern with these geometric cushions, which have a punchy look for less. From \$34 for two; [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)

## tea glasses

Etched and painted Moroccan tumblers help make any afternoon feel like a celebration. \$8 each; [taytea.com](http://taytea.com)





# Cool relief for the dog days

A smartly designed outdoor bed is a great place for your pooch

to beat the heat BY MICHELLE BRUNNER + PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN

→ **WHEN THE MERCURY RISES**, you're not the only one who wants to recline in a shady spot—many dogs do too. “While not every dog seeks out a cool place to relax, it’s critical for heavy-set and short-nosed breeds, which can overheat quickly,” says Sarah Wilson, author of *My Smart Puppy Guide*. Once their body temperature increases, our furry friends regulate it by panting; they can perspire only through their noses and paws. Short-nosed breeds, such as pugs, bulldogs, and Pekingese, can’t pant as efficiently as other breeds because of their physiology.

An elevated bed may be just the solution, lifting the dog off the ground so that air can flow below to help him cool down. The addition of a canopy provides shade from the sun’s rays—important because dogs can get sunburned. We built the bed shown here using PVC pipe, joints, and couplings for the frame and covered it with all-weather fabric (Sunbrella’s Manhattan Cobalt, about \$32 per yard; sunbrella.com for retailers). With a perch this comfy, you won’t have to entice your pet to sit and stay awhile. ■

**TABLET  
BONUS!**



## SEE HOW IT'S DONE

Find detailed instructions for building this outdoor dog bed in our tablet edition. Get yours at [thisoldhouse.com/tablet](http://thisoldhouse.com/tablet)



If your pet likes extra cushioning, add a pillow. Dog Gone Smart Rectangle Bed, \$99; [dgspeproducts.com](http://dgspeproducts.com)





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# Build a garage pergola

Use milled brackets and pressure-treated lumber to create an elegant canopy over your garage door BY PAUL HOPE + PHOTOGRAPHS BY KOLIN SMITH



**COST** \$311

**TIME** Two days

**DIFFICULTY** Easy. Buying brackets keeps the cutting simple.



**THE GARAGE DOOR IS THE FIRST THING** most of us see when we arrive home, so it better be a sight worthy of admiration. Impossible? Not at all: Perching a pergola upon shapely brackets adds architectural dimension and intriguing shadow lines to this otherwise utilitarian entry point. Our approach calls for mounting ready-made brackets to the door's casing—and the framing behind it—then attaching an assembly of rafters and purlins shaped to complement your home's existing trim. Follow along as *This Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers guides you through making this decorative structure, which looks as good freshly installed as it would draped in flowering vines.



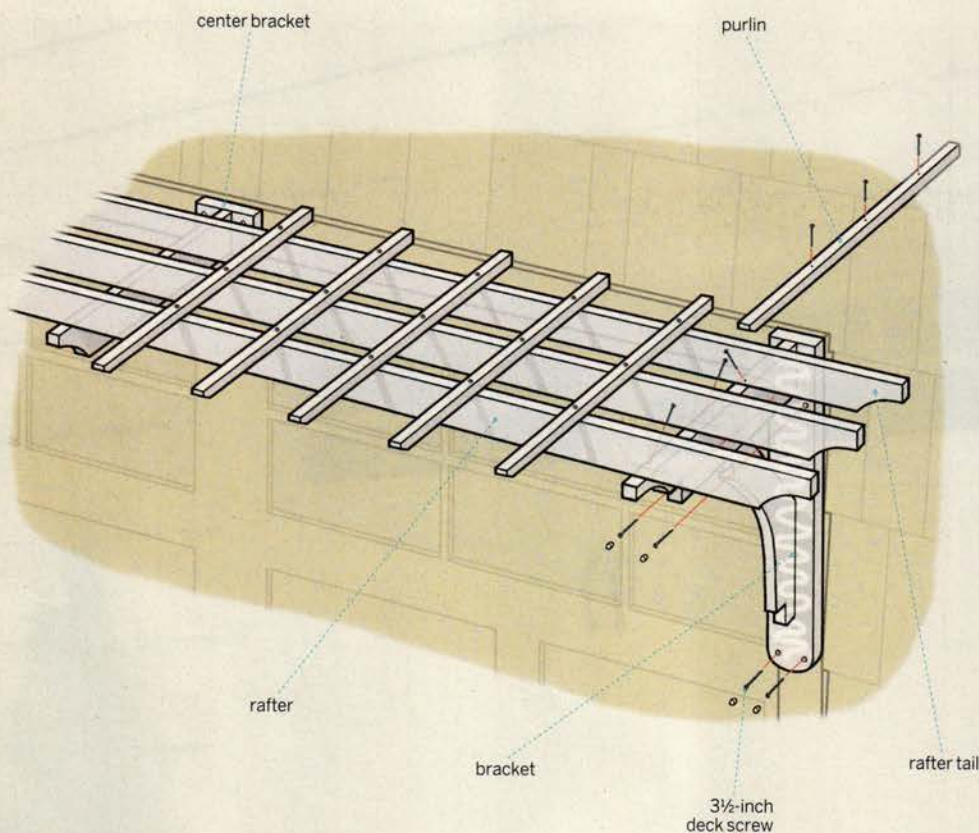
*Brackets: Port Orford cedar Original style end bracket, \$88, and Contemporary style center support, \$55, Auer-Jordan; arbororiginal.com*



## DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

**SATURDAY** Make the parts (Steps 1–2).

**SUNDAY** Build and install the pergola (Steps 3–5).



Finished dimensions:  
144"W × 28"D × 29"H

Find a cut list at  
[thisoldhouse.com/aug2014](http://thisoldhouse.com/aug2014).

## TOOLS

clamps  
combination square  
1-gallon paint can  
jigsaw  
120-grit sandpaper  
miter saw  
2½-inch sash brush  
drill/driver  
⅜-inch combination  
countersink bit  
⅛-inch bit  
bit extender with  
flexible shaft  
caulk gun  
level  
tape measure

## MATERIALS

**2×4 pressure-treated lumber** Get three 12-foot boards for the rafters.  
**2×2 pressure-treated balusters** Get six 8-footers to make the purlins.  
**24-by-24-inch cedar side brackets** Get two.  
**3½-by-24-inch cedar center bracket** Get one.  
**3½-inch deck screws** Get a 1-pound box.  
**2½-inch deck screws** Get a 1-pound box.  
**acrylic adhesive caulk** Get one tube.  
**⅜-inch wood plugs** Get one package.  
**solid-color acrylic exterior stain** Get 1 gallon.



## 1 MAKE THE RAFTERS

**A] Design the rafter tail.** Clamp a 2×4 to your work surface. Use a combination square to measure and mark lines across the board 1 and 4 inches from its end. On the 1-inch line, make a tick mark 1½ inches from the top edge of the rafter. Now, position a 1-gallon paint can so that its arc connects the tick mark and the point where the 4-inch line meets the rafter's bottom edge. Trace along the can to create the curved detail on your rafter tail, as shown.

**B] Cut the tails.** Follow the line with a jigsaw to shape the tail, then use the piece as a template to trace the detail onto the uncut ends of the other boards. Cut the marked tails and use one of them to mark and shape the uncut end of the template board. Sand the curved cuts lightly with 120-grit paper.



## 2 MAKE THE PURLINS

**A] Shape the purlins.** Take the first 2×2 and use a combination square to draw a 45-degree line across one corner, ½ inch below its top edge. Set the blade of a miter saw to 45 degrees, slide the piece along the fence until the mark lines up under the blade, and hold it firmly in place. Pencil a reference line on the saw bed at the end of the purlin. Cut the corner. Position each of the remaining pieces at your reference line, then make the miter, as shown.

**B] Stain the parts.** Lightly sand the purlins and the three brackets with 120-grit paper. Stir the stain thoroughly and brush a thin coat onto all sides of each part. When dry, recoat the pieces and allow the stain to cure.



**TIP** Buy brackets the same width as the casing around your garage door to ensure a seamless look and easy installation.



### SEE HOW IT'S DONE

To watch a video of this project, blipp this page or go to [thisoldhouse.com/aug2014](http://thisoldhouse.com/aug2014)

## 3 INSTALL THE BRACKETS

**A] Lay out the holes.** Use a drill/driver fitted with a combination countersink bit to bore a pair of evenly spaced holes near the top and bottom of each of the three brackets. Locate the holes at least ½ inch from the edges of the bracket. If the arm of the bracket is in your way at the top, use a bit extender with a flexible shaft to drill the countersinks, as shown.

**B] Anchor the brackets.** Apply caulk to the back of the first bracket and hold it in position, flush to the inside of the garage door casing. Using a ⅛-inch bit, drill a pilot hole through one of the bottom countersinks, then drive a 3½-inch deck screw through the bracket and casing and into the framing, as shown.

**C] Plumb the brackets.** Use a level to plumb the bracket, then draw a reference line on the head casing, as shown. Holding the bracket plumb at the line, drill pilot holes through the three open countersinks. Secure the bracket with three more 3½-inch deck screws. Squirt a dab of caulk into each screw hole and cap them with ⅜-inch wood plugs to conceal the fasteners. Install the other two brackets.





A



B



C

## 4 BUILD THE PERGOLA

**A] Mark the rafters.** Gang the rafters together on edge and flush them up at both ends. Use a combination square to mark a spot 6 inches in from each end. Then draw a line across the top of the rafters at the mark, as shown, at each end.

**B] Clamp the assembly.** To position the rafters, subtract their total thickness ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches for our three  $2\times 4$ s) from the depth of the brackets (24 inches) and divide by 4 to get equal spacing on each side of the rafters ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches). Cut spacer blocks to length and wedge them between the rafters. Clamp the assembly together, using scraps as cauls to protect the fresh stain.

**C] Install the purlins.** Subtract the total thickness of 14 purlins from the distance between the end marks from Step 4A and divide by 13 spaces. Cut one spacer block to match that spacing; make a T-shaped block to set the rear overhang. Be sure that the backs of the purlins do not extend past the bracket plates. Install the end purlins inside their lines and work toward the middle, using the blocks to set the spacing, as shown. Drill pilot holes and secure with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deck screws.



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Blipp this page or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](http://thisoldhouse.com/win) for a chance to win one carriage-house-style garage door (seven prizes, each worth up to \$3,600) from Clopay's Coachman collection. See page 14 for details.



## 5 INSTALL THE PERGOLA

**A] Position the pergola.** Measure and mark the midpoint of your pergola on the face of the front rafter. With a helper, hoist it onto the brackets. Shift the pergola to align the mark with the middle of the center bracket.

