

FARMHOUSE FIXER-UPPERS

MARCH 2018

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When it comes to fudge,
we recommend tasting from
left to right.

Keebler



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Country Living

We Asked CL Staffers:

What paint color are you most excited to use in a spring project?

"I plan to paint my garden shed with **Faded Rose by Glidden**. It has the perfect terra-cotta tones."
—Kate Phillips

"I'm dying to give my porch rockers a grassy kick with **Picnic by Sherwin-Williams**."
—Alison Allsopp

"I'm hoping **Spring Lilac by Benjamin Moore** will soften up my dark bedroom furniture."
—Natalie Schumann

***psst!**
Lilac is trending!
See p. 19.

"I'm eager to use **Faded Denim by Benjamin Moore** for its easy-breezy name alone."
—Rachel Hardage Barrett

Rachel Hardage Barrett

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From '92, an "1820 Farmhouse Restored With Pride." See page 56 for another 1820s farmhouse restoration!



Shoppe, a garden boutique in Birmingham, is my new source for inspiration.

Checkered hardwood floors, as seen in March '83, never go out of style. (See page 88.)



Calling All Readers!

Did your home appear in a past issue of *Country Living*? We want to see what it looks like now! E-mail us at homes@countryliving.com



We still love a skirt! In March '07 it was a ruffled ottoman. Now it's a tailored side table (page 81).



The March '97 issue welcomed "Color All Through the House." This time around, our sights are set on lilac (page 19).



We loved floral wallpaper in March '91, and it's still hanging around in 2018. (See page 63.)

Editor's Note

Welcome to the umpteenth millionth * "Makeover Issue" to ever go to print. And it's safe to say it won't be the last. What is it about a before-and-after that captivates us so? "Dramatic unveils" are the bread-and-butter of home improvement shows (cue the happy tears!), and even our Facebook feeds cater to our desire to see a happily ever after: *This Shocking Kitchen Transformation Will Seriously Restore Your Faith in Humanity!* (For the record, I would totally click on that.) 2018 marks 40 years of *Country Living*, and as we've been planning our upcoming September anniversary issue, a deep dive into the archives confirmed two truths: 1) We've *always* had a soft spot for a good fixer-upper and 2) Some things, like clawfoot tubs and checkered floors, never go out of style. (Speaking of the latter, don't miss the wildly useful *Hardwood Handbook* on page 82.) If this issue leaves you feeling motivated to make a change, enter for a chance to win \$1,000 toward a trip to the *Country Living* Fair in Nashville (April 20-22), where you'll find plenty of one-of-a-kind finds to update your space. (In other *CL* Fair news, I'm thrilled to announce we'll be heading to Ohio twice this year—in June and September; see page 36 for more info.) Until then, I'll be wading through more back issues. Next up: August 1998, featuring "the new cordless phone that lets you roam up to a half-mile from its base unit." Good old days, indeed!

*Rough estimate

Rachel

Rachel Hardage Barrett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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For the first time ever, North Carolina's High Point Market, the largest home furnishing trade show in the world, is opening its show-room floor to consumers! Join us, alongside editors from sister titles *House Beautiful*, *HGTV Magazine*, and more, for an exclusive, one-day event featuring guided tours, a private luncheon, and seminars. secure.access.market.hearst.com



FIND THE HORSESHOE

WIN A NAVY CAST-IRON SOAKING TUB!

If you find the horseshoe hidden in this issue*, go to countryliving.com/win (see page 102 for details), and enter for a chance to win a tub from Signature Hardware; signaturehardware.com. (Retail value: \$2,519) *Not required for winning



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The Check List

COMPLETELY FUN, NO-OBLIGATION WAYS TO ENJOY THE COUNTRY THIS MONTH!



DECORATE

BRING THE OUTSIDE INSIDE

Turn the page to see how this breezy clothesline inspired a fresh-and-fragrant laundry room.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HELEN NORMAN.

The Check List



The Inspiration



Try it on the floors or as a backsplash!



1. Combo Washer/Dryer \$1,010; homedepot.com
2. Spun Cotton by PPG; ppgpaints.com
3. Laundry Basket \$38; birchlane.com
4. Clothespins \$7 for 40; amazon.com
5. Personalized Dog Bowl Stand \$75; highlanddesignco.etsy.com
6. Drying Rack \$299; ballarddesigns.com
7. 3'-Long Laundry Sign \$68; magnoliamarket.com
8. Bucket Sink \$249; rejuvenation.com
9. Cherry Blossom Tile \$13/square foot; cletile.com
10. Rosemary-Scented Detergent \$16; mrsmeyers.com
11. Wire Basket Pendant \$129; shadesoflight.com



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SHOP

DESIGN YOUR KITCHEN!

We used country aprons to tie together four distinct style schemes.



Cup Pull \$8;
potterybarn.com



Cobalt Pendant \$249;
cocoweb.com



**Chicken Wire
"Torhamn"
Cabinet** \$105/
door; *ikea.com*



Butcher Block
johnboos.com
for pricing



**Chicken
Apron**
\$50; *sur
latable.com*



Electric Range
\$5,899;
agamarvel.com
for stores



Egg Board
\$50; *farmhouse
pottery.com*



**Magnetic
Faucet** \$448;
moen.com for
stores

FARMHOUSE



Rounded Pull
\$27 for 6;
target.com



**Cerused Cabinet
in "Madrid"**
*omegacabinetry
.com* for pricing



Caged Pendant
\$108; *houzz.com*



Concrete
*trueformconcrete
.com* for pricing



**Striped
Apron** \$14;
*williams-
sonoma.com*



**Stovetop
Coffee
Maker** \$30;
amazon.com



**Steam Pipe-
Inspired Faucet**
\$320; *signature
hardware.com*

INDUSTRIAL

**Stainless
Steel Range**
\$5,100;
*subzero-
wolf.com*





HUNGRY FOR DESIGN HELP?

Let a designer help you develop a plan for your unique space. *Country Living* has teamed up with e-design service Laurel & Wolf to offer complete one-room design packages as low as \$149. Visit laurelandwolf.com/countryliving for more information.

Gingham Knob
\$2; wayfair.com



**Striped
Flushmount**
from \$170;
[barnlight
electric.com](http://barnlightelectric.com)

**Beadboard
Cabinet**
[homecrest
cabinetry.com](http://homecrestcabinetry.com)
for pricing



**Antiqued
Limed Pine
Laminate**
wilsonart.com
for pricing



Wall Clock \$50;
us.amara.com



**Garden
Apron** \$16;
target.com

RETRO



**Buttercup Yellow
Range** \$4,495;
bigchill.com



**Bridge
Faucet** \$154;
wayfair.com

Plus Marble Knob
\$8; cb2.com



**Raised Panel
Cabinet in
Aqua** [decora
cabinets.com](http://decora-cabinets.com)
for pricing



Globe Pendant
\$788; [houseofantique
hardware.com](http://houseofantiquehardware.com)



**Modern
Toile Apron**
\$38;
minted.com



**Carrara
Marble** [home
depot.com](http://home-depot.com)
for pricing



**Kitchen
Scale** \$49;
food52.com

GLAM

**Glass
Black Range**
\$8,100;
[williams-
sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com)



**Pulldown
Faucet** \$265;
themine.com

UPDATE

FURNITURE FIX-UPS

We challenged CL Crafts Director Charlyne Mattox to transform the same dining chair four ways. Here's proof you can tailor any old flea-market find to suit (and seat) your needs with just a little elbow grease.

BEFORE



Bistro White
Valspar



WC-61
Fine Paints of Europe



Honeydew
Sherwin-Williams



Bluebelle
Benjamin Moore



Broccoflower
Sherwin-Williams

▲ DIAMOND BACK

Paint the chair light green. Once dry, paint a diamond shape on the back rungs and two stripes on bottom rungs with white paint. Supplement with a darker green paint as desired.

▲ WOVEN JUTE

Paint the chair white. Weave jute ribbon through back rungs, securing with hot glue. Use a rubber mallet to hammer upholstery studs along backrest and seat edge.

▲ TWINE-WRAPPED

Paint the chair light blue. Once dry, wrap the back and lower front rungs with white and natural twine, securing at each end with hot glue.

▲ GRAIN SACK

Paint one wide and two narrow yellow stripes on backrest. Use a vintage grain sack and upholstery foam to make a custom cushion (including ties) for the seat.

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smaller than
actual size of
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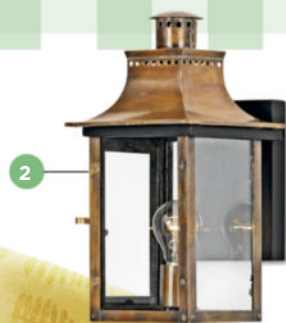
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MEET

LAUREN LIESS

"MY KIND OF COUNTRY"

The designer, textile artist, and mom of five shares spring style tips in between filming episodes for her new HGTV show, *Best House on the Block*.

Essential Spring Ritual

Hanging in the creek or paddling our johnboat around the pond with the kids and our pup, Fawn. I love to pack a kantha quilt (thelittlemarket.com) and snacks, of course.

Canasta Picnic Basket (1)
\$56; houzz.com

Curb Appeal Booster

New lighting, like a lantern with a little patina, and house numbers that complement the architecture. **Copper Lantern (2)** \$401; houseofantiquehardware.com. **Iron Numbers (3)** \$5 each; rchhardware.etsy.com

Cozy-Up-a-Space Secret

Using fabric to create a mood for the room. Fabrics are highly personal, and even just a few pillows in the right patterns can change the overall feel from "showroom" to "well-loved." **Linen Textiles (4)** \$146 per yard; laurenliess.com

Style Shortcut

Painting window frames and bars with black or gray to draw the outside views in. I find darker colors frame the view more nicely than traditional white. My go-to shade is **Black by Benjamin Moore**.

Go-To Color Combo

Black, white, and aged wood, with a hint of live greenery. I love placing potted ferns on my coffee table, along with a stack of books and a tray to corral all kinds of little knick-knacks, like the stones my kids collect. **Fern with August Planter (5)** \$49; thesill.com

Trusted Kitchen Materials

For countertops, I love

soapstone, honed stone (like marble or bluestone), or butcherblock to bring in natural textures. For backsplashes, I go with simple plaster, classic subway tile, or amazing hand-painted terra-cotta tile (Tabarka has great options!).

*** Catch Lauren and her husband, David, in *Best House on the Block*, coming to HGTV later this year.**

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Ashley

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www.ashtondrake.com/ashley



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See page 102 for rules

The Field Guide

DECORATING IDEAS FOR THE GREAT INDOORS

How to start a lucky new collection (p. 29), update a bathroom vanity (p. 37), and more!

Look for Wedgwood's
Jasperware at
replacements.com.

Wild for... Lilac

No shrinking violets here!
The pretty shade is in
full bloom this season.

For resources, see p. 102.

Collect purple
postage! ([edelweiss
post.etsy.com](http://edelweisspost.etsy.com))

1

Pretty Patterns

Thanks to the serene hue, a bouquet of stripes, checks, and florals makes for a calm, composed bedroom. (Pops of black offset the sweetness.)

Freshen up an old trunk with fabric!



