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ROOTSTOROOFS AUTUMN 2020

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OSU EXPERIMENTS WHEN IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO LAWN, UPROOT IT FIRST HOME RENOVATIONS CARVING OUT A HOME WORKSPACE

WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACES 5 ESSENTIAL PRECAUTIONS THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW

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ROOTS ROOFS

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Opt for one made of reclaimed wood or with an industrial metal frame. Lay out an assortment of bottles and glasses to create a look that's as stylish as it is functional. Make sure your cart is on wheels so you can entertain in any room in your home. Traditionally used to display dishware, a hutch can also be used to showcase your wine collection. Choose one with plenty of space and open shelving to highlight bottles and glassware. You'll also want your hutch to have drawers and cabinets as these are helpful for storing bar tools and accessories. From simple metal pegs to elaborate wood shelving, you can display your wine collection by hanging it from a wall-mounted rack. You can choose either a vertical or horizontal model and select a style that suits your decor.

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IT'S

GETTING





These appliances are simple to install and safer to use than fuelburning devices. Electric fireplaces are particularly useful for heating small rooms. Alternatively, they can operate without emitting heat so you can enjoy the ambiance of a fire year-round.



Natural Gas stoves & fireplaces

Since these options don't require a chimney, they can be installed almost anywhere in your home. Plus, they're easy to use and can heat a room much faster than their woodburning counterparts. However, they require professional installation and, if you opt for propane, you'll need to rent or purchase a tank.

WHAT'S THE BEST BACKUP HEATER FOR YOUR HOME?

IN HERE!

An alternative heat source is a worthwhile investment. To help you choose the best one for your home, here's a look at your main options. Once you find a backup heater that meets your needs, make sure it's installed correctly and used according to the manufacturer's directions to prevent a fire.





This energy-efficient device can run for up to 20 hours before it needs to be restocked. Plus, the pellets are sold in bags and much easier to store than wood logs. Keep in mind, however, that all models require regular maintenance and some can be noisy.



Portable ELECTRIC HEATERS

This is the safest type of backup heater and the easiest to use as it only needs to be plugged into an electrical outlet. They can be easily moved around the house to supplement your central heating system. However, they'll be useless in the event of a power outage.



Even after they stop drawing power, these heaters continue to radiate heat for quite some time, which helps make them energy efficient. However, they're not recommended for families with small children because their exterior gets very hot.

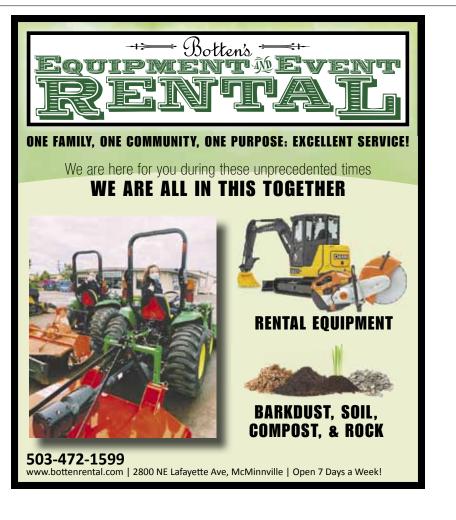


Wood-Burning **STOVES & FIREPLAC**

While a wood-burning stove is a more effective heater than a fireplace, both these options create a cozy atmosphere with their crackling flames and smoky aroma. Keep in mind, however, that you need sufficient space to store the wood, and the fire must be periodically stoked.

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ESSENTIAL PRECAUTIONS IF YOU HAVE A WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE

A wood-burning fireplace can add warmth and charm to your home. To ensure your home and family members remain safe, here are five practices you should adopt.

Use the right wood. Wood smoke contains a number of pollutants. To minimize emissions, opt for hardwood like elm, maple and oak, and avoid softwood such as spruce and fir.

Install quality alarms. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are essential. Purchase quality devices from a recognized brand, test them regularly and always have extra batteries on hand.

Keep an extinguisher nearby. A single misdirected spark or fallen ember can lead to a devastating fire. Make sure you always have easy access to a fire extinguisher and that you know how to use it.

Store ashes safely. Put hot ashes in a sealed metal container outdoors and away from buildings and flammable materials. Wait a few days before transferring the ashes to the garbage.

Clean the chimney. Get a professional to clean and inspect your chimney every year. This will ensure proper ventilation and reduce the risk for chimney fires.

If you carefully follow these tips, you and your family will be able to safely enjoy the benefits of having a wood-burning fireplace in your home.

