

Love your kitchen & bath CRAVE-WORTHY
APPLIANCES, FIXTURES, SURFACES AND MORE

TRADITIONAL HOME

March/April 2019

Before & After

RENOVATE FOR ALL
THE RIGHT REASONS

SEASON'S BEST
LUSH COLORS, PRETTY
PATTERNS & FURNISHINGS
WITH FLAIR

Garden
to table
HOST A
SPRING-FRESH
GATHERING

From the Editor

For many of us on staff, the Before & After issue is a favorite of the year. The big draw? The before shots. It's the only time we change course and look for pictures of unattractive, outdated, or downright dysfunctional rooms. The more dramatic, the better, because that makes the transformation all the more compelling. And we know you feel the same.

What's not always the same is the reason homeowners feel compelled to make a change. For the Emlocks ("Empty Zest," page 104), it was their newly emptied nest. As their daughter left to begin "adulting" in college, this couple finally got their grown-up house, shedding the 1990s decor inside their 1890 home in Huntington Bay, New York. A one-room makeover led to a house-wide divesting of furnishings they'd taken in over the years without a whole lot of thought. Now the home has a cohesive design that truly reflects them and the way they live. Bravo!

Similarly, Wisconsinites Joe and Tina Pregont had lived with their burgundy-and-jade decor for 30 years ("Happy Ours," page 70). It was *the* look at the time, and they'd loved it. Emphasis on the past tense. Tina craved vibrant color and a fresh look. Rather than relocate, the couple remodeled the family home so their adult children can return to the house they grew up in—and hopefully keep the 1925 gem in the family for generations. That's a goal I can get behind.

Good bones is another favorite word combo in the design world. Colette Dartnall and Rick Roskin found them in a 1930s Spanish Colonial Revival home in Los Angeles. But they had to see through a cobble of bad 1970s remodels that disrespected those bones. Architect Tim Barber and designer Kishani Perera helped them rediscover original features,

add quirks rather than strip them out, and expand access to outdoor living. History can not only repeat itself, but it can also improve upon itself. See the evidence in "Lost & Found," page 92.

Finally, within commuting distance of Manhattan, the Stimmels created "Tudor Tranquility" (page 80) by plying creamy white on rooms that felt too heavy while preserving treasures that are heart-center Tudor: Leaded-glass windows and a captivating carved staircase in a wood-stain finish warm the soul. This place had me at "barley twist."

Regardless of the era of the home or scope of the renovation, these projects remind even the most traditional among us to open our eyes to history—preserving worthy elements while replacing parts that simply aren't working. I'm looking at you, old kitchens and baths! Don't miss our spotlight on "A Tale of Two Victorians" (page 50) and our "Cook, Cool & Clean" special section (page 62) to learn about products that will elevate kitchen and bath style and function.

In the end, it's not about determining if old or new is better. The point, as Colette Dartnall articulated, is to breathe life into our traditional homes in a way that feels old and new at the same time. In a way that's right for you. In a way that tells a compelling story—about your home and about you.

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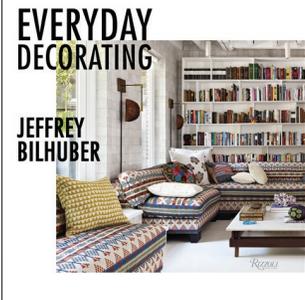
Seen & Quoted



Erin Gates

"Making child-friendly choices doesn't mean that you need to give up on having a stylish home."

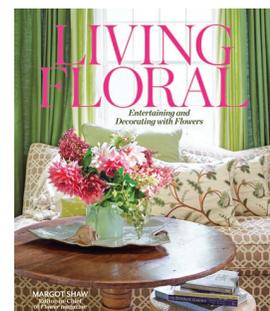
Atria Books, \$35 (April release)



Jeffrey Bilhuber

"Once there's a joyful component in a room, it becomes contagious and the whole space just wants to sing."

Rizzoli, \$45 (April release)



Margot Shaw

"The urge to gather flowers and all forms of beauty into our lives is, I think, primordial, and in my view, began in a garden." Rizzoli, \$45 (April release)