

# FARMHOUSE

## Fanatic

BY JESSIE YOUNT

Kim Leggett provides insight into the world of the budget-friendly, treasure-hunting and family-first farmhouse lifestyle.



### A Gorgeous Gallery

A gallery wall is the perfect place to infuse your home with personal touches, old treasures and vintage memorabilia. Here, the designer displays crisp white dishes and a mercantile sign to add interest to the neutral kitchen walls.



Kim Leggett is a designer, writer and farmhouse-style maven.

Known for her interior design business, vintage store and pop-up antiquing fairs, she is a well-respected "picker" of country living favorites. In *City Farmhouse Style: Designs for a Modern Country Life*, Kim brings you her take on the style, which she refers to as a lifestyle, rather than a formal definition or design label. Discover the influences that led to her passion for country living, and learn from her design tips, which combine comfort, functionality and unique style to create a homey and historical farmhouse-feel.

### ORIGINAL AND INDIVIDUALIZED

Kim's personal sense of style and décor was influenced by her grandmother, who, at a time when retro flair and bright colors were all the rage, adorned their home with salvaged antiques and homespun tapestries against a neutral color palette. Repurposing furniture and treasure hunting at local flea markets were budget-friendly ways to bring personality into the home. But "I believe it was more about originality and comfort and creating something that comes from the soul and the hands," Kim writes. Her grandmother's style, and in turn her own, comes from the belief that furnishing a home with history and memorabilia creates a space full of cherished moments to pass on.

When Kim grew up and moved into a place of her own, she took her grandmother's influence with her: "To style, I sought out old pieces with a storied past, mismatched ta-

## Family First

The farmhouse is a “quiet place to unwind and reconnect with our families,” Kim writes. In this dining room, a metal inlaid farm table adds rusticity, while plush upholstered chairs provide comfortable seating, creating a space to settle in for a night of relaxation and quality time.



## [ABOVE LEFT] Outside Influence

Bring authentic appeal into the home by using an outer door in your interior. Here, the powder room “retains its original white paint and charming letter slot,” Kim writes. Using this circa-19th-century door inside the house adds a taste of vintage and makes a creative design statement.

## [ABOVE RIGHT] Flair & Flaws

Don’t dismiss a vintage piece because the paint is peeling or in this case, because a few drawers from an apothecary cabinet are missing. These small imperfections and flaws add style and personality to the country-style home. Add a few pieces of décor, like a glass demijohn bottle or a vintage pulley wheel, and your home will be fit for country living.



bles and chairs, odd fragments that hung on the walls, and scraps that were never intended to be part of home décor in the first place,” Kim says. The combination of vintage finds and familial trinkets creates a kitschy, one-of-a-kind feel in the home. Mismatching pieces of décor also allows you to incorporate vintage collectibles into a modern farmhouse or rusticity into a brownstone, making the design style truly adaptable.

## REVIVING THE PAST

Adding a fresh, farmhouse feel in your home is easy enough with Kim’s favorite picks. “Oil-burning lamps have been replaced with crystal chandeliers and industrial factory lighting, antique doors have become creative passageways, old mercantile signs are now prized objects d’art, and cupboards and pie safes once reserved for the farmhouse kitchen have taken on a new life as a modern-day centerpieces of a room.” These creative uses for old objects breathe new life into previously undiscovered spaces of the home. A farmhouse design style is about using your creativity to incorporate vintage pieces and country designs into the home. In doing so, you’ll bring character and personal stories into your cottage.

## DETAILS IN PAINTS, WALLPAPERS AND TEXTILES

Consider your interior walls and ceilings, along with your farmhouse furnishings. Neutrals and pastels fit perfectly into the farmhouse, creating a bright and spacious atmo-



## All About Scenery

With the careful placement of the bed and homespun pillows below the windows, sunshine and vibrant leaves glimmer through the windows, bringing an airy and luminous appeal to the bedroom.

### [OPPOSITE] Discovering the Past

For farmhouse fanatics, remodels often mean "removing updates and going back in time to discover, and restore, a home's original character," Kim writes. In this home, peeled-back sheetrock revealed original shiplap. And with a slew of picture frames perfectly in line, the designer brings bold interest to the authentic farmhouse wall.



sphere. White is often the go-to choice for country-style lovers, but make sure to consider which shade of white is right for your home. Stark white can be overwhelming, so finding a shade that has the right amount of warmth for your kitchen or bathroom is important. "For a room that is large and rustic, off-white (like Benjamin Moore's Snowfall White) is a warm and inviting choice," Kim writes.

Wallpaper and textiles can add warmth and texture to your home in new and exciting ways too. Kim refers to wallpaper as an "art installation" because it can be used on your walls or in your kitchen drawers. Textiles bring character and intrigue to the farmhouse with their delicate stitching and intricate patterns. "Because it's both beautiful and versatile, linen is particularly suited to the comfortable farmhouse style," Kim writes. Incorporating fabrics into your home is a great way to enhance rusticity and vintage appeal. **CB**



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