**B] Fasten the pergola.** Standing on a ladder, clamp the pergola to the brackets, keeping the back of each purlin a good  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the siding. Use a combination bit to bore angled pilot holes through the sides of the rafters and into the brackets. Use  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deck screws to fasten the pergola in place. ■



A



B



*The digital guide to  
the business of your life*

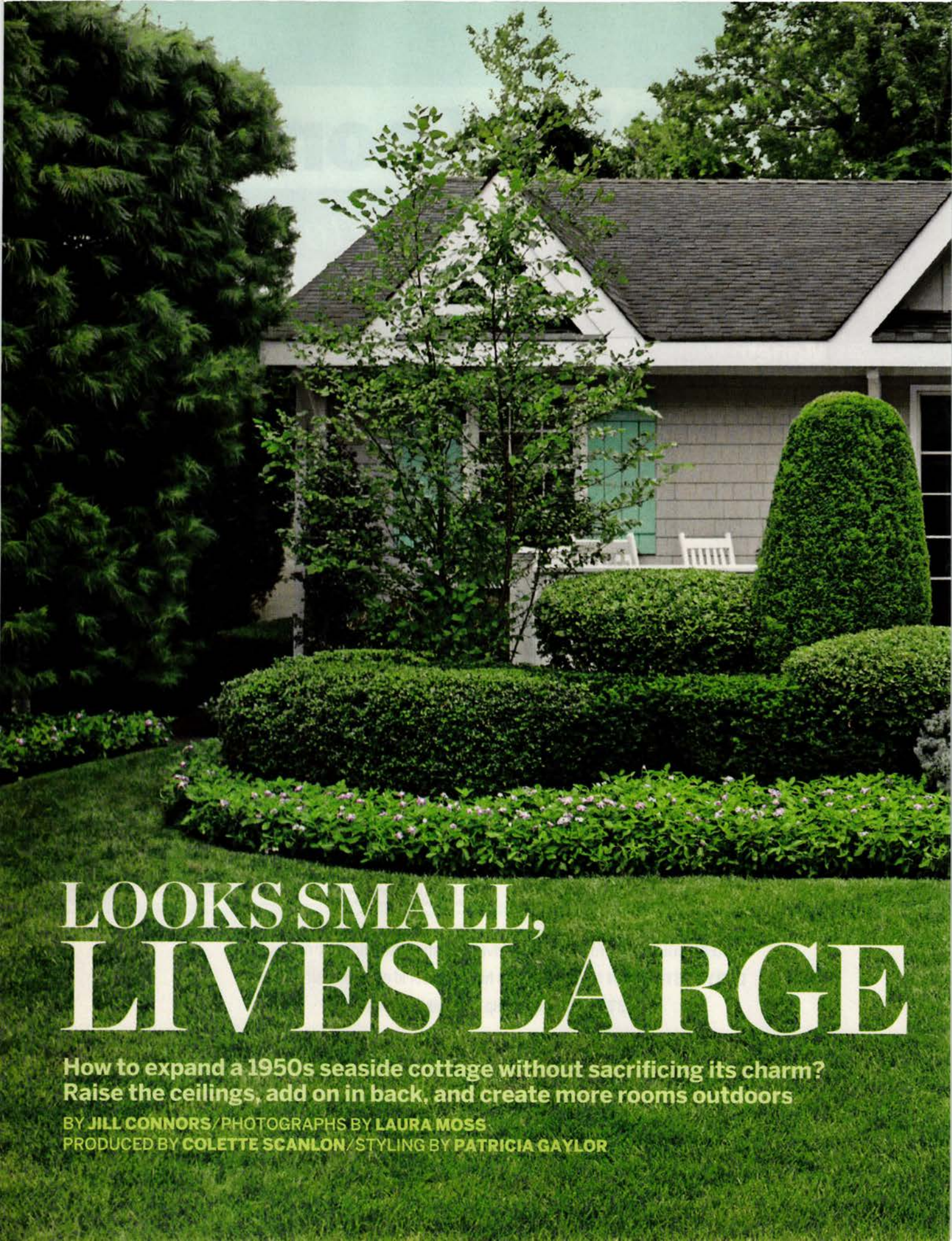
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# Money





# LOOKS SMALL, LIVES LARGE

**How to expand a 1950s seaside cottage without sacrificing its charm?  
Raise the ceilings, add on in back, and create more rooms outdoors**

**BY JILL CONNORS/PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA MOSS  
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON/STYLING BY PATRICIA GAYLOR**





The once basic 1950s cottage got a curb-appeal redo with Folk Victorian gables, an extended front landing leading to double French doors, pale blue shutters, a garden arch, a new paver driveway, and a welcoming lamp post.





L

**OTS OF PEOPLE** fantasize about having a house at the beach—and for some, the ultimate dream is to live there all year long. For the owner of this light-and-airy home in Bay Head, New Jersey, what started as a weekend getaway grew into an everyday dream come true.

When he first bought the place, the 1950s one-story cottage was pretty basic: less than 1,200 square feet, with a living room, two bedrooms, a single bath, an eat-in kitchen, and a back porch ringed with old-school louvered windows. Located a few blocks from the Atlantic, it had plenty of “let’s go to the beach” appeal.

It also had a lot of moisture. The original cellulose wallboard had absorbed groundwater over the years, and the oak floors, absent an underlying vapor barrier, were warping from below.

Clearly, the cottage needed work. But the owner had even bigger plans for the little place. So he called on local general contractor Pete Patterson to not only repair the structure but also add on to it—two more bedrooms, another bath, a dining room, and extra areas for entertaining were on the wish list—to better accommodate family members and friends who come to visit, especially in summer months.

Enter architect Christopher Rice. His mandate was simple: Keep the

**ABOVE:** Seafoam-blue paint and bleached beadboard set a beachy tone in the entry.

New double French doors with sidelights channel light into the interior. **OPPOSITE:** Still a tidy 150 square feet, the kitchen has a loftier feel thanks to an all-white color scheme and a vaulted ceiling. Retro diner stools pull up to the table island, which is open below to keep the room feeling airy.

**RIGHT:** Farmhouse-style chicken wire replaces glass on some cabinets.





cottage looking modest and authentic from the street—to stay true to its roots and in accordance with strict local building codes—while updating the interior and increasing its functionality. His clever solution? A C-shaped rear addition that would wrap around a private courtyard. The old porch would become a new dining room, open to the renovated kitchen on one side and a new family room on another; the two bedrooms curl off the gathering space. Says Rice, “Now the house actually rambles a little from when you step in the front door and wind your way through to the private patio in back.”

To get the existing house into shape, Patterson gutted the walls and pulled up the warped oak floors, insulating everywhere before laying down new narrow oak planks and adding wallboard. The work also required all-new mechanicals and HVAC throughout. Next, Patterson’s team set out to renovate the old rooms and enlarge the house with an eye toward bringing the outdoors in via generous windows and three pairs of French doors. Fortunately, the sixth-of-an-acre lot had just enough space to allow for that rear wing. “What’s nice is, it still feels like a small house, but a really unique one, with built-in details and decorative touches,” says Patterson.



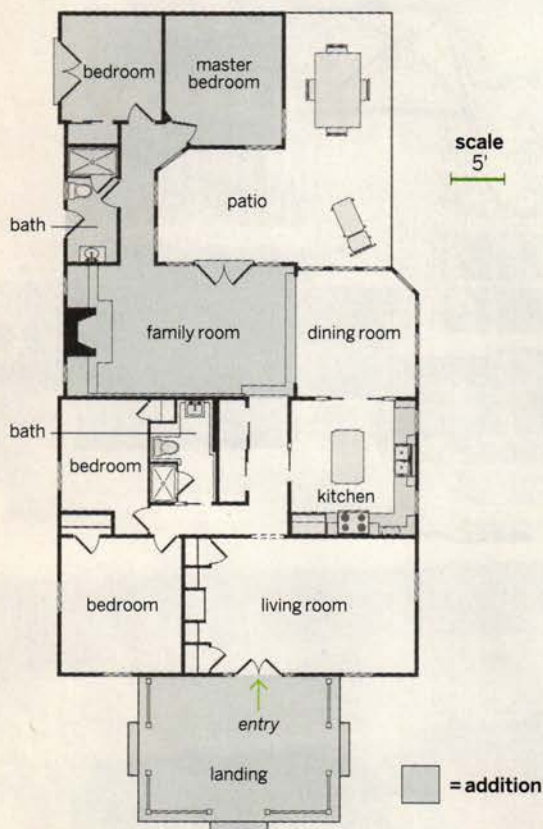




The extended front landing serves as a rocking-chair porch.

## FLOOR PLAN

The 800 square feet added to the back of the house fits the family room, a bath, and two bedrooms (the new dining room is the rebuilt porch).



Today, as you make your way to the kitchen, the midpoint of the house's public rooms, you can practically feel the cottage opening up. During the renovation, Patterson vaulted the kitchen's 7½-foot ceiling to 15 feet at its peak, a move that enabled the addition of four skylights that bathe the space with sunlight; the generous ceiling height made room for dramatically stepped kitchen cabinets, capped with deep crown molding. An old porch adjacent to the kitchen became the dining room, with six-over-six windows wrapping the outer wall. (The cut corner makes room for a pathway from the front yard to the back courtyard.) Two steps lead down into the new family room, a design decision that allowed a generous 10-foot ceiling height without having to raise the roof out front. Since the now-year-round house didn't have a fireplace, a fieldstone hearth was added, flanked by built-in bookcases that hide electronics and wiring, and window-backed lower display shelves that illuminate the owner's Wedgwood pitchers.

Local interior designer Jules Duffy then set out to meld the new section



ABOVE: The new fieldstone hearth satisfied the homeowner's request for a not-too-traditional fireplace in the family room. Cabinets on either side conceal media equipment.





**LEFT:** The interior designer had a local ironworker weld the extra-long coffee table base, which she topped with marble. The adjoining dining room occupies the footprint of the old louvered-window porch. **BELOW:** By lowering the family-room floor, the architect was able to achieve a higher ceiling without changing the exterior roofline.



### **\$25,000 in prizes!**

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with the old. “We wanted a cohesive look, using lots of natural elements,” she says. Hardwood floors flow throughout, with wide pine planks in the addition, stained the same tone as the oak up front. Beadboard is a recurring cottage-style theme, with bleached boards covering the ceilings in the front entry, living room, and original bedrooms, as well as some built-ins; painted boards serve as the kitchen ceiling as well as the wainscot and cabinetry in the family room. From the pale aqua in the entryway, the color scheme shifts into deeper earth tones as you move through the house. And a range of earthy textures—sea-grass and sisal rugs, a raw-wood mantel that resembles driftwood, a shell-encrusted chandelier—play up the seaside locale.

For all the inviting interiors, though, the house’s secret jewel is the private courtyard in back, tucked inside the curve of the addition. Landscape designer Joseph Crapanzano planted a 14-foot-tall arborvitae hedge opposite the stone patio, creating a private outdoor room that’s ideal for entertaining





**LEFT:** A bedroom in the original part of the house got a bleached beadboard ceiling; the iron bed and blue-and-white color scheme fit the home's cottage style.