2

Embroidery

It's wall art with a fresh country spin. \$25 (\$20 for DIY kit); frontroomstitches.etsy.com



3

Tassel Necklace

Transition your winter wardrobe into spring with a lighthearted lilac accessory. \$78; lisilerch.com

4

Rollerball Fragrance

Savor the soothing scents of the season all year with this purse-friendly perfume. \$28; aerin.com



5

RAIN BOOTS

Pink-soled floral galoshes lend a certain sophistication to puddle-jumping. \$80; joules.com



April Morning
Valspar



6

EYE SHADOW

Brighten your lids with a lightweight wash of lilac.

\$18; macys.com



7

TUFTED CHAIR

Try an unexpected shade on a buttoned-up silhouette. \$414; houzz.com



9

RECORD PLAYER

Turn up your favorite songs ("Purple Rain," perhaps?) on this bluetooth-compatible piece.

\$99; urbanoutfitters.com



The cute case makes it extra portable!

10

Seagrass Basket

Pom-pom fringe made of chunky yarn gives a playful punch to organizing. \$49; dutch-warehouse.myshopify.com



8

PENDANT LIGHT

Give a farmhouse staple fresh, feminine flair. (For similar fixtures, go to barnlight.com.)

11

Waverly Rug

Put more spring in your step with this beautifully faded floor covering.

From \$68; anthropologie.com





© 2017 Kraft Foods

THE NATURAL WAY TO GRAB & GO



17G OF PROTEIN

NO ARTIFICIAL
INGREDIENTS



THE FIELD GUIDE / WILD FOR...

12

Tinted Tumblers

Sip pretty courtesy of whisper-thin glassware. \$3.50 each; cb2.com



13

BUD VASES

Enameled tin containers help posies bloom a little brighter. \$18 for three; accompanyus.com



14

Acrylic Sunnies

Because rose-colored glasses aren't your only option. \$228; heidilondon.com

Embedded with real handpicked flowers!

15

CAMELBACK BED

Hit the 'lac with a pretty upholstered frame. From \$645 for twin; onekingslane.com



16-20

Purple-y Paints

Sweeten up your walls with increasing levels of lilac.



BUD VASES, SUNGLASSES, AND GLASSWARE: BRIAN WOODCOCK; STYLING BY LEAH DANKERTSON.

Oscar Mayer

NATURAL TURKEY, HERE'S THE TASTE YOU'VE BEEN MISSING.



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EVER*

NO ARTIFICIAL
INGREDIENTS

NO ARTIFICIAL
PRESERVATIVES



DISCOVER A WORLD OF TASTE

*FEDERAL REGULATIONS PROHIBIT THE USE OF HORMONES IN POULTRY.

Best in Show

Shipshape Bathroom

Here's how to mimic the maritime charms of a Mendham, New Jersey, master bath by designer Alexandra Angle.

COUNTRY CLASSIC CORNER CHAIR

Also referred to as a "roundabout" chair, this smart silhouette, popular in the 18th century, can tuck into a tight space and serves as a particularly handy spot to stash bathside towels. Extra points for a woven rush seat, which adds nice texture.

Roundabout Chair;
1stdibs.com



THE SHOWSTOPPER SOAKING TUB

At 67" long, this handsome navy piece with rivet detailing means you can stretch out stylishly.

Brayden Bateau Cast-Iron Tub \$2,519;
signaturehardware.com

 **WIN THIS!**
See page 102 for
details on how to enter.



STYLE SHORTCUT STEALTH STORAGE

Use an open-top woven basket to stash away towels or toiletries. This hand-woven pick with leather straps also mounts to the wall.

Adirondack Basket
\$79; *ballarddesigns.com*



BRIGHT IDEA SEAFARING SCONCES

Flank a statement tub with nautical wall mounts.



Caged
\$41; *build.com*



Chrome
\$119; *shadesoflight.com*



Hanging
\$350; *ourboathouse.com*



Divided
\$378; *circa Lighting.com*



BY THE NUMBERS

6

Maximum number of inches to leave between bathtub and mat for easy exits



Skylight
Farrow & Ball

Light the Way

This brass fixture is modeled after captains' lanterns on 17th-century ships.

Hanging Lantern \$504;
nausetlanternshop.com

Get the Look

*Here, a plain white tub got a custom coat of Benjamin Moore's **Hale Navy**.*

SECRET SOURCE TIMELESS SEASCAPES

Run by Excelsior, Minnesota-based art historian and dealer Hayley Stoen, The Atelier Collection offers a curated mix of beautifully framed seascapes and landscapes. (Find new inventory almost daily.)

Vintage Oil Paintings
starting at \$175;
atelier-collection.com





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Annual Campaign

Thrill of the Hunt
Seeing Green

Cultivate a clover-adorned collection of **4-H Club memorabilia** spanning the organization's 100-year history.



STYLING BY ALISON ALLSOPP

The roots of 4-H go back to 1902, when small gatherings—known then as “Tomato Clubs” or “Corn Clubs”—sprang up in Clark County, Ohio, and across the Midwest. Inspired by the disconnect between farmers’ traditional methods and universities’ forward-thinking developments, the clubs encouraged youth to adopt more current agricultural and homemaking practices. In 1911, the clover emblem took shape with four H’s symbolizing the clubs’ core education principles: head, heart, hands, and health. By 1914, most clubs abbreviated the principles to “4-H,” and Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension System under the USDA and officially nationalized 4-H. Since then, 4-H has maintained a strong presence in urban and rural communities, boasting more than 110 partner universities, 3,000 county offices, and six million participants. Kids ages 8 to 18 can get their hands dirty with in- and after-school programming, as well as clubs and camps that hone skills in agriculture, STEM, healthy living, and citizenship. Visit 4-h.org for more info.



The first 4-H camp was held in 1927 as a national event in Washington, D.C. Camps are now offered in counties and states across the country.

Clothing

While present-day 4-H doesn’t require uniforms, in the past, these items varied by state and club level. Some clothing items tie to special occasions, and others relate to medal-earning projects. In the 1970s, junior leaders donned striped sheaths made from 4-H dress patterns, while spirited sweaters (like the V-neck above) served as the required wardrobe for a delegate’s trip to National Congress. Some members flocked to just-for-fun pieces like bomber jackets.

Signs & Banners

Sporty pennants commemorate meetings like the annual National 4-H Congress, which was held in Chicago and briefly in Memphis, Tennessee, before landing in Atlanta in 1998. Other banners celebrate state-level accomplishments, club pride, or the motto, “To make the best better.” The pledge (top right) originated in 1927 and remained unchanged until 1973, when the words “and my world” were added to create the pledge known today.

Awards

4-H events have evolved from early-20th-century local corn and cotton contests to organized fairs, shows, and conferences held at county, state, and national levels. Educational trips to prestigious state and national conferences have been coveted prizes through the years, while the trophies and ribbons pictured serve as collectible symbols of excellence in 4-H programs. Common contest areas include public speaking, livestock and horse shows, record book presentations, and various project demonstrations. Older pieces, like the cups shown here, date back to the 1930s and 1940s, and can be worth as much as \$150. Easier-to-find rosettes start at around \$10. Start your collection at theponycl closet.etsy.com.



These bindings usually fall into one of three categories:

SONGBOOKS
First printed in 1929, the 4-H songbook has been redesigned through the years, but the melodies remain mostly the same. Some are originals, while others simply put a 4-H twist on classic tunes.

Cherished individual record books (bottom left) represent years of hard work and are the hardest to come by because few members part with them due to their sentimentality.

Smaller, more readily available instruction manuals (bottom right) detail specific project requirements and results.

California was the only state to officially include hats in its 4-H uniform. The felt toppers date back as far as 1940.



Intricate brass and enamel merit pins date back to 1909 and are traditionally awarded upon project completion and program mastery, as well as for attendance, participation, and leader status. 4-H programs run the gamut from rice cookery (really!) and rabbit-showing to aeronautics and dog care, with a more recent focus on STEM areas. Medals were worn but also collected as keepsakes. Eye-catching buttons served as alternate signs of club pride. You can find most of these for \$10 to \$15 apiece on Etsy.



Many of these items were generously provided by the North Carolina 4-H History and Learning Center, Alabama's Jefferson County Extension Office, and the National 4-H History Preservation Program.

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Appraisals

What Is It? What Is It Worth?

From yard-sale finds to family heirlooms, our antiques experts weigh in on your prized treasures.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF...

Stanley's Woodworking Planes

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

Up to \$3,000

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Frederick Stanley founded Stanley Bolt Manufactory in New Britain, Connecticut, in

1843, incorporating Stanley Works close to a decade later. Meanwhile in 1857, Frederick's cousin Henry founded Stanley Rule & Level Company, entering the woodworking plane market in 1869 by acquiring the patents of inventor Leonard Bailey with its purchase of Bailey, Chaney & Co. Stanley introduced more than 300 different styles and sizes of metal-bodied planes

from standard bench planes to more special-use models like butcher block and tongue-and-groove. Many had elegant rosewood handles and intricate designs, making them both beautiful and practical. The two Stanley companies merged in 1920 as The Stanley Works, which continues to innovate today as part of Stanley Black & Decker.



GET IT IN
JUNE!
(\$10; stanley
tools.com)

A Short History of the Stanley Rule

Which one
is in your
toolbox?



1857

Stanley's first rule, the **2-ft., 4-fold Carpenter's Rule** was made of boxwood and brass.



1931

A nickel-plated octagonal case housed the original **Steel Tape Rule**.



1969

The **PowerLock** tape rule headed to the moon on Apollo 11's Lunar Landing Gear.



1990

An industrial-grade coating made the still-favorite **FATMAX** tough and durable.



2018

To mark its 175th anniversary, Stanley is reproducing its 1930s "target" or "Bull's Eye" **Pocket Tape**.



“I purchased this doorstop at a resale shop for \$25. Did I make a good buy?”

—L.O., ALLEGAN, MI

WHAT IT IS:

Cast-Iron Flatback Doorstop

Yes, good hunting! Your doorstop was likely produced between 1860 and 1880, according to appraiser Bene Raia of Raia Auctioneers. She says that while your find features more details than similar painted examples, unfortunately it also looks to have about a 50% paint loss, which diminishes its value somewhat. “Antique figural cast-iron doorstops can be very valuable—some even go for as much as \$3,000 or more,” says Bene. “But yours is worth considerably less due to the aforementioned paint loss and its flat design and painted—as opposed to cast-defined—features.”

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$175-\$350

Known for his still lifes, Chapman Kelley produced works that appeared in *Life* magazine.



“I paid under \$5 for this beauty at a yard sale. I’d love to know more about it as well as its maker.”

—R.M., PHILADELPHIA, PA

WHAT IT IS:

Soup Tureen

Wow! You uncovered a real score! Although the retail location was in New York, according to appraiser Bene Raia of Raia Auctioneers, your E.V. Haughwout & Co. tureen was actually manufactured in Limoges, France, between 1890 and 1910. The company’s original rise to fame was for producing Presidential china, including that of President and Mrs. Lincoln in the 1860s. The company went on to produce distinctive porcelain dinner service, such as your tureen, which is still highly sought after today.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$350-\$500

Custom monograms add decorative flair but hurt the value slightly because people tend to like their own initials!



“My husband was given this painting several years ago. What’s its story?”

