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HOUSE & HOME/DECORATING

## update your kitchen or bath today

We share hundreds of photos and ideas to help you transform your kitchen or bath into the room of your dreams!

### In this comprehensive edition you'll find:

**Real-life makeovers.** Take a look at amazing before-and-after transformations to inspire you—whether you're planning a quick update or a full overhaul of your kitchen or bath.

**Floor plan ideas.** Find out how to update your room's layout to increase efficiency, improve traffic flow, and make a small space feel larger.

**Decorating advice.** Browse through our favorite kitchens and baths and find out how to mimic their signature style in your own home.

**Smart storage strategies.** Learn how to maximize available space and make everything easier to organize and access.

**Shopping tips.** Find product advice and buying tips that can help you outfit your new space with smart and stylish appliances, fixtures, and surfaces.



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Better Homes and Gardens.

kitchen & bath renovation guide



# Better Homes and Gardens. kitchen & bath renovation guide



# before & after

These inspiring kitchen and bath transformations showcase how eye-catching design elements and efficient layouts can bring fresh and functional style to any room.

## kitchens

- 8** quick & easy makeover
- 12** small-kitchen upgrade
- 16** gathering space
- 20** everyday luxury

## baths

- 26** powder room drama
- 28** stylish small bath
- 32** vintage charmer
- 36** spa-like retreat
- 42** architectural elegance



# spa-like retreat

This calming sanctuary shows off luxurious amenities and cutting-edge design, thanks to an expanded layout and a mix of sculptural forms and textural materials.



before

**THE TUB FILLER** complements the tub's modern form, *right*. Its handheld shower extends the full length of the tub, enhancing convenience when bathing or cleaning.

**A SCULPTURAL TUB,** *opposite*, moves into a new position of prominence at the center of the room. It's set off by a backdrop of stacked-slate tile. A wall-hung television and towel warmer add everyday luxury.

This bath offers a host of luxuries: an enticing soaking tub, a gentle rain-style shower, muscle-pummeling water jets, and a steam shower for two. Designed to bring the spa experience home, the bath offers a place to unwind and unplug, cocooned by soft music, sensual lighting, and soul-soothing warmth.

In order to incorporate a long list of amenities into an already-crowded space, designer Nathalie Tremblay began by toppling a wall to annex a closet. Then she reworked the entire layout, floating a freestanding tub near the middle of the room and stretching a wall of glass behind it to define a shower alcove. The result is a fabulous walk-through shower with doors on either side of the tub, complete with a dry zone for toweling off.

Previously, a bulky platform tub sat beneath the room's only windows. Now the same box-bay holds a dressing bench, cleverly integrated with a floating vanity on the adjacent wall. Once awkwardly exposed, the toilet has been relocated to a private compartment complete with a TV and a petite wall-hung sink.

Clean-lined and calm, the decor is a study in contrasts. Silky-smooth white fixtures are countered by a textural slate wall, and built-ins are painted charcoal gray and gloss white. White marble stretches to the ceiling on the vanity wall, continuing across the floor and into the shower. Painted soft gray, the remaining walls play off veining in the marble and create visual harmony.



## spa-like retreat



**QUARTZ-SURFACING** tops the floating vanity, above, where a white trough-style sink serves two faucets. A stone shelf above the sink continues into the private toilet compartment (far left).

**SLEEK WALL-HUNG FAUCETS**, left, feature rectilinear backplates that mimic the shape of the sink and the marble backsplash tiles, which are installed in a staggered, running bond pattern.

**THE FLOATING VANITY** with open storage for towels, opposite, interlocks with a window seat. The built-ins are made of riftsawn oak and paired with an open shelf painted gloss white. Glass drawer pulls complement the cabinetry's sleek look.



## The Spa Experience

KEEP THESE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND WHEN ADDING PAMPERING AMENITIES TO YOUR BATH.

