

# instant architecture

Give depth and dimension to an accent wall with a rustic, industrial, or textured covering made of laminate, plexiglass, metal, or wood.

designs **CATHY KRAMER** | photographs **ADAM ALBRIGHT**  
how-to photographs **DEAN SCHOEPPNER** | words **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



**OSB panels** A modern take on traditional wainscoting, this treatment contrasts refined details with the rustic appeal of raw materials. To make the 36-inch-tall covering, *this photo*, we framed same-size panels cut from 1/4-inch-thick OSB (a type of engineered-wood particleboard; find it at lumberyards and home improvement stores) with crisp, painted 1x4 boards. To start, nail a 1x6 board along the base of the wall, then add a vertical 1x4, the same height as the panels, above the base at the corner. Use construction adhesive to add an OSB panel next to the 1x4, and secure it with pin nails. Nail a 1x4 next to the panel. Repeat the process along the length of the wall, finishing the top with long 1x4 trim. Fill nail holes and paint. The recessed panels give the wall dimension and interest. Avoid sanding OSB because of the adhesives that hold it together, but seal with clear polyurethane if desired.



Laminate adhesive can be very unforgiving; once it comes in contact with the backing board, the laminate is stuck. To make it manageable, we used dowels as spacers between the adhesive-covered laminate and medium-density fiberboard (MDF) base. Once we had the laminate positioned correctly, we removed the dowels one at a time, while carefully lowering the laminate onto the board. Visit [BHG.com/Laminate](http://BHG.com/Laminate) for more info.



**Laminate sheets + MDF** Reimagine countertop laminate as a modern wall treatment of patterned blocks, *this photo*. We began with two 4x8-foot sheets of white laminates: one with a pebblelike design and the other with a striated pattern. Using a table saw we cut 12-inch-wide rectangles in lengths ranging from 2 to 6 feet. After planning the wall arrangement, we adhered the laminate to pieces of 1/2-inch MDF, then secured the arrangement to the wall using construction-grade double-sided tape, beginning at the bottom of the wall and working up to the top, staggering the seams.





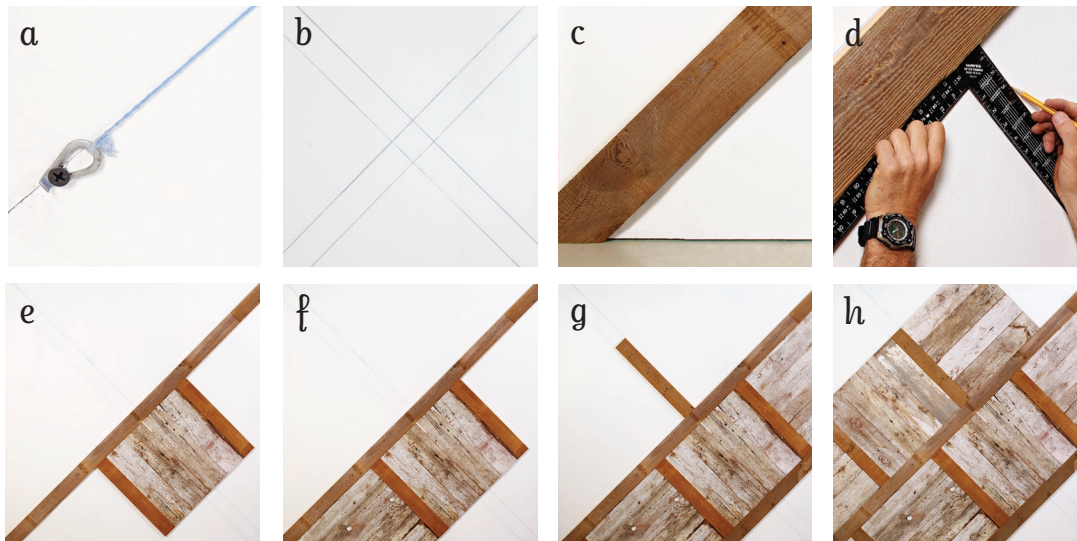
Knots, nail holes, and warps can make barn boards difficult to work with. We planned our lengths to avoid cutting through bad areas. We left some knot holes visible, allowing the wall color to show through in those areas.