—R.C., DALLAS, TX

WHAT IT IS:

Chapman Kelley Still-Life Painting

Antiques Roadshow’s Marsha Bemko presented the information about your piece to appraiser Gene Shapiro of Shapiro Auctions. Turns out, the painting is by Chapman Kelley, a



Sentimental Value

(BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON EVERYTHING)

“Over the years, as a musician and teacher in Albany, New York, my grandfather must have used this **child’s violin** with countless young people. I can imagine his older, fine-fingered, accomplished hands as they wrapped smaller ones around the neck of this violin in instruction. I can hear his quiet, patient voice as he suffered through what must have been some horrible screeching. The old violin has been tucked up in a summer house for many years, but it’s an important physical reminder that the thread of music runs through our veins, and of the love we share for one another.”

—Author Lee Woodruff, as told to still-life photographer Shana Novak, who specializes in capturing the magic of keepsakes (theheirloomist.com).

well-known Texas artist whose work hangs in museums and collections all over the country, as well as his Dallas garden installation, Wildflower Works. Your piece was painted by Kelley in 1958 when he was a recent graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Says Gene, “The 1950s and 1960s were an especially fruitful time for Kelley as he exhibited across the country and received numerous top prizes and awards.”

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$1,200-\$1,800



“I’ve picked up these small crocks one by one over the years. I’m wondering: Is this Awaji pottery?”

—E.S., RED LION, PA

WHAT IT IS:

Awaji Pottery

Yes, you are correct! According to Heritage Auctions appraiser Marsha Dixey, this pottery is also sometimes called Minpei ware. “Named for the Awaji Islands, these utilitarian pots were made in Western Japan in the 20th century,” she says. “Yours look similar to ones made in the 1920s before the kilns closed in 1939. The clay used was a white or cream color, and then glazed via a very old Chinese process called ‘Sancai,’ meaning ‘three colors.’ ” She notes that the pots often had lids, which, if intact, increase their value.

WHAT IT’S WORTH:

\$20-\$30 each



Worth the Trip

Introducing the 2018 CL Fair Schedule!

Mark your calendars for a weekend of antiquing at any (or all!) of our signature shopping events. (Girls’ trip, perhaps?)

Nashville, TN

April 20-22

Mosey into Music City for the first fair of the season. Even better: Win a \$1,000 prize getaway! Go to nashvillefair.countryliving.com for details. See page 102 for rules.

Rhinebeck, NY

June 1-3

Escape to gorgeous Upstate New York for fun finds and seriously Instagrammable scenery.

Columbus, OH

June 15-17, September 14-16

The quaint Ohio Village hosts two Fairs this year.

Atlanta, GA

October 26-28

Enjoy crisp temperatures while perusing Stone Mountain Park’s winding wooded trails.

For tickets and more fair info, go to countryliving.com/fair.



“My great aunt used this at her boarding house in the early 1900s. Does it have any value?”

—E.A., ONTARIO, CANADA

WHAT IT IS:

Silverplate Butter Dish

Antiques Roadshow’s Marsha Bemko checked in with appraiser John Colasacco from Skinner, Inc. He says that your dish was made by the Meriden Britannia Co. of Meriden, Connecticut. “I love the detail of the cow, which gives you a clue to the piece’s purpose and makes it more desirable,” says John. “The dish keeps butter cool while on the table—with the lower portion for ice, a tray on top, and then a glass insert for the butter itself. I do suspect that the knife might not be original as it doesn’t quite fit.”

WHAT IT’S WORTH:

\$200-\$300

“This desk was my great-grandfather’s. Can you tell me anything about it?”

—S.V., TROY, MI

WHAT IT IS:

Eastlake Writing Desk

With its turned spindle gallery and burl walnut panels, your cylinder desk is an excellent example of the very popular Eastlake style furniture, made in the Northern U.S. from the early to mid-1880s. Stuart Whitehurst of Marvin & Whitehurst Appraisal Group shares with *Antiques Roadshow’s* Marsha Bemko that the designs are called “Eastlake” because they refer to the designs found in Charles Eastlake’s 1860s book *Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery and Other Details*.

WHAT IT’S WORTH:

\$700-\$900

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GOOD PIECES
WITH GREAT
BONES
AT CHAIRISH
.COM.



Octagonal Milk
Glass Knob \$11;
[houseofantique
hardware.com](http://houseofantiquehardware.com)



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MARSHA BEMKO,
ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

MARSHA DIXEY,
HERITAGE AUCTIONS

HELAIN FENDELMAN,
APPRAISERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

BENE RAI, A,
RAIA AUCTIONEERS, INC.

SUBMIT YOUR ITEM!

Have something you're
convinced is a treasure? Send
a photo and description
to wiw@countryliving.com.

FROM MUSTY TO MUST-HAVE!

“How can I give this
pretty-but-lackluster
bedroom vanity new life?”
—J.B., MINNETONKA, MN

TRY THIS FIX:

Chalk it up to our soft spot for antiques and all things repurposed, but we're seeing more pieces such as yours popping up in bathrooms as a character-rich alternative to nondescript built-in vanities. Start with a sink and faucet that fit within the surface area of your piece (we love a drop-in with just a little edge; see right), then enlist the help of a carpenter to accommodate the sink—and to retrofit the drawers and back to make room for the plumbing. For an even more dramatic update, freshen it up with paint—CL Homes Editor Jennifer Kopf suggests Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint® to retain the piece's “antique-y” charms—and then seal the surface with a water-repellent coat of wax. Finally, new hardware—a chrome faucet, milk glass knobs—will complement the white sink.

Lem Lem
anniesloan.com



Clear Chalk
Paint Wax
anniesloan.com



Artifacts Faucet
from \$294;
kohler.com



Serif Sink
\$228; kohler.com

ROUND OUT THE ROOM WITH WALLPAPER



FLORAL

Brooklyn from \$21/roll;
luliewallace.com



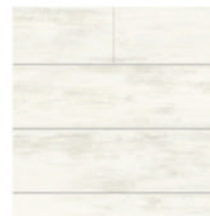
VINE

Ringwold \$230/dbl.
roll; us.farrow-ball.com



CHECK

Grande Check \$150/dbl.
roll; caitlinwilson.com



SHIPLAP

Shiplap \$43/roll;
yorkwall.com



TOILE

Woodland Toile \$60/roll;
spoonflower.com

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#BelieveMagMedia | BelieveMagMedia.com

Roundup Clean Sweep

Now trending: beautiful takes on utilitarian objects. Featuring bold bristles and artisanal craftsmanship, these dust busters multitask as wall art for your work space.

1. Sorghum Grass Broom \$31; madmats.com
2. Desk Broom \$4.50; muji.us
3. Coconut Fiber Broom \$28; shopterrain.com
4. French Push Broom \$88; food52.com
5. Vaya Verde Broom \$55; bereacrafts.com
6. Bassine Bristle Broom \$40; murlifestyle.com
7. Wooden Striped Dustpan \$55; leelanauwoodworking.etsy.com
8. Copper Dustpan \$13; worldmarket.com
9. Hedgehog Brush \$16; amazon.com

Country Listings

Springtime Steals

Complete with pretty country porches, these breezy bargains under \$100,000 allow you to budget for beautification.



◀ Sidney, IA \$79,900

Add your own personal touches to this three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath bungalow. Fully functional 140-year-old pocket doors and transoms lend plenty of character to the interior. *Agent: Jennifer Morgan; berkshirehathawayhs.com*

Update the paint; keep the five original fireplaces!



▲ Roper, NC \$67,900

Two original stained-glass windows shine a colorful glow on the staircase inside this three-bedroom, two-bathroom fixer upper—a throwback from 1918. Peel away the wallpaper or leave it as is for an authentic vintage look. *Agent: Mary Barnes; riverfront-realty.com*

Abbeville, SC ▶ \$85,500

Although you'll need some elbow grease to restore this 1893 Victorian to its former glory, you won't be short on inspiration. This five-bedroom, two-bath home is located in the heart of the historic district. *Agent: Donna Brounkowski; greenwoodschomesforsale.com*



Quincy, IL \$88,500 ▶

Update the kitchen in this circa 1871 four-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath home, and then you're all set to entertain in the adjacent formal dining room, which boasts an antique fireplace and floor-to-ceiling windows. *Agent: Janet Arns; janetarns.com*



▲ Fayette, OH \$60,000

Begin by peeking beneath the carpet inside this majestic four-bedroom, three-bath home—you just might find floors dating back to the 1860s. Purists will delight in the numerous original features like the staircase banister, wainscoting, and more. *Agent: Ginni Neuenschwander; wellsbowen.com*

◀ Marion, AL \$90,000

Grand old trees and shrubs on a large lot await a gardener's touch. Inside, this 1830s five-bedroom, three-bathroom house requires some TLC, but it has great features, including heart-pine floors, original mantels, and gorgeous millwork. *Agent: Kay Beckett; billmackey.com*

"My Strength, My Guide"

Lift your face to the heavens
and let His guiding rays
soothe your soul.

Dona Gelsinger

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handle.
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Glass star shimmers with Swarovski crystal.

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Hand-numbered limited-edition.

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THE DIGS

Black windows, mix-and-match dining chairs, and an industrial pendant temper the room's more feminine elements.

THE DOG

A sweet labradoodle sits stylishly on a rosy roll-arm chair. (See right for an equally spring-like bed of posies.)

GOOD BONES

MINI MAKEOVER!

Pup-grade your canine's corner with these stylish staples.



Bed Cover
From \$39;
thefoggydog.com



Treat Tin
\$39; orvis.com



Storage Basket
\$35; amazon.com



Ceramic Bowl
\$19; oreoriginals.com



Ask a Country Vet

Animal expert **DR. TRICIA EARLEY** offers advice about paint and pet safety, bee-loving pups, and unusual hen behavior.

Q We're planning to repaint our kitchen and living room, but I worry about our dog Marley's reaction to the paint and fumes. We want to keep her safe, but she hates boarding. Are there pet-friendly paints or project tips that you can recommend, or should we plan to remove her from the house for a bit?

A.T., Indianapolis, IN

A Ahh, the smell of fresh paint. The culprit behind that strong odor is volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. Exposure to VOCs can cause several symptoms in people, including headaches, dizziness, nausea, and irritation to the eyes and nasal membranes. Now imagine being Marley, whose

sense of smell is many times greater than your own. Repainting is not going to be very fun for her unless you take precautions. First and foremost, provide plenty of ventilation, as VOCs indoors after painting can be 1,000 times greater than those found outdoors due to, say, butane or pesticides. If you'd like to avoid a kennel, simply consider relocating her to the backyard for a few days, weather permitting.

I also recommend using a paint that has low or zero VOCs. Specialty purveyors such as AFM Safecoat and ECOS Paints, as well as well-known companies like Benjamin Moore, Sherwin-Williams, and Behr, offer a number of safer paint options in a wide range of beautiful colors.

Q It's getting warmer, but one of my chickens still hunches over like she's cold and spends most of her time inside the coop. Is she sick or just adjusting to the weather?