### **\$25,018 in prizes!**

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**RIGHT:** Wide-striped wallpaper and a freestanding vanity make this tidy new bathroom feel larger. The mirror reflects the shower's mosaic tile.



### **\$25,925 in prizes!**

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after a day spent on the beach. Expanding into much of the old backyard had another major bonus: a practically maintenance-free lot. Crapanzano transformed the green space that was left out front by removing old trees that hid the house and adding mixed-shrub plantings.

While the modest facade belies the sprawling home that unfolds through those French doors, it also reflects the renovation as a whole. Patterson left the original scale and roofline intact, so the place still feels in tune with its neighbors. But he took things up a notch style-wise by accenting the exterior with gables that have decorative detailing much like those on nearby Folk Victorian cottages, as well as a pergola, board-and-batten shutters, and an extended front landing that serves as a rocking-chair porch.

Superstorm Sandy dealt a devastating blow to much of the area back in 2012 and sent waves rolling down this particular street. But, miraculously, the water receded just before it reached the house. In the years since, full-time residents and summer vacationers alike have breathed fresh life into the laid-back beach town, where kids on bikes still have their run of the place, cruising down blocks lined with little cottages like this one, all the way to the ocean. A dreamy existence, indeed. ■

**ABOVE:** The home's rear addition hugs this bluestone patio, where a row of tall evergreens lend total privacy. The roof over the dining room is railed, widow's-walk style, to conceal the modern skylights.



#### SHOP THIS STYLE

To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, blipp this page or go to [wayfair.com/thisoldhouse](http://wayfair.com/thisoldhouse)



# TIMELESS TREASURE

*Salvaged materials, lavish plantings, vintage collectibles—  
and some sleight of hand—create a new  
garden with old-world character*



by DEBRA PRINZING • photographs by JENNIFER CHEUNG  
produced by COLETTE SCANLON • styling by SUNDAY HENDRICKSON

ABOVE and OPPOSITE: Flowers drape and spill over the sides of weathered wood containers on a sheltered flagstone patio that now fronts a 1950s house in Southern California.



a

Locate the  
photos by letter  
on the garden  
plan, page 77.





## IT'S ONE OF THOSE ENVIABLY

breezy, billowy dreamscapes straight out of a coffee-table book on Tuscany or Provence. But Matlin Mirman cultivates her romantic plantings on about a third of her one-acre property in the hills above Los Angeles, home to sunny days, temperate zones, and 12 months of bloom. Fragrant flowering vines scramble up porch posts and trees, and from somewhere in the distance comes the musical sound of a tinkling fountain. Coffee is served on a weathered stone patio that faces east; cocktails, on another one, oriented due west. The whole place exudes effortless, lived-in character.

And that's just the illusion Matlin was going for. Acting as general contractor and chief visionary, she spent a year carving this slice of paradise from a site whose main features were a huge 1950s brick patio with an aging pink-concrete swimming pool and a steep hillside fraught with its own litany of woes, from poor drainage to diseased trees to rat-infested mountains of ivy. With the exception of a dozen or so mature native oaks and killer views of the canyon below, virtually none of the landscape you see here existed. Matlin's garden may look like it's deeply rooted in the past, with plenty of worn-around-the-edges patina, but that's an impression created through plenty of thoughtful, smart decisions.

Here, she shares her (totally stealable) tips, tricks, ideas, and inspirations for creating a new garden with a welcoming look and been-there-forever charm.



## ENHANCE THE ARCHITECTURE

**a, b** | What began as a contemporary house got a European farmhouse feel with the addition of a shed roof that extends over the renovated patio's flooring, a mix of three warm shades of Arizona flagstone. The porch's exposed rafters and rough-hewn cedar posts add to the rustic look and connect the house to the garden. The brick-red hue of the new board-and-batten siding is the result of layering two Benjamin Moore stains, Barn Red over Mystic Gold. The vintage pram is stuffed with sun-loving verbena.

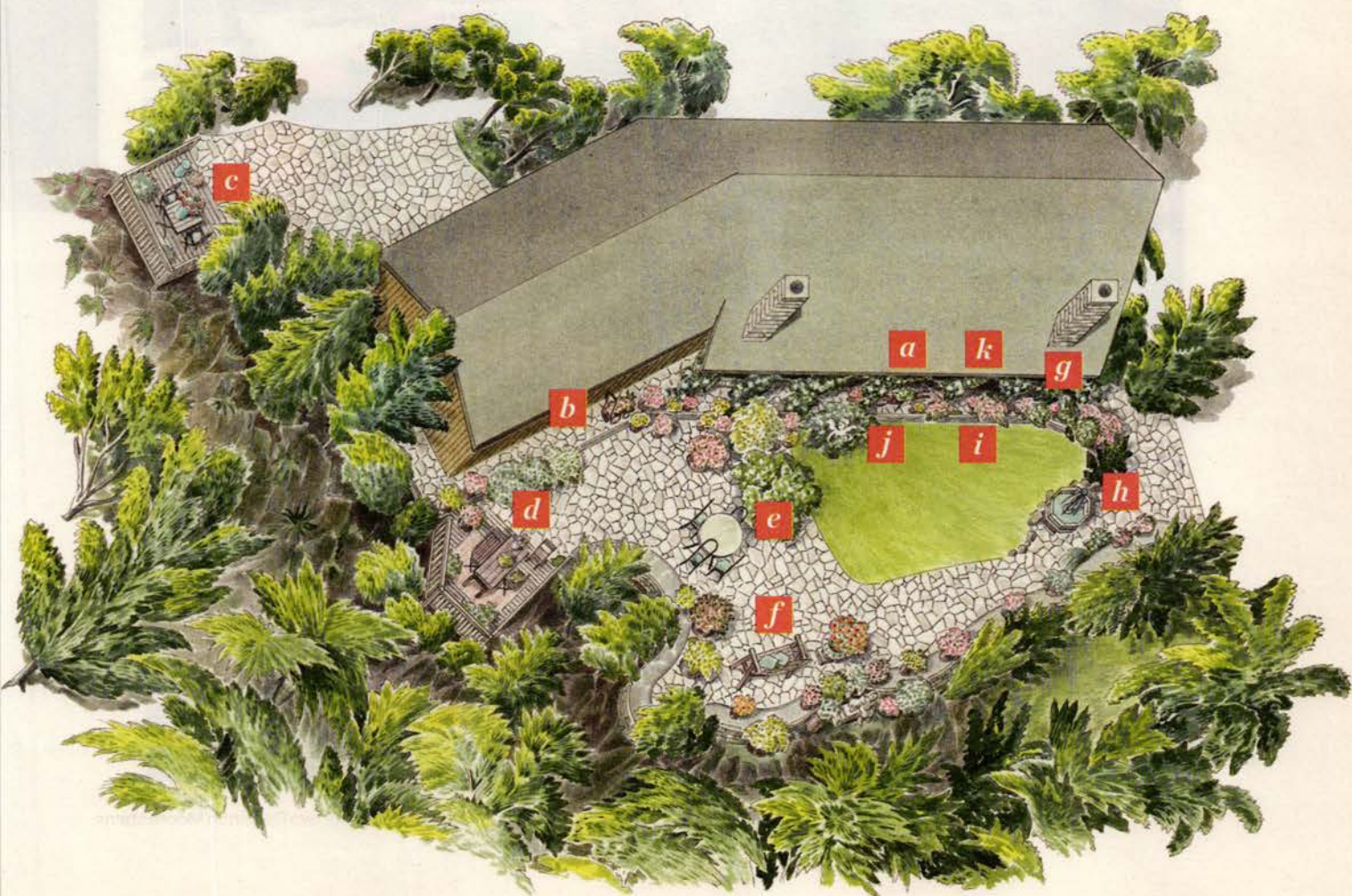




**C** | Matlin Mirman, LEFT, on a 14-by-14-foot deck she restored with new railings and floor stain. Located at the very rear of the property, the deck feels as if it were suspended in the tree canopy. The quiet seating area allows Matlin and husband Bob to feel surrounded by nature, though they're in the midst of a densely populated city.

## THE PLAN

The Mirmans' landscaped area is perched on a hilly one-acre lot with a steep drop-off on three sides. Removing a pool, brick patio, and huge lawn allowed for new garden rooms, a smaller dog-friendly lawn, larger patios, and a second deck cantilevered over the sloping terrain. A serpentine retaining wall conforms to the site's natural contours and serves as extra seating.









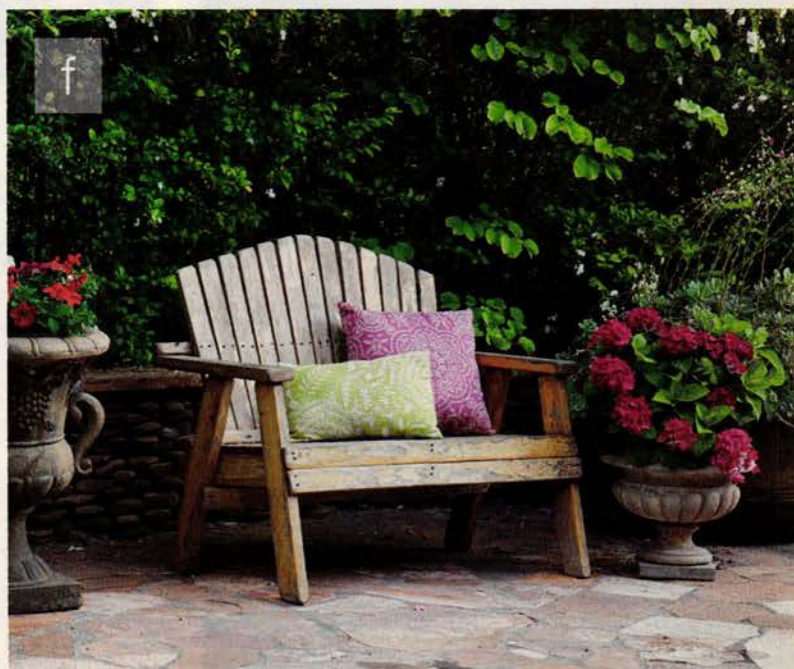


## CREATE COZY DESTINATIONS

**d** | Old gardens, like old houses, often have wings added later. Matlin mapped out the new patios and deck on paper, then (where possible) with spray paint on the ground. Three distinct “rooms” for dining, entertaining, and viewing the landscape are connected by a meandering path. This irregularly shaped redwood deck, 12 by 20 feet along its longest side, was “aged” with Benjamin Moore’s Fresh Brew stain.

**e** | The new retaining wall helped stabilize the hillside. While structurally vital, it also provides continuity that helps connect garden rooms and defines the patio space. The actual wall is constructed of concrete block reinforced with rebar. The 18-inch-high sitting wall seen here is veneered with 8-inch river rocks cut in half; their rounded contours add textural interest, and their varied colors play off the warm shades of the fieldstone paving, which also serves as the wall’s cap.

