

# THE SWEET ESCAPE

*Craving a space  
to call your own?  
Step inside the  
she shed.*

PROJECTS **LINDSAY BERGER &  
SCOTT JOHNSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHS **ADAM ALBRIGHT**  
WORDS **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



**FIND YOURSELF** Even though it's just a few steps from home, this cheery backyard retreat feels like a true getaway. The welcoming landscaped exterior, breeze-loving windows, comfy seating, and space-saving, yet functional, interior details promote relaxation and creativity.





**SIT A SPELL** Outfit your she shed inside and out with a mix of inviting seating. A basket chair, *above*, dangles from a rope secured to the shed's rafters. A basic deck chair, *above right*, is reborn when you replace blah canvas with colorful outdoor fabric.



Everyone longs for a place to get away from it all, a serene space where you can read, make a mess, get creative, and gather with friends. Stop daydreaming and start living the dream—with your own she shed.

The *Do It Yourself* she shed began in collaboration with Classic Buildings, a custom shed builder based in Kansas City, Missouri. Working from a plan in the company's library, we customized our structure to fit our wooded suburban lot, adjusted door and window placement, and selected finishes. We upgraded our material choices for wall, ceiling, and floor panels to new durable products from LP Building Products. (See *page 59* for details.) Five weeks later our shed was delivered and positioned in about 30 minutes on the coolest remote-control trolley/lift.

But a well-built shed was only the beginning. Designer Lindsay Berger was enlisted to transform our 10×12-foot box into a playful,

practical getaway. "I wanted the overall look to be modern, light, and industrial, so I mixed different patterns, textures, and materials," she says. "The vibe is confident, playful, and, most important, feminine." Berger's projects relied on home center staples—paint, drywall, iron pipe, and nominal lumber, along with a few splurges like a basket chair and patterned outdoor fabrics.

To boost the shed's versatility, we developed the surrounding yard as additional living space. A paver-and-pebble patio, borders and steps made of Belgian pavers, and metal tanks filled with flowers and edibles complete the look. Time to gather a few friends and celebrate!



BEFORE

**SHED GOES CHIC** An empty shed becomes a pretty oasis by adding a paver patio, installing lights both inside and out, and embellishing doors with metal sheeting. We created an interior focal wall by hanging moisture-resistant gypsum board and applying a dreamy painted watercolor effect.

# how to build a rolling cart

## MATERIALS

- 1x12x36-inch boards, need 3
- Masking tape
- Drill and 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch drill bit
- $\frac{3}{4}$ x3-inch black iron pipes, need 2
- $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch black iron couplings, need 19
- $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch 90-degree black iron elbows, need 2
- $\frac{3}{4}$ x1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch black iron nipples, need 14
- $\frac{3}{4}$ x8-inch black iron pipes, need 4
- $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch black iron caps, need 6
- $\frac{3}{4}$ x18-inch black iron pipes, need 4
- 1x12x5-inch boards, need 2
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wood screws
- 3-inch swivel-plate locking wheels, need 4
- Stain (optional)
- Cloth

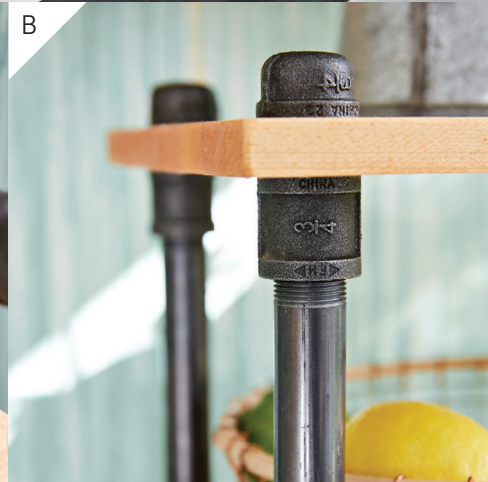
**Step 1** Stack the three 1x12x36-inch shelf boards. Hold the stack together with masking tape. Measure and mark placement for four holes on the top board; center two marks at each short side 7 inches apart and 1 inch from the edge. Drill 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch holes at each mark through the stack; remove tape.