C.S., Macon, GA

A As the weather warms, hens should be out in the yard chatting with the girls and pecking away at the earth. A hen that is hunched in the coop with fluffed feathers is worrisome—she's likely not feeling well. The first thing to explore is the hen's vent, the area where eggs are passed out of the body. Check to make sure that she's not "egg bound," which means there's an egg stuck and unwilling to budge. If that's the case, remove the egg immediately, and she should be fine. But if that's not the case, check for watery eyes, sneezing, or a pale comb. You should also examine the coop for signs of diarrhea. Generally speaking, if your hen is not out enjoying the warm weather, arrange for a checkup with a poultry vet. Respiratory diseases are often contagious and can spread quickly throughout the flock.



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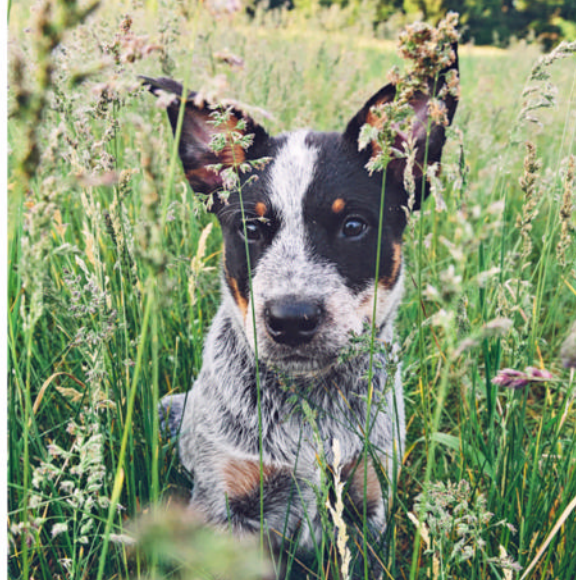


www.BlueBuffalo.com

Q We've seen our cat, Fancy, at the base of a tree in our yard a lot recently. We think she's spotted a bird's nest or some other animal of interest. She's an outdoor cat and very independent, but is there a way to prevent her from climbing up the tree? We'd hate for her to get stuck!

P.K., Dublin, OH

A Good luck. Getting an outdoor cat to stop climbing trees and fences can be like, well, herding cats. Hunting prey and climbing trees is not only natural behavior, but it's also a great form of exercise and mental stimulation. In fact, it's what their feline brains tell them they should be doing. Cats are exceedingly athletic, and it's unusual for them to sustain injuries from a fall. For the most part, they have the ability to judge distance and right themselves midair to allow for safe landings. But sometimes they get distracted, climbing too high, and then assess that they can't safely make it back down. That's when they get stuck. On the whole, though, cats are self-preservationists, so you should trust that Fancy's natural instincts will kick in and keep her safe. Just focus on things you *can* control: providing her with accessible food, water, shelter, and proper identification, especially if she's roaming the outdoors.



Q We finished up new flower bed landscaping before the winter months, but as spring approaches we're worried about our puppy running into garden critters, especially bees. What do I do if she gets stung?

R.S., Columbus, MS

A Many dogs, especially playful puppies, see bees as flying toys that must be pursued and conquered. I often have canine patients show up to my exam room sporting swollen faces. They look like they've gone 10 rounds in a boxing ring! People always ask how to know whether a bee sting should be managed at home or by a veterinarian. Just like humans, dogs can be allergic to bees. Stings typically occur on a muzzle, as dogs are usually stung while trying to sniff or eat the bee. If the swelling is minimal, as in the size of a grape, simply remove the stinger and apply a cool compress for 10 minutes. An oral dose of Benadryl (diphenhydramine) is often helpful, as well. (Consult your veterinarian for the appropriate dose. I usually recommend 1 milligram per pound, not exceeding 50 milligrams.) However, if you notice that the swelling is excessive and/or occurs around other parts of the face such as around the eyes, or if your dog seems itchy, lethargic, or nauseated, seek medical attention right away. Your veterinarian will determine if more aggressive treatment is necessary.



HAVE A PET QUESTION?

Drop Dr. Earley a line at
countryvet@countryliving.com.

After comparing ingredients,
**8 out of 10 people who feed Iams
prefer the ingredients in BLUE.**



Top 5 Ingredients

1. Chicken
2. Ground Whole Grain Corn
3. Ground Whole Grain Sorghum
4. Chicken By-Product Meal
5. Dried Beet Pulp

1. Deboned Chicken
2. Chicken Meal
3. Brown Rice
4. Barley
5. Oatmeal

BLUE Life Protection Formula® and Iams™ ProActive Health™ Adult MiniChunks™ both provide complete and balanced nutrition. But when Iams feeders were asked to compare the top 5 ingredients of Iams and BLUE, 8 out of 10 preferred the ingredients in BLUE.

So compare for yourself and we think you'll prefer BLUE too.

Learn more about BLUE Life Protection Formula
CompareBlueDog.com

Love them like family. Feed them like family.®

BUILD NOTES

A MISCELLANY OF TIPS, TRICKS, AND TACTICS FOR MARCH IN THE NOT-SO WILD

A
SPECIAL
EDITION
OF FIELD
NOTES



SPOTTED!

The Perfect Power Drill

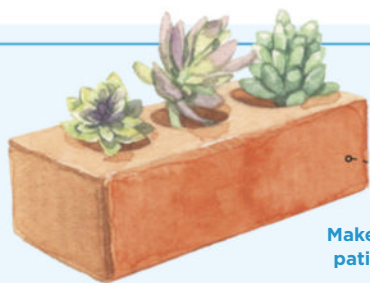
Our brother brand *Popular Mechanics* recently rated this the best all-around power drill, and we concur: It's versatile (think drilling, driving, and hammering settings), super-powerful, conveniently cordless, and, thanks to a rubber grip, remarkably easy to handle.

Makita Lithium-Ion Cordless Drill \$119; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



COUNTRY
STRONG!

Comes with an LED light for dark settings or nighttime projects



Makes a great patio accent

SEARCH & RESCUE

What to Do with...Extra Bricks

Reuse "cored bricks"—that is, the bricks with small holes in them—as tiny planters. Just fill with soil and succulents of your choice.

RESOURCE

On-Call Handyman

Need to assemble furniture? Mount a television? Install a new light fixture? Check out **Handy**, an on-demand service that helps you hire trusted local specialists when you need them most (as in within 24 hours)—for projects big (air conditioner installation) or small (hanging pictures). It's the website equivalent of "I know a guy." [handy.com](https://www.handy.com)



MORAL COMPASS

Q We're about to put an addition on the back of our house, and I'm so excited to have a little more space! But when the couple down the block did a major renovation last year, several people complained about the noise. Is there any way to offset potential anger? —*Jamie K., Monroe, MI*

A Are you going out for the neighbor of the year award? Your pre-emptive concern is admirable! And, unfortunately, well founded. No one wants to be kept awake at all hours of the night because of construction noise. There are a few steps you can take to make sure you stay in your pals' good graces. Whenever you see neighbors out and about between now and the first renovation day, flag them down and clue them

in to your plans with a promise that you'll try to keep the worst noise to reasonable hours. While your new walls are going up, there's no harm in a well-timed bottle of wine dropped off at a neighbor's house, perhaps packaged with some tongue-in-cheek Tylenol and earplugs. When the construction is complete, host a post-reno party in your new digs. One bowl of your world-famous chili and surely all will be forgiven.

IDENTIFICATION KEY

Shutters

Whether you're updating a home or admiring the neighbor's exterior, here's a primer on the architectural embellishment.



Louvered



Arched

Adds instant age to new builds



Board and Batten



Hinged at the top

Bahama



SHORTCUT

Keep Track of Paint Colors

Sure, you may have painstakingly obsessed over the perfect sage green for your powder room, but six months from now when it needs a touch-up, will you remember the specific hue? To save your sanity (and help out future homeowners), use an old recipe box to organize paint chips (and other pertinent swatches: wallpaper, fabric) by room.

EQUESTRIAN DOOR KNOCKER, BRIAN WOODCOCK.

SCOUTED

Door Knockers

Hoo's there? Just the perfect assortment of sayin'-hi hardware.

 Owl \$28; shopterrain.com	QUIRKY  Shovel \$40; signaturehardware.com Artisan-made in the U.S.A. COMES IN 5 COLORS	 Basket \$180; knobsnknockers.com
SAVE  Monogram \$49; michaelhealy.com	 Equestrian \$59; potterybarn.com	SPLURGE  Quatrefoil \$99; rejuvenation.com CLASSIC

FORAGING

Toolbox Upgrades

These cute little helpers will pretty up your projects.



Ombre Allen wrenches in every size add a bit of whimsy to your work station.

Rainbow Set \$76; pbswisstools.com



Bright floral prints make for extra happy hammerin'.

Flower Tool Set \$14 for screwdriver, hammer, and box cutter; pjtool.com



Add a custom monogram to ensure no one swipes it.

Leather Tape Measure \$49 each; markandgraham.com



MERIT BADGE

How to... Preserve Extra Paint

Salvage leftovers for your next project with these tips.

1. Cover It Up

Lay plastic wrap over the opening of the can before you seal it with the lid. Use a rubber mallet to gently tap the lid into place for a secure seal.

2. Flip It Over

Turn the paint can upside-down. (Yes, you read that right!) Turning it over will make the remaining paint pool atop the lid and create an airtight seal.

3. Store It Right

Leave the upside-down paint can in a dry place where it won't be exposed to extreme cold or excessive temperature swings. Use within two years.



Cut Out



Raised Panel

Gives a classic, refined look



Combination



Also works inside!

Sliding



Flora & Fauna
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TM

So much beauty - not enough walls!
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CountryLiving

March 2018



Stitch It Yourself!

Our monthly cross-stitch patterns, dreamed up by Assistant Managing Editor Katie Bowlby, are available in kit form. Go to easy123art.com/countryliving for more info.



The Farmhouse Fixer-Upper

Point. Click. Restore.

Singer-songwriter Holly Williams has made it her mission to return the seen-better-days properties she stumbles across online to their well-deserved glory. Her seventh labor of love in just four years: an 1820s Kentucky charmer now sitting pretty on 42 majestic wooded acres.

written by LAURA KOSTELNY

photographs by ANNIE SCHLECHTER *styling by* MATTHEW GLEASON



BEFORE Filled with debris, the 200-year-old farmhouse needed new siding, windows, and doors. "I had to put on my 'vision goggles,'" says Holly.



PORCH While the porch was already screened-in, it needed a good slathering of white paint. Now the swing, handcrafted by Nashville artist Scott Ellis (scottellisphoto.com), is the perfect spot to watch the sun set over the property's 42 wooded acres. Daughters Lillie Mae and Stella June have made it their spot for heated games of tic-tac-toe.



Pavilion Gray
Farrow & Ball

Holly Williams was on a mission to save tired old Tennessee farmhouses one click at a time. In between juggling three children ages 3 and under (Stella June, 3; Lillie Mae, 2; and Baby Arlo, 10 months); performing and writing songs; overseeing three, soon to be four, locations of her beloved housewares shop, White's Mercantile (next up: Birmingham!); as well as curating clothing at her Nashville boutique, H. Audrey, the Music City multitasker has spent the last four years pointing, clicking, buying, and then rehabbing Craigslist finds all over the Volunteer State. "I feel a huge sense of urgency," says Holly. "I'm worried that if I don't buy these properties and help them, they're going to get torn down."

