

Better Homes and Gardens

**20-Minute
Dinners**
Everyday Easy!!

MAY 2007
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The Winners!

Inspiring Ideas
From Our
Readers' Homes

7 Smart
Ways to
Refresh
a Room

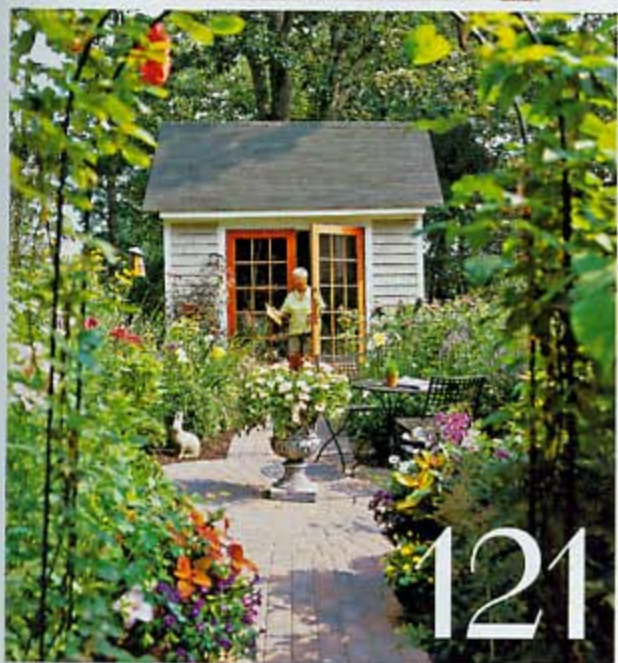
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Plus: Container Combos for Sun or Shade
Better Bone Health at Any Age





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Turn Tables

Spin an unfinished table into a surface that sings with paint, stain, and home-store bling.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY **PAMELA S. PORTER** PHOTOS **KING AU**

BEFORE



Sweet Spot Ready-made gingerbread from a home improvement store gives this table its cottage flavor. Have the store cut beaded board and miter cap molding to fit the tabletop. Attach them and decorative brackets to the table, *right*, using wood adhesive, clamping until set. Remove original drawer pulls and putty the holes. Then sand, prime, and paint all surfaces antique white. Finish with a coat of polyurethane. Drill holes for and install colored milk glass knobs.

Table: 683W Seneca coffee table, about \$198, whittierwood.com



WHAT YOU NEED

- Beaded board (about 44X18 inches)
- Cap molding
- 4 wood brackets
- Wood adhesive
- Clamps
- Wood putty
- Sandpaper
- Primer
- Satin-finish latex paint
- Polyurethane sealer
- 4 glass knobs
- Drill

Skirting the Issue This country-style table is both pretty and practical thanks to a clutter-concealing skirt attached with hook-and-loop tape, *right*. For the weathered two-tone finish, paint the table red, let it dry, then rub a candle on the edges. The wax prevents the blue topcoat, *right*, from adhering; when the table is sanded, red shows through. For the skirt, cut a fabric panel for each side of the table, allowing extra width to gather softly. Hem all edges, gather the top, and sew the soft strip of hook-and-loop tape to the underside. Press adhesive part of the tape to the table; attach the skirt.

For buying information see page 304.



