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# HGTV

magazine



**THE MAKEOVER ISSUE!**  
incredible before-and-afters → tons of ideas you can do

+ you could **win** the awesome house on page 121



# “We bought a house...**now what?**”

This couple kept putting off decorating their new home. Where to start?! What to pick?!  
*HGTV Magazine* swooped in to help.

BEFORE PHOTOS: KEITH ISAACS

**M**oving into a new home can be overwhelming. But it's even more so when you transition from a small rental to owning *a whole house*—plus you work full-time and have two toddlers. That was Jennifer and Michael Levy's story when they bought their Chapel Hill, NC, place in 2016. They needed new paint, lighting, and furniture, but they were stuck on how to personalize their space. “My style was basically whatever cute thing I spotted at HomeGoods,” says Jennifer. “I was afraid of making mistakes, so it was easier not to do anything.” That went on for two years, until an *HGTV Magazine* makeover transformed their house and Jennifer's ideas about design, too. “I've seen how key moves, like putting in new countertops in the kitchen but keeping the cabinets, made a big difference,” she says. “Now it's not just some house we bought; it's our *home*.”

Jennifer and Michael outside their 1989 Cape Cod-style home with twins Mikayla and Alexa, 4, in the background





BEFORE



Navy shades from The Shade Store play off the sofa color and look more impressive than plain white ones.

One lonely chair does not say "Let's hang here!" So in came two swivel seats—the room's new hot spots.

Their old beige sofa was worn out. A single-cushion number looks chic, especially at 95 inches long. The color hides stains, and the sofa doesn't have to be fluffed up as often as one with two or three cushions.

### living room

"For people who have family and friends over every weekend, we were seriously lacking seating... and a cool setup," says Jennifer. They got room to chill plus flair, thanks to a large navy sofa from Maiden Home, a pair of sunny chairs from West Elm, and an oversize armchair from article.com. The walls are painted a subtle gray-blue (Evaporation by Behr). With a big coffee table by Four Hands in place of the puny ottoman, says Jennifer, "this room is the girls' favorite spot to host tea parties with their dolls!"

A 9-foot-by-12-foot natural-fiber rug by Serena & Lily replaced the too-small one left over from the couple's previous home. It keeps the focus on the room's colors.





BEFORE



## living room

A dark, enormous fireplace dominated the room. "Painting it had been on my to-do list for a while, but...life," says Jennifer. "Making it white instantly made it modern." The wood-storage area was mainly used by the kids for hide-and-seek; stacked with birch logs, it looks super stylish and ready for a cozy night in. Graphic wallpaper by Thibaut energizes the space. "Putting it on just one wall wasn't so scary, and it made a huge difference," says Jennifer. "Now I'm a wallpaper convert!"

Brick painted white (Polar Bear by Behr) blends into the room instead of sticking out like a sore thumb; a stainless steel fireplace screen makes it très 2018.

This large-scale wallpaper gives off a floral vibe in a not-too-flowery way.





BEFORE

## kitchen

The only thing the former awkwardly high breakfast bar was good for: holding piles of mail. We lowered it to seating height. "It's great to be able to have meals here and see the girls coloring while we cook dinner," says Jennifer. Replacing the brown granite countertops with bright white quartz by Wilsonart, and extending it up the wall to serve as a backsplash, lightened and brightened the space. "I didn't realize how much better the kitchen would look with that update," says Jennifer. New brass knobs by Emtek jazzed up the existing cabinets. The microwave that hung so low they couldn't use their back stove burners is now tucked away in the pantry.



Painting the back wall bold teal (Coat of Arms by Benjamin Moore) punches up the kitchen and makes the pantry doors disappear.

The island is topped with workhorse maple butcher block by John Boos & Co.

All the lighting in the kitchen is new. A pair of globes with blue trim by Dutton Brown and a dome pendant above the island are way cooler than the nothing-special fixtures that were there.

Before, there was just a tiny little play table where a row of barstools could have been. The supercute after: cheerful upholstered counter stools from One Kings Lane.



For a dreamy, relaxing look, we painted the walls and ceiling soft white (Bit of Sugar by Behr) and hung sky blue curtains from The Shade Store as high as possible.

The dowdy brown fan got ditched in favor of a sleek white one by Fanimation.

## master bedroom

"Having windows with tops that let in the early-morning light was not fun—we'd be up at 6 a.m.," says Jennifer. Switching out the old window treatments for high-hanging woven Roman shades and long curtains nipped that in the bud, and they look 100 times better. Combined with a new bed, chic lighting, and a comfy chair by Boston Interiors, "it feels like a sleeping space for grown-ups," says Jennifer.

An upgrade from no headboard to a pretty upholstered bed from wayfair.com "makes the room feel like a retreat," says Jennifer.

New flooring from Armstrong that looks like the wood floors downstairs replaced drab wall-to-wall carpet. It's Michael's favorite postmakeover feature. The vibrant wool rug is by Surya.

