

# This Old House

**KITCHEN +  
BATH SPECIAL**

Our favorite  
low-cost  
upgrades

## 47 *feel-good makeovers*

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# Fresh start

A layout overhaul and classic fixtures deliver a dreamy master bath

BY ANN E. STRATTON + PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL T. WEBBER

➔ **THE EIGHTIES LOOK** hasn't exactly stood the test of time. And yet, until recently, the master bath in Patty Monteleone's 1986 Neocolonial, in Warwick, New York, was still sporting all the old fads. With its mottled brown tiles, mirrored walls, sloped ceiling, and patterned wallpaper, "the place was like the set of a bad sitcom," recalls Jeff DeGraw, her architect and longtime friend. Not that the rest of the house was any better. "It was all so ugly," says Patty, who was quick to agree to a whole-house renovation when she and her husband, Joe, got engaged.

Topping the couple's wish list was a more functional master suite. While they pored over lighting catalogs and paint swatches, DeGraw devised a layout with better flow, expanding the bathroom and making room for spacious his-and-hers closets just outside it. Then he added timeless details, including wainscoted walls, a uniform 8-foot ceiling trimmed with crown molding, oak flooring, and Patty's favorite feature, a claw-foot soaking tub. The couple couldn't be happier. Says Patty, "It feels like a luxurious hotel suite, a little escape inside our house."



**BEFORE** The mirror over the old drop-in tub reflects a clear view of the bath's dingy wallpaper, outdated fixtures, and overall tight quarters. **AFTER** Crisp white trim and serene blue walls further brighten the spacious new layout. *Paint (walls): Farrow & Ball's Oval Room Blue*

• before + after:  
bath

The double-ended claw-foot tub is cast from a durable blend of resins and volcanic limestone, a lightweight alternative to traditional cast iron. *Tub: Victoria + Albert. Tub filler: California Faucet*



Built-in open shelves at either end of the tub make use of dead space behind the wall and offer a convenient spot for stashing towels and bath accessories.



**homeowner tip** PATTY MONTELEONE, WARWICK, N.Y.

“Since the bath remodel made the master bedroom smaller, we were careful to enlarge the closets, so the room doesn’t need as much furniture.”



Covering the shower walls with oversize 4-by-12-inch subway tiles creates a clean look and reduces the amount of grout to scrub. *Tile: Daltile*



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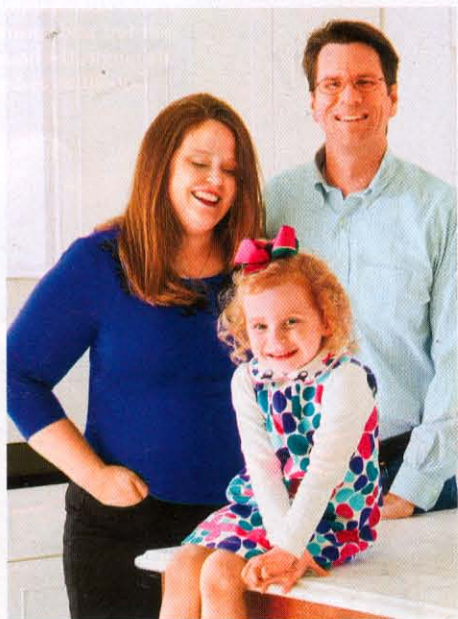
# HIDDEN BEAUTY

An unlivable wreck regains  
its sunny glory in the  
hands of zealous owners with  
a vision of its past



by Deborah Baldwin • photographs by Deborah Whitlaw Llewellyn  
produced by Colette Scanlon • styling by Brian Carter





“IT WAS PITCH BLACK IN THERE.”

Aimee Spencer says, recalling the first time she tried to poke her head into her family’s new home. Operative word: *tried*. “The vegetation was way too close.” And once she’d thrashed through it, she saw that “the draperies and shades had dry-rotted off their rods and rollers,” she says. “There were layers of pet hair.” It was hard to see the flooring for the fleas; one of the absentee owners had given a crowd of feral cats the run of the place, suggesting that he was not quite sold on the idea of making a sale.