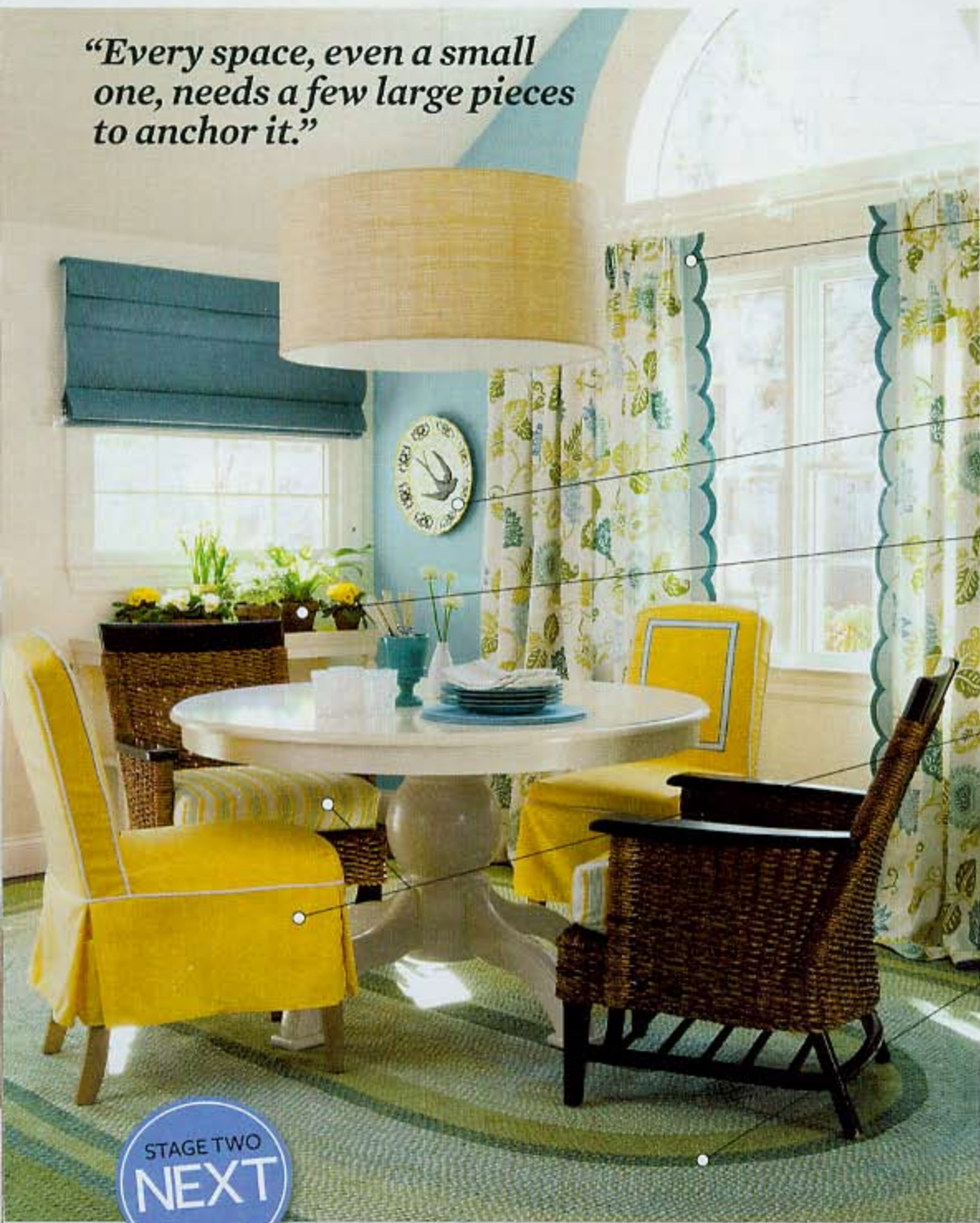
WHAT YOU NEED

- Satin-finish latex paint (we used Sherwin Williams 6321 Red Bay and 6221 Moody Blue)
- Light-color candle
- 100-grit sandpaper
- 1 yard of 54-inch-wide fabric (cut into four panels, two 48X16 and two 21X16)
- Sewing machine and thread
- Adhesive-backed hook-and-loop tape



Get how-to for a traditional table (and more about the three shown here) online. BHG.com/coffeetable

“Every space, even a small one, needs a few large pieces to anchor it.”



TRIMMED OUT

A scalloped border trims the curtains and breaks up whiteness. The dark blue edging links to the Roman shade.

ART SMART

A decorative platter is a fresh alternative to boxy framed art.

FUNCTION PLUS

Plants on a new sideboard add color and texture. Remove the plants and the table is a handy buffet.

SUNNY SPLASHES

Coordinating outdoor fabrics that resist staining and fading unite mismatched chairs. New custom slipcovers are short for a kicky look.

RUG UPGRADE

With the oval rug, the nook's square look is finally history.

STAGE TWO
NEXT

Layered and sun-kissed With a few high-impact finishing details, the breakfast nook becomes the welcoming spot it was meant to be. To play off the blue wall, Loecke added bright yellow slipcovers and a colorful striped rug in the center of the room. “When the table is expanded, the chairs won’t be pushed off the oval rug,” he says. With the scale and balance

issues resolved, Loecke focused on the little extras to pull the room together. Piping and two colors of ribbon detail the slipcovers and a scalloped border accents the curtain panels. Potted plants bring texture, color, and softness to bare spots and are longer-lasting alternatives to fresh bouquets. “It’s now a very happy room—one you’d want to come home to,” Loecke says.



Celebrate Spring

with a Pepperidge Farm®
Dessert Party



Tip #7

Decadent Dipping Pirouette® Rolled Wafers

Dip *Pirouette* rolled wafers into melted chocolate. Sprinkle with crushed walnuts, coconut shavings, and anything else that strikes your fancy.

Arrange in a small vase.

For more dessert tips visit us at www.artofthecookie.com



Illustration: © Amy Johnson King 2009

indoors

MAKEOVERS



FINISHING TOUCH

Loecke's secret for a quick curtain spiff-up? Hook-and-loop tape. It holds this custom-sewn scalloped border and is an easy way to attach purchased trims.

BALANCING ACTS

Apply John Loecke's problem-solving ideas to your home.

Windows "Figure out which window is your focal point and which ones are secondary, and dress them accordingly. They don't all have to be treated the same. They just need to relate."

Lighting "Choose a light fixture that balances the weight of the dining table but isn't so wide that you hit it when you lean in." Loecke paired a 42-inch drum shade with the 52-inch table. "Hang it low enough so the table and light seem connected. I usually leave about 3 feet."

Rugs "A rug should echo the shape of the table, but not match it exactly. A round rug with a round table is too similar, but an oval rug gives a sense of a circle. The rug should be large enough so chair legs stay on it when pulled back from the table."

BRING IT HOME

SERVE UP COLOR,
PATTERN,
AND FUNCTION

LIGHT AND BRIGHT

- 1 and 2 Bring durable outdoor fabrics indoors. Sunbrella "Canvas" in Buttercup, \$25/yard, and "High Speed" stripes, \$55/yard, Calico Corners, 800/213-6366; calicocorners.com
- 3 A focal-point fabric is worth a splurge. "Mimosa" in aqua, \$73/yard, Thibaut, 800/223-0704; thibautdesign.com
- 4 Slim-space function. "Carina" console in Timid White, \$524, Potluck Studios, 800/442-8157; potluckstudios.com



For buying information see page 304.

1. A children's portrait photographer, Joey envisioned this gallerylike setting in the upstairs hall long before construction began. Picture-rail moldings were common features in bungalows and other vintage homes with plaster walls.

2. Oil-base paint protects beaded-board wainscoting around the roomy soaking tub in the master bath.

3. Jack's room includes clever built-in storage and room for a sleepover.

4. Joey and Mike gave up one of two planned walk-in closets in their bedroom for a home office. The gabled dormer on the front of the home belongs to the master suite; the boys' rooms are under the shed dormer.