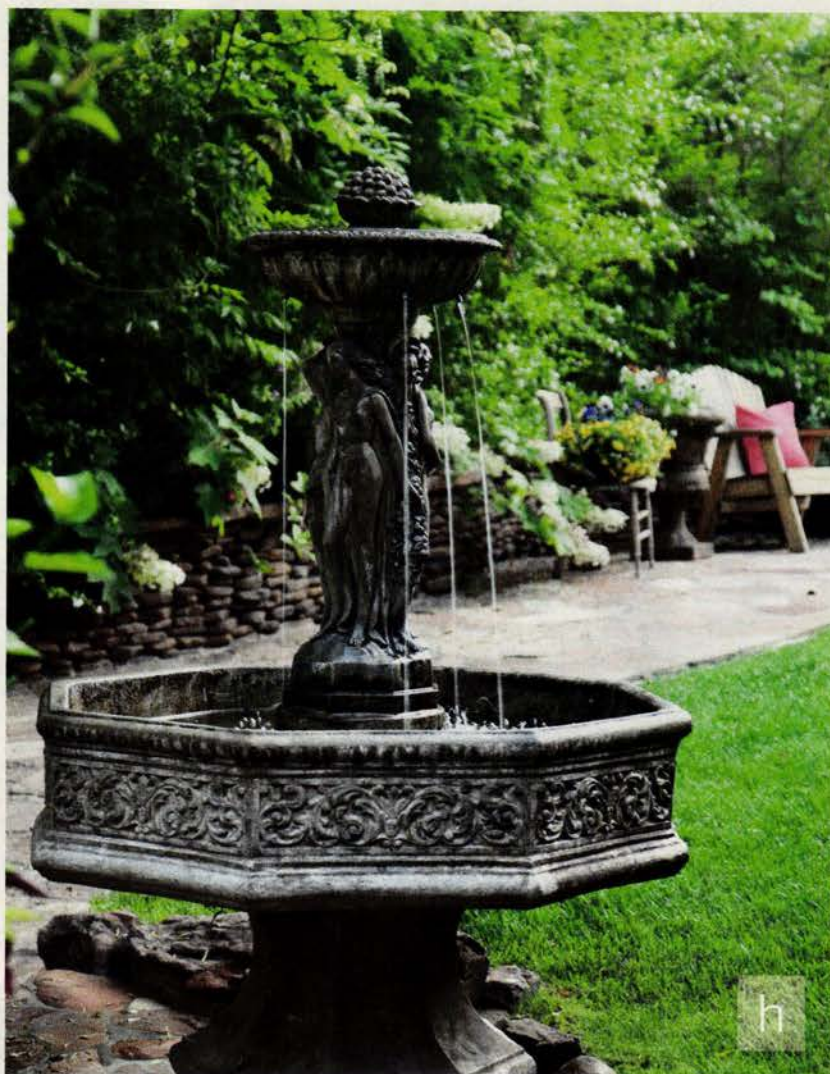
**f** | The chippy, shabby painted bench is exactly the sort of well-loved piece you’d stumble upon in an old garden. Faux-aged concrete fits right in—witness the colorfully planted urns on either side.





## PLANT EN MASSE

**g** | Matlin wouldn't say to ignore the plant-spacing advice found on nursery tags, but you can make a new garden look old-world mature if you group young plants together, recognizing that you might need to transplant some later on. In containers, she really packs in the annuals, adjusting watering and feeding over the season as roots fill the pots. This grouping of ivy geranium, clematis, and trailing ivy is only a few seasons old.



## INJECT SOME STYLISTIC CONTRAST

**h** | Gardens built over generations typically result in a mix and match of tastes and styles. Keeping this garden from being one-note-new, this formal cast-stone fountain, with elaborate scroll details and romantic statues, stands in sharp contrast to the rustic elements throughout. Placed near the front door to the house, its musical sounds can be heard even from inside. And, as an added bonus, it attracts birds like crazy.



## FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH POTS

**i,j** | Until in-ground plantings mature, using a clutch of tightly arranged containers is a useful trick for drawing the eye away from a garden's bare spots toward a riot of concentrated color. Matlin's collection of more than 75 container plantings—nearly half of which are on a drip irrigation system—gave her the opportunity to add much-needed personality to the new garden. "I love finding items that can be turned into planters—from cast-stone frogs and a wine barrel to watering cans that I've painted red and a pedestal sink," she says. Here, a vintage wood toolbox filled with border dahlia and dwarf maiden grass is nestled against an old cast-iron stove with pansies and petunias tumbling out.



## AMP UP THE VINTAGE VIBE

**k** | Layering in a few flea-market finds, such as a wood bench and a farm-style table, reinforces the timeworn aura, sure. But here's the real trick for making the look work: Fade them into the background, or surround them with other vintage pieces so that the design seems unintentional. You have to peek around the garden to see this clockface hidden behind a veil of vines and, elsewhere, the statue of a boy and his cocker spaniel resting beneath a cascading oak-leaf hydrangea shrub and the antique iron gate tucked into a patch of rampant vines. ■

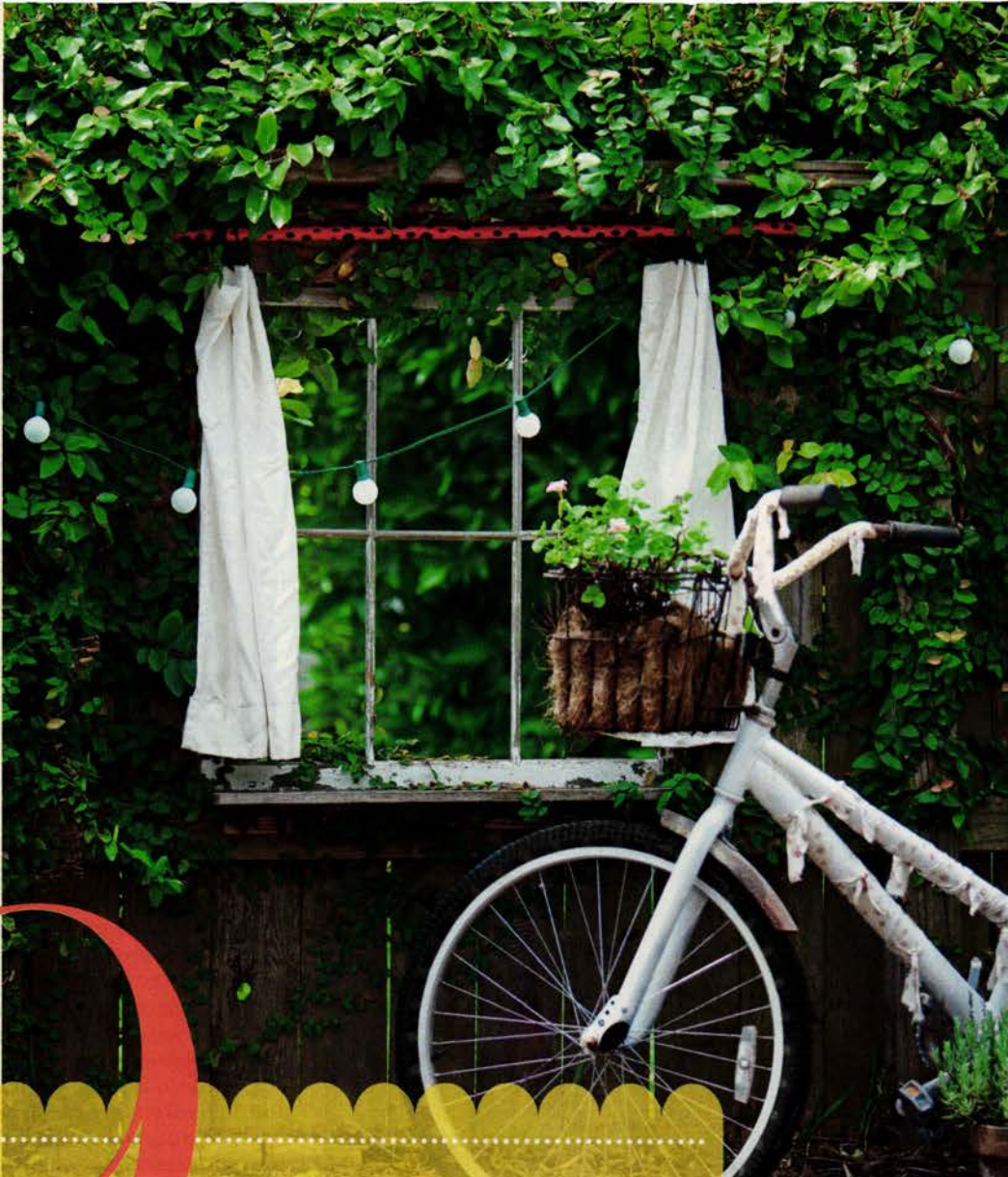


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# SECRETS OF COTTAGE STYLE

Known for her lively, low-key designs,  
Jane Coslick shares her trademark tips for adding oomph  
to plain interiors with salvaged finds and buckets of paint

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN / PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD LEO JOHNSON  
/ PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON / STYLING BY BRIAN CARTER







SECRET 1/  
**REPURPOSE SOMETHING  
UNEXPECTED**

The island in Jane Coslick's cottage kitchen may have begun life as a French washstand. But that was many years ago, and today, minus a towel bar but still boasting a marble top, it provides a surprisingly good fit—and a spot for rolling out pie dough. "Always go for a mix: new with old, and things that aren't perfect," says Coslick. (For more on the pantry's faded-blue shutters, see Secret 7.)



Jane Coslick, interior designer and serial renovator, brakes for weather-beaten cottages, cast-off furniture, sparkly chandeliers, and offbeat art, all of which comfortably coexist in her mind's eye.

Several years ago, she spotted a bleak-looking brick house on rustic Tybee Island, Georgia, her favorite haunt. Built in 1946, it had small, dark rooms, a hulking fireplace, and the word *teardown* written all over it. "It was kind of a mess," she recalls sweetly. "I just decided to make it more functional for me and the way I want to live"—casually but efficiently, in a tidy, charming place. Working with carpenter Peter Dittmar and landscape designer John Dugger, she gutted the house and its garden shed and remade them inside and out, lavishing both with colorful paint and quirky finds—like the salvaged window, complete with curtains hung from an old broomstick, dressing up the fence on page 82. A little beadboard here, a little sunlight there, and plenty of cottage-style expertise reflected throughout. Keep reading to draw from Coslick's store of great ideas.

**TABLET  
BONUS!**

To explore a 1920s lakeshore cottage in Michigan, get your tablet edition at [thisoldhouse.com/tablet](http://thisoldhouse.com/tablet)



**SECRET 2 /**

**WASH IT  
WITH WHITE**

Space-enhancing white paint on walls and ceilings—and on some furniture—erased all traces of sad, worn rooms. "Keeping it simple visually makes a space larger," Coslick says. Cut flowers and plush pillows soften this diminutive dining area, accented by a formal chandelier with jaunty black caps.