- **Plumbing lines.** Be sure your plumbing and water heater can handle your bath's new features. Multiple showerheads require adequate supply lines and water pressure to function properly.
- **Water consumption.** Consider installing low-flow faucets and showerheads (look for models with the WaterSense label) and high-efficiency or dual-flush toilets to reduce water usage.
- **Overall comfort.** Consider including radiant heat under tile or stone floors, a heated shower bench, or towel warmers.
- **Uncluttered style.** A spa environment is clean-lined, airy, and free of visual clutter, so steer clear of busy patterns, ultra-bright colors, and shelves filled with collectibles.
- **Smart technology.** Consider adding a built-in sound system or a shower system that includes music and mood lighting. Some shower systems allow you to save preferences for water temperature and massage settings.



## spa-like retreat



**A DRY ZONE** in the glass-enclosed steam shower, *left*, includes shelving for towels and artful displays.

**A FLAT-PANEL** television is mounted on the stacked-slate wall near the tub, *above right*. The slate wall adds a masculine touch to the bath. Another television (not shown) hangs in the private toilet compartment.

**SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL** floor lights sparkle beside the tub, *right*. Trapezoidal tiles bring a contemporary look to the marble floor. Heated coils under the tile warm the floor at specific times of day via a built-in timer.

**A NICHE** built into the shower, *below right*, keeps shampoos within easy reach but preserves the bath's uncluttered look.



“Edgy and modern, this bath also contains the five age-old elements of feng shui: earth, wood, fire, metal, and water.” —Designer Nathalie Tremblay



before

**THE NEW SHOWER** stretches across one side of the bath, *left*, bearing little resemblance to the former bath's cramped shower stall. The new steam shower features two rain-style showerheads, a handheld shower spray, and operable glass transoms up top that allow steam to escape when desired.

HOUSE & HOME/DECORATING

# create your dream fireplace

Hundreds of photos provide the inspiration you need to make a fireplace for your home that's both beautiful and practical.

## In this all-new edition, you'll find:

**Style and room-by-room guides** to help you choose the right type of fireplace to suit your home.

**Decorating advice** for creating attractive, functional furniture groupings around the hearth.

**Design solutions** for creating a stylish fireplace setting and incorporating it into your overall decorating scheme.

**Ideas for mantel displays**, ways to integrate the TV, and tips on how to decorate your fireplace during the holidays and warm season.

**Technical information** to help you select and maintain a new fireplace or stove or update an old one.

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fireplace design & decorating ideas

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# fireplace

design & decorating ideas



ALL-NEW EDITION





# style guide

As a focal point in any space, a fireplace can reflect your home's architectural character or your decorating style. In this chapter, you'll find fireplace designs that recall the soaring hearths found in French châteaux, the rustic stone-and-mortar style reminiscent of a woodland lodge, and the symmetry and elegance associated with the finest classical revivals. Whether you're building a new fireplace or updating an existing hearth, use these inspirational images to help you define the look for your room.



# Old World

Re-create the look of the grand hearths that welcomed travelers, invited family gatherings, and warmed stately European homes as far back as the Middle Ages.

To fashion the old-world fireside look in your home, think big. In this time-tested style, hearths, mantels, overmantels, and surrounds are all weighty in appearance and large in scale compared with other fireplace styles.

Check with architectural salvage firms for antique stone fireplace surrounds, or look into cast-stone versions that mimic these more expensive materials. Whether you choose a piece that is prefabricated or

cast on the spot, the finish can be glazed to look centuries old.

Balance the visual weight of the fireplace with surrounding materials, furnishings, and accents with left or generous size. Use salvaged wood flooring or large-scale tiles, top walls with elaborate moldings, decorate with deep seating and sturdy tables, and choose fireplace screens and tools in heavy wrought iron, pewter, or copper.

## OLD MEETS NEW

*right* This family room has a strong Provençal feel thanks to an artful blending of old and new elements. The plaster wall finish is designed to match the patina of the natural limestone detailing on the substantial fireplace surround and overmantel.

## IMPORTED

### LUXURY

*opposite*

A Louis XV reproduction bergère offers a place to relax in this master suite near an antique limestone fireplace imported from France. The curvaceous lines of the piece balance those of the chair. A beautiful trumeau mirror takes the French connection to the ceiling.





## Old World



10 fireplace design & decorating ideas

### FRENCH FINISH

*opposite* Monochrome but far from mundane, the stone fireplace and walls in this French-inspired family room share their mellowed texture with walnut armoires set into tailored niches. Furniture covered in cotton velvet has the same tone as the stonework, while shadowy grays and glimpses of black lend additional interest and structure.

