

Better Homes & Gardens.

REMODELING

ROOM BY ROOM



FRESH FACE

Sometimes simply taking away an element yields huge benefits. Ditching a dated canvas awning inspires aesthetic and functional changes.

Photos **PAUL DYER**
Field Editor **SARAH ALBA**



DESIGN TIP
Let architectural details shine. Removing an awning uncovered a statement maker of a metal window.



“THAT LARGE WINDOW IS REALLY WHAT **DREW ME TO THE HOUSE** IN THE FIRST PLACE.”

HOMEOWNER **LAURA WILLIAMS ULAM**

BEFORE When homeowner and designer Laura Williams Ulam first spied this California bungalow, she immediately wanted to remove the faded awning from the front window. “Once it was gone, it looked great,” she says. **OPPOSITE** Laura coated the original wood siding with a blanket of white paint and added concrete planters, a star light fixture, and a chair swing to the front porch. A new door gives a cheery welcome in a pear-green hue. **ABOVE** New landscaping is just as stylish as it is low maintenance. “The old concrete was replaced with scored concrete to unify and freshen the look of the dated pavers,” Laura says. “The yard requires very minimal water and upkeep thanks to climate-friendly plants and pea gravel.” **RIGHT** Laura replaced other windows and sliding courtyard doors to match the style and finish of the large front window.



LIGHT MOOD

After removing dated fixtures to create a clean slate, this designer transformed her tired 1980s living room into an airy retreat.

Photos **PAUL DYER**
Field Editor **SARAH ALBA**



DESIGN TIP
Adjustable shelves allow you to refresh vignettes while keeping items in scale with the display area.



BEFORE A tall, dingy red brick fireplace was more eyesore than attractive accent in designer Laura Williams Ulam's home. **ABOVE** To brighten things, she banished the brick and took advantage of the expansive wall space, adding custom bookcases with closed storage below and a spot for a TV. To give the vaulted living space more natural light, Laura removed a wall between the kitchen and living room and installed a large support beam. "This opened up the room to another large window," Laura says. **OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT** For a contemporary feel, she installed simple moldings on architectural elements, including the built-ins. **OPPOSITE LEFT** "I love the wide center hall," she says of the adjoining area. "It really serves as another living space and makes the house feel larger."

"THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1982 AND WAS DEFINITELY IN NEED OF AN UPDATE, BUT I LOVED ITS BONES."

DESIGNER **LAURA WILLIAMS ULAM**

SHADES OF WHITE

A designer's classic white kitchen is anything but boring thanks to well-placed color variations, luxe textures, and a medley of metal accents.

Photos **PAUL DYER**
Field Editor **SARAH ALBA**



