

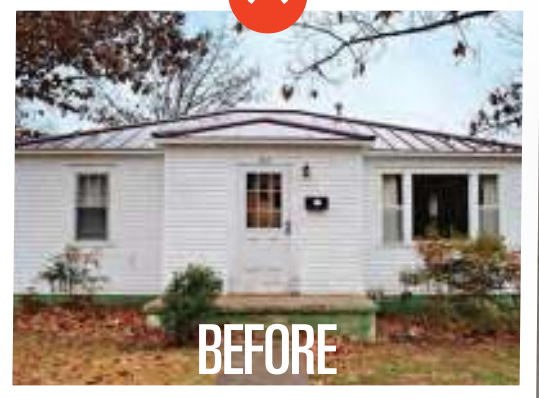
BEFORE & AFTER

**10
QUICK
WEEKEND
PROJECTS!**
p. 6

BOOST CURB APPEAL



↑
**GO INSIDE
THIS
1,000 SF
REMODEL**
P. 42



BEFORE

**THE BEST
UPDATES:**
BATHS, KITCHENS,
CLOSETS & MORE

ADD STORAGE!
SMART BUILT-INS
& BENCHES

MAKEOVERS
THAT DON'T
BREAK
THE BANK

Traditional

SPIN

By JODY GARLOCK | Photos RHETT PEEK |
Field Editor DONNA TALLEY

Room by room, a boutique owner and her designer friend fashion a timeless family home with a few modern twists.

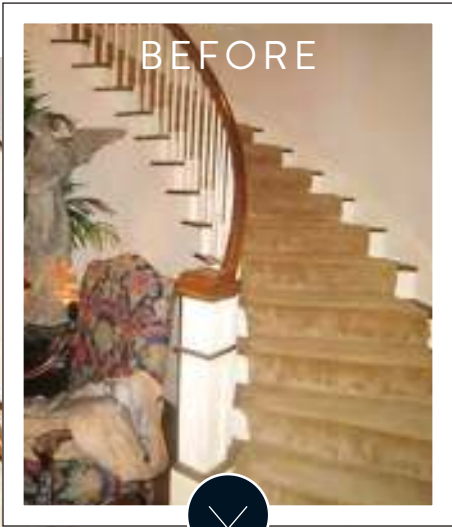
“Slow and steady wins the race” is an apt phrase to describe Emily and Mark Brown’s Little Rock home. The couple’s methodical room-by-room renovation took six years. But there’s nothing clichéd about the end result. The home is traditional yet youthful—a perfect fit for the family, which includes two kids and two dogs. “The slow approach was a financial strategy,” Emily says. “The benefit was that since we lived in the house, we were able to feel the flow and make a list of the things we really needed to raise a family.”

Some of the things on that list were biggies, like gutting the kitchen and reconfiguring the master suite. Others were cosmetic, easily remedied with fresh paint or graphic wallpaper that brightened dark rooms. Knowing the renovation would be done in fits and starts and hence require a long-term working relationship with a pro, Emily tapped her trusted college friend, designer Krista Lewis, to oversee the project.

For Lewis, the fact that the couple had lived in the house for a year before starting any updates was a plus. “The things you change are different if you live in a home for a while,” she says. Lewis and the Browns were also on the same page about maintaining the home’s traditional character, including dentil molding. “I don’t think everything has to change just because it can,” Lewis says.

As with most renovations, reality hit hard. Emily conceded that stain- and heat-resistant Quartzite countertops were ultimately a better choice than the marble she longed for. “She loved the look of marble, but I knew seeing stains on it would drive her crazy,” Lewis says. The couple also dealt with setbacks in their timeline. “I wanted to do the kitchen first, but a bathroom leaked terribly, so our money went there,” Emily says. “The order changed with issues that needed immediate attention. But now, six years later, one room at a time, we have finally finished.”

Resources begin on page 93.



BEFORE



BEFORE The entry boasted a curved staircase but had dated carpeting. **THIS PHOTO** Walls painted soft green help transform the entry; an existing brass chandelier and an antique chair (with new upholstery) add a bit of first-impression glitz.