But last year Holly's restoration inclinations crept beyond state lines, and for that she lays all the blame on husband Chris Coleman. "One night, he was on the computer searching *oldhouses.com*, and all of a sudden he started screaming, 'Red Alert! Red Alert!'" Holly says. Turns out, he'd found a listing for an old 1820s farmhouse located on 42 wooded acres in Franklin, Kentucky, a small town just an hour north of Nashville. "I was on the phone with the owners within the hour," says Holly,

noting that they had been afraid to list it on MLS because the neighbors wanted to buy it and tear it down. The very next day, Holly drove up from Nashville. While the land was undeniably gorgeous and the price was right ("a real steal," says Holly), the house itself wasn't exactly a no-brainer. "I'm very good about wearing my 'vision goggles,'" she says, "but the exterior was falling apart, and there were all these vinyl windows and doors. It was a little dark and depressing. The

ENTRY After clearing out clutter, Holly updated the entry with Pedigree in Navy on Cream by Thibaut wallpaper. The "Danger" sign, found at a Tennessee antiques market, is a tongue-in-cheek warning to houseguests. "With three young kids, you never quite know what sort of chaos you'll encounter," she says.



Delicate White
Porter Paints

HOW SMART IS THIS?

A stack of vintage 7UP soda crates (cratearcade.etsy.com) makes for the perfect dining bench. Holly attached them all with sheets of plywood on the top and bottom and screwed them together with T-nuts. She finished with a set of bun feet (homedepot.com) and a burlap cushion.



LIVING ROOM Before, a black fireplace did nothing to combat the drab. Now, a fresh coat of white paint allows decorative elements to shine, including a striped sofa (imagine-home.com), a vintage trunk (bleu32.com), and banners salvaged from a church (cr-71.com).

owners had been there for so long and had so many collections—the first showing was a bit of a challenge.”

Still, Holly made an offer. “I could see its potential,” she says. Once the keys were in hand, she hired a local contractor and got to work, clearing everything out (says Holly, “I could finally see the corners of the rooms!”) and opening up the tiny, dark kitchen. “We busted out a wall and added a side entrance, and tons of natural light just came pouring in,” she says. Holly and team also added a new bathroom, but other than that, everything else stayed as it was.

That doesn’t mean there weren’t unexpected headaches. Holly, who typically likes to renovate room by room as opposed to all at once to manage costs, notes there are always surprises—new windows and HVAC can cost a pretty penny, as can new floors. “The downstairs floors were so beautiful,” she says. “But there was nothing underneath them—it was straight-up dirt!” So they removed them, rebuilt the foundation, and re-laid the original floors. Says Holly, “I could have saved money by adding new floors, but I find there are times when you don’t want to disrespect the house.”



Gold frames feature art by Holly’s husband (chriscolemanart.com).

HOW SMART IS THIS?

Holly paired affordable
marble shelves
(worldmarket.com)
with brass brackets
(rejuvenation.com)
and filled them with a
mix of pewter and
ironstone.



Blue Daisy
Benjamin Moore



Van Courtland Blue
Benjamin Moore

BEDROOM Holly enveloped the master in the same shade of blue that she used on the front door. A collection of pewter hangs above the antique curved-footboard bed. Floral bedding (caitlinwilson.com) adds a spring touch.



BATHROOM Holly outfitted the upstairs bathroom in gold and white Chateau du Loir wallpaper by Thibaut and added a gold mirror (anthropologie.com) and sconces (cedarandmoss.com). Because the circa-1800s staircase was far too narrow, the brand-new porcelain soaking tub had to be brought in through the bathroom window!

But then there are the *other* times. When the decrepit siding came down, Holly was delighted to find that it was hiding logs. But her happiness was short-lived. While she was dying to restore it to its old log cabin glory, the \$300,000 price tag was way too steep. She opted to cover it up with siding and instead added a new front porch. "It makes it look like it's been here forever," says Holly.

After 12 months of construction, the house, now one of Holly's rental properties, is ready for visitors (go to whitesroomandboard.com for availability and rates). "It's off the beaten path. And I promise, you can't compete with the views from the screened-in porch. Around sunset, it's majestic," she says. Of course, rest and relaxation isn't for *everyone*. Holly, for example, is already on the hunt for her next rescue. "I can't help it. I love a project. And I have a huge passion for restoring these old homes."



“Don’t Be Afraid to Buy a House on Craigslist...”

and six other things *Holly Williams* learned about restoring old farmhouses to their gritty glory.

Hidden gems are hidden for a reason.

I’ve found homes in all sorts of unlikely places—*oldhouses.com* and yes, Craigslist. A friend even found a \$5,000 property on eBay! People with old houses tend to have a strong connection to them, so they’ll try to target like-minded souls (not tear-down buyers!) through quirky channels. My husband and I look for the ones with the most interesting histories in the description.

Brass fixtures are best.

I grew up in the 1980s, the era of bad brass. But I fell in love with it when I was touring in England and saw all this fabulous old lacquered brass. For me, brass makes a home feel warm and historic. Home Depot’s brass knobs changed my life. **Bedford Knob (1)**; *homedepot.com*

Florals don’t have to be fussy.

I love black-and-white and metallic floral wallpaper. It allows more opportunities to add color through accents. I find great patterns at in-stock sources. **Designer’s Guild Couture Rose in Noir (2)**; *wallpaperdirect.com*



Attractive ceiling fans exist!

I’m typically not a fan (forgive me!), but you’ve got to have them in houses where heat is an issue in summer. **Hunter Sea Wind Ceiling Fan (3)**; \$119, *build.com*

“Pink Ground” is the perfect neutral.

The calming Farrow & Ball hue **(4)** has a hint of blush without being too feminine. I’ve used it on doors, floors, and ceilings. For trim, Cloud White by Benjamin Moore **(5)** is a go-to.

Save on countertops.

I used butcher block for the first time last summer. It’s \$200 instead of \$2,000! **South American Acacia Wood (6)**; *lumberliquidators.com*

Don’t pass up the trash pile!

I was quoted five grand for new columns on the porch, but my contractor found four in a trash pile at another property. After some paint, they were perfect. And free!

Holly’s go-to trim color

building design enthusiasts



The Down-to-the-Studs Makeover

Think Inside the Box

A real estate addict with 12 renovations under his tool belt resourcefully reworks the existing footprint of a 1700s property (complete with centuries of awkward add-ons) from the ground up.

written by CAROLINE COLLINS MCKENZIE *photographs by* JOHN GRUEN
styling by ANNA MOLVIK

Alpine White
Benjamin Moore



Exterior

At one point, neighbors called the house “Lonely Chimneys,” as two of the five were left standing alone while the rooms around them were rebuilt. Now, a slim addition to the home’s original footprint provides more storage inside while doubling as a handsome firewood bay outside (which dog Bode finds quite fetching).





Nearly all 12 of Bobby Houston's renovation projects started with a scenic drive along winding country backroads. Says the writer/director-turned-designer: "You're driving along, minding your own business, and then you come upon an old home with a 'For Sale' sign," he says. "Next thing you know, you're finding excuses to peek in the windows, hoping it's in such bad shape that no one else will want it." That's exactly how things unfolded when Bobby and partner Eric Shamie fell in love with an old farmhouse in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The 250-year-old home was both showing its age and reeling from bad additions and upgrades. "In the 18th century, people had a pattern for building: little house, big house, then a barn, and so on," says Bobby. "The little house was built in the 1780s, and then the family got prosperous and added on a bigger house in the 1800s. By the time we got here, there were weird transitions, lots of pink floral wallpaper, and multiple wet bars to contend with," he says.

A bright front door (Red by Benjamin Moore) pops against vertical clapboard siding and a sleek metal roof. "It's always a stretch to afford metal roofing, but it's so crisp. It's like putting a frame on a picture," says Bobby.

But Bobby was undeterred. He hired a contractor and took the house down to the studs, filling 15 dumpsters with past-its-prime plaster, rotted wood, and a "few miles" of defunct wiring and cast-iron piping. After stripping it down, he put it all back together, reconfiguring the home's entire layout along the way. Here's a look at his fittingly winding, not-always-scenic path to completion.

Living Room/Den

The ceiling on the original "little" part of the house was a wreck, says Bobby, who managed to salvage the timbers and use them as beams. He also saved the early glass in the windows.

"It's wavy and creates kind of a magic effect when you look out," he says.



Home Office

While this room may resemble a formal dining room, Bobby says they don't really do *formal* dining, so it's become an open and airy workroom. Inspired by the pickled spruce floors, he and Eric added an antique farm table and chairs by Børge Mogensen for a comfortable work space. A map of Berkshire County pays tribute to the home's location.





Kitchen

The original white kitchen lacked both charm and square footage. And after 10 years of renovations, Bobby has honed his kitchen philosophy: "Make the kitchen bigger. And bigger." He converted the property's old barn into a dream space—now one-third of

the entire house footprint—boasting custom white ash cabinets, white Carrara marble, heated concrete floors, and a fireplace, all beneath a timberframe ceiling. "The idea of a 'great room' focused on a television is so wrong. Everybody knows you should focus on the stove," he says.





Bedroom

The 1800s portion of the house above the dining room/workroom has three bedrooms, including this guest room, which was originally dark and dingy. Bobby added more windows and then brought in his signature white staples, including a painted iron bed, antique coverlet, distressed dresser, and peg rail-lined walls.

Balboa Mist
Benjamin Moore



Bathroom

The home's original kitchen became a charming master bath featuring a soaking tub alongside the original fireplace. "Our excitement over a bathroom with a working fireplace dictated many of our subsequent layout decisions," says Bobby.





“Choose a Contractor Who Listens to Bluegrass...”

and 7 more things *Bobby Houston* learned about rebuilding from the ground up.



Bluegrass is best.

I pay close attention to a contractor's choice in music. You're around it a good deal, and it tells you a lot about a person. Bluegrass is best because the songs are generally witty, wise, and the opposite of angry.

Doors are like scarves.

You can change them easily, and they make all the difference. We find old ones at salvage yards and hang them stripped or glossy, depending on our mood.

Antique Door (1); *historic houseparts.com* for similar

Switch out your bulbs.

We replace all of our lightbulbs with Edison bulbs, which is an easy way to add old-fashioned charm. **60-Watt G25 Edison Bulb (2);** \$7; *lampsplus.com*

Put your Dumpster guy on speed dial.

Because the Dumpsters *always* fill up too darn fast in a reno!

Decorate with white.

There's a purity and cleanliness to it that works in every setting. **Giselle Iron Metal Bed (3);** from \$265 for twin; *overstock.com*



Add a contrast trim.

Revere Pewter by Benjamin Moore (4) is a good warm gray that changes with the light of the day.

Try up-to-the-task lighting.

Schoolhouse fixtures were designed for work spaces! **Derouen Pendant (5);** \$134; *wayfair.com*

Make room for favorites.

We show off our yellowware in the kitchen, and we looked high and low for the robin's-egg blue chest (*cottage treasuresonline.com*) that displays our Bauerware.

Yellowware Bowls (6); from \$125; *farmhousepottery.com*



Bauerware adds a pop of color





The No-Reno Redo

Layer on the Charm

Behold, the art of an instant gratification “renovation,” in which a design-loving executive puts her personal, inviting spin on a 1950s home—all without knocking down a single wall.

