

Better Homes & Gardens®

the Great OUTDOORS

FIND HAPPINESS
IN YOUR OWN
BACKYARD

THIS USED
TO BE A
BROKEN-
DOWN
GARAGE
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TROPICAL
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TABLETOP
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RENOVATION MY COTTAGE PROJECT

As an editor for shelter magazines, my day job was writing stories about beautiful homes while I lived in a tiny rental condo with too few windows. It was time I put those magazine ideas to use on a fixer-upper. When I landed this 800-square-foot 1943 cottage in Birmingham, AL, skeptics saw a cramped house with a falling-down garage. I recognized potential.



BONUS SPACE I turned the run-down garage into a home office and entertaining spot by adding insulation and drywall, installing French doors and flooring (\$1/square foot slate tile), and **sewing tablecloths into a Roman shade and pillows.**

FIELD EDITOR: LIZ STRONG



My Cottage Project (pgs. 28–34)

Professional resources:

Designer: Zoë Gowen; www.zoegowen.com

Pgs. 28–30:

- Santa Barbara Round Pendant, \$598 for 26-inch; serenaandlily.com
- Roman shade and pillows: [Amaya Tablecloth in Red](#), price varies; marigoldliving.com
- Bench and pillow fabric: Red Ticking, \$10/yard; hobbylobby.com
- Fritsy Drinking Glass is from [Paloma & Co.](#) Similar item, \$14; anthropologie.com
- Handblown Italian Glass Carafe in Aquamarine, \$125; shoppalomaandco.com
- Exterior: Creamy SW 7012, price varies; sherwin-williams.com
- Front door: Sassy Green SW 6416; sherwin-williams.com
- Outdoor Zanzibar Pillow is no longer available. Similar item, \$24; bedbathandbeyond.com
- Peter Dunham Textiles Jaali Pillow in Amethyst, \$175; hollywoodathome.com
- Outdoor Asha Pillow is no longer available. Similar item, \$49; wayfair.com
- Dutch door: Lite Unfinished Wood Prehung Right-Hand Inswing Dutch Back Door, \$1,601; homedepot.com

Pgs. 31–32

- Walls and ceiling: White Dove OC-17, price varies; benjaminmoore.com
- Floor: Shaded White No. 201, price varies; farrow-ball.com
- Lee Industries Sofa 3511-03, price varies; leeindustries.com
- Roman shade and pillow fabric is no longer available. Similar item, price varies; bestfabricstore.com
- Roman Shade Cotton Twill Tape Trim is from [Ribbon Factory](#). Similar item, \$8 for 10 yards; amazon.com
- Artwork is antique. Similar item, \$299; potterybarn.com
- Personal travel photos enlarged via whitewall.com.
- Pillow fabric is from [Decorators Best](#). Similar item, \$28/yard; michaels.com
- Rug is no longer available. Similar item, \$1,800; paigealbrightorientals.com
- Mirror is vintage. Similar item, price varies; shoppebham.com
- Pressed botanical print by Trueheart Carl is from [Shoppe](#). Similar item; \$9; etsy.com
- Vintage china cabinet: Creamy SW 7012, price varies; sherwin-williams.com
- Walls: Summer Melon 2168-50, price varies; benjaminmoore.com
- Table skirt fabric: Citrus Garden in Primary, price varies; fschumacher.com
- Painting is no longer available. Similar item, \$695; hannaantiques.com
- Vintage chairs are no longer available. Similar item, \$170 for a set of two; wayfair.com
- Walnut countertops are from [Cabinet Components](#).
- Faucet: Litze in polished nickel, \$1,151; brizo.com
- Curtain fabric is no longer available. Similar item, \$8; joann.com
- Curtain trim is no longer available. Similar item, \$17/yd.; etsy.com