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WHEN IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO LAWN, UPROOT IT FIRST

By KYM POKORNY, Oregon State University

rass lawns are the default for most yards, but some people want other options, like edible or ornamental landscaping, mulch or low-maintenance groundcover.

"Maybe you have a lawn full of difficult-to-control weeds like annual bluegrass or rough bluegrass and you want to start over," said Alec Kowalewski, turfgrass specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Or you want to switch from grass to lawn alternatives like groundcovers."

In either case, you'll need to first remove the existing grass. Kowalewski offers two main approaches: an organic technique that uses no pesticides and a chemical method.

The organic method begins with placing plastic sheeting on top of the grass. "You need something that will totally stop the gas exchange of the atmosphere," Kowalewski said. "You're essentially suffocating the plant." In the heat of summer, it could take two to three weeks to kill the grass.

The conventional method is to spray a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate on the grass in early morning and away from other plants. Apply again two weeks later to kill any dormant weed seeds that may have germinated. Alternatives to glyphosate includes organic, OMRIlisted products with vinegar or acidic acid. When applying pesticides, regardless of what type, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the pesticide label carefully.

No matter which method you choose, Kowalewski recommends scalping down the dead grass with a mower when it turns brown and then aerating the lawn.

Since living root parts might still remain underground, it's wise to completely remove any sod as well. A hand- or gas-powered sod cutter can be rented to separate the sod from the soil. Adjust the blade depth to ¹/₄ to ¹/₂ inch. Afterward rake up sod manually with a square shovel or pitchfork.

Throw discarded sod and grass in the garbage or compost it. With the old turfgrass successfully removed, you're ready to establish your new landscape.

If you prefer to keep your lawn but it needs some help, turn to the Extension guides Practical Lawn Establishment and Renovation, Practical Lawn Care for Western Oregon, and the thorough video Integrated Pest Management for Turfgrass.

About OSU Extension: The Oregon State University Extension Service shares research-based knowledge with people and communities in Oregon's 36 counties. OSU Extension addresses issues that matter to urban and rural Oregonians. OSU Extension's partnerships and programs contribute to a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for Oregon.







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Carving out a home workspace

A room with a view? We're looking for one with a door.

By MELISSA RAYWORTH, Associated Press





This March 2020 photo provided by interior designer Jenny Dina Kirschner shows the living room of an apartment designed by Kirschner in the Brooklyn borough of New York. To create an additional home workspace within this living room, Kirschner placed a desk behind the sofa to create a work area that offers natural light and a convenient mix of open and closed storage along the back wall. *Chris Mottalini/Jenny Dina Kirschner via AP*

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ithout warning last spring, millions of parents found themselves working from home while their kids attempted to do schoolwork under the same roof. The changes happened so quickly that families — especially those short on space — could only make the best of it with hastily arranged solutions.

Nearly six months later, many interior designers are helping clients make more considered decorating changes, big and small, to serve the whole family during the new school year.

Interior designer Everick Brown says a priority for his clients in the suburbs outside New York City has been finding enough quiet space and privacy to effectively work, study and take Zoom calls.

We all used to want a room with a view, says Brown. "Now everybody's just searching for a room with a door."

He's also focusing on health and wellness: A portable standing desk can easily be moved from room to room so family members can share it when one needs a break from sitting.

There are also desktop risers that turn any desk or even the kitchen table into a standing desk for part of the day.

For families with younger kids, New Jersey-based interior designer Linda Kitson suggests finding a work table and chair scaled to a child's size, just as elementary school would have. Properly sized seating lets kids sit with their feet on the floor, which may help them concentrate and stay on task.

If a low table and small chair aren't available, try placing a stool or sturdy box under the table to create a solid resting place for little feet.

For adults, too, ergonomics matters: Be sure to use a desk or table and chair at the right height, so your feet can rest solidly on the floor and your back is supported.

Sometimes the answer is using a room in a completely new way.

Kitson has a client with two daughters who each had their own bedroom. They've now moved the two kids into one room — letting them choose a new paint color together to make the space feel like it belongs to both of them — and put desks in the other bedroom to create a shared classroom.

It's a temporary shift that can easily be undone if normal schooling resumes soon. In the meantime, it allows both girls to spend their school day in a space with plenty of natural light and a view out a window, rather than tucked away in a basement playroom.