“That house is not a good idea,” the Realtor said, speaking from a safe distance.

Luckily, Aimee and her equally game husband, Michael, had eyes only for what hadn’t been ruined: 9-foot-4-inch ceilings trimmed with crown molding, arched French doors with dainty locksets and glass

**ABOVE:** Homeowners Aimee and Michael Spencer, here with daughter Ava Grace, 4, did much of the work themselves.

**RIGHT:** Home-center cabinets and salvaged subway tile take a backseat to a floor of honed marble tile, custom cut to create a stunning three-tone pattern with nearly invisible grout lines.





knobs, and generous rooms in a compact, free-flowing plan. The three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath house had lost its bearings since springing up in central Florida about 90 years ago, but it had retained so many windows, you could almost feel the cross-ventilation—assuming you could get them open. “The house had good bones and was begging to be rescued,” says Aimee, in the anthropomorphizing manner of old-house champions. “It was on nearly three city lots in a desirable ZIP code, so most people saw a teardown.”

Michael had been scouting for a place near his new job when he spotted this one, sitting back from the road in Orwin Manor, a 1920s subdivision straddling the border of Orlando and Winter Park. A rhythmic array of windows punctuated the facade, some small, some arched, some doubling as French doors, many still framed by thin lines of black paint. While the exterior



During massive replastering, a ribbon of brick, seen at right, was left exposed. The chandelier over the marble-topped island was a \$100 vintage-store find.

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**COVER:** See the listing for "Before + After Bath."

**HOME SOLUTIONS** (pp. 17–26) Anatomy of a dust bunny: *Thanks to* Lance Wallace, environmental scientist (retired); epa.gov. Karen Hall; dyson.com. Corey Schmidt; pg.com. Budget Redo: **Homeowner's blog:** My So-Called Home; mysocalledhome.com.

**BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN:** From musty to must-see (pp. 29–32) **Kitchen design and cabinets:** Romar Cabinet and Top Company; romarcabinet.com. **General contractor:** Dave Knecht Homes, Hinsdale, IL; 630-537-1023. **Carpentry:** Village Carpentry & Builders, Westmont, IL; 630-241-7278. **Floor refinishing and painting:** D Painters, Vineyard Haven, MA; 508-560-2630. **Tilework:** Gebauer Tile & Stone, Westmont, IL; gebauertileandstone.com. **Paint:** HC-142 Stratton Blue (cabinets); benjaminmoore.com. **Knobs and pulls:** berensonhardware.com. **Range, microwave, fridge, and dishwasher:** ge.com. **Downdraft range vent:** bestrangehoods.com. **Light fixtures:** hudsonvalleylighting.com. **Sink:** Shaws; rohlhome.com. **Faucet:** kohler.com. **Tile:** americanolean.com. **Copper whale:** the-copperworks.com. **Dish towel and tea cups:** ikea.com. **Glass creamer:** williams-sonoma.com. **Glass cake stand:** crateandbarrel.com. **Yellow dishware:** Antique.

**BEFORE + AFTER BATH:** Fresh start (pp. 35–38) **Architect:** Jeff DeGraw, DeGraw & DeHaan Architects, Middletown, NY; 845-343-8510; degrawanddehaan.com. **Cabinetry:** Wells Woodworking, Bloomingburg, NY; 845-733-8029. **Paint:** No. 85 Oval Room Blue; farrow-ball.com. **Tub:** vandabaths.com. **Tub filler:** calfaucets.com. **Showerhead:** rohlhome.com. **Handshower:** kohler.com. **Towels, stool, and tub caddy:** bedbathandbeyond.com. **Rug and manzanita branch:** pier1.com.

