

# AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

15+ Entertaining Essentials

## Style

## Cozy Up Your Home for *Fall*

**Inspiration**  
to Make Your  
House a Home

**Very Vintage  
Collectibles**

Thermoses,  
old photographs,  
kitchen accessories  
and more!



*The addition flows* into the original home with flooring that matches the existing wood and furniture that brings the rooms together.



A Seattle renovation adds color and modern overtones to this transitional farmhouse.

# True Colors

BY HEATHER LUSK  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIRANDA ESTES

Brass accent lights above the sink are playful and fun, mixing metallics in the room. The family-friendly, durable barstools add texture and a modern flair, which work well with the modern farmhouse lighting. Designer Kimberlee Gorsline of Kimberlee Marie Interiors says this style is "a little unexpected, a little different."

*"We were towing* the line between something that was more traditional and something that felt a little more contemporary."

The home's original elements combine with new features, further mixing traditional and modern farmhouse styles. The original mantel is flanked with existing built-in shelves, while the custom furnishings are all new. "It's a fun mixing of old and new, keeping with the original charm and character of the home," Kimberlee says.



**Tip**  
YOU DON'T NEED A WHOLE ROOM TO MAKE A MUDROOM ENTRY AREA. ALL YOU NEED SPACE FOR IS A BENCH AND BASKETS UNDERNEATH TO STORE SHOES OR BAGS.



(above, left) In the entryway, this mudroom bench, baskets and a double row of hooks make a perfect spot for the family to unload coats and shoes.

(above, right) In the dining room, Kimberlee added a Mid Century Modern-inspired console, which balances the rustic and modern elements of the home's farmhouse design, while adding extra storage to the dining room. Metallic legs bring an unexpected finish below the warm wood.

Color can do so much to add personality to a home. For this Seattle renovation, the main goal was to open the layout of the family spaces, but then it became more dynamic with splashes of bold color. "We knew from the beginning that color would play a big part in the project," says Kimberlee Gorsline, founder and lead designer of Kimberlee Marie Interiors. In this project, she found the ideal balance of color and light in the home.

#### COLORFUL FOUNDATIONS

"Something that our firm is known for is our love and use of color," Kimberlee says. She chose to paint the cabinets in blues and greens, giving this traditional farmhouse modern overtones. The resulting transitional farmhouse style uses texture in wallpaper, rugs and chairs to balance with the stronger colors.



(above, left) The white paint and tile above balance the green lower cabinets so the room isn't overpowered with color. A blind corner next to the refrigerator is now an appliance garage with bookshelves above to maximize the space.

(above, right) For these kitchen cabinets, Kimberlee chose mostly pull-out drawers instead of doors, which she says is becoming more popular. A stainless-steel refrigerator is offset by the warmth of a wood vent.

## Colored Cabinets: TOO TRENDY TO TRY?

Are colored cabinets too trendy to touch? Here's the answer of designer Kimberlee Gorsline of Kimberlee Marie Interiors.

Colored cabinets aren't just a temporary fad. Kimberlee believes the increased popularity of colored cabinets is here to stay, though the color choice may change based on current trends.

**WARM TONES.** Kimberlee is seeing movement toward warmer versions of neutral shades. For example, bold color selections that can also be neutral include navy or green. Gray and off-white are always popular options, too.

**GO BOLD.** Another trend Kimberlee has noticed is increased interest in red cabinets. "What we've seen is people wanting to take bolder risks with their cabinet colors," she says. Choosing a bold color for cabinets can help a space stand out and feel personalized, while adding character and interest to a room like a kitchen. "It's labor intensive, but it's easy enough to change the color," Kimberlee says. "I always try to encourage people if they're leaning that way to just go for it. It's just paint, and it can be changed."

**MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS.** Because painted cabinets can be prone to chipping, they sometimes require a bit more maintenance. How you use your cabinets, as well as their location, are the biggest factors in deciding whether paint is the right option. Hardwoods have less chance of chipping, as well as cabinets in less-trafficked areas, like bathroom vanities.

Other details, like painting the interior frame of the windows an unexpected dark shade, steer the décor in a modern direction versus the traditional white for farmhouse style. Kimberlee says this look gives the windows "a clean, sharp detail that adds a little depth and dimension to the home."

In the kitchen, Kimberlee added color to the cabinets without overpowering the room. She and her team debated whether to add color to all the cabinets or just the island. But eventually they settled on a forest green for just the lower perimeter of the room. The resulting "tuxedo-style kitchen" is a balance of color below, with a simple and clean contrast of white cabinets, tile and paint above. "To do it in all green felt a little heavy," Kimberlee says. The addition of wood tones paired with light furnishings brings the design back to farmhouse style.

The new configuration of the living room provides the family with more seating, including custom furniture with durable fabrics. The navy-blue design in the rug ties into the blue elements throughout the room, with rust and mustard touches that work well for the fall season against a neutral backdrop.



## OPEN SPACES

The main purpose of the remodel was to connect the living and dining spaces, adding just enough square footage to expand the kitchen and open the layout. The resulting configuration adds more function and allows the family to entertain more people. The addition flows into the original home with flooring that matches the existing wood and furniture that brings the rooms together. "We were towing the line between something that was more traditional and something that felt a little more contemporary," Kimberlee says.

Incorporating the home's original features with modern farmhouse materials, the result is a transitional farmhouse style that balances rustic with modern in a colorful way.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.



### Tip

STICK WITH NEUTRAL COLORS IN YOUR FURNITURE, WHICH WILL CREATE A FOUNDATION FOR WHATEVER COLORS YOU WANT TO ADD FOR THE DIFFERENT SEASONS.



(above) This new mudroom/home office was part of the home's addition. It adds more storage and a command center for the household. Gold accents in the wallpaper tie into the gold hardware.

## Fall Colors FOR THE MODERN FARMHOUSE

As the leaves and weather change, it's a convenient time to adapt your home's color palette. Here are designer Kimberlee Gorsline's fall color suggestions.

- **RUST.** This tone is currently trending in modern farmhouse design. "If you're feeling color-timid, pick a bold color like rust and layer it with neutrals," Kimberlee says. Adding a neutral throw pillow with a bit of texture will give additional interest to the overall look.
- **BLUE AND GREEN.** Kimberlee suggests incorporating darker and moodier colors to adapt to the cooler season. Navy blue and forest green are prime options. These colors easily layer with other fall colors like rust and mustard yellow, and can even work as neutrals to pair with other colors during summer and spring.
- **CHARCOAL.** Deeper colors are also growing in popularity as more permanent options. While white quartz has long been a common countertop choice, Kimberlee is seeing darker options such as soapstone or charcoal gray, particularly with wood-toned or painted cabinets.
- **BLUSH.** Another growing trend is a shift from whites to rose or blush tones. This applies both to accessories you can swap out and to more permanent elements such as wall paint. This shade is also increasingly popular in kitchens.