CONTINUED >>>

<<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13 **CARVING OUT** WORKSPACE

And even if an entire room can't be repurposed, there are ways to give each family member a workspace that serves them. It doesn't have to be large: "48 inches wide by 24 inches deep is about all you need to accommodate notes and a pencil, and your laptop or iPad, and then a desk light," Brown says. "What we're really looking at is basically a 4-foot-by-4-foot space."

Some families might find that working near one another, rather than in separate rooms, is better -- especially those with young kids who may need some assistance with technology during the day.

"A lot of times when kids are left to their own devices or in their own room, they get distracted really easily," says New York-based interior designer Jenny Dina Kirschner. "So sometimes it is nice to have that communal working space."

For one client in Brooklyn, Kirschner carved out an open workspace within a living room by placing a desk along the back of the sofa. With ample shelving and closed storage along the wall behind the desk, this section of the living room becomes a micro-office that blends with the decor of the rest of the room.

While kitchen tables can be practical workspaces, there can be a downside to this solution.

"When it becomes somebody's command center, then they need to pick up and move that stuff every day. And you're sitting with somebody else's work staring at you, and they might be thinking, 'Oh, I need to go back to work after dinner," Kitson says.

Managing that work/life balance is just as important as managing space, she says. We don't just need to work and study at home this year. We need to have fun, too.

New Jersey-based interior designer Terri Fiori says allowing a child to choose beautiful but calming colors for their bedroom can help create a workspace the student is excited about.

If your home has a window seat, she says, you can let kids spend part of the day studying there (or use it yourself). A view of the outdoors can help focus and boost everyone's mood.

Kitson even helped one client create a mini-parkour, or obstacle course, that their two young boys can use for fun, physical breaks from their school day. For daily exercise, these brothers will skip to a doorway, jump up to ring a bell, then use a 2-by-4 installed in the hallway as a balance beam. Hopping off of it, they'll crawl through nylon hoops, then climb over the back of a slip-covered sofa and crawl back to their school desks.

"They'll have all the endorphins of exercise," Kitson says, and hopefully return to their desks ready to focus on another hour of school, while their parents are working.

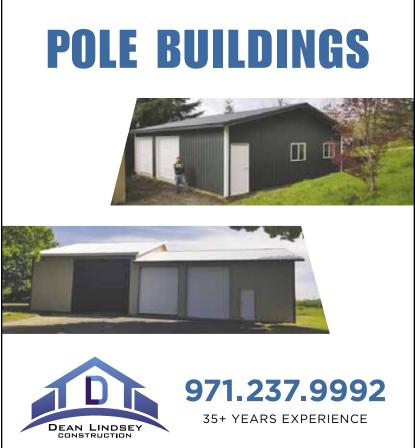


A home office space designed by Everick Brown in Harrison, N.Y. As families plan out space for handling school and work from home this fall, it's valuable to have plenty of natural light while working and an appealing backdrop beyond your computer screen for occasional breaks, as seen in this home workspace here. Johnathan Bishop/Everick Brown Design via AP



A room by interior designer Everick Brown in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. Although writing desks or small tables in living rooms may have served a mainly decorative purpose in the past, Brown says they can be easily repurposed as an extra home workspace for kids or parents this fall, as seen here. Everick Brown/Everick Brown Design via AP



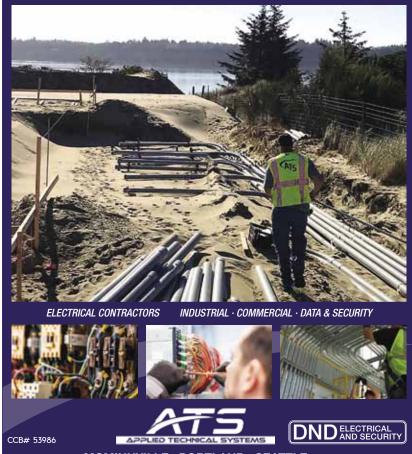






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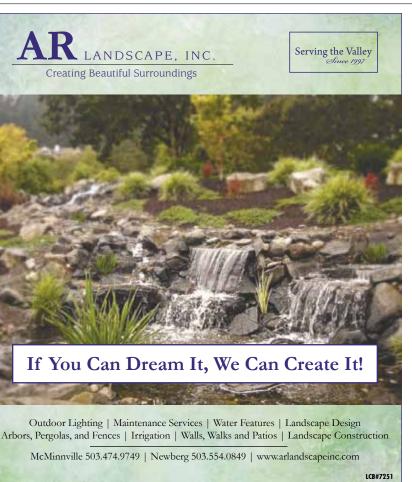


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Autumn is here, and visiting the pumpkin patch at your nearest u-pick farm may be in order. You can take a hayride, wander through a corn maze, eat your fill of apple cider donuts and, most importantly, choose the perfect pumpkin. Here's how to find it.