**Step 2** To make the handle, attach 3-inch-long pipes to opposite ends of a coupling. Attach an elbow to each pipe end. Attach a nipple to each elbow, then add a coupling to the end of each nipple (A). Attach a nipple to each handle end.

**Step 3** Thread the handle nipples down through the holes of one board and attach a coupling to each nipple on the bottom of the board. Attach an 8-inch-long pipe to each coupling. Attach a coupling and a nipple to the end of each pipe.

**Step 4** Attach a coupling and a nipple to each end of the two remaining 8-inch-long pipes. Thread one nipple end of each pipe up through the opposite holes in the board from Step 3. Attach a cap to each nipple on top of the board (B).

**Step 5** Thread the nipples at the end of each 8-inch pipe down through a second board. Attach a coupling to each




of the four pipe ends on the bottom of the second board.

**Step 6** Attach an 18-inch-long pipe to each coupling. Add a coupling and nipple to each pipe end. Thread the nipples down through the third board, and add a cap to each nipple on the bottom of the third board.

**Step 7** Place cart with handle side down. Screw a 5-inch length of 1x12 crosswise just inside the caps on each short end. Screw two wheels to each block.

**Step 8** If desired, wipe stain on each board; let dry.



HANG A RATTAN CHAIR BY TYING THE ROPE ONTO A GALVANIZED PIPE FITTED THROUGH HOLES DRILLED IN THE RAFTERS. FINISH THE PIPE ENDS WITH CAPS.

## LIGHTEN UP

WHITE PAINT ON WALLS AND RAFTERS BRIGHTENS THE SPACE. TO CREATE A WATERCOLOR FOCAL WALL, BRUSH EXTERIOR PAINT IN A ZIGZAG ALONG THE WALL'S BOTTOM, THEN SPRAY WITH WATER. CONTINUE UP THE WALL, USING INCREASINGLY LIGHTER HUES.

**AT YOUR SERVICE** A rolling cart can be many things—a food and drink hub, a place for art supplies, a spot to stash your favorite tomes, even a planting station. Make your own industrial-style cart by fitting together black iron pipes and furniture-grade wood panels, *above* and *opposite*.

## COMFORTS OF HOME

An upgrade to operable windows, *right*, encourages cross-ventilation and increases the shed's livability. A cornice above each window is simply fabric-wrapped foam mounted with hooks secured to the back that rest on tooth hooks on the wall (A). Below the window, folding metal pipe stools hang on the wall and are ready to use as guest seats.

To make a stool, use a bit specifically for metal to drill holes through the centers of four 18-inch-long black iron pipes. Using Loctite Threadlocker adhesive to connect all pieces, attach a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch iron elbow to one end of each pipe, and a cap to the opposite end. Connect a 10-inch-long pipe between the elbow ends of two 18-inch pipes to make one leg. Repeat to make a second leg. Sew a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem along each long edge of a 10×26-inch piece of heavyweight fabric or canvas. Turn under and sew a 4-inch-wide casing at each narrow end. Insert a leg through each casing to make the seat. Connect the legs, *inset*, with a 3-inch carriage bolt, washers, and a nut through each set of holes.

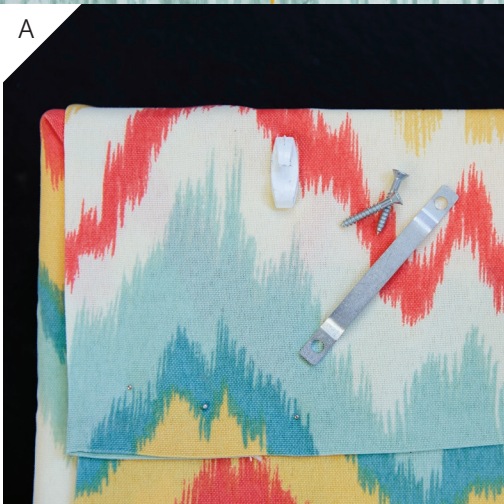
STORE FOLDED STOOLS BY HANGING THEM FLAT AGAINST THE WALL ON U-SHAPE HOOKS.



