

# AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

## Style

**A-Z IDEAS**  
FOR THE ICONIC  
FARMHOUSE LOOK

**101**  
Architecture  
Best curb appeal  
on the block

## Renovation GUIDE

*Essentials for Country Charm*

Upcycle, Thrift and DIY Projects for Spring

Spring 2017 | Display until 5/16/2017  
Engaged Entertainment Plus - \$5.99 US



Engaged Media, Inc.









# This **New** Old House

This custom farmhouse combines several stylistic elements under one roof.

BY STEPHANIE AGNES-CROCKETT  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JARED KUZIA

**W**ith a custom approach to homemaking, you can build your dream home in a faster, more personalized manner. Interior designer Kristina Crestin of Kristina Crestin Design helped create one of these custom homes on the popular TV show *This Old House*, which focuses on remodeling and design for old homes. Kristina collaborated with the homeowners to design a new house, modeled after an original 18th-century farmhouse, to make their stylistic dreams a reality. The couple wanted to combine traditional farmhouse style with industrial elements, and Kristina brought her expertise and vision to the interior.

---

This charming living room combines a number of fascinating pieces, from the wooden-cart coffee table to the wily accordion light in the corner. While there are several eye-catching pieces present, Kristina cautions, "Step back and think about the big picture." Don't throw several pieces together, haphazardly.







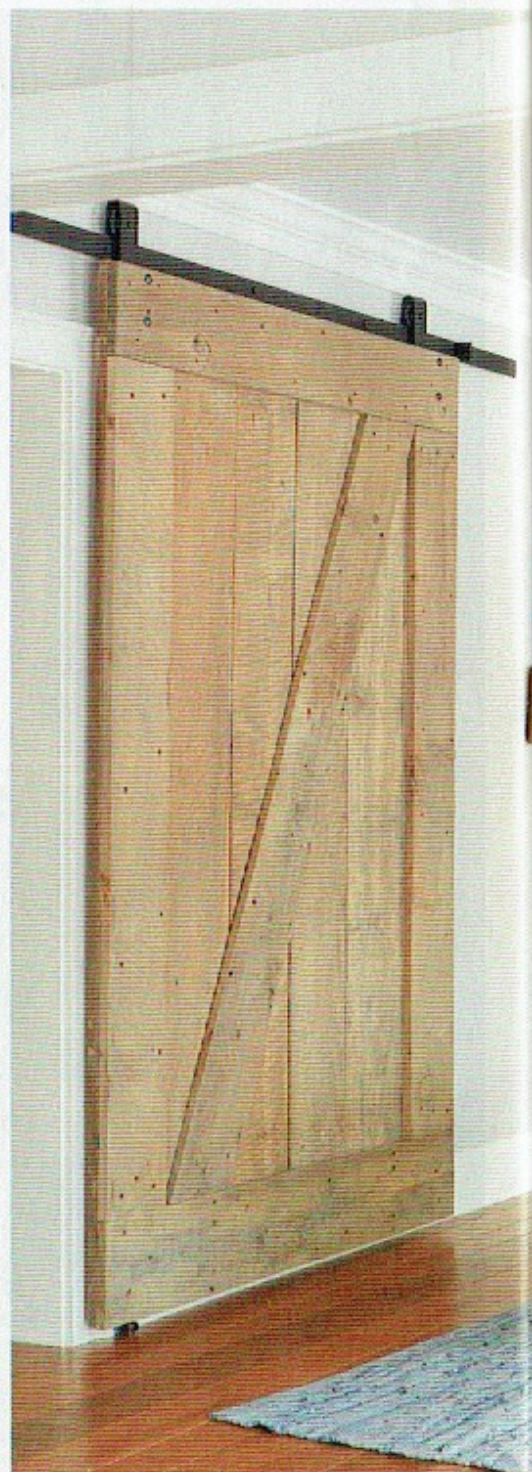
This chic office space is the quintessential blend of industrial with vintage chic. While the dark wall color, spiny chair legs and eclectic combination of artwork exude industry, the quaint light, bronze picture frames and juxtaposed plant display farmhouse style.

**OPPOSITE:** Kristina combined blues and browns in the library, from the leather sofa with the modern look of the large standing light fixture to the cozy warmth of the fireplace. The cushioned window seat and assorted plants open up the room with a breath of fresh air.



If your man wants a masculine space for himself, you're not limited to mounted deer heads and rifles. Use darker colors, leather furniture and gold accents to give him a refined gentleman's lounge.





## REPETITION, NOT REDUNDANCY

Builder Connor Homes constructs pre-engineered homes, which go up about twice as quickly as regular houses. Owners select a plan, then designers, plumbers and electricians come together to create the interior. For this project, Kristina took charge of the electrical as well as the décor. "I like to build a room from the rug up," she says. "I sought out a unifying color scheme and really relied on the repetition of color."

