

editor's note / HIT REFRESH



Me and Lauren Fetterman

While there aren't many certainties in life (other than death and taxes, of course), I can think of a third that's guaranteed to pull you in and make you look—a good “before and after.” In a world where self-improvement is forever on our radar (and, possibly, our to-do list), I don't think anyone can deny that turning something familiar and ho-hum into something new and inspiring always demands a second glance. We've all experienced the way a new haircut or outfit can be an empowering tool for reinvention, and in the shelter industry, it's no different. It takes a combination of skill and imagination to see the possibilities that lie inside neglected, ordinary or dysfunctional spaces, and the beauty of these “before and after” reveals is that their allure lies not in their size or scale, but in their impact. ¶ That's why in this issue, we're showcasing “before and after” projects of all types, sizes and spaces. First, we step inside a New Canaan kitchen, where Buffy Goodwin from Deane, Inc., redesigned and opened up a young family's formerly dim, awkward space (“Perfect Fit” on page 26). Next we offer a menu of incredible transformations, where twelve design professionals show and tell how they crafted amazing new looks (“Image Overhaul” on page 41). We then move on to Greenwich, where Clean Design's Claire Paquin updated a tired foursquare home by taking down walls, repurposing rooms and maximizing light for a fresh take on a modern farmhouse (“Good Moves” on page 66). Later we enter a cozy yet chic lower level by Eileen Deschappelles that guarantees fun for the entire family (“Game Changer” on page 72). And finally in Rye, designer Laura Tutun and architect Frank Marsella revitalized a sprawling home through careful renovations and unique touches and finishes that together evoke a sophisticated yet family-friendly feel (“Major Makeover: Worth the Wait” on page 76). ¶ And, in the spirit of “before and after” transformations, you will notice that *athome* has undergone a makeover of its own. While good design always endures, we felt the time was right to give ourselves a facelift. That meant narrowing down infinite choices, trying various looks on for size and ultimately listening to what spoke to us. The end result is in your hands, and we hope you love our updated look and feel as much as we do. Who knows—maybe this issue will spur on a “before and after” of your own!

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