**PHOTO OP**  
 VARIOUS ONLINE SERVICES PRINT ORIGINAL PHOTOS ONTO FABRIC. AT [SPOONFLOWER.COM](http://SPOONFLOWER.COM), YOU CAN UPLOAD AND PRINT LARGE PHOTOS ON CANVAS UP TO 54 INCHES WIDE.

**IN PERSPECTIVE**

Create a focal point with a custom-printed and embroidered canvas photograph that you then frame as wall art, *left*. Stretch and staple the fabric onto stretcher bars (assembled, our stretcher bars measured 2x3 feet), then use embroidery floss to outline the desired areas of the photograph with backstitches, leaving long floss tails. Cut and miter 2-inch-wide cedar boards to create a frame. Use a handsaw to cut shallow grooves into the frame sides where the tails meet the frame. Place the tails in the channels and let the ends extend toward the floor.



**ON THE FRINGE** Glam it up while casting a soft evening glow with a stunning three-tier fringe chandelier, *right*. Cut the shade off an inexpensive lampshade, leaving the top ring with mounting rods intact, then hang the inner circles from two graduated sizes of wood embroidery hoops from the top circle with clear fishing line. Using superglue, adhere the tape edge of fringe trim to each ring.







PUT SMALL ITEMS ON DISPLAY BETWEEN EXPOSED STUDS AROUND WINDOWS.

### CARVING OUT SPACE

A fold-down table made from an 18×79-inch hollow-core closet door and mounted on two hinged L-brackets, *opposite*, folds flat against the wall when not in use. To mount it, screw a 79-inch-long 2×2 board onto the wall horizontally and into studs. Mount one long side of the door to the board with one 30-inch piano hinge at the center and two 12-inch piano hinges at each end. On the wall under the 2×2, screw into the studs vertically two 1×1 boards the same length as the L-brackets. Mark and drill holes on each L-bracket to align with piano hinge holes and attach a 12-inch hinge with hinge screws; attach each hinge to a 1×1 on the wall. Cap screw ends if desired. Use pieces of scrap wood to reinforce where the door rests on brackets; do not attach brackets to the door.



## PAINT PICKS THAT POP

*Choosing a paint color for your shed is the perfect time to push the color envelope. Heed our advice for choosing the perfect hue, without fear of a color catastrophe.*

**CHECK YOUR COVENANTS.** Be aware of neighborhood guidelines when choosing a palette.

**ANALYZE YOUR SURROUNDINGS.** A warm yellow, such as the Sherwin-Williams Brittlebush on our shed, *left*, or a mellow orange look great against a shady background. Teal and purple are two cooler options that contrast nicely with flowers and gardens.

**HIGHLIGHT THE TRIM.** You can't go wrong with clean white trim, especially for a vibrant shed.



Aqua Fresco  
M460-5M,  
[behr.com](http://behr.com)

Plummy SW6558,  
[sherwin-williams.com](http://sherwin-williams.com)

Hale Orange CW-295,  
[benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)



“THIS IS A SPACE WHERE A WOMAN CAN GO AND DREAM, CREATE, ENTERTAIN, READ—OR JUST RECHARGE HER SUPERHERO POWERS.”

LINDSAY BERGER, DESIGNER





SLIDE SHELVES  
BETWEEN FURRING  
STRIPS AT DESIRED  
HEIGHTS.