If you're planning to carve or paint your pumpkin, make sure the one you choose has a pleasing shape with no strange bumps or spots. If they're available, consider coming home with a blue, white or green pumpkin instead of an orange one. They're just as tasty and make a striking fall display.

HOW TO PICK THE

PERFECT

COLOR CHECK

Find one that's a deep and even orange tone, with no yellow or green patches.

KNOCK ON IT Pumpkins should sound hollow when tapped.

INSPECT IT

The bottom should be flat enough to provide a stable base, and the entire pumpkin should be firm.

CHECK THE STEM

It shouldn't be soft or feel loose in any way.

USE EVERY PART OF YOUR PUMPKIN!

You might already know you can roast and then eat the seeds of your pumpkin and use the sweet flesh in all sorts of recipes, but did you know that you can eat the skin too?

Make pumpkin skin chips by peeling long strips of skin with a potato peeler, seasoning with salt, pepper and olive oil, and baking in the oven at 350 °F for 25 minutes or until crispy. They make a great topping for soup and are delicious on their own as a snack.

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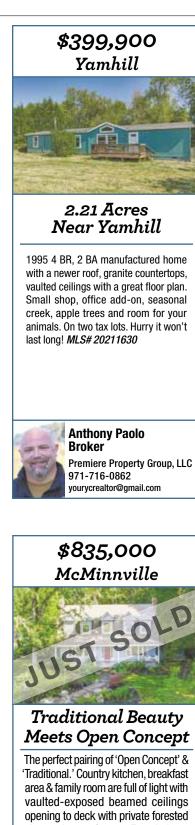




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vaulted-exposed beamed ceilings opening to deck with private forested view and water feature. French doors lead to the formal living & dining rooms. Master Suite on the main has the 3rd fireplace, den/nursery & exterior door to private deck. 4 more bedrooms plus - Separate living/shop/orchard/pond/ pool. Buyer Representation.

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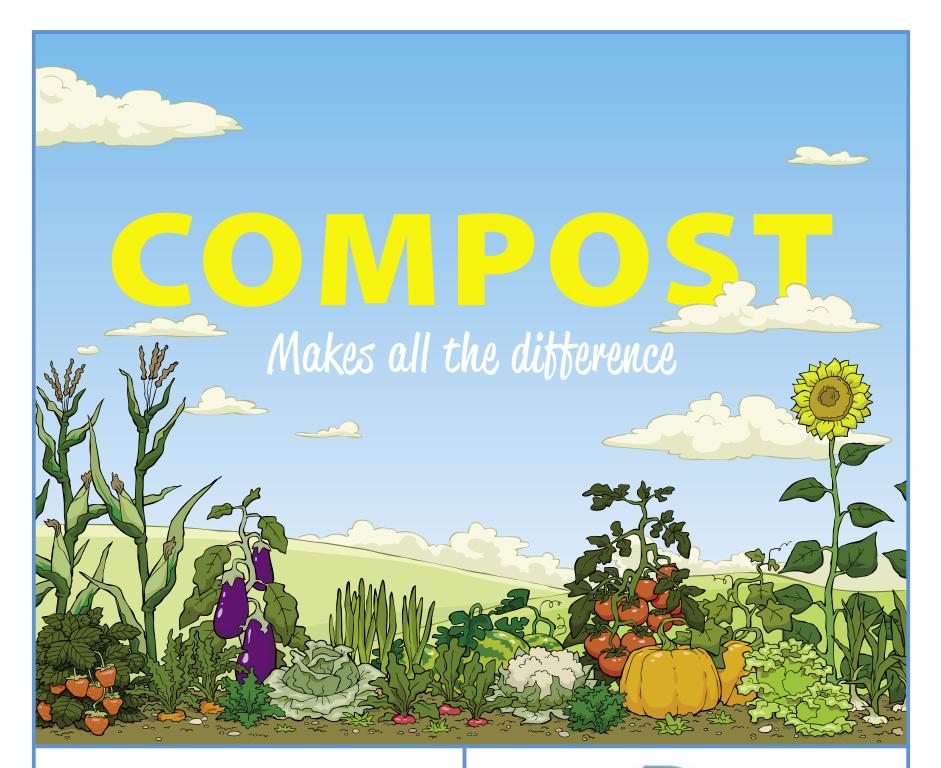
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