**SECRET 3 /**

**UNITE MISMATCHED FURNISHINGS WITH COLOR**

When a green wicker chaise made its way into Coslick's life, she began looking for similar porch-friendly pieces. Over time they trickled in—some wicker, some wood, none green. Spray paint (Rust-Oleum's Key Lime) and coordinated fabrics yielded a self-styled suite. "Choose a single fabric for all the cushions," says Coslick, "or a mix of fabrics in the same colors." Then add an accent, like turquoise, to keep it interesting.





SECRET 4 /

## PUNCH OUT A PASS-THROUGH

Sometimes opening a window beats tearing down a wall. The pass-through Coslick introduced here allows air, light, conversation—and plates—to circulate while keeping guests out of the cooking fray. “I use a lot of interior windows to open up rooms and improve the flow of natural light,” she says. “If you tear the wall down, you lose a spot for furniture.” Here, a counter on brackets has parking for barstools underneath and serving platters on top.



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#### SECRET 5 /

#### ADD A DOSE OF BEADBOARD

Beaded plywood panels line the master bath, reinforcing the house's cottage style. "The panels have 3-inch centers and look like individual boards. They mimic what you normally see on porch ceilings," says Coslick. She painted them one of her favorite blues, Benjamin Moore's Tropicana Cabana, then hung an orange mirror nabbed at an antiques shop; the cabinet migrated from the kitchen, picking up white paint and green-tinted glass knobs en route.



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#### SECRET 6 / PAINT A PLAIN FLOOR

Coastal hues are key to what Coslick calls "an eclectic mix of fun."

Here, that includes a wood floor painted blue (Glidden's Aqua Chintz), a dresser in a custom coral, pillows made from chenille shower curtains, and paintings by a friend. "Art is important; it gives a room life and energy," she says. At [janecoslick.com](http://janecoslick.com), she offers swatches of her favorite colors for sale; they can be matched at a paint store.







SECRET 7 /

### SHOP THE SALVAGE YARD

Traditionally a kitchen sink has a window, but here that wasn't an option. So Coslick provided cooks and bottle-washers with a "view" by having a glass shop add mirrors to a salvaged window. Weather-beaten shutters serve as cabinet fronts, and a cornice decorated with a piece of trim, along with cabinet paint matched to the shutters, knits the ensemble together. Another, larger pair serves as the pantry doors (see Secret 1).



SECRET 8 /

### DON'T BE TOO MATCHY-MATCHY

In the former shed, now a guest room with its own rocking-chair porch (below), five different fabrics coexist under a shelf unit that once belonged to an organ. "Things don't have to match in the world today," Coslick declares, adding that it helps if they share colors—like the four hues that take turns pairing up with white here. The curtains echo not only the lumbar pillow but also two types of black and white tile that live happily side by side in the kitchen.



SECRET 9 /

### COZY UP THE PATIO

Multiple gathering spots make a small yard seem spacious. Coslick turned around this sliver of green by painting the guest shed her own Beach House Blue, putting down paths of vintage brick and adding a table and chairs, lime-green rockers, and Adirondack seating in inviting arrays. Now it's an envy spot for friends who once thought she was crazy to take on this house. "I just knew I could do something with it," she says. And she did. ■



<ALL ABOUT>

# Front Entry Lighting

More than just a beacon leading to the front door, exterior lighting helps define the look of a house. With planning and a bit of math, you can put your home's best face forward **BY KATE KARAM**

**DRIVE DOWN** any residential street, and we'd bet your eye is instantly drawn to the house with the inviting, well-lit front door. Done right, exterior entry lighting makes the most of what you've got, complementing your home's architecture, increasing security, and helping guests navigate their way to the front landing.

That said, it can be a real challenge to select the perfect fixture. Just stroll down the lighting aisle of any home store, and it's easy to be overwhelmed by the countless styles, finishes, bells and whistles—and that's before you look online.

Start by evaluating your space to determine the type of fixture (or fixtures) that best fits it, whether wall-mount, ceiling-mount, or, in very large entries, a combination of the two. In every case, the overall goal is to cast a wide pool of light that illuminates the entry, banishes dark corners, and casts a warm glow that's easy on the eyes, says San Francisco-based lighting designer Jody Pritchard. On the following pages, we'll explain how to determine the correct size, placement, style, and finish of your front-door lighting. Follow these steps to make *your* house the one that says "welcome home."

## ANATOMY OF A LIGHT

Below are the basics of a pendant; sconce and flush-mount fixtures have similar housing and inner workings, and a mounting plate.





## VITALS

**WHAT DOES IT COST?** There's an option for every budget, but expect to pay \$250 and up for a quality fixture made from solid-cast or hand-wrought metals.

**DIY OR HIRE A PRO?** Changing a light fixture is a relatively simple job. Installing a dedicated junction box for a new fixture takes more skill—and tools. For that, you may want to go pro.



**MAINTENANCE?** While unlacquered brass requires polishing to keep it shiny, most fixtures can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Regularly applying a thin coat of wax to exposed metal parts helps protect against oxidation.

**HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?** Warranties range from 30 days to a lifetime for some lights made from solid copper. One to two years is the industry average.

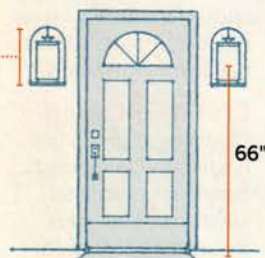
**LEFT:** A pendant that casts a wide pool of light provides primary illumination. Side lanterns as secondary light sources need not adhere to design-math rules (page 90). Similar to shown: Livex Lighting Mansfield 2-Light Hanging Lantern, \$260; wayfair.com. Shown: Medium Federal sconces, \$459 each; shadesoflight.com



# Design math

Most folks choose front-door fixtures that are too small and hang them too high. Follow these guidelines to get right-size lights in the right place for your entry setup

One-quarter the height of the door plus casing

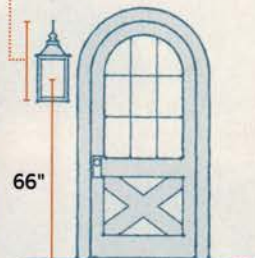


## DOUBLE SCNCES

Door-framing lights, placed 6 to 12 inches from the door casing, are a natural choice for symmetrical entries. A 13- to 15-watt LED bulb (labeled 60- to 70-watt equivalent) per fixture is usually enough.



One-third the height of the door plus casing

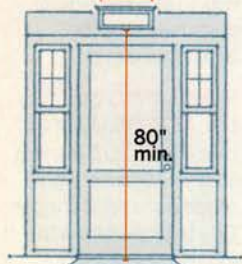


## SINGLE SCNCCE

When space is limited and there's no surface overhead, one fixture—with a single 13- to 15-watt LED bulb (60- to 70-watt equivalent)—can suffice. Hang it on the doorknob side for a well-lit view when greeting guests.

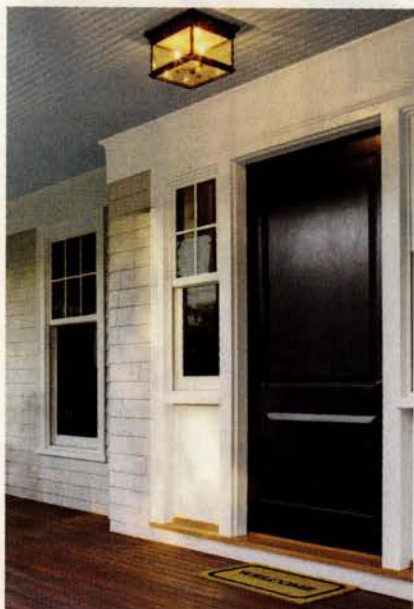


One-quarter the height of the door plus casing

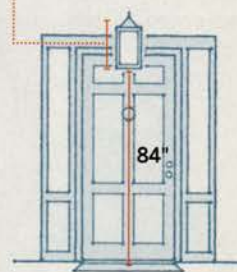


## FLUSH-MOUNT

This is an ideal solution for entries with low ceilings, screen or storm doors, and porches open to wet weather. Use a 23- to 40-watt LED bulb (100- to 125-watt equivalent) or multiple bulbs with the same total wattage.



One-fifth the height of the door plus casing



## PENDANT

A hanging fixture lights a high-ceilinged entry, but not where it's windy. With opaque glass, use a single 23- to 40-watt LED bulb (100- to 125-watt equivalent); for clear glass, use several smaller bulbs with the same combined wattage.





## Deciphering UL ratings

Light fixtures sold in the U.S. should carry an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) rating on the label that indicates what kind of location they can be used in. Dry-rated lights cannot be subjected to excessive moisture and should not be hung outdoors. But tolerances vary for those that are damp- and wet-rated. The difference between the two is in the construction. UL-rated fixtures for damp and wet locations use different combinations of drain holes, seals, and protective gaskets to prevent water from accumulating on live wires and other electrical parts. Select the right fixture rating based on your entry's level of exposure.

**Damp-rated** Suitable for sheltered porch areas that are protected from water—even during storms—and from excessive moisture, such as salt air.

**Wet-rated** Necessary around doors fully open to the elements, where rain, snow, and heavy fog or salt air can come into direct contact with the fixture.



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## GOOD, BETTER, BEST

While these fixtures look identical—and have workings of similar quality—upgraded materials and construction add to the cost



### GOOD

**PRICE RANGE** \$50–\$150

**BASE METAL** These basic fixtures are usually made of inexpensive steel sheet metal, which can be easily bent around a form and welded.

**FINISH** May be sprayed on or applied with more expensive and more weather-resistant powder coating. As the finish wears, exposed steel surfaces will oxidize and eventually rust.

**GLASS** This is usually clear, with no faceting.

*Shown: Portfolio Brayden Outdoor 2-Light Wall Lantern, \$60; lowes.com*

### BETTER

**PRICE RANGE** \$150–\$250

**BASE METAL** Typically made of more rust-resistant aluminum, which is difficult to weld. Fixtures are assembled from multiple (and potentially more detailed) stamped, spun, and die-cast pieces.

**FINISH** May involve several layers of sprayed or hand-applied color. While aluminum can oxidize, it does so at a slower rate than steel. Powder-coated fixtures resist oxidation longer.

**GLASS** Options include decorative beveled or seeded glass.

*Shown: Quoizel Newbury 2-Light Outdoor Wall Lantern, \$199; lightingdirect.com*

### BEST

**PRICE RANGE** \$250 and up

**BASE METAL** Generally made of brass—or, less often, of copper—cast from an intricate mold or constructed by hand. Details will be sharper.

**FINISH** Expect long-lasting electroplated and hand-applied, multilayer finishes. Lacquered brass resists oxidation for years. Polished or left to patinate, uncoated brass and copper last for decades.