BEFORE



[makeover]

## shop the living room



### **pillows**

From left: Queen of Spain Water 20" x 20" cotton pillow cover in blue and white, \$75, [chloeandolive.com](http://chloeandolive.com), and insert, from \$34, [pillowcubes.com](http://pillowcubes.com); Nahuala Faded Indigo Brocade 20" x 20" cotton pillow, \$198, [archivenewyork.com](http://archivenewyork.com)



### **sofa**

Sullivan 95"-wide tweed sofa in denim with walnut finish, \$2,825, [maidenhome.com](http://maidenhome.com)



### **fireplace screen**

Piazza 33½" x 41" stainless steel fireplace screen, \$350, [zgallerie.com](http://zgallerie.com)



### **roller shade**

Spring polyester roller shade in blue, from \$219, [theshadestore.com](http://theshadestore.com)



### **art**

Sunshine Pool by Kate Roebuck 45" x 64" framed giclee print, \$799, [chairish.com](http://chairish.com)



### **stool**

Column 17"-tall stoneware stool, \$149, [urbanoutfitters.com](http://urbanoutfitters.com)



### **chair**

Nova polyester chair in winter gray, \$649, [article.com](http://article.com)



### **end table**

Louisa 28"W x 20"D x 26"H acrylic, chrome, and glass table in silver, \$690, [safaviehhome.com](http://safaviehhome.com)



### **coffee table**

Henley 57"W x 32"D x 15"H wood coffee table, \$2,065, [fourhands.com](http://fourhands.com) for stores



### **rug**

Jute Border 9' x 12' rug in ivory, \$998, [serenaandlily.com](http://serenaandlily.com)



### **chair**

Crescent polyester-blend swivel chair in horseradish, \$599, [westelm.com](http://westelm.com)

[makeover]

## shop the kitchen



### pendant

Tech Lighting Powell Street 24"-diameter metal pendant in high gloss white, \$565, lumens.com



### colander

5-quart copper-plated stainless steel colander, \$13, worldmarket.com



### range hood

Frigidaire Under Cabinet Convertible 30"-wide stainless steel range hood, \$169, homedepot.com



### pendant

Color Cap Globe 12"-diameter brass and glass pendant in teal with satin finish, \$279, duttonbrown.com



### paint

Coat of Arms by Benjamin Moore



### knob

Mod Hex 1½"-wide brass knob in satin finish, \$7, emtek.com for stores



### jar

20-liter glass mason jar in clear, \$75, etuhome.com



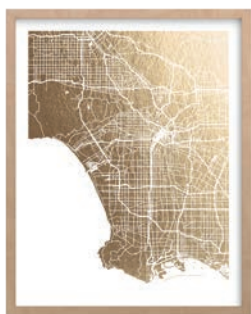
### island countertop

Ultra-Premium 48"W x 48"D x 1¾"H hard rock maple edge grain butcher block countertop with oil finish, \$735, johnboos.com for stores



### countertop

North Cascades Q4035 quartz countertop, \$80 per square foot (includes installation), wilsonart.com for stores



### art

Los Angeles by Alex Elko Designs 11" x 14" foil-pressed map art in gold with natural raw wood frame (other cities available), \$114, minted.com



### faucet

Align Spring 22½"-tall pull-down metal faucet with MotionSense Wave technology in spot resist stainless finish, \$617.50, moen.com for stores



### stool

Shannon 39"-tall linen, cotton, and pine counter stool in teal, \$225, onekingslane.com



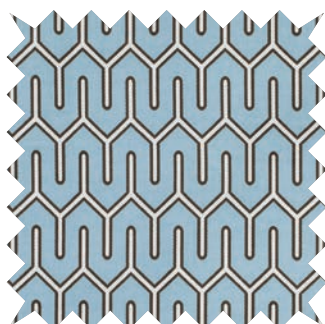
[makeover]

## shop the bedroom



### chair

Ruby polyester chair, \$800, [bostoninteriors.com](http://bostoninteriors.com)



### curtains

Maze Work Tailored Pleat cotton drapes in azure, from \$430, [theshadestore.com](http://theshadestore.com)



### ceiling fan

Fanimation Ascension 54"-diameter steel ceiling fan in matte white, \$220, [lampsplus.com](http://lampsplus.com)



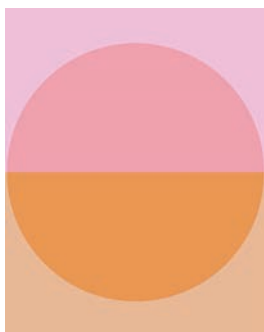
### lamp

Triunity 29½"-tall resin and burlap lamp, \$200, [luluandgeorgia.com](http://luluandgeorgia.com)



### pouf

Sarandon 13"H x 20"-diameter leather pouf in grey, \$190, [jossandmain.com](http://jossandmain.com)



### art

Pink and Orange Abstract digital download, \$7, [dazzlingmisc.etsy.com](http://dazzlingmisc.etsy.com)



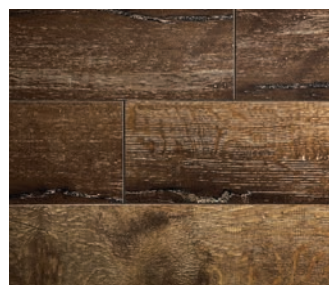
### bed

Upholstered Panel king linen and cotton bed in medallion light gray, \$743.50, [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



### nightstand

Sidney 24"W x 20"D x 29¼"H mahogany, beechwood, and MDF side table in gray, \$499, [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)



### flooring

PRYZM Forest Treasure Rigid Core laminate and plastic composite flooring in brown, from \$5.50 per square foot, [armstrongflooring.com](http://armstrongflooring.com) for stores



### bench

Tablet 59"W x 19"D x 15"H leather and steel ottoman in charme blonde with brass finish, \$799, [article.com](http://article.com)



### rug

Surya Hilda Brigitte 8' x 11' wool rug in blue, \$485, [rugsusa.com](http://rugsusa.com)



### woven shade

Waterfall Woven Quogue 2 bamboo and grass shade, from \$418, [theshadestore.com](http://theshadestore.com)