*photographs by ALEC HEMER
prop styling by JENNIFER BERNO DECLEENE*

Foyer

To allow the surrounding Connecticut countryside to take center stage, homeowner Debbie Propst opted for a creamy neutral wallcovering (Ralph Lauren's L'Oasis; mahoneswallpapershop.com). A welcoming Dutch door and casual grouping of straw hats set a breezy, laid-back tone.

Hardwick White
Farrow & Ball





Living Room

Debbie worked with The Studio at One Kings Lane (the brand's in-house design service) to achieve her casual, collected mix. "You can get a layered, lived-in look without working at it for a lifetime," says Debbie. A blend of fabrics (velvets, linens), eras (modern armchair, antique dough bowl), and muted colors (blues, browns, corals) reinforces the effortlessly layered approach.



Debbie Propst brings her work home every day. And she wouldn't have it any other way. As president of One Kings Lane (onekingslane.com), an online home furnishings retailer, she believes it's impractical to think work and life shouldn't, or won't, overlap. "I know our team members are thinking about creative

briefs in the shower," says Debbie, who recently blurred the lines between the two worlds in an unprecedented, somewhat dramatic fashion: by offering up her New Canaan, Connecticut, home as a company showhouse. "I wanted to engage with our customers, vendors, and partners in a way that felt personal—to showcase what the company means to me and how I live with our products." So in spring of 2017, Debbie, alongside husband Michael and kids Charlotte (3) and Henry (1), opened her doors to design-curious visitors for a month and, in December, for a holiday house tour that drew a whopping 1,200 visitors during a two-day period. While many people shy away from hosting

family and friends until their home feels "complete," Debbie, who has lived in eight houses, from a classic cottage in England to a "modern concrete box" in Barcelona to a 1930s Tudor in Ohio, and "a bunch of apartments mixed in between," is undaunted by change—or by company. Her unconventional open-door policy, combined with her artful approach to layering, makes the home a true lesson in housewarming.

EXTERIOR Designed by famed American architect Royal Barry Wills, the home was transformed from a ranch house into a farmhouse by its previous owners. The topiaries, a nod to the One Kings Lane logo, are a classic component of New England landscaping.

Breakfast Room

"I collect things that remind me of my English childhood," says Debbie of the dressers flanking the entrance. She offsets her more serious, storied antiques with modern silhouettes, as with the beveled mirrors (\$249; onekingslane.com). Similarly, a sleek pendant casts light above a traditional pedestal table.







Kitchen

While it appears to be the most dramatic of the home's before-and-afters, the kitchen transformation was purely cosmetic—and mostly due to a milky matte paint that allowed the home's original hand-forged hardware to pop. Robin's-egg blue barstools and the original beechnut island reinforce the farmhouse aesthetic.

Master Bedroom

One of Michael's decorative demands: swapping the room's original baby blue hue for something more sophisticated. "I picked the dark blue based on a paint swatch with fears I might regret it," Debbie says, "but then I read the color was 'inspired by the dramatic Scottish skies.'" Debbie, who is 100% Scottish, felt it was a sign. Natural shades (theshadestore.com) don't compete with the serene scenery.

Inchyra Blue
Farrow & Ball



Stiffkey Blue
Farrow & Ball



Henry's Room

"I love Mongolian rugs with rich colors, so I wanted a wall color that would make the reds and purples pop," says Debbie, who selected a dark navy for the task at hand. A star flush-mount light fixture by Visual Comfort (onekingslane.com) adds playful decorative "pow," as does an armchair upholstered in a quirky "Champs" fabric by Coral & Tusk (coralandtusk.com).

Charlotte's Room

Of her approach to kids' rooms, Debbie insists she's not a look-to-the-future, convertible furniture sort of decorator. "I create rooms for right now," she says. Kids' fleeting tastes give the design-lover an excuse to change things up. Fortunately, a whimsical-yet-understated wallcovering (see page 81) makes it easy to swap in playful, colorful elements.



Patio

Outfitted with casually hung, porcelain-shaded disc lights (*pigeon toeceramics.com*), the patio serves up farmhouse staples such as barn lights and Windsor furniture (*onekingslane.com*) with more buttoned-up boxwood topiaries.





“Every Home Should Have a Sense of Humor...”

and five other things *Debbie Propst* learned about creating a layered, personal space.

When in doubt, buy the stone alligators.

I have a pair of stone alligators that sit on the dining table. They're the first thing people see when they walk into my home, and it makes them smile. A home should feel like you, not a museum, so decorate with a sense of fun. Colorful garland [in both kids' rooms] adds whimsy, too.

Oeuf Garland (1), \$68; onekingslane.com

Shop for the house, not the room.

I approach the whole house as a 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, with pieces that may appear in one room in one context but can move around as needed. You can't make it feel “right” unless you're working with things you generally love, and approaching your purchases on a larger scale gives you more freedom to buy what speaks to you.

Add softness with skirting.

Skirted tables are one of my favorite offerings at One Kings Lane. They're incredibly versatile, and you can change the fabrics over time. **Eden Round Skirted Table in Gray**



Fronds (2), \$579; onekingslane.com

Embrace neutral wallpaper.

All five wallpapers in my home are in creams and wheats, which allows me to experiment with color through accessories. **Hygge & West Otomi (3)**, \$140/roll; hyggeandwest.com

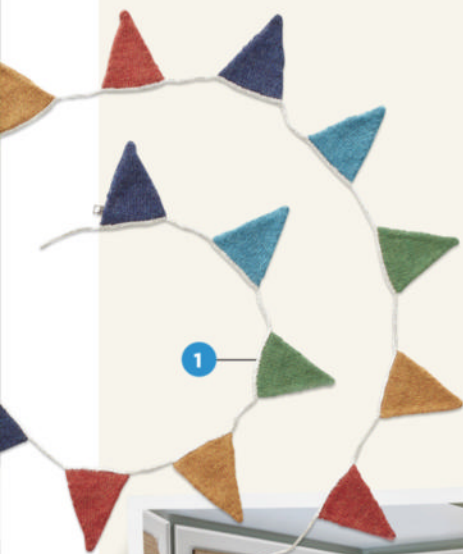
Let nature pick the palette.

My approach to color depends on the surroundings. Now that I'm in a farmhouse nestled in woodlands, I choose muted/gray-casted versions of colors as opposed to super-vibrant hues.

Enlist classics for cohesion.

When mixing styles and periods, as I love to do, it's important to have enough nods to the classicism of the architecture to achieve balance as opposed to tension between eras. Topiaries, a classic component of New England landscaping, help bridge the gap. **Topiary (4)**, from \$86; onekingslane.com

English silver reminds Debbie of childhood



Sunrise Specialty offers period-style plumbing





Learn the pros and
cons of walnut, oak,
and more, page 85.

Discover the prettiest
new parquet, page 89.

See it in all
shapes and sizes,
page 88.



The Hardwood Handbook

Take a long (hard!) look at the country house staple

with this informative from-the-floor-up guide.

produced by MADELEINE FRANK REEVES

Materials

Don't know your oak from your maple?

What's the deal with the reclaimed stuff?

Here, we lay the groundwork.

Hardwood Headscratcher

"Do I need the same width planks for every room in my house, or can I mix it up?"

-Tracy M., Roanoke, VA

Architect James Carter, who designed the mountain house pictured below, recommends using wider planks in main areas and narrow planks in alcoves like this landing "to create a more intimate look."

Trending: Reclaimed Wood

Beautiful reclaimed wood floors can give even a new build old soul—oh, the feet that have walked before!—and growing demand means it's getting easier to find professional outfitters who specialize in character-rich boards from historic homes, fences, and old barns. Here are a few of our favorites.

Box Kite Barn Yard

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA
boxkitebarnyard.com

Cunningham Lumber

HILLSBORO, TX
cunninghamlumber.com

Evolutia

BIRMINGHAM, AL
evolutiamade.com

Kentucky Wisewood

LOUISVILLE, KY
kentuckywisewood.com

Reclaimed Barns & Beams

SHELBYVILLE, IN
reclaimedbarnsandbeams.com

Storied Boards

LAKE GEORGE, NY
storiedboards.com

HARD BARGAIN! Shorter (less than 2 feet) planks or ones of varying lengths tend to cost far less and are a great option in small spaces or in spots where you plan to use area rugs.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNIE SCHLECHTER; ARCHITECT: JAMES CARTER; DESIGNER: JANE HAWKINS HOKE.

The Basics of Buying Boards

All woods are not created equal. Here are the most popular varieties and the info you need to pick the right plank for your project. Generally, prices run from about \$5-\$15 per square foot for the raw materials.

MATERIAL	APPEARANCE	PRICE	DURABILITY	DID YOU KNOW?
 OAK	Red oak (pictured) has warm undertones, while white oak (opposite page) has a cooler sheen.	\$	Red oak rings in at a 1290 on the Janka scale (see below), and white oak comes in at 1360.	Thanks to the wood's open grain, stains take particularly well and evenly to oak floors.
 WALNUT	This dark, rich wood has well-defined, mostly straight grain patterns.	\$\$\$	In high-traffic areas, it will show wear after a few years. It's a 1010 on the Janka scale.	You'll often find walnut floors in older homes.
 HICKORY	Highly pronounced color variation gives it an instantly rustic look.	\$\$	With an 1820 on the Janka scale, hickory is perfect for your busiest spaces.	Less likely to warp in humid conditions than softer woods, hickory is great for coastal settings.
 MAPLE	Maple has a subtle grain and tends to darken and yellow more over time.	\$	At a respectable 1450 on the Janka scale, durable maple is often used in bowling alleys.	The closed-grain wood doesn't absorb stains well. Stick to just a water-based polyurethane finish.
 CHERRY	Cherry darkens and reddens with age and has beautiful grain and color variation.	\$\$\$	Cherry dents easily at a 950 on the Janka scale, so limit it to areas like bedrooms and layer with rugs.	With a tendency to darken over time, cherry is particularly sensitive to sunlight.

hey, where's pine?

This popular floor choice is actually, in fact, a "character wood" rather than a "hardwood" and is very soft. Read: not the best choice if you own pets or high heels.

Hardwood Headscratcher

"I keep hearing about the Janka ratings of different flooring options—what does that mean?"

-Amy K., Englewood, CO

This scale, created in 1906 by Austrian researcher Gabriel Janka, refers to the force used to push a 0.444" steel ball halfway into a piece of wood. In short: the higher the number, the stronger the board.

Hardwood Alternatives

Eco-friendly and easy to clean, faux hardwood options are getting better than ever.



ENGINEERED

TRY IT IF: You want longevity. (They can even be refinished.)

Galeria, \$10 per sq. ft.; francoisandco.com



BAMBOO

TRY IT IF: You want super-hard floors for a bargain. **Cali Bamboo**, \$1.70 per sq. ft.; lumberliquidators.com



LAMINATE

TRY IT IF: You're using it in bathrooms. (It's moisture-resistant.) **Brushed Oak**; provenza.com for prices

Finishes

Now that you've nailed down

your material, explore stains and

treatments with country appeal.

Hardwood Headscratcher

*"I'm totally overwhelmed by stain options.
Is there one go-to that I can use in every room?"*

-Carrie T., Duluth, MN

"For 20 years I've used a secret mix that I learned from my late mentor, Landy Gardner," says designer and architect Chad James. "It's three parts Jacobean and one part Ebony [both available from Minwax]. Shh!"