**GLASS** Decorative options may include double-beveled or intricate art glass.

*Shown: Lancaster 2-Light Wall Lantern, \$265; seagulllighting.com*

### TIP

## GET SOME PERSPECTIVE

Not sure how a fixture will look once you take it out of the showroom and install it at home? Before pulling the trigger on your purchase, double-check that it follows the guidelines for scale on the opposite page. Then make a mock-up of your selection: Cut cardboard to the size and shape of the light and affix it to the house near the door. Back off and take a look from the bottom of the driveway or the middle of the street to be certain it looks right.



# Get the right look

Consider the style of your house when shopping for entry fixtures. Use our guide to light the way to ones that will enhance your home's architecture



**NOTE:** Most designs come in both wall- and ceiling-mount models.



**1] COTTAGE** For simple exteriors, opt for quaint details, such as lantern arms that curl like or panes of vintage-look opaque glass that emit a soft glow. Shown: Sea Gull Lighting Ardsley Court 1-Light Outdoor Lantern, \$132; homedepot.com

**2] TUDOR REVIVAL** A house with arched windows, stonework, or a steeply pitched roof calls for medieval-inspired lighting, often featuring hammered metals and seeded glass. Shown: Mill Creek Hanging Outdoor Lamp, \$123; homedepot.com

**3] ARTS AND CRAFTS** Fixtures with angular profiles and ogee edges are a good fit for a bungalow and other clean-lined early-20th-century styles. Shown: Quoizel Hillcrest 1913 Outdoor Pendant, \$310; lumens.com

**4] COLONIAL** Unadorned houses of the era, such as saltboxes and Cape Cods, were often lit by copper onion lanterns, durable enough for seaside living. Today, reproductions lend the same rustic charm. Shown: Onion Wall Lantern, \$299; hammerworks.com

**5] RANCH** While traditional-style lights are often used on mid-century homes, linear, almost aerodynamic silhouettes and burnished or powder-coated metals are also true to the period. Shown: Sea Gull Lighting Outdoor Bullets, \$103; lightingnewyork.com

**6] COLONIAL REVIVAL** Detailed fixtures clad in gilded metal or glossy black stand up to the formal entrances of homes with symmetrical facades and columned porticoes. Shown: Silverton Classic Torch Wall Bracket, \$260; rejuvenation.com

**7] VICTORIAN-ERA** Lights with enthusiastic embellishment match the romantic hallmarks—gingerbread trim, fancy shingling—typical of Queen Annes. Shown: Devon Large Wall Lantern, \$351; houseofantiquehardware.com

**8] CLASSICAL** Sculptural and statement-making, these globes work well on the commanding facade of an urban rowhouse or a double-height porch. Shown: Medford Classical Revival Wall Sconce, \$375; rejuvenation.com

**9] FEDERAL** An elaborate, elegant entrance will benefit from lantern-style sconces. Hinged glass doors and candle-covered sockets lend an air of authenticity. Shown: Bolton Indoor/Outdoor Sconce, \$299; potterybarn.com

## PICK YOUR FINISH

Polished or matte. Fancy or informal. These finish options offer a wide range of aesthetics and durability



### OIL-RUBBED BRONZE >

Can be sprayed or plated over another base metal, but top-quality lights use a chemical process on solid brass that alters the metal's surface. **Works with:** most any style of home



### AGED BRASS >

Often sprayed or plated over another base metal, then polished to add highlights. For durability, look for solid brass that's aged chemically and tooled for smooth edges. **Works with:** any traditional style



### POLISHED BRASS >

Usually electroplated, it's sold lacquered to prevent tarnish or unlacquered to patinate. Lacquer must be reapplied every few years. Unlacquered brass will darken to brown. **Works with:** formal traditional styles



### POLISHED NICKEL >

Generally a layer of nickel electroplated over another base metal. May have a clear coat for added protection. Quality lights are plated over rustproof brass. **Works with:** coastal and contemporary homes



### MATTE BLACK >

Like all colored finishes, matte or glossy, this can be sprayed on, but for durability, look for longer-lasting powder coating, in which the base metal is covered with a dry powder that is cured with heat. **Works for:** providing contrast and color



### COPPER >

Can be sprayed or plated over another base metal, but the best lights are made from solid copper. A clear coat can be added to retard oxidation, but copper is usually left to patinate naturally. **Works for:** adding a time-honored look



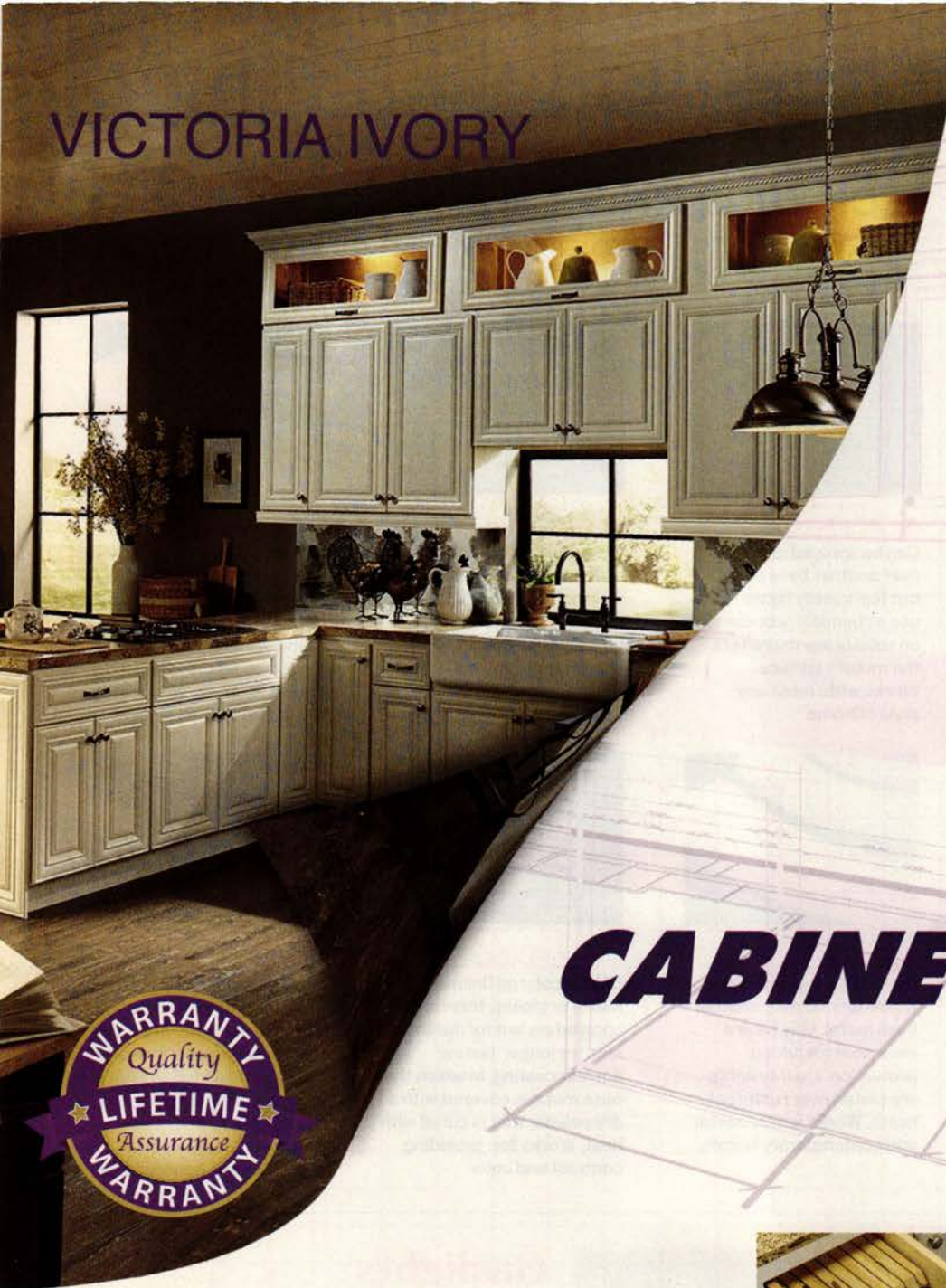
## Gaslights

Before electric lights became widespread in the 1890s, gas lighting was the norm. Today, whether for historical accuracy or for the atmospheric glow they impart, these fixtures are popular once again. They come configured two ways: as "gas mantle," where the gas terminates in a wire- or ceramic-fiber cloth for a steady white light (equivalent to a 50- or 60-watt bulb), or as "open flame," a softer candlelight flicker similar to a 25-watt bulb. Keep in mind, fixtures are pricey, starting at \$600, and need a gas hookup; check local codes for requirements.

Shown: The Atlas lantern, \$700; carolinallanterns.com



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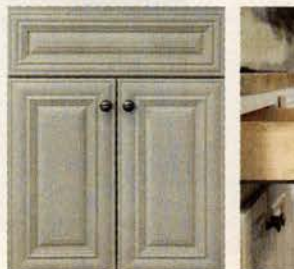


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# Ask

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/STEEL STUDS/RETROFIT AC/MORE

**Q** We have a pile of dirt and wood chips from grinding out an oak stump. Is there a way to turn it into good compost?

—KEN HOLLY, HOUSTON

**A** Yes, you can, with a little patience and the right mix of ingredients in your compost pile. Get a wheelbarrow and move all the chips to an out-of-the-way location on the ground. Then, for every three loads of chips, mix in one load of grass clippings, along with coffee grounds and scrap fruits and vegetables from your kitchen. Keep the pile moist and turn it over regularly. In three to six months, you should have rich black compost.

—ROGER COOK,  
TOH LANDSCAPE  
CONTRACTOR

**46**  
tips, tricks, and  
answers to  
your home-  
improvement  
questions

PHOTOGRAPH  
BY BURCU AVSAR



*Our cast  
of veteran  
experts*



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General Contractor



**NORM ABRAM**  
Master Carpenter



**RICHARD TRETHEWEY**  
Plumbing and Heating  
Expert



**ROGER COOK**  
Landscape Contractor



**KEVIN O'CONNOR**  
Host

**The bluestone walkway I dry-laid five years ago has settled and shifted, and water pools on it when it rains. What's the secret to rebuilding a walkway that will last?**

—TODD WOOD, HERDON, VA.

**ROGER COOK REPLIES:** The key to a long-lasting walkway of any sort is a good base, one that's firm yet porous enough to allow water to percolate through. A base that doesn't hold water won't heave and settle when the ground freezes and thaws, or form pools after it rains. You'll have to dig out the existing base and put in a new one. Here's how to go about it.

First, remove and set aside the stone pavers. Then lay a line along the edges of the path to guide your digging. If it's a straight walkway, use mason's line; for a curved one, use garden hose. Next, dig down between the edges, at least 6 inches below grade. You want to get rid of all the loamy topsoil that holds water like a sponge; it has no business being under a walkway.