**EXTENDED SHELF LIFE** With limited floor space, adjustable shelving built between studs provides a flexible storage solution. To make your own, measure the depth of the studs and cut 1×2 furring strips to the same measurement, then use a nail gun to attach the strips to the insides of two facing studs. Leave enough space between each furring strip to accommodate a particleboard shelf. (Tip: Use a scrap of your shelving board as a spacer to figure out the position of each furring strip.) Paint everything white, including the cut edges of each shelf.



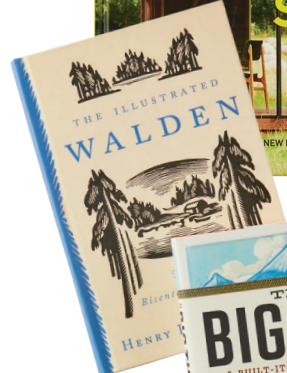
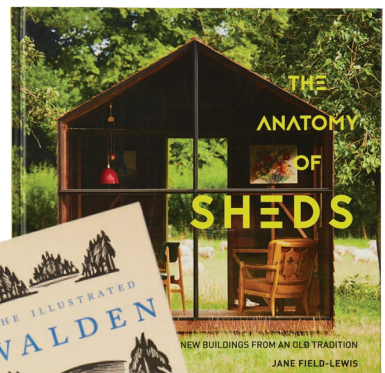


**CURTAIN CALL**  
 SHEER AND LIGHT  
 COTTON PANELS  
 FRAME THE DOORWAY  
 AND SOFTEN THE  
 SHED. TAME CURTAINS  
 WITH TWINE TIEBACKS  
 ALONG THE SIDES OF  
 THE DOOR FRAME.



## MUST READS

Create a space of your own with these page turners. Erika Kotite's *She Sheds* profiles more than 30 owners of petite retreats. *The Anatomy of Sheds* by Jane Field-Lewis travels the globe for small-scale design inspiration. The original getaway shack is worth revisiting in *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. Or savor Dee Williams' modern quest to get back to basics in *The Big Tiny*, her ode to an 84-square-foot home she built herself.





#### STEP BY STEP

Hardscaping around the shed includes a patio of rectangular pavers and river rock, *this photo*. To compensate for uneven ground, we stacked Belgian blocks to create a flush entrance to the Dutch door on the shed's side, *opposite*.

#### CONTAIN YOURSELF

Three galvanized stock tanks serve as industrial-style planters, *above*. Under the windows, hanging planter boxes constructed from plumbing pipe, rope, and drywall mud pans hold herbs and annuals, *right*. To make the window box hanging rod, screw an elbow and a floor flange to each end of a  $\frac{3}{4}$ ×24-inch galvanized pipe, then screw the flanges to the window trim. Tie two pieces of rope onto the pipe, allowing enough length for an 18-inch drywall mud pan filled with plants to slide through the loops.



KEEP WINDOW BOX ROPES FROM SHIFTING WITH BOLTS THAT EXTEND THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE MUD PAN. A LOCK NUT ON EACH END CAPS THE BOLTS.





DOWNLOAD PLANS FOR  
OUR SHE SHED:  
[BHG.COM/SHESHED](http://BHG.COM/SHESHED)

# SMART SOLUTIONS

*Live the she shed dream! Creating your own getaway is a doable summer project when you know your options, avoid common pitfalls, and splurge on the best upgrades.*



**PICK A SOURCE** You have three basic ways to become a shed owner: Buy it ready-made from a big-box store, find a dealer to build one for you, or build it yourself with a blueprint or purchased plan. Your choice will depend on how much customizing you want and how quickly you need your shed. Ready-made sheds offer little flexibility in design choices but can be placed in your yard within a few days. Local shed dealers offer upgrades in materials. Our builder, Classic Buildings ([classicbuildingsales.com](http://classicbuildingsales.com)), helped us integrate extra windows and modify finish choices to match our style. Of course, if you're handy and have time, doing it yourself allows you the most control over the project.

**CHOOSE A SITE** Smart siting of your shed ensures levelness, proper drainage, and accessibility. An installer can often use blocks to level the structure on slightly uneven ground, but always verify whether this service is included in delivery costs. Also check door swings to make sure you can open your shed freely in your chosen spot.