**PAINT IDEAS:** Checkered charm (p. 43) **Decorative painter:** Paul d'Orleans; thevintagent.com.

**TOH TV:** Perfect fit for a family (pp. 50–53) **Architect:** David Whitney, AIA, Arlington, MA; davidwhitney.com. **Interior designer:** Christine Tuttle Design, Dedham, MA; christinetuttle.com. **Architectural color consultant:** Bonnie Krims, Bonnie Krims Color Studio, Concord, MA; bonniekrims.com. **Landscape architect:** Cricket Beauregard Lewis, CBL Landscape Design, Arlington, MA; 781-643-2242; cricketbeauregard.com. **Tile contractor:** ferrantetile.com. **Kitchen:** **Kitchen designer:** Kitchen Dimensions, Saratoga Springs, NY; 518-583-0081; kitchen-dimensions.com. **Windsor chairs and barstools:** drdimes.com. **Chestnut floor:** lumberliquidators.com. **Paint:** No. 2013 Matchstick (walls); farrow-ball.com. **Kitchen island top:** The Grothouse Lumber Company;

610-767-6515; glumber.com. **Custom copper hood:** Riverside Sheet Metal, Medford, MA; 781-396-0070; riversidesheetmetal.net. **Dining room:** **Wall covering:** Glazed Abaca Grasscloth in Copper; phillipjefries.com. **Installer:** Warren Reeb Painting & Wallpaper, Dedham, MA; 781-254-2227. **Custom rug:** meridameridian.com. **Master bath:** **Tile:** Roma Tile; 617-926-5800; romatile.com. **Vanity top:** Corian in Designer White; dupont.com. **Fixtures:** kohler.com. **Shower door:** bannerglassshelmar.com. **Master bedroom:** **Paint:** No. 2008 Dimity (walls); farrow-ball.com. **Media room:** **Pillows:** christinetuttle.com.

**BUILD IT OR BUY IT:** **Folding serving tray** (pp. 55–56) **Basic model:** Home Basics Pine Bed Tray; amazon.com. **Mid-range model:** Woodard and Charles Acacia Bed Tray; wayfair.com. **Luxury model:** Rosewood Tea Tray; orientalurniture.com.

**WEEKEND REMODEL:** Build a compost bench (pp. 59–66) **Designer-builder:** Christopher Beidel, Pernt, Brooklyn, NY; perntstudio.com.

**HIDDEN BEAUTY** (pp. 68–75) **Window and door repairs:** CCS Restoration, Sanford, FL; ccsrestoration.com. **Paint:** PM-5 Cliffside Gray (kitchen and butler's pantry), 666 At Sea (dining room), and 2119-60 Silver Lining (master bathroom); benjaminmoore.com. **Kitchen:** **Cabinets:** homedepot.com. **Knobs and pulls:** atlashomewares.com (island), rejuvenation.com (upper cabinets), and schaubandcompany.com (base cabinets). **Dishwasher, wall ovens, and cooktop:** kitchenaid.com. **Main sink:** rohlhome.com. **Island sink:** batesandbates.com. **Faucet:** kallista.com. **Butler's pantry:** **Pulls:** restorationhardware.com. **Knobs:** restoration.com. **Master bath:** **Tub and sink:** kohler.com. **Sink faucet:** newportbrass.com. **Tub faucet:** rohlhome.com. **Cabinet boxes:** ikea.com. **Cabinet doors:** barkerdoor.com.

**ALL ABOUT PRO-STYLE RANGES** (pp. 90–95) *Thanks to* Conal Roney, Kieffer's Appliances, Lansdale, PA; 215-699-3522. Scott Brown, The Appliance Guru, New London, NH; 603-290-5515; applianceguru.com. Dave Marsillio Jr., Marsillio's TV and Appliance, Fairfield, CT; 203-366-7541. Tony Aitoro, Aitoro Appliance, Norwalk, CT; 203-847-2471.

**ASK THIS OLD HOUSE** (pp. 97–104) **Slip-resistant tile:** *Thanks to* Mark Ferrante, Ferrante Tile, Woburn, MA; 781-396-6327; ferrantetile.com. **Crumbling bricks:** *Thanks to* Chip Clark, The Brick Industry Association, Reston, VA; 703-620-0010; gobrick.org. 🏠

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