### LIGHT TOUCH

*top* Gilded iron candlesticks from Spain were converted into floor lamps that now flank this antique marble fireplace. An antique French trumeau mirror over the mantel adds substance to the small-scale hearth. Centered on the fireplace, a high pedestal table varies the levels of interest and leads the eye through the room.

### EASY ELEGANCE

*right* Elegance comes easy in a room full of fine antiques, starting with a substantial limestone mantel plucked from a French chateau. Lined on the interior with narrow brick in classic French style, the firebox offers ample room for a dog grate and an elaborate cast iron fireback. Massive stone corbels support a deep mantel, the perfect spot to showcase collecting passions.





## Old World



**EXOTIC MIX** *opposite* Uncluttered furnishings and an unfussy antique stone mantel enhance the feeling of openness in this living room that mixes Italian style with more exotic flavors: an elaborate Moroccan-inspired wood-panel ceiling and a sizable Moroccan mirror over the fireplace. Warm, rustic textures and a distinct lack of clutter create unpretentious beauty.

**COUNTRY CASA** *top left* A limestone mantel in this country casa living room showcases ornate candelabra and an antique Bible box. Statuesque child-size chairs, antique andirons, and a vintage tapestry enhance the room's gathered-over-time appeal. Off-white walls allow the individual pieces to shine.

**CHATEAU STYLE** *top center* Subtle shades of cream pick out the details on this remade fireplace fashioned after the Château de Groussay near Paris. A circular convex mirror and small ledges that display 18th- and 19th-century Delft jars are incorporated into ornate paneling above the mantel. Plaster fretwork on the ceiling continues the French-inspired decorative program through the room.

**TUSCAN TONES** *top right* Nestled into an arched recess, an oil painting enlivens the living room while drawing attention to the fireplace surround's two-tone pattern. A hefty case and overmantel pairs with intricate geometric motifs on the tile. Walls infused with amber tones infuse the room with Tuscan style.

**SET IN STONE** *right* Italian glass-and-gilded sconces from the 1940s and antique Louis XVI needlepoint chairs flank a dining room's 18th-century Louis XIV fireplace. A straightforward farm table with bench seating downplays the grandeur of the antique limestone structure. Walls designed to mimic plaster over stone and 14-foot-high vaulted ceilings lend European distinction.





HOUSE & HOME/DECORATING

# casual, livable decorating

Learn to create the relaxed look and comfortable feel of cottage style with the hundreds of photos and ideas on these pages.

## In this all-new edition you'll find:

**Decorating inspiration** Discover the new side of cottage style—pared-down rooms that are still comfy and full of character.

**Style options** Explore the varied looks—classic, sophisticated, modern, beachy—to find a look that suits your home.

**Room makeovers** Browse before-and-after photos, and glean ideas for your own amazing room transformations.

**Style lessons** Learn how to freshen up and better organize porches, laundry rooms, hobby areas, and other special spaces.

**Quick projects** Bring cottage style to your home with do-in-a-day (or even a few hours) projects and ideas.



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Better Homes and Gardens

New Cottage Style

# Better Homes and Gardens New Cottage Style







HOUSE TOURS

## classic looks

Slipcovers, painted furniture, and timeworn treasures speak the language. These homes present cottage icons in new ways—and prove you can't go wrong with tradition.

- 52** seeing the white
- 60** sweet dreams
- 66** out of the shadows
- 72** natural instinct
- 78** full of character

NEW COTTAGE STYLE 51

CLASSIC LOOKS

#### OCEANS AWAY

White walls welcome any accent colors. Old ceiling tiles painted ocean blue and sea green and hung as art launch this home's beachy scheme. A mirror rimmed with salvaged wood pieces adds more cottage character.



## seeing the white

Stripped-down color—white, white, and more white—and streamlined furnishings prove that a blend of cottage and modern can be forward yet still timeless.

Light, airy, and pristine, white-on-white schemes have long been a favorite in cottage-style decorating. But there's nothing old-school about the look. In this sun-bleached 1960s saltbox, clean-lined furniture and lacquered pieces mix with cottage icons such as slipcovered sofas and whitewashed antiques to give rooms a crisp and modern edge. Well-edited accessories—some of them salvaged gems—contribute to the fresh look, too.