**ORIENT THE SHED** A shed that is turned a few degrees rather than sitting squarely with the property lines can enhance the view from your house, giving the shed depth and visual interest. Another important factor to consider is sunlight, and how it hits the shed at different times of day.

**PREP FOR DELIVERY** After you choose the spot for your shed, think about the path it will follow at delivery. Take photos of your driveway and yard for the installer, who can provide feedback and instructions about delivery ahead of time. Plan to tie back branches, if needed.

Make your shed your own by focusing on these elements:

**1. FLOOR** Untreated plywood flooring can deteriorate when used on shed floors, but treated engineered flooring offers long-lasting performance and durability. LP ProStruct Floor with SmartFinish ([lpshed.com](http://pshed.com)) resists water, rot, and termites and offers a smooth surface for floor paint.

**2. CEILING** Say good-bye to hot and dimly lit sheds. LP ProStruct Roof Sheathing with SilverTech is an attractive, reflective surface that helps brighten our shed's interior, while also keeping out some of the sun's radiant energy to lower the interior temperature.

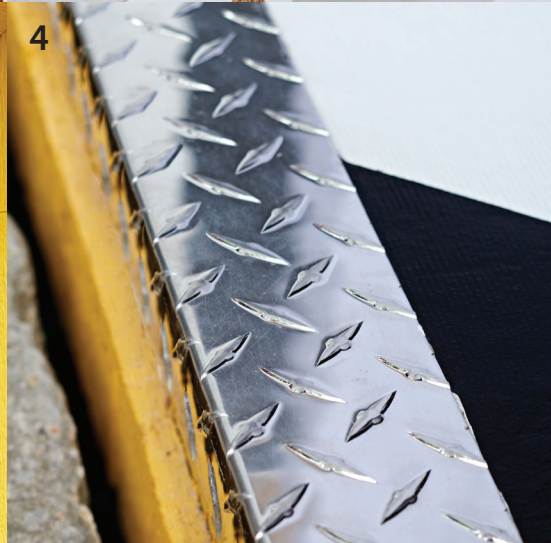
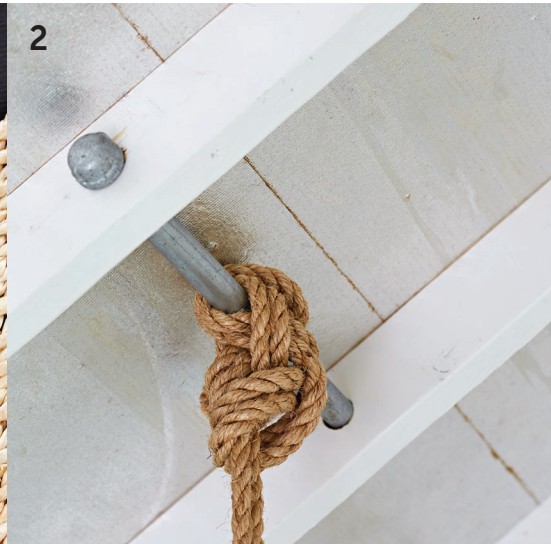
**3. ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS** Make your shed feel more substantial by extending the roof overhang. Our shed's 10-inch overhang offers big impact for a small upcharge.

**4. TOUGH THRESHOLD** To enhance doorways and improve safety, a diamond-plate threshold mounted level with the base of the doorway prevents tripping.

**5. ENTRANCES** Build steps to doorways and compensate for uneven ground with stacked Belgian pavers. When stacking blocks, use construction adhesive to hold the pieces together.

**6. WALL FINISHES** The LP SmartSide engineered wood panels that comprise our shed's walls were painted with high-quality primer and exterior paint inside and out for a durable, moisture-resistant finish.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
CLASSIC BUILDINGS,  
LOUISIANA-PACIFIC  
CORPORATION**



FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 108.