Picks for Painted Floors

Painting floors is a classic alternative to costly refinishing. Here, our choices for...



AN INSTANT BRIGHTENER
Hardwick White
Farrow & Ball



AN UNEXPECTED NEUTRAL
Farm Fresh
Porter Paints



HISTORIC GRAVITAS
Hague Blue
Farrow & Ball



HIGH-TRAFFIC HANDSOMENESS
Tricorn Black
Sherwin-Williams



Army Green
Benjamin Moore

HARD BARGAIN! A \$68 gallon of Benjamin Moore Flat Finish Exterior Paint (outdoor-friendly qualities make it great for flooring) will cover roughly 400 square feet—just 17 cents per square foot, while finishing wood floors costs around \$2 to \$4 per square foot.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNIE SCHLECHTER; ARCHITECT: JAMES CARTER; DESIGNER: JANE HAWKINS HOKE.



IF YOUR STYLE IS...
Classic

TRY...
Ebonized Floors

This chemical treatment (different from a stain) creates a dark, opaque finish.

IF YOUR STYLE IS...
Modern Farmhouse

TRY...
Lightly Whitewashed Floors

Try mixing one part Minwax Ebony with one part Minwax White Wash.



IF YOUR STYLE IS...
Coastal Country

TRY...
Limed Floors

Use a liming paste or wax for slightly whitewashed, distressed floors.



IF YOUR STYLE IS...
Elegantly Minimalist

TRY...
Bare White Oak

"White oak has beautiful natural color, so it doesn't need stain," says designer Sarah Richardson.

Patterns

The straight and narrow isn't your only

option. Try painted or parquet tiles or a more

custom (labor-intensive!) installation.

Hardwood Headscratcher

"I love pattern, but I'm not sure I'm ready to commit to full-floor coverage. Any other ideas?"

-Sam F., Layton, UT

Try a stenciled pattern on hardwood stair risers. *Cuttingedgestencils.com* offers some of our favorites, including "Jewel Tile" and "Maestro." (Risers are typically 7 inches tall. Choose your stencil accordingly.)

Painted Tiles

These handy hardwood tiles by Charleston, SC-based Mirth Studio come pre-painted, meaning you can put away the painter's tape.

\$23.60 per sq. ft.;
mirthstudio.com



Carlton



Tip Top



Navy Gingham

HARD BARGAIN! To save on paint *and* labor, choose a color that will contrast with the existing wood as opposed to embarking on a two-color paint combo. Designer Rita König, who designed this charming space alongside architect Gil Schafer, recommends at least 1-foot-wide squares in a 40-foot bathroom.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC PIASECKI/OTTO.



Go Bespoke...

Intricate patterns (think hourglass, herringbone, chevron...) add jaw-dropping texture and interest. Full disclosure: Patience is required.



...Or Take a Shortcut!

Wood parquet tiles in stylish prearranged patterns give a new spin to the midcentury staple. On a budget? Try it in a small space, like an entry.



**They look ferocious,
but inside they're just
chicken raised with
no antibiotics ever.**



**Keep it real.
Keep it Tyson.**



Look for **NO ANTIBIOTICS EVER!** on pack



Blue Ribbon Kitchen

Comfort by the Bowlful

Chicken noodle soup is the ultimate “fix-everything” food, so we gave the long-celebrated cure-all a week’s worth of (highly slurpable!) variations. Soup’s on!

Ultimate Chicken Noodle Soup

page 92

recipes and food styling by
MARIAN COOPER CAIRNS
photographs by BRIAN WOODCOCK
prop styling by ALISON ALLSOPP

Start with the Stock

Get an edge over store-bought.

Homemade Chicken Stock

MAKES about 8 cups
WORKING TIME 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME 5 hours, 50 minutes

- 4 pounds whole chicken wings**
- 1 large onion, quartered**
- 2 large carrots, halved**
- 2 celery stalks, halved**
- 6 whole unpeeled garlic cloves**
- 12 parsley stems**
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns**
- 1 bay leaf**

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Arrange chicken wings in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until golden, 1 hour to 1 hour and 10 minutes.

2. Transfer wings to a large pot or Dutch oven; discard drippings. Add onion, carrots, celery, garlic, parsley, peppercorns, bay leaf, and 3 1/2 quarts water.

3. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer gently until liquid is reduced to about 8 cups, 3 to 3 1/2 hours. Remove from heat and cool 30 minutes.

4. Carefully pour broth through fine mesh strainer; discard solids. Cool completely. Cover and chill up to 5 days or freeze up to 3 months.

Acid from the wine and lemon juice (plus loads of fresh herbs) gives this soup a bold, fresh flavor.

Ultimate Chicken Noodle Soup

MAKES 8 servings
WORKING TIME 25 minutes
TOTAL TIME 1 hour, 15 minutes

- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 2 carrots, sliced**
- 2 celery stalks, sliced**
- 1 small onion, chopped**
- 5 garlic gloves, chopped**

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 1/4 cup dry white wine**
- 8 cups chicken stock**
- 2 1/2 pounds bone-in, skinless chicken breast and thighs**
- 2 1/2 cups uncooked wide egg noodles**
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley**
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill**
- 2 to 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice**

1. Heat oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add carrots, celery,

onion, and garlic. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until softened and golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Add wine and cook until syrupy, 1 minute. Add chicken stock and chicken pieces. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until chicken is cooked through, 40 to 45 minutes.

2. Remove chicken; shred thighs with two forks and chop breasts into large bite-size pieces. Return meat to pot; discard bones.

3. Add noodles to soup and cook, stirring often, until tender, 6 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parsley, dill, and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper.

Want to fix and freeze? Don't add the noodles until you reheat because they'll absorb all the broth.





Chicken Meatball and Veggie Noodle Soup

MAKES 8 servings
WORKING TIME 35 minutes
TOTAL TIME 45 minutes

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 8 cups chicken stock
- 1 pound ground chicken breast
- 1/4 cup plain dry breadcrumbs
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil, plus more for garnish

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

- 6 cups assorted vegetable noodles (such as zucchini, yellow squash, carrots, or butternut squash)
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

1. Heat oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 4 to 6 minutes. Add wine and thyme. Cook until wine is syrupy,

1 minute. Add chicken stock. Cover; bring to a simmer.

2. Meanwhile, gently stir together chicken, breadcrumbs, egg, Parmesan, parsley, basil, and 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper in a bowl. Form into 30 meatballs. Drop meatballs into broth.

Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until meatballs are cooked through, 7 to 9 minutes.

3. Add noodles and tomatoes. Cook, stirring occasionally, until noodles are tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately, garnished with basil and Parmesan.

Use a tablespoon-sized cookie scoop to portion meatballs.

Make your own veggie noodles using a spiralizer or buy precut ones in the produce section.





Butternut Squash-Apricot Chicken Noodle Curry

MAKES 8 servings

WORKING TIME 30 minutes

TOTAL TIME 1 hour

1 (8-ounce) package rice noodles

1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, chopped

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon canola oil

1 small onion, chopped

3 garlic cloves, sliced

2 teaspoons curry powder

1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

8 cups chicken stock

1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, rinsed

1/2 cup chopped dried apricots

1 (16-ounce) package cubed butternut squash

1 cup canned coconut milk

1 to 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

3 scallions, sliced

Fresh cilantro, for serving

1. Cook noodles according to package directions.

2. Meanwhile, season chicken with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chicken, onion, and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, 7 to 9 minutes. Stir in curry powder, chili powder, and cinnamon. Cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, 1 minute. Add chicken stock, chickpeas, and apricots; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. Add butternut squash and cook until tender and soup has thickened slightly, 8 to 10 minutes.

3. Add coconut milk and cook until warm, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in lime juice and scallions. Season with salt and pepper.

4. Divide noodles among serving bowls and top with soup. Garnish with cilantro.

Cooking (aka "blooming") the spices intensifies flavor.

Chicken and Fideo Posole

MAKES 8 servings

WORKING TIME 25 minutes

TOTAL TIME 1 hour, 30 minutes

2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon canola oil

1 small onion, chopped

1 poblano pepper, chopped

3 garlic cloves, chopped

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1 tablespoon chili powder

1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin

1 teaspoon dried oregano

2 (10-ounce) cans diced tomatoes with mild green chiles

8 cups chicken stock

1 (15-ounce) can hominy, rinsed

1 1/2 cups chopped fresh tomatillos

1 1/2 cups fideo pasta

1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for serving

Look for fideo (pasta cut into 1-inch pieces) in the international aisle of your grocery store.

Crunchy Fideo, sliced radishes and jalapeños, sour cream, and lime wedges, for serving

1. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Cook chicken, in batches, until golden brown, 3 to 5 minutes per side. Remove to a plate.

2. Add onion, pepper, and garlic to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 4 to 6 minutes. Stir in tomato paste, chili powder, cumin, and oregano. Cook, stirring, until fragrant, 1 minute. Stir in tomatoes and cook, scraping browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Stir in stock, hominy, tomatillos, and reserved chicken.

3. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until chicken is tender, 28 to 30 minutes. Remove chicken and shred with two forks; return to pot. Stir in fideo pasta. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until pasta is tender, 14 to 16 minutes. Stir in cilantro. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with cilantro, Crunchy Fideo, radishes, jalapeños, sour cream, and lime wedges.

Crunchy Fideo:

Heat 1/3 cup **canola oil** in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 cup uncooked **fideo pasta** and cook, stirring, until golden brown, 1 to 2 mins. Remove, with a slotted spoon, to a paper towel-lined plate. Season with **kosher salt and pepper**. Makes 1 cup.

Stir the fideo constantly so they brown evenly.



**“HEY,
WHEATS UP!”**



**FROSTED SWEET.
CRUNCHY
WHEAT.
FEED YOUR
INNER KID**

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Creamy Mac-and-Cheese Chicken Soup

MAKES 8 servings
WORKING TIME 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME 45 minutes

- 1 1/2 cups macaroni**
- 1 1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, cubed**
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper**
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided**
- 1 small onion, chopped**
- 1 small red bell pepper, chopped**
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled**
- 4 cups chicken stock**
- 4 cups whole milk**
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard**
- 1 small head broccoli, cut into small florets (about 4 cups)**
- 8 ounces extra-sharp cheddar cheese, grated (about 2 cups)**

Dijon mustard adds a nice tang to this creamy soup.

Sliced fresh chives, for garnish

- 1.** Cook pasta according to package directions; set aside.
- 2.** Season chicken with salt and pepper. Melt 1

tablespoon butter in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and cooked through, 6 to 9 minutes. Remove chicken to a plate.

3. Reduce heat to medium. Add onion, bell pepper, and remaining 3 tablespoons butter to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add flour and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Slowly stir in stock, then milk and mustard. Simmer until thickened, about 7 to 8 minutes.

4. Stir in broccoli and reserved chicken. Simmer until broccoli is tender and soup is thickened, 4 to 6 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 1 minute (this prevents soup from breaking). Stir in cooked pasta. Gradually stir in cheese until melted and smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with chives.

Cook the flour for the full minute to remove the raw-flour flavor.