## Salvaged barn boards

Attach these weathered wood beauties to the wall in a diagonal grid to give an entryway or hallway rustic charm, *opposite*. We used a combination of dark and light barn boards to complete this design. To find barn boards in your area, search for salvaged wood on Craigslist or ask someone at your local lumberyard, wood specialty store, or architectural salvage yard if they have stock or a salvaged-wood source. Visit [iowabarnboards.com](http://iowabarnboards.com) to learn about the types of lumber a barn may yield.



## how to construct a barn-board wall

What you'll need:

- Chalk line
- Four 4x72-inch barn boards
- Miter saw
- Contact adhesive
- 2-inch nails
- Carpenter's square
- Thirty-six to thirty-eight 8x32-inch barn boards
- Eight 4x32-inch barn boards
- 384 inches of 3-inch barn boards

**step 1** Determine an 8x8-foot area you wish to cover with barn boards. Draw two diagonal lines that extend from corner to corner of the area to make an X. Measure 2 inches above and 2 inches below each line at each corner of the square and mark. Connect opposite marks with a chalk line and snap the line (a). Repeat to snap two sets of two chalk lines that form an X (b).

**step 2** To install the first grid board, measure 2 inches from one end of one 4x72-inch barn board; mark on each edge. Also mark the center of the board at the end. Make a 45-degree cut from one edge mark to the center mark. Make a second 45-degree cut from the other edge mark to the center to make a pointed end. Apply contact adhesive to the back of the board, and press the board in place between the lines, placing the pointed end of the board at the bottom left-hand corner of the wall section. Cut a second 4x72-inch board to make a pointed end for the opposite corner and cut it to length to complete the diagonal line (c). Nail the boards, hitting studs as much as possible.

**step 3** Using a carpenter's square, make marks 14 inches away from each diagonal line that intersects with the first grid board (d). Spread contact adhesive on the backs of four 8x32-inch barn boards and adhere the boards to the wall inside the marks so they are perpendicular to the first grid board and make a 32-inch square. Spread contact adhesive on the backs of two 4x32-inch barn boards and adhere one board to each side of the 32-inch square (e).

**step 4** Adhere and nail four more 8x32-inch barn boards parallel to the first grid board for the next grid square (f). Cut the ends of the boards at a 45-degree angle to fit along the floor. Continue adding squares of barn boards and grid boards, alternating the direction of the boards with each adjacent square.

**step 5** Center a 4x32-inch barn board inside the center diagonal lines and perpendicular to the first barn board square; adhere and nail (g). Add four 8x32-inch barn boards to one side of the grid board and add a second 4x32-inch barn board to the opposite side. Trim ends of boards at a 45-degree angle as needed to fit.

**step 6** Continue the grid pattern, using remaining 4x72, 4x32, and 8x32 boards (h). Add 3-inch trim boards at the bottom, top, and sides of the area. If there's a small gap between the trim boards and the wall, fill with clear silicone caulk if desired.



**Corrugated sheet metal** Utilitarian and sleek, this traditionally exterior building material makes an easy transition to the indoors. We love how quickly it changes the look of a room, *this photo*. We constructed this stair-step covering by using tin snips to cut two sheets to 5 feet tall and two sheets to 6 feet tall, then we overlapped the ridges to fit the panels together.

Because the valleys on our corrugated panel may not align with wall studs, we attached three 1x4 mounting boards to studs across the width of the wall: one near the top of the area to be covered, at the middle, and at the base. We then screwed  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch #8 pan-head screws in a recessed area of the panels to fasten them to each board. A painted 2x2 trim board caps the top.



### Finish it

Since the bottom is flush with the floor, no bottom trim is needed. Using 3-inch nails, we capped the top and sides of our corrugated metal with 2x2 trim boards to mask the gap between the wall and metal.



To attach the plexiglass to the wall, we inserted a large screw with an oversize washer 2 inches from each corner and along the center of each side through holes drilled slightly larger than the screws. We inserted a ½-inch-long rubber spacer on the back at each screw, creating a gap between the wall and the plexiglass to create a “floating” effect.



**Frosted plexiglass** An industrial chic look is just a layer of plexiglass away, *this photo*. We bolted two 48x65x½-inch panels of plexiglass to the upper two-thirds of a painted wall, using heavy-duty screws and drywall anchors to fasten each piece to the wall. A painted 1x4 trim board mounted to the wall just below the plexiglass serves as a transition between the frosted and the painted portions.

For Resources see page 110.