Soft grays, whites and blues tie the house together as a cohesive whole. In addition to looking for similar colors to design the interior, Kristina also developed a scheme of similar textures. Reclaimed wood is a major decorating theme throughout the house, from the mudroom bath mirror frame to the makeshift coffee table, constructed from an old cart with metal wheels. "There was a theory to the mixing of styles," Kristina says. Instead of simply combining elements that she or the homeowners liked, she needed to make sure to keep a holistic vision in mind.





"I chose to treat the living room and dining room together," Kristina says, and the two rooms feature strong industrialized elements. The dining room chandelier, in particular, is a bold decorating choice, with each light hanging from a long spidery arm. At the same time, the chairs have traditional farmhouse style. **OPPOSITE:** The mudroom is both stylish and utilitarian, with a coat closet for hanging jackets and stools for removing shoes. The exotic ground rug matches the rug in the living room, creating a seamless shift from one space to the next. Likewise, the quirky blue light fixture is an optimal transition piece.

---

*Rather than becoming redundant,* repetition ties your farmhouse together as a cohesive whole.





"Consider a whole room when making an individual purchase.  
*Step back and think about how everything  
balances each other,* regardless of that one element."





**ABOVE:** Light filters from the outdoors and multiple hanging fixtures in this warm, open kitchen. A collection of wood and leather bar stools provides an industrial touch to the space and contrasts with the white and gray on the walls and counters. The seating is a perfect area to chat and enjoy a snack. **ABOVE, RIGHT:** This pantry demonstrates the success of a reclamation project done right. Kristina found the two old screen doors and turned them into sliding doors, which she used to enclose the pantry. Situated just outside of the kitchen, the pantry offers a huge storage space for dry and non-perishable goods.



She wasn't afraid of repeating styles, colors or textures. Rather than becoming redundant, repetition ties the farmhouse together as a cohesive whole.

#### VINTAGE + INDUSTRIAL = COMPLEMENTARY CHIC

Kristina worked to pair subtle traditional furnishings with striking industrial features. She used large furniture to evoke a modern farmhouse look. The lighting in the dining room, for example, provided a place for Kristina to be creative. "I chose a more industrial flair for the lighting," Kristina says, "but with the traditional black chairs." Likewise, the doors and windows joined the two styles, with reclaimed doors as well as old-fashioned sashes painting a surprising color.





Kristina recommends uniting a room along a central color palette. This cozy master bedroom embraces a variety of blues, from the darker tones of the bedspread and full-length curtains, to the translucent light blue of the bedside lamp. Likewise, the wooden features in the room, including the old-fashioned clock and reclaimed table, seam together the farmhouse style. **OPPOSITE:** The large bathroom is fit for two, with two sinks, two mirrors, two lights and even twin candle sconces that Kristina designed with reclaimed wood. Textures work together, from the wood frames of the candles and mirrors to the stone-top counter, subway tile walling and bath tub.

"We found an old pair of black screen doors off a building in Maine and changed them into sliding doors," Kristina says. She chose striking industrial black sashes for the windows. "I recommend painting sashes a contrasting color to add definition and accentuate the trim," she says. Kristina also introduced a new barn door, custom-made from an older wood, which ties into the window details.

## BE CONSIDERATE

Kristina notes that there is an additional layer of challenge in making styling decisions in an existing house. "A lot of people aren't doing a whole home at the same time," she says. "It's easier to step back

and weigh all your options when you do the whole house at once." If you're working with an existing home, it's a good idea to put considerable thought into each decorating decision. "Consider a whole room when making an individual purchase," Kristina says. "Step back and think about how everything balances each other, regardless of that one element." Instead, make sure the item you love really will work with all the other pieces. While it may be disappointing to forego a specific furnishing in the moment, the reward of your tasteful choices will pay off in the long run.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128





## WHO DOES WHAT?

Designer Kristina Crestin has expertise in the fields of architecture and interior design, and joined this project as the interior designer. How does that differ from her role as an architect?

**What's a designer?** Kristina explains that the meaning of the word "designer" can differ from person to person. For some, design equals decoration. For others, it can be a combination of responsibilities. For this project, Kristina collaborated with the homeowners to plan both the décor and the electrical.

**What's an architect?** Architects plan the structure of the building, from the blueprints to the materials and the look of the exterior. While architecture is distinct from interior decorating, the architect and interior decorator work together to create a master plan for the home. An architect is not always a decorator, but Kristina has expertise in both areas of interior architecture and decorating.







*"It's easier to step back  
and weigh all your options  
when you do the whole  
house at once."*







**OPPOSITE:** The guest room, like the master, features a blue palette, while incorporating a number of pastels for a calming effect. The seaside painting above the bed, alongside the soothing grays of the walls and curtains, creates a restful atmosphere. **MIDDLE:** This bathroom features a double sink for two to get ready, a step-stool to accommodate the little one and a chic brown and black hamper. The framed animal pictures over the subway tile wall add a touch of whimsy, making the room accommodating to child and adult. **BELOW:** This black and white bathroom features charming window upholstery that complements the fun cow towel draped over the sink. The white walls contrast nicely with the black accents, while the wooden frame of the mirror works well with the similar ceiling overhead.

