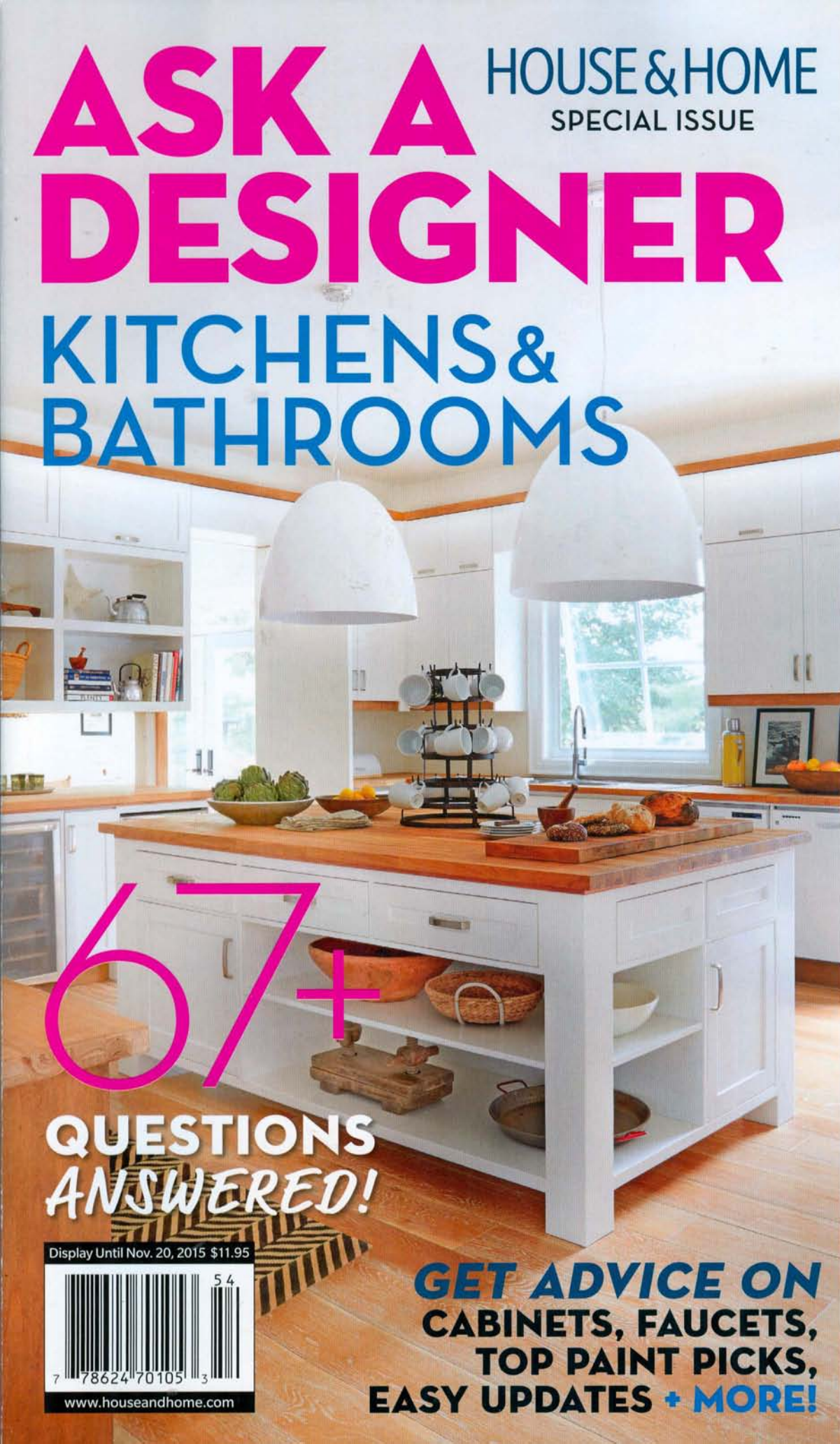


ASK A HOUSE & HOME SPECIAL ISSUE DESIGNER

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



67+

QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

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SEEING POTENTIAL

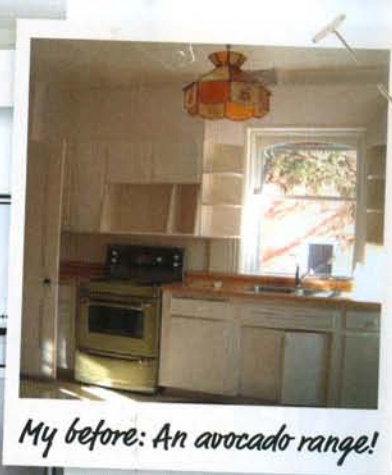
I didn't think of myself as the type of person to dream of a kitchen island. But there I was at the real-estate showing of what would become our weekend home in Tweed, Ont., imagining a renovated kitchen with an antique table as the island. I knew exactly the table I wanted because it was sitting in 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.

Margot Austin, Editor
Twitter and Instagram:
 @margotaustin



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)/Margot Austin (kitchen)/Makeup by Suzanne Cyr/Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com/Luc Beauvais, lucbeauvais.com/DXV, dxv.com/Mosaic House, mosaichouse.com/Victoria + Albert, vandabaths.com



Just add water

An egg-shaped tub enjoys a leafy view in actor Yannick Bisson's Toronto home. *Design*, Fleur-de-lis Interior Design; *tub*, Ginger's; *tub filler* by Kohler, Taps; limestone *floor tiles*, Stone Tile.

MAKE A SPLASH TUBS TO DIE FOR



^ Regal simplicity

The Worcester tub's delicate ribbing is inspired by vintage stonework. The proportions easily fit two. 23½" h. x 70¾" w. x 30¾" d. \$6,980. Through Victoria + Albert Baths.



^ Boxy beauty

Bisazza's larchwood tub by Nendo sets a Zen modern mood. Approx. 26" h. x 77" w. x 38" d. Approx. \$17,655. At Stone Tile and Ramacieri Soligo.



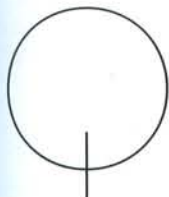
^ Eastern influence

U.K. designer Kelly Hoppen translates origami paper folds into gentle pleats. 20½" h. x 69" w. x 39" d. Approx. \$2,200. Through Apaiser.



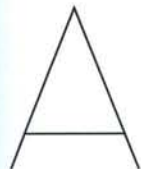
^ Historic charm

A weighty copper bathtub is the height of rustic elegance. 28" h. x 72" w. x 32" d. Approx. \$4,099. Through Vintage Tub & Bath.



FREESTANDING TUBS

I'VE DECIDED TO SPLURGE ON A DREAMY TUB. WHICH ONES SHOULD I CONSIDER? – C.M., Miami



How exciting! Reclining in a relaxing bath feels even better when the tub looks like a work of art. You can't go wrong with a sculptural freestanding one. They're the centerpiece of every well-appointed bathroom and the heart of its style. Here are a few standout designs, from old world to contemporary, that are worth the (sometimes considerable) investment.