



# cottage IN BLOOM

WITH A LONG-NURTURED VISION AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, A COUPLE RESTORES A 1940s NEW YORK COTTAGE WITH LOVE—AND LABOR.

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**OPPOSITE** Inspired as a child by the rose-filled walkway leading to her grandmother's California cottage, Stephanie Bradley, with husband Jim, transformed this formerly dark and dilapidated little 1943 home into a pastel charmer and surrounded it with blooms.





**W**HEN STEPHANIE AND JIM BRADLEY FIRST STEPPED INTO WHAT WOULD BECOME THEIR FAMILY COTTAGE IN GLENMONT, NEW YORK,

the couple trusted its potential. “There was just a feeling,” Stephanie says. “This home desperately needed to be loved.” Ready for a new adventure, the do-it-yourself couple got straight to work. Jim knocked down nearly every interior wall of the 1943 house to create an open floor plan, leaving only the authentic plaster ceiling. With the demo complete, the restoration of their 2,100-square-foot cottage began.

Armed with a scrapbook she’d toted around for most of her life, Stephanie was ready to put her romantic cottage dreams in motion. “When we first saw the house, it was just the opposite of cheerful and happy,” Stephanie says. “I’m a very sensory person. I love pastels. I’m always looking to invite light into a room.” Mahogany wood floors were painted white, and dark walls were covered in shiplap-style paneling also given a fresh white coat. From the cottage’s original lumber salvaged during the demolition phase, Jim repurposed a new kitchen island, coffee tables, and a workbench to plan future projects.

**OPPOSITE** White-painted paneling was installed in the living room to give it an architectural boost. It also offers a clean backdrop against which curvaceous French-style furniture can be silhouetted and appreciated. The pink coffee table, built by Jim from the salvaged walls of their main bedroom, contrasts the curves to lend design energy. “It will be a particularly sentimental piece we can pass down to our daughters,” Stephanie says. **ABOVE** Stephanie, Jim, and daughter Tasha take in the beauty and aroma of the front garden, which brims with daisies and the couple’s beloved David Austin roses. Stephanie shares her home and garden through the seasons on Instagram (@\_steph\_bradley).







“The heart and soul of our creativity really began in the kitchen.”

—HOMEOWNER STEPHANIE BRADLEY

Restoring the cottage is only half the story, though. “I’ve always been a lover of flowers, nurturing, and growing,” Stephanie says. But when the Bradleys moved in, the landscaping was in just as much disrepair as the interior. “I knew that the garden was going to be a huge undertaking that would take years to transform,” Stephanie says. “Our biggest obstacle,” Jim says, “was finding roses that could survive the cold Northeast winters.” With landscape drawings Stephanie had been sketching since her childhood, help from the nursery across the street, and a community of garden enthusiasts, the

Bradleys transformed the outdoors into the flower-filled fairy tale of Stephanie’s youth.

Several years after the Bradleys arrived in Glenmont, neighbors still drop anonymous notes into their mailbox, noting the charm of the cottage tucked into a landscape so lush with blooms there’s barely a blade of grass in sight. “It’s an amazing thing to know that we’ve been able to bring happiness to others just by doing what we love,” Stephanie says. “Putting the love back into a home is our passion.” □

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**OPPOSITE** In the dining room, a vintage butler’s pantry is mounted on the wall to display a rotating exhibit of Stephanie’s china collection. Jim’s handiwork transformed two old doors from an antiques sale in Upstate New York into a farm table. **ABOVE** Open shelving in the kitchen, built by Jim from two-by-twelves, provides display space for Stephanie’s beloved and much-used china collection. A vintage French chandelier hangs over butcher-block countertops and a classic apron-front sink.





**OPPOSITE** When the Bradleys bought the home, the upper level was in a sorry state. "The upstairs was just empty," Jim says. "No walls, no insulation, and one light bulb hung from the center of the ceiling." Now the vaulted space is layered with character, with exposed rafters and lyrical furniture crowned by a Venetian chandelier.  
**ABOVE** What started more than 30 years ago as a 1950s tablecloth collection has grown to include vintage and antique laces, and, of course, anything floral. "I have a soft spot for luxurious bedding and enjoy pampering myself and my family and friends when they visit our home," Stephanie says.