IT'S A BIG ROOM, SO IT CAN
**HANDLE A LARGE-SCALE
PATTERN.** YOU DON'T HAVE TO
DO A LOT—OR ANY—ARTWORK.

DESIGNER **KRISTA LEWIS**

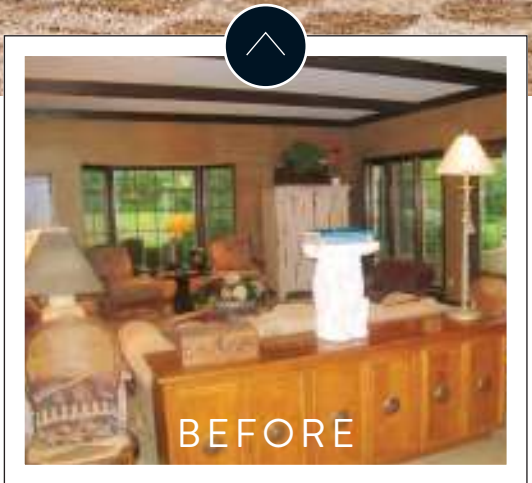


THIS PHOTO

The dining room got a new chandelier, furniture, and rug. The biggest game-changer was the wallpaper, with a large-scale pattern that adds interest.



BEFORE Dark beams and undressed windows gave the living room a hard edge. **ABOVE** The room got a cosmetic makeover, including curtains hung high on the wall to make the ceiling seem more grand. An oversize lantern helps define the window-seat area. “We wanted to make it a multipurpose room, not just one where you watch TV,” designer Krista Lewis says. **LEFT** Consistent wall color knits the rooms together. “It’s a soothing, calm color that changes with the light to gray, green, or blue,” says homeowner Emily Brown.





LEFT White subway tiles were a timeless choice for the kitchen backsplash.

BELOW

To make the eating area more functional, Lewis removed a built-in cabinet and added a banquette, covered in durable indoor-outdoor fabric. New French doors bring light (and style) to the area.

“This is the place where we pray, eat, laugh, and live life together,” Emily says. “It’s the heart of this home.”

OPPOSITE

BEFORE The kitchen seemed cramped, with a sea of solid-door cabinetry and wall ovens encroaching on work space at the cooktop. With no seating, the island wasn’t a hangout hub.

OPPOSITE TOP A to-the-studs remodel resulted in a lighter, brighter, and better-functioning kitchen. A new window (where a door once was) helps bring the outdoors in. The expanded island allows seating. Pendant lights above the island were Emily’s splurge.

TIMELINE INSIGHTS

Completing a whole-house renovation in stages requires forethought. Consider these tips.

1. FOCUS Make a list of your priorities, ranked by importance. Discuss them with a designer or contractor who can provide insight on efficiencies in terms of budget and timeline.

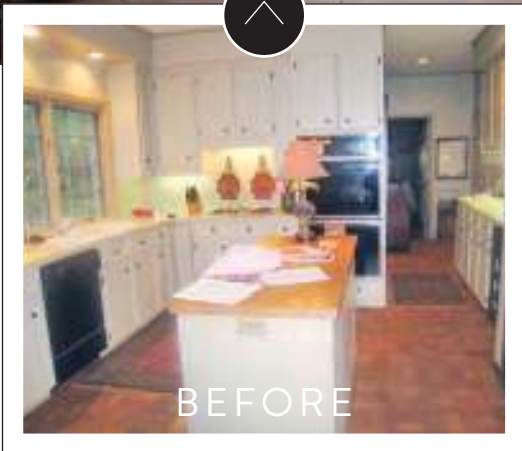
2. FLOW Even if you’re focused on one room at a time, think of the house as a whole. If possible, do all the flooring at once for consistency. Repeating finishes and paint colors creates a pleasing visual flow. “Not everything has to be the same, but there has to be consistency so it doesn’t look piecemeal,” designer Krista Lewis says.