**"CHECK OUT
MY SWEET
CANNON-BOWL!"**



**FROSTED SWEET.
CRUNCHY
WHEAT.**

**FEED YOUR
INNER KID**

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Ginger Garlic Chicken Ramen

MAKES 8 servings

WORKING TIME 25 minutes

TOTAL TIME 1 hour, 15 minutes

- 8 cups chicken stock**
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast**
- 1 (1 1/2-inch) piece fresh ginger, halved lengthwise**
- 6 garlic cloves, sliced**
- 1 (3.5-ounce) package shiitake mushrooms, halved**
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce**
- 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil**
- 3 (3-ounce) packages dried ramen, seasoning packs discarded**
- 4 baby bok choy, separated into leaves**
- 2 cups snow peas**
- 3 scallions, sliced**

1. Combine stock, chicken, ginger, and garlic in a large pot or Dutch oven. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, until chicken is cooked through, 25 to 30 minutes. Add mushrooms, soy sauce, and sesame oil and simmer, covered, until mushrooms are tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove chicken and shred with two forks.

2. Add noodles to pot and cook, stirring occasionally, until beginning to soften, 2 to 4 minutes. Stir in chicken, bok choy, and snow peas. Cook until vegetables are crisp-tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in scallions just before serving.

Stir in scallions just before serving to prevent soup from getting too onion-y.



Pesto Chicken Minestrone

MAKES 8 servings
WORKING TIME 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME 1 hour

Parmesan rind adds extra richness, but you can omit it if you don't have it on hand.

- 1 head garlic
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 8 cups chicken stock
- 1 1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 large piece Parmesan cheese rind
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can dark red kidney beans, rinsed
- 2 large carrots, sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 (9-ounce) package fresh four-cheese tortellini
- 1 bunch curly kale, stems discarded and leaves torn

2 tablespoons prepared pesto, plus more for serving

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Cut off pointed end of garlic, exposing cloves. Place on a piece of aluminum foil and drizzle with 1 tablespoon oil; wrap tightly. Bake until soft, 35 to 40 minutes; let cool. Squeeze pulp from garlic and mash into a paste; reserve.

2. Meanwhile, heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 4 to 6 minutes. Add chicken stock, chicken breast, and Parmesan rind. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, until chicken is cooked through, 25 to 30 minutes. Remove chicken and shred with two forks; return to pot.

3. Stir in beans, carrots, red pepper, and 2 tablespoons reserved mashed garlic. Simmer, covered, 15 minutes. Uncover and stir in tortellini. Cook, uncovered, stirring occasionally, 4 to 6 minutes. Stir in kale and cook until pasta is cooked through and kale is tender, 2 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat and discard Parmesan rind. Stir in 2 tablespoons pesto. Season with salt and pepper. Serve warm with additional pesto.

Stir leftover roasted garlic into melted butter and spread on toasted Italian bread.



“CRUNCH ATTACK!”



**FROSTED SWEET.
CRUNCHY
WHEAT.**

**FEED YOUR
INNER KID**

Resource Guide

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE FOR REPLICATING THE LOOKS IN THIS ISSUE

Wild for Lilac

PAGE 19 Summer Palace in Violet **fabric**; *luruhome.com*. Nuovo lilac **table linen**; *latavolalinen.com*. Quincy and Essex **fringe**; *fringemarket.com*. Albany and Adler lilac **fabrics**; *janechurchill.com*. Enamel trio bud **vases**; *us.bohemiawholesale.com*. Clara B and Dolly in Parma **fabric**; *sisterparishdesign.com*. Enamel name **plaques**; *attic-antics.com*. **PAGE 20** April Morning **paint** by Valspar; *lowes.com*. Butterfly **prints**; *etuhome.com*. Newport **headboard**; *tradewindsfurniture.com*. Robert Abbey Sofia antique brass swing-arm wall **lamp**; *lampsplus.com*. Hable printed percale **sheets**; *garnethill.com*. Linen Whisper in Powder **euros**; *bellanottelins.com*. Trio Green **pillow and duvet**; *annieselke.com*. Kalindi in Green/Sienna **fabric**; *penny morrison.com*. Sorrento in Pasha **fabric**; *peterdunhamtextiles.com*. Elton cotton check in Lilac **fabric**; *fschumacher.com*. Shore **bench**; *serenadaily.com*. Bentley Lavender **fabric**; *kimsalmela.com*. **Rug**; *nashville ruggallery.com*. Londonderry in Lilac **fabric**; *kasmirfabrics.com*. Speckled **planters**; *urban outfitters.com*. Saybrook in Lilac **fabric**; *fabricut.com*. Nabil in Kiwi **trim**; *kingcottonfabrics.com*.

Seeing Green

PAGE 29 White 4-H Club **Hat**; *shortpantsvintage.etsy.com*. **Pins**; *minnesotahag.etsy.com*. **PAGE 31** Ribbons; *theponycloset.etsy.com*. **FOR 4-H INFO** 4-hhistory preservation.com.

What Is It? What Is It Worth?

PAGE 34 Antique **planes**, Patented Antiques; *patented-antiques.com*

Point. Click. Restore.

PAGE 56 Exterior **lights**; *homedepot.com*. **PAGE 58** Wooden tic-tac-toe **game**; *ballarddesigns.com*. Hampton Bay **ceiling fans**; *lowes.com*. Pedigree in Navy by Thibaut **wallpaper**; *thibautdesign.com*. **PAGE 59** Pendant **lights**; *ferguson.com*. Cotton **runner**;

mothology.com. Splatter **bowls**; *blackcreekmt.com*. Lexington stripe **rug**; *annieselke.com/c/dashandalbert*. Striped **pillows**; *thevintagerugshop.com*. **Chairs**; *oldworldantiks.com*. **PAGE 60** Swing-arm Pharmacy brass **floor lamp**; *lampsplus.com*. Striped **sofa**; *imagine-home.org*. White **pillows**; *shopinbliss.com*. Assorted **pillows**; *mcgeeandco.com*. Diani in Coriander **rug**; *fibreworks.com*. Pendant **light**; *whitesmercantile.com*. Slotted **postcard holder**; *mothology.com*. **PAGE 61** Kitchen **floors**; *peacockpavers.com*. Silver floral **wallpaper**; *designersguild.com*. Aged brass **lights**; *visualcomfort.com*. Tolson drawer **pulls**; *rejuvenation.com*. Marble **shelves**; *worldmarket.com*. Shelving **brackets**; *rejuvenation.com*. **Faucet**; *rohlhome.com*. Splatter and black shallow **bowls**; *blackcreekmt.com*. **PAGE 62** English Garden **shams**, **lumbar, pillow**; *caitlinwilson.com*. Blush **shams**; *anthropologie.com*. White Dream **quilt**; *garnethill.com*. Wood-framed vintage **botanical print**; *mothology.com*. Montreal Tall **table lamp bases**; *target.com*. **Curtains and hardware**; *target.com*. **Side tables**; *homegoods.com*. Billiard in Silver Scratch **rug**; *fibreworks.com*. Vintage **rug**; *nashvilleruggallery.com*. **Faucet and sink**; *us.kohler.com*. Chateau du Loir in gold on cream **wallpaper**; *thibautdesign.com*. Pendant **light fixture**; *whitesmercantile.com*. **Sconces**; *cedarandmoss.com*. **Mirror**; *anthropologie.com*. **Bathtub**; *signaturehardware.com*.

Comfort by the Bowlful

PAGE 91 Palm **stockpot**; *lecreuset.com*. Cotton plaid **napkins**; *caravanhomedecor.com*. Wood **board**; *elsiegreen.com*. **PAGE 92** Cotton plaid **napkin**; *caravanhomedecor.com*. Berry & Thread **spoon**; *juliska.com*. **PAGE 93** Fleur **napkin**; *lesindiennes.com*. Dolce Vita **flatware**; *marchsf.com*. **PAGE 94** Union Square soup **bowl**; *lenox.com*. Hearth and Hand **napkins**; *target.com*. **PAGE 97** Stripe

napkin; *sustainablethreads.com*. **PAGE 98** Green rim **bowls**; *canvashomestore.com*. **PAGE 100** Green Swirl **Dutch oven**; *goldenrabbit.com*. Yellow stripe **napkin**; *karaweaves.com*. **PAGE 101** Stainless white inlay **flatware**; *be-home.com*. Green rim **plates**; *canvashomestore.com*.

RULES FROM PAGE 6 NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Find the Horseshoe Sweepstakes March 2018. Sponsored by Hearst Communications, Inc. Beginning January 30, 2018, at 12:01 AM (ET) through February 26, 2018, at 11:59 PM (ET), go to *countryliving.com/win* on a computer or wireless device and complete the entry form pursuant to the on-screen instructions. Optional: Entry may include the page number where the hidden horseshoe appears in the March 2018 issue of *Country Living*, available via subscription as early as January 30, 2018, and at newsstands approximately February 6, 2018, to March 5, 2018, while supplies last (exact dates may vary depending on newsstand). Important Notice: You may be charged for visiting the mobile website in accordance with the terms of your service agreement with your carrier. One (1) Winner will receive one (1) 67" Brayden Bateau Cast Iron Skirted Tub from Signature Hardware. Total ARV: \$2,519.00. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received. Open to the legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, who have reached the age of majority in their state or territory of residence at time of entry. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes subject to complete official rules available at *countryliving.com/sweeps*.

RULES FROM PAGE 36 NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. *Country Living* Nashville Sweepstakes 2018. Sponsored by Hearst Communications, Inc. Beginning January 30, 2018, at 12:01 A.M. (ET) through April 5, 2018, at 11:59 P.M. (ET), go to *nashvillefair.countryliving.com* on a computer or wireless device and complete the entry form pursuant to the on-screen instructions. One (1) winner will receive two (2) admission tickets to the Nashville *Country Living* Fair from April 20, 2018–April 22, 2018, and \$1,000 which may be used toward travel expenses. Total ARV: \$1,015. Important Notice: You may be charged for visiting the mobile website in accordance with the terms of your service agreement with your carrier. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received. Must be a legal resident of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia or Canada (excluding Quebec) who have reached the age of 18 at time of entry. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes subject to complete official rules available at *nashvillefair.countryliving.com*.

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psst...

Last month, the horseshoe was tucked away on page 75.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN WOODCOCK

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Join us April 18th for an exclusive, one-day curated tour of Furniture Market in High Point, N.C. For the first time, the largest furnishing industry trade show is opening its doors to consumers. Discover the latest designs in home furnishings, interact with magazine experts, enjoy guided tours of the showrooms, shop the Market Bazaar, and more.

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*"I have always been
delighted at the prospect of a
new day, a fresh try, one
more start, with perhaps a bit
of magic waiting somewhere
behind the morning."*

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A full-page advertisement for Lunchables. The background shows a bedroom with pink butterfly wallpaper and string lights. Three girls are present: one in the center wearing red polka-dot pajamas and fuzzy slippers, looking surprised with her hands out; one on the left sitting on a bed reading a magazine; and one on the right standing and looking at a tablet. The text 'They're outgrowing most things; their food doesn't have to be one of them.' is overlaid in the center. At the bottom right, a collection of Lunchables products is displayed, including a box of '6-INCH TURKEY & CHEDDAR SUB SANDWICHES', a bag of 'Lunchables Uploaded' snacks, a container of Pringles, a bottle of Gatorade, and a sandwich.

**They're outgrowing most things;
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