JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

House Beautiful

HOW TO CHANGE LITERALLY ANYTHING YOU HATE ABOUT YOUR HOME P.17

Incredible Renovations

INSIDE THE HOME OF HGTV RENEGADE LEANNE FORD P.44

"I FOUND A RARE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ONLINE AND BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE." P.66

What's in a Nook?

THE EXPLOSION OF OPEN FLOOR PLANS HAS RESULTED IN HOMES THAT are, well, open—"devoid of any snuggly, cozy places," says architect Jeffrey Dungan. Find yourself craving the intimacy of a cocooned space where you can curl up and escape the vastness of the world? "What a nook person wants is space, however small, to follow whatever image is driving her," writes Durga Chew-Bose. The design solution is to create a niche, or make an existing dead space more functional. Comfort is key: A nook is the architectural manifestation of a hug. Here's how designers are carving them out of thin air. —*Hadley Mendelsohn*

▲ DESIGNER EMILY HENDERSON INCLUDED OUTLETS IN THE SHELF OF THIS NOOK SO STOWAWAYS CAN WATCH TV.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SARA LIGORRIA-TRAMP, COURTESY OF EMILY HENDERSON DESIGN

1. Consider Its Size

Where we see an awkward stair landing, Erin Fearins sees a hangout. Encased in a walnut frame, this nook by Fearins Welch Design and CWB Architects is spacious enough for two brothers to convene for video games.

3. Sneak in Storage

Deep enough to moonlight as a guest bunk, this alcove by Rita Koenig and architect Gil Schafer III has drawers under the cushion. "It's more than a reading nook or another piece of furniture," says Schafer.

3 Things to Do Before You Nook

2. Give It Lots of Light

Surrounding a window and outfitted with overhead sconces, this lounging zone by Chloe Warner of Redmond Aldrich Design is both cozy and roomy. The wallpaper, Gondola by Cole & Son, energizes with color and pattern.

WHY BOTHER BUILDING ONE?
"With social media, we're more connected than ever—but people feel more alone than ever. **Nooks are places to sit and visit with an actual person** (hopefully, one of your favorites) over a cup of coffee or glass of wine, and compare notes on life." —*Jeffrey Dungan*

PHOTOGRAPHERS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JESSICA ANTOLA; LAURA RESEN; ERIC PIASECKI/OTTO

North-facing windows in a room by Grace Rosenstein Interiors let in muted light all day long.

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The position of a window can change how you use a room.

South-facing: bright, intense sun all day long

West-facing: a long period of direct sunlight, including a dreamy golden glow in the afternoon

East-facing: a blast of bright morning light followed by a lack of light throughout the day

North-facing: soft, even exposure all day long

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CARPET CAN BE COOL.

"I welcome wall-to-wall carpeting in private areas, like the master bedroom or master closet," says designer Meg Lavalette, who recommends a natural fiber like wool for a high-end look. Other bonuses? **"It's incredibly durable, naturally stain-resistant, and easy to clean."**

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Character can be tacked on!

"Molding creates an architectural framework and structure, as well as providing a layer of decoration. It's easy to get stuck on historic details, but remember: **People did all sorts of crazy things with molding in the Victorian age.** It doesn't always have to be super-classical." —*Young Huh*

G.P. Schafer Architect used bold blue to make this traditional trim feel anything but.

ADDING SIMPLE BASE OR CROWN MOLDING

1. Buy it at the Home Depot, where they'll cut it to your measurements.

2. Secure it using a hammer and finishing nails or a nail gun.

3. Caulk, prime, and paint it so the new molding pieces match your walls.

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"It's so important to know who you're working with—**get references,** and actually call them all!"

—ALISON VICTORIA