the makeover issue
CountryLiving
FEB-MARCH 2025
Before & After!
30+ Pages of Awe-Inspiring Makeovers That (Phew!) Keep the Character
Now Serving...
Easy Lasagna Soup
pg. 28

For the Love of...

Wide-Plank Floors

With their historic charm and hand-hewn imperfections, this old house staple delivers soul from the ground up.

take note

Reclaimed heart-pine floors feel right at home in a South Carolina carriage house designed by Schafer Buccellato Architects.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC PIASECKI/OTTO.

Peruse real estate listings for country homes from the 18th and 19th centuries, and you'll likely notice a frequently cited feature: wide-plank hardwood floors. Popular with America's early settlers thanks to a wealth of vast and untouched old-growth forests, these floorboards—ranging from five to 30 inches—were born out of practicality. Felling enormous trees was laborious, so the fewer cuts made to a tree, the better. Once felled, the trunks were often cut into quarters, and then the planks were cut at a 45-degree angle from those quarters, creating what is referred to as quarter-sawn wood. (This technique helps prevent boards from bowing upward.) As the country's timber supply depleted and building practices became more refined, hand-hewn boards became harder to come by. Today, they're prized for their humble history, old-school craftsmanship, and the sense of character that comes from those who plodded their planks before.

FIELD NOTES

Planks for the Memories

Reclaimed wood flooring can give even a new build instant old character, and growing demand means it's getting easier to find outfitters such as these who specialize in salvaged materials.

Evolutia
This family-run business in Birmingham, Alabama, offers a variety of wood species that can be custom-milled to exact specifications.

StoriedBoards
In Lake George, New York, brothers Tyler and Garrett Russell and their dad, Whitney, reclaim regional materials and document their unique origins.

Antique Beams & Boards
Based in the heart of Ohio's barn country, this Midwestern resource has a large inventory, meaning shorter lead times.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TARA DONNE. STYLING BY OLGA NAIMAN. ILLUSTRATION BY MELINDA JOSIE.

country wisdom
Nicks and scratches are the architectural equivalent of hard-earned wrinkles and laugh lines.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD/ARTICHOKE LTD.

Currently Craving

An English-Inspired Cottage Kitchen

After a down-to-the-studs renovation, a perfectly plain New Jersey cook space enjoys a welcome warm-up.

written by ANNA LOGAN *photographs by* READ MCKENDREE *styling by* MATTHEW GLEASON

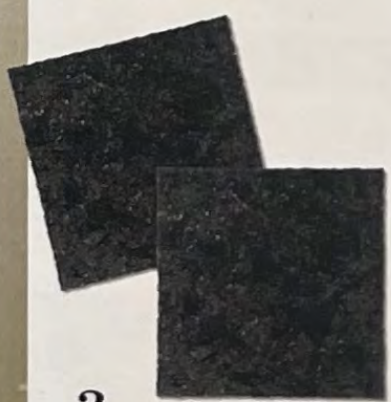
1
Cottage Charm

For this historic home's kitchen remodel, designer Katie Rosenfeld *(katierosenfeldandco.com)* took inspiration from elements of unfitted British kitchens, which look and feel built and added to over time. "The asymmetrical nature of the design is purposeful," says Katie of the sink's slightly off-center placement and the mixed wood and tile backsplashes. A calming palette of white (Pointing by Farrow & Ball) and deep sage green anchors the cottage aesthetic.

2
Belgian Bluestone

While the English Cotswolds may have its iconic limestone, Katie looked across the North Sea to Belgium for this kitchen's flooring. The ashy appearance of the distressed Belgian bluestone is thanks to the country's millennia-old carbon deposits.

GET THE LOOK:
"Catalina" Belgian Bluestone Marble Tile $24 per sq. ft.; *tilebar.com*



3
Furniture-Like Island

To avoid the bulky island look, Katie and her senior architectural designer, Jess Chabot, designed the unique bobbin-legged piece to feel and function more like an elegant work and gathering table. Its pure white oak feels fresh against the kitchen's moody palette, while the streamlined stools continue the modern black thread.

4
Statement Lighting

Black shades atop a pair of caged pendant lights play off the dark bluestone flooring. Flared brass sconces illuminate the fluted apron-front sink.

GET THE LOOK:
"Peggy's Cove" Pendant $260; *lightology.com*

5
Architectural Details

Charming millwork enhances the kitchen's cottage feel, starting with the room-spanning crown molding that sets a quaint tone thanks to its exaggerated flare. Below, the vent hood is accented with deep dentil molding and classic corbels to make it feel more like a mantel, while the upper cabinets have their own set of decorative brackets. Opposite the cabinetry, a built-in bookcase filled with family-favorite cookbooks adds to the kitchen's loved-and-lived-in look.

6
Collected Curios

Country staples such as worn wood cutting boards and a vintage floral crock filled to the brim with wooden utenstils bring warmth to the kitchen, while sleeker jade green ceramic dishes provide a contemporary twist.

GET THE LOOK:
"Boylan" Bread Board $32; *mcgeeandco.com*

7
Drop Cloth
Farrow & Ball

7

Well-Appointed Mudroom

In the adjacent mudroom, a cozy window seat nestled between built-ins overlooks the home's bucolic setting. Decorative cutouts and a mix of dark aged brass hardware on the cabinetry add to the cottage charm.

GET THE LOOK:
"Latchford" Cabinet Handles from $160 each; *armacmartin.com*

8

Bespoke Butler's Pantry

Common in Georgian-era England, windowed pantries are connected to the kitchen's main cook space and serve as a dreamy in-between for prepping and serving. Here, rustic crosshatched wire cabinet fronts and a carriage lantern nod to the home's country house history.

9

Pattern Play

In the breakfast nook, a white oak trestle table sets the stage for a mix of small-scale patterned fabrics on the rush-back dining chairs, café curtains, and chandelier. In the mudroom, an iconic Morris & Co. fabric used on both the curtains and the bench cushion, along with a striped ruffle pillow, continues what Katie calls a well-layered, historic feel.

GET THE LOOK:
TOP **"Taormina" Pillow Cover** $54; *smallable.com*. BOTTOM **Coco & Wolf Ruffle Pillow Cover** $130; *anthropologie.com*

WANT TO SEE MORE OF THIS PRETTY KITCHEN AND SHOP THE LOOK? HEAD OVER TO ***COUNTRYLIVING.COM/KITCHEN.***