The real beauty of splashing on white is simplicity. It instantly brightens, makes rooms look bigger, and goes with everything.

To keep a white scheme from looking like a blank canvas or veering toward ultramodern starkness, introduce hits of color. In this home, a range of blues and sea greens evokes a by-the-beach feeling. Texture—whether in a seagrass rug or a furry pillow—is another key to warming up white.



## seeing the white



### RELAXED FIT

A lacquered coffee table—topped with an ice bucket used as a vase—streamlines the eclectic furniture mix in the living room. French accent chairs are relaxed, with new white canvas upholstery and white paint rubbed onto their legs and frames. In the corner, a pine armoire received a similar whitewashing, with wet paint rubbed off to allow some of the original finish to show.

### ART SMARTS

For interesting and affordable art, get creative. Vintage algae sun prints downloaded from a library's collection ([digitalgallery.nysl.org](http://digitalgallery.nysl.org)) double as freebie art that, framed in white, fits the airy scheme. A rusty seahorse weather vane becomes cottage-worthy sculpture when displayed on a wood block.

### SHIFT CHANGE

A seldom-used dining room becomes a TV room—proving that a space doesn't have to be used for its original purpose. The mirrored art piece is a do-it-yourself take on a trumeau mirror. For a similar look, scratch the back of a mirror to age it. Adhere the mirror, decorative medallions, and trim to plywood. Paint the piece white, rubbing off some of the wet paint.



## living with white

Keep a white room livable and looking fresh with these tips.

**Temper it.** Light-reflecting white can be hard on the eyes, so vary the shades used and add texture. Remember that the more windows in a room, the brighter the white will look.

**Pick the right paint.** Give furniture—and even accessories such as trays—a modern lacquered look with glossy-sheen paint. For a less showy look, use flat paint. To age a piece, rub off wet paint so part of the layer beneath shows; focus on areas that would naturally show wear, such as those around dresser knobs.

**Be realistic.** White looks clean, but it won't stay clean. So choose slipcovers that can be washed and bleached. For floors and cabinetry, use oil-base paint; it's durable and can be washed—and a good choice for things that get heavy use.



CLASSIC LOOKS

## seeing the white

### NATURAL SELECTION

Texture brings visual relief to a white scheme. A woven rug and raw-wood table—the top is a door—are light enough to keep the breakfast room bright.



### Try this!

A sleek worktable from a restaurant supply store is an airy alternative to an island.



### GLASS ACT

above right Upper cabinet doors outfitted with glass visually open the small kitchen. If clear glass makes dishes too front and center, choose frosted glass or line the insides of the doors with curtains, using a sheer fabric for translucency.

### CURB APPEAL

middle right Cedar shingles and starfish visible through the front door's transom give the renovated home cottage flourish.

### FRAME THE VIEW

below right Pieces of driftwood nailed to the frame and painted white create a beachy take on a starburst mirror.

### MINI MUDROOM

far right Function trumps authenticity in the mudroom-inspired area, formerly a windowless closet. Easy-to-install panels that resemble beaded board cover lower walls; the pre-painted panels wipe clean. Closet shelves were repurposed into a bench and a platform that organizes shoes and helps keep the floor clean.



CLASSIC LOOKS

## seeing the white

### CLEAN SWEEP

Blue accents mellow to gray in the bedroom. A clean-lined end table stands in for a heavy-looking nightstand. (Place a basket or bin between table legs to store books and magazines.) Canvas curtains add breezy cottage style, and grommets give them modern flair. Hanging the rods close to the ceiling visually lengthens the windows.



### LAYERED LOOK

below Layers give a room depth. The dresser, with white paint showing from under the gray top coat, displays the timeworn quality cottage style embraces. A mirror and painting propped rather than hung offer casual ease. A stack of books and a decorative box topped with a shell heighten interest.



### VINTAGE INFLUENCE

right There's no rule that says a cabinet-style vanity has to fill a long wall in a bathroom. With two pedestal sinks and a sleek chrome étagère that uses vertical space, the bathroom melds cottage charm with modern function. Instead of a light bar hung above the mirrors, ceiling-mounted schoolhouse lights illuminate the space.