With the excavation done, build up the new base in layers. First comes a 3-inch layer of washed  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch crushed stone, tamped by hand or with a plate compactor. On top of the crushed stone, add a 1½-inch-thick setting-bed slurry, made by mixing stone dust and water, to support the paver stones. Line the edges of the walkway with 3-inch-wide strips of steel edging to create a barrier against soil and roots. The final layer is the bluestone itself, pounded into the setting bed with a rubber mallet until each stone is level and even with its neighbor.

When you're done, your walkway



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Roger Cook uses his rubber mallet to persuade a bluestone paver to align with its neighbor.



will be safe and attractive and should hold up for many years to come.

## Q In need of new cabinet hardware

The beautiful cabinets in our new house are poorly painted and have diagonally mounted handles. I'm going to strip and refinish the cabinets and install new pulls. How do I hide the old screw holes?

—SANDRA SWANSON, LAKE STEVENS, WASH.

**NORM ABRAM REPLIES:** Those holes will be easy to hide with a paintable wood filler, so I would recommend repainting your cabinets. Otherwise, disguising holes is more of a challenge because it's not easy to make an invisible repair in wood with a clear finish—even for a pro furniture restorer. But if you want to keep the existing doors and use a clear finish, here are a few options.

You might be able to find metal backplates—or pulls with an integral plate—that are big enough to cover the old screw holes. These plates could really dress up your cabinets and protect the area around the pulls from getting dirty. But you may find that the holes are offset so much that a backplate won't be wide enough to cover them.

You could try filling the holes with a putty stick that closely matches the color of the finished wood, but I suspect that when you remove each old pull, you'll see the impression left by the base of the pull. Putty sticks don't work well on dented wood, so in this case I'd drill out each impression with a brad-point bit and fill the new hole with a plug made of the same wood as the cabinet. Apply a small dab of glue to the hole, gently tap the plug



What is it?

A

Brush holder

B

Paint-bucket handle

C

Roller cleaner

D

Belt hook

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 100



It's possible to take the texture off a wall like this and make it smooth, but be prepared for lots of sanding.

nearly flush to the surface, and wipe away the excess glue. When the glue dries, sand all the plugs flush, then refinish the cabinets.

## Q Rough plaster

The former owner plastered the kitchen walls with a coarse, haphazard texture that looks really out of date. Is there any way to make the walls smooth?

—JAMIE KELLEHER, PELHAM, N.Y.

**TOM SILVA REPLIES:** Smoothing walls is certainly something you can do yourself, but you're in for one very dusty, messy job.

To get started, you'll need a palm sander with a vacuum attachment, a vacuum with a paper filter to capture the dust, and a pull scraper with a carbide blade to remove the worst of the ridges. To keep the dust out of the rest of your house, tape plastic sheeting over the kitchen's doorways and place a box fan in one of its windows to direct dust outside. And wear a well-fitted mask.

Starting near the ceiling and working down, knock off the thickest bumps with the pull scraper. Then connect the palm sander to the vacuum and grind away with 80-grit paper until the walls are fairly smooth.

Don't sand too deeply; you want to spare the surface just beneath the texture. Switch to 150-grit for a final overall smoothing.

That wraps up the nastiest part of this job. Now, vacuum the walls and spread a thin layer of joint compound over them, top to bottom, to hide any remaining imperfections. (If your troweling skills aren't up to snuff, consider hiring a pro to skim-coat the walls for you.) When the compound is dry, sand it lightly with a 220-grit sanding screen on a pole sander, wipe the walls down, then prime and paint.

## Q Steel studs or wood?

I'd like to build some partition walls in my basement, and I'm thinking about using steel studs. What are the pros and cons of steel compared with wood studs?

—KEN BRONSON, ST. LOUIS

**TOM SILVA REPLIES:** You may not have a choice, if your city requires steel studs to meet the fire code. But if it allows both wood and steel, here are some things to consider.

For starters, there's not a big price difference. The 25-gauge galvanized steel used in partition walls is about 20 percent more expensive than wood. But metal does have advantages that



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

may outweigh its higher price. Besides being fire- and rot-proof, it's less than half the weight of wood; you can stuff a station wagon full of steel studs and not worry about stressing the suspension. Steel bends if mishandled, but it won't warp or shrink, and it's free of knots and the other defects that plague sawn lumber, so you don't have to go picking through piles to find the good pieces.

Compared with wood, steel studs go up lickety-split. You anchor U-shaped tracks to the ceiling and floor, cut the studs to length with metal snips, and set them plumb in the tracks' channels every 16 inches. Drywall and fine-thread drywall screws, fastened into the studs and tracks on both sides of the wall, hold everything together.

That said, wood studs do have their place. Wood-framed walls feel and sound more solid than steel-framed ones, they can bear a load, and you can nail into them. Trim on steel-stud walls has to be attached with trim-head screws, which are slower to install, leave bigger holes to fill, and are more likely to cause splits than finishing nails. Want to hang a door in a steel-framed wall? The opening has to be lined with wood 2x3s for mounting the hinges and mortising the strike plate.

In short, either material can make a fine wall. Choose the one that best suits your needs.

## Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

**Go to:** [thisoldhouse.com/asktoh](http://thisoldhouse.com/asktoh)

**Or write to:** Ask This Old House  
This Old House magazine  
135 West 50th Street  
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Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Published questions will be edited for clarity and length and may be used in other media. We regret that, because of the volume of mail received, we're unable to reply to unpublished questions.

**How can we cool the room over our garage in the summer and warm it in the winter? No space heaters or window AC units, please!**

—NADINE SYRETT, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

### RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES:

Sounds like you need a mini-split heat pump, which provides cooling and heating fairly unobtrusively without using ducts. It pushes refrigerant from an outdoor condenser directly to a wall-mounted air handler that blows hot or cold air into the room. Because there are no ducts to retrofit, the system is simple for a pro to install. And it provides excellent dehumidification, quiet operation,

and great efficiency. Need to adjust the temperature or turn the unit off? Just use the remote control.

A single air handler can heat or cool up to 1,000 square feet, depending on the climate and system size. (In heating mode, it functions down to minus 13 degrees F, not a problem where you live.) For larger spaces, up to four independently controlled indoor units can connect to one condenser, for the ultimate in zoned comfort.

**YOU  
CAN  
WIN IT!**  
See page  
100.

**COST** \$2,345 for a 24,000-BTU system; shipping and installation not included

**TIME** 5 hours

**DIFFICULTY** Difficult. Installation requires a qualified contractor.



Mark Pauletti of Arctic Mechanical, in Port Chester, New York, uses the remote to check the airflow from the indoor unit.



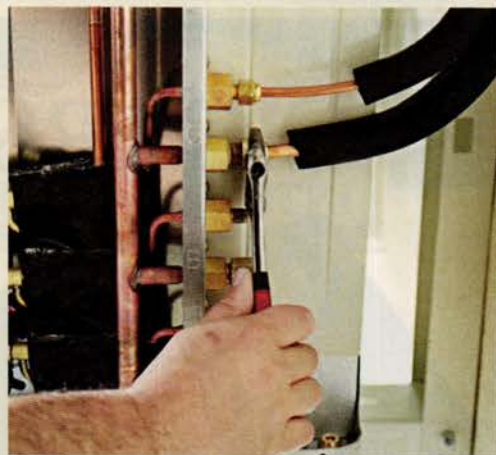
**1] Install the condenser.** This unit should go in a shaded location outside the house where it can have at least 4 inches of clearance behind it and 20 inches of clearance above it and in front of it. The 119-pound unit can be mounted on brackets fastened to the wall, as shown, or bolted to concrete blocks resting on the ground.



**2] Locate the air handler.** It mounts on an exterior wall no more than 33 feet from the outdoor unit, at least 2½ inches below the ceiling and 3 feet from a TV. First, the mounting plate is screwed to the studs, as shown. At the plate's lower-right corner, the installer drills through the wall with a 3-inch hole saw. Outside, a connecting hole is drilled ¼ inch below the one inside.



**3] Mount the air handler.** With the cover off, the control wire, refrigerant lines, and condensate drain hose are attached to the unit and taped together, and a protective sleeve is fitted into the hole in the wall. The unit is hoisted up without its fins being touched, and the taped parts are fed through the sleeve, as shown. The unit then mounts to the plate.



**4] Set up the condenser.** The outdoor unit is connected to the control wire from the indoor unit and to a jacketed power cable leading to the breaker panel. Then the ends of the refrigerant lines are fastened to the condenser with flare nuts, as shown. Flare nuts are also used to join these lines to the ones on the indoor unit.

**5] Hide the lines.** A plastic channel screwed to the siding hides the lines, condensate hose, and control wire. After the hose is checked to make sure it drains freely, the end of the hole sleeve is sealed with silicone to prevent water infiltration. Then the channel is capped, as shown.

**6] Pump and cover.** A gauge manifold and a vacuum pump are hooked up to the refrigerant lines to detect leaks and dry the lines as refrigerant is pumped into them. The last step is to put the cover on the air handler, as shown. The system is then ready to heat and cool.

PHOTOS: RYAN BENYI (7)



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PHOTO: (ABOVE) ANDREW MCCAUL



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\$24,990 in sump pumps with built-in user notification and a backup battery (34 prizes worth \$735 each) from **Wayne Water Systems**



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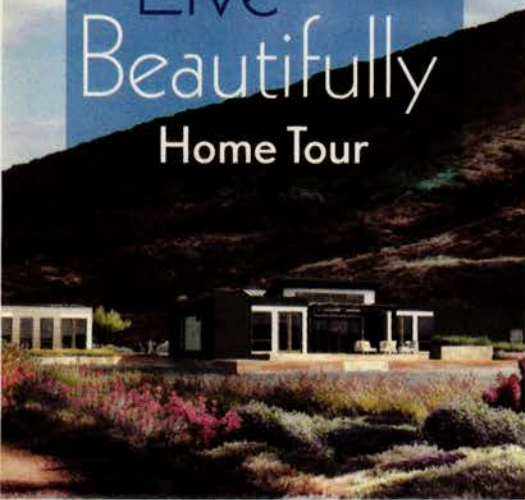


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Stay tuned for our September issues, where we'll reveal our 2014 Dream Home in Los Angeles!

