

# New siding revives a weathered cottage

Creative trim perks up the facade, while a porch railing and window box bring cheery charm

By ERIC HAGERMAN • Illustration by HOWARD DIGITAL



"They say don't judge a book by its cover, but it's hard not to. Please help us with our book cover," wrote readers Lisa and Jim Steele of their 1925 cedar-shingled cottage near Syracuse, New York. They've been busy rehabbing the inside since they moved in seven years ago, but the exterior was going to have to wait. Until, that is, they won *This Old House's* Real-Life Photoshop Redo Contest—and all-new siding from James Hardie. We asked designer Richard O'Leary to envision a radical upgrade, and he answered with a mix of shingles and lap siding that emboldens the house's character. As for the apron trim beneath the upper-story windows, O'Leary says, "I wanted to add some focus and a fun detail to the front elevation without dramatically changing the structure." And what do the Steeles think? "Awesome," Lisa says. "All the details give it that look of the quaint house we've always dreamed of." Imagine when they see the real thing. Or see for yourself, after contractor David D'Agostino of Right Choice brings the makeover to life. We'll showcase the results in a special feature in the November issue. ■



## Finishing touches

Cottage-style accessories and a mix of siding enhance the charm on this redesign. →

974

### house numbers

Stand-off numerals 8 inches high cast a shapely shadow and ensure they'll be seen on the second story. HouseArt; \$46 each



### lighting

The flared sides of these Craftsman-style wall sconces echo the house's sweeping gable. Rejuvenation; \$215



### siding

Fiber-cement clads this cottage in low-maintenance character. James Hardie; clapboards from \$2 per square foot, shingles from \$4.25 per square foot



### window box

Handsome, light, and durable, this custom 7½-foot PVC window box adds instant curb appeal. Hooks & Lattice; \$399

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