3. FUNCTION Envision what the room could be, not just what it is. Lewis drew multiple designs of the Browns’ kitchen and master suite until she hit on a layout and features that the Browns felt worked for their lifestyle.



DESIGN TIP

Some of the cabinetry was reused and updated with glass-front doors. "It was a grand project done on a tight budget," says homeowner Emily Brown.



BEFORE

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME TO **ADD A WOW FACTOR** TO A ROOM. IT'S LIKE PUTTING JEWELRY ON AN OUTFIT.

HOMEOWNER **EMILY BROWN**



A floor-mounted brass tub filler makes it easy to turn on water without having to reach across the tub.



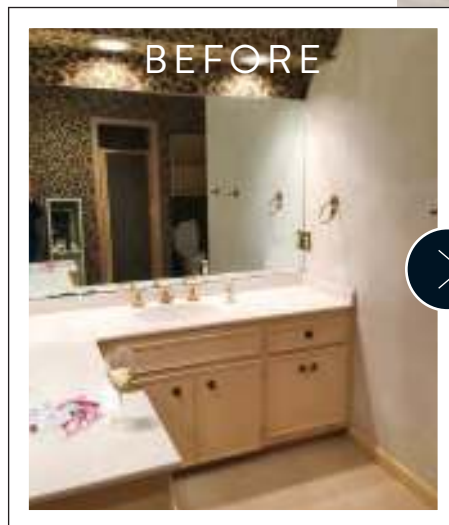
LEFT A niche in the new bath is perfectly sized for a tub, something the old baths lacked.

OPPOSITE LEFT Lewis shifted the home's palette a bit in the master bedroom to tone down the femininity. The upholstered headboard and bed skirt have gray in them, and the pinks turn a pale coral. Although the bedroom is a few feet smaller, Emily likes the downsized room. "The

bedroom was large, and this helped create a more intimate space and also allowed me to get my dream closet," she says.

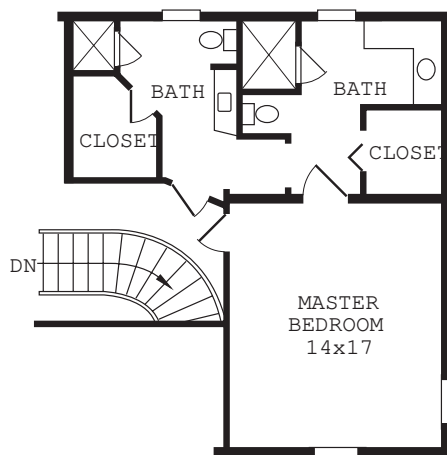
OPPOSITE RIGHT An island anchors the master bedroom closet. Emily, a fashionista who owns the Little Rock clothing boutique Tulips, is inspired by and a stickler about organization. "I am anti-hoarder," she says. "If you have too much in your closet, it causes stress."

BEFORE The master bath was two side-by-side rooms. Consolidating (one vanity and toilet instead of two of each) made efficient use of existing space. **FAR RIGHT** The main level's pale green wall color repeats on the master bath vanity in a durable lacquer finish. Marble floor tiles are laid in a classic herringbone pattern.

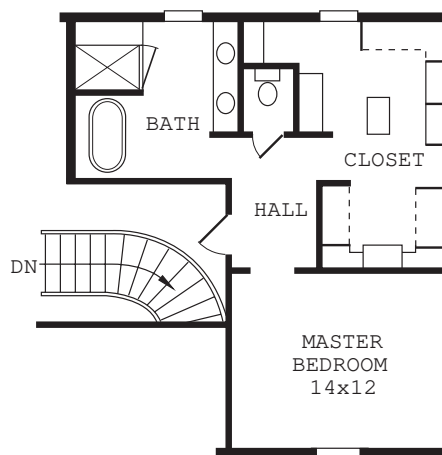




THE PLAN



BEFORE



AFTER

MASTER SUITE

The original master suite had awkward his-and-hers baths (both with closets), one of which became the new dream closet. Using about 80 square feet of the bedroom created space for a hall that makes the master suite feel like a true getaway.