## Ask THIS OLD HOUSE



## Norm's tricks of the trade

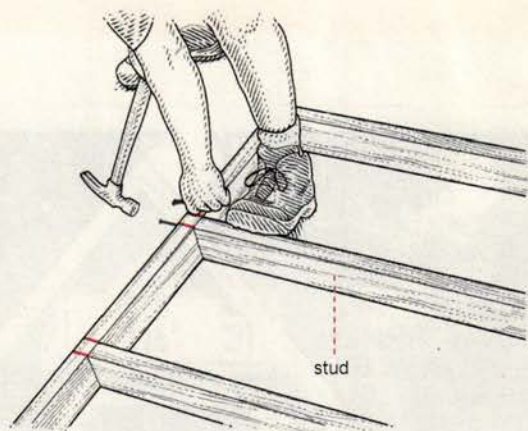


**I need to install an interior wall in a finished basement. Can I build it first and then tip it up?**

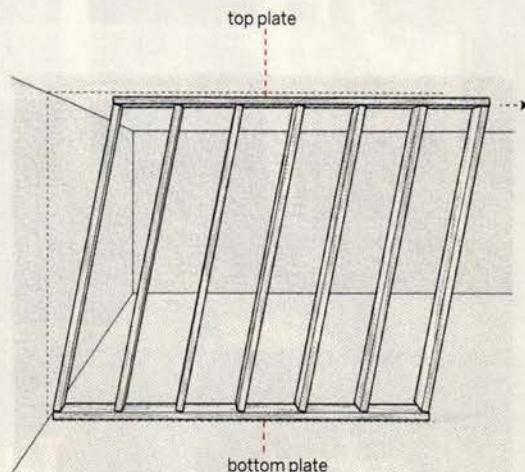
—PAUL DELARICHELIERE, HENDERSON, NEV.

**A** That's the way I'd do it. But there's a problem: When a wall is built to fit precisely in a space and you tip it straight up, the top plate will collide with the ceiling before the studs come into plumb. You could make the wall a little short and then shim it into place, but here's a trick that averts all that fuss.

**1] Frame the wall.** Mark the floor and ceiling where you want the wall to land. Measure the ceiling height, subtract 3 inches (the combined thickness of the top and bottom plates), and cut the studs to that length. Cut the plates to length, lay them face-to-face on the floor, and mark both edges every 16 inches. Situate the studs between the plates at your marks, then drive two 16d nails through the plates and into the ends of the studs.



**2] Tilt and rack.** Set the wall's bottom plate next to the mark on the floor and tilt the wall up. As it nears the ceiling, rack the wall slightly, away from the adjacent wall. This turns it into a parallelogram, reducing its height enough to give you the clearance you need. Once the plates are on their marks, push the studs plumb. The wall will snug up to the ceiling just right, ready for you to fasten the plates to the floor and the ceiling joists. ■





# This Old House® blueprint

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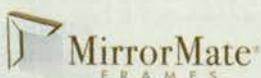
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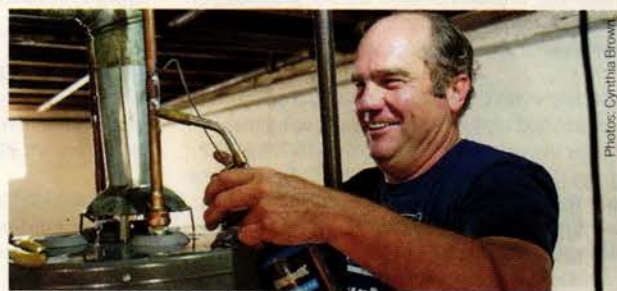
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## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### HomeFront Day 2014

On the first Saturday of every May, HomeFront ([homefrontprogram.org](http://homefrontprogram.org)) assembles crews of volunteers to help homeowners across Connecticut repair their homes. On May 3, 2014, Team TOH was proud to have helped one deserving family, and we extend our gratitude to **Advil® #ReliefInAction** for their support of this feel-good event.



Photos: Cynthia Brown

Our very own **Richard Trethewey** volunteered his time and expertise



The **Advil® #ReliefInAction** Mobile Relief Center delivered samples and refreshments for the volunteers

[advil.com/reliefinaction](http://advil.com/reliefinaction)



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To learn more about our HomeFront Day project, visit [thisoldhouse.com/homefront](http://thisoldhouse.com/homefront)

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# Directory

AUGUST 2014



**COVER:** See the listing for Before + After Kitchen (pp. 28–32).

## HOME SOLUTIONS

(pp. 19–26) **DIY mason-jar pendant:** Canning racks: kitchenkrafts.com. Sow cool-season crops now:

*Thanks to* Susan Littlefield: garden.org. Paul Gallione: johnnyseeds.com. The mosquito, in close-up: *Thanks to* Ulrich R. Bernier: ars.usda.gov. Joe Conlon: mosquito.org. Budget redo: **Homeowner's blog:** saving4six.com.

**BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN:** Busted open, brightened up (pp. 28–32) **Designer-builder:** Builder Showroom, Edmonds, WA; 425-778-8200; buildershowroom.net. **Paint:** 2028-30 Tequila Lime (walls); benjaminmoore.com. **Library ladder and rail:** putnamrollingladder.com. **Refrigerator and dishwasher:** kitchenaid.com. **Microwave:** whirlpool.com. **Sink:** julien.ca. **Coathooks:** restorationhardware.com. **Butcher-block table top:** johnboos.com. **Banquette fabric:** maxwellfabrics.com. **Flat screen:** sony.com. **Paintings:** threebirdshome.com.

**BEFORE + AFTER BATH:** Designed to pamper (pp. 35–37) **Designer:** Knutson Residential Design, Saint Paul, MN; knutsonresidentialdesign.com. **General contractor:** Ben Quie & Sons, St. Paul, MN; benquieandsons.com. **Cabinets and vanity:** Aanes Furniture Company, Minneapolis, MN; 612-782-8677. **Ceiling recess in silver leaf:** Trompe Decorative Finishes, Minneapolis, MN; 612-344-9146. **Paint:** SW 7006 Extra White (cabinets) and SW 7057 Silver Strand (walls); sherwin-williams.com. **Knobs and pulls:** emtek.com. **Sinks:** kohler.com. **Vanity baskets:** westelm.com.

**BEFORE + AFTER FRONT YARD:** Private and inviting (pp. 41–43) **Landscape designer:** Robert Welsch, Westover Landscape Design, Tarrytown, NY; 914-631-6836; westoverld.com.

**PAINT IDEAS:** Upbeat risers (p. 45) **Interior designer:** Erin Paige Pitts Interiors, Gibson Island, MD; erinpaigepittsinteriors.com.

**PHOTOSHOP REDO:** Prettying up a period house (p. 53) *Thanks to* John Myefski, Myefski Architects, Evanston, IL; 847-440-8294;

myefski.com. **Porch light:** Frances II collection, Craftmade; wayfair.com. **Roof shingles:** Abruzzo Bellaforté Shake; davinciroofscapes.com. **Windows:** Simonton Reflections double-hung replacement window; simonton.com.

**ANIMAL HOUSE:** Cool relief for the dog days (p. 58) *Thanks to* Dog Gone Smart Pet Products; dgspetproducts.com.

**WEEKEND REMODEL:** Build a garage pergola (pp. 61–64) **Brackets:** Original style side bracket and Contemporary style center support; arbororiginal.com.

## LOOKS SMALL, LIVES LARGE (pp. 66–73)

**Architect:** Christopher Rice, Rice and Brown Architects, Sea Girt, NJ; 732-449-9055; shorearchitect.com. **Interior designer:** Jules Duffy, Jules Duffy Designs, Madison, NJ; 973-845-2810; julesduffy.com. **Kitchen designer:** Mark C. Arthur, Ideal Kitchens, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ; 732-892-0384; idealkitchens.com. **Exterior landscaping:** Joe Crapanzano, Green with Perfection, Howell, NJ; 732-458-8426; greenwithperfection.com. **Kitchen:** **Pendant light:** vaughandesigns.com. **Faucet:** rohl.com. **Living room:** **Coffee table:** Custom; julesduffy.com. **Sofa, armchairs, and end tables:** kravet.com. **Table lamps:** christopherspitzmiller.com.

## 9 SECRETS OF COTTAGE STYLE (pp. 82–87)

**Interior designer:** Jane Coslick Designs & Restorations, Savannah, GA; janecoslick.com. **Landscape designer:** John Dugger, Richmond Hill, GA; 912-657-0840.

## ASK THIS OLD HOUSE (pp. 95–102)

**Question of the Month:** *Thanks to* Mark Pauletti; arctic-mechanical.com. **Mini-split heat pump (shown):** M-Series heat pump, MSZ/MUZGE24NA; mitsubishicomfort.com.

**SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE (p. 110)** *Thanks to* Veda Bussing, Brazil, IN; coldwellbanker.com. Jay Schmitt, Brazil, IN. ■

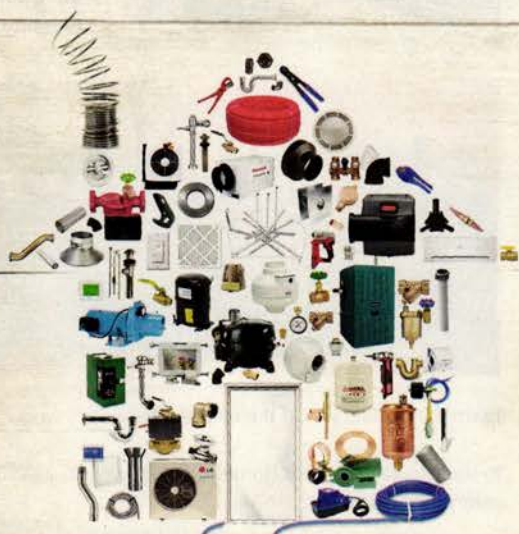
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**PRICE** \$39,900

**LOCATION** Brazil, Indiana

**CONTACT** Veda Bussing,  
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**THE HISTORY** When Thomas McCrea built this grand Mission Revival house, in 1910, it no doubt came as a surprise to his neighbors, most of whom favored the modest Folk Victorian cottages that peppered the main thoroughfares of their small farming town. But while attending the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, McCrea had fallen in love with this style of architecture, which had been used to construct an elaborate booth for the state of California. By the time Thomas built his house, he'd had professional success as a bank vice president and the owner of the Brazil Hollow Brick and Tile Company. While he never married, he took in his widowed mother and two sisters, one of whom, Louise, occupied the master bedroom until her death in 1977, at the age of 99. The house has had just three owners since.

**WHY SAVE IT?** The exterior of the roughly 3,200-square-foot house is embellished with a large Spanish-style dormer and glazed-tile roof, both typical of the style. The interior boasts stained birch and oak millwork and built-ins with leaded-glass doors. **WHAT IT NEEDS** Despite sitting vacant for two years, the house is in good shape. It does need new radiators throughout and updates to some wiring. Outside, the porches should be rebuilt and the roof and chimneys need patching. Brazil is a town of 8,000 an hour west of Indianapolis. Restoring the house is a big job, but places like this don't come up for sale every day—it may be your only chance to own a Mission Revival home some 2,000 miles from the West Coast, where the style was born. —PAUL HOPE



1] The five-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath house has a handsome front porch and patterned brick chimneys. 2] The stained-birch center staircase features a decorative flatsawn balustrade. 3] This first-floor fireplace is flanked with period cabinetry and finished in the original glazed porcelain tile. The walls throughout the first floor feature decorative painting. 4] Multipane French doors and transoms draw light into the house.

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