

EDITOR'S LETTER



SEEING POTENTIAL

I didn't think of myself as the type of person to dream of a kitchen island. But there I was at the real-estate showing of what would become our weekend home in Tweed, Ont., imagining a renovated kitchen with an antique table as the island. I knew exactly the table I wanted because it was sitting in my husband's antique shop. On the drive home, I said, "I think we should buy that house and use the table from your shop as an island." And we did! We bought the house and completed the new kitchen in 2007. I still love it, which is a relief, because at the time I was terrified of making costly design mistakes.

We know many of you have similar misgivings because we get your letters! That's why we've devoted an entire issue of *Ask A Designer* to the two most-often renovated rooms in the house: the kitchen and bathroom. If you're remodelling, this issue offers expert guidance on budgeting, shopping for cabinets, tubs, tile, and yes, even getting your dream kitchen island.

Even if a reno isn't in the cards immediately, you'll find inspiration for future projects, alongside easy, affordable quick-fixes you can do in a weekend.

I'm tucking away bathroom photos for a someday update. A great shower is a must! And even though I still love my kitchen, the base of the island could use a coat of paint in a fresh new colour.

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LEFT: For a quick refresh of my kitchen, I'm thinking of painting the base of the island Saxon Green (80) by Farrow & Ball. See "How Can I Perk Up My Tired Kitchen?" (p. 96) for more easy, affordable updates.



SAXON GREEN
 (80) by
 Farrow & Ball



ABOVE: I'm holding onto this photo of Luc Beauvais' bathroom — from "How Do I Create My Dream Shower?" (p. 112) — for a reno in my next place. I love those doors and the mix of vintage and modern.



ABOVE: A ceiling-mount rainshower head, pretty tile and updated clawfoot are on my next bathroom wish list. **Tub,** Victoria + Albert; **shower head,** DXV; **tile,** Mosaic House.

Photography by Alex Lukey (portrait)/Donna Griffith (kitchen)/Monic Richard (inspiration bathroom)/Renee (inspiration kitchen)/Makeup by Suzanne Cyr/Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com/DXV, dxv.com/Mosaic House, mosaic-house.com/Victoria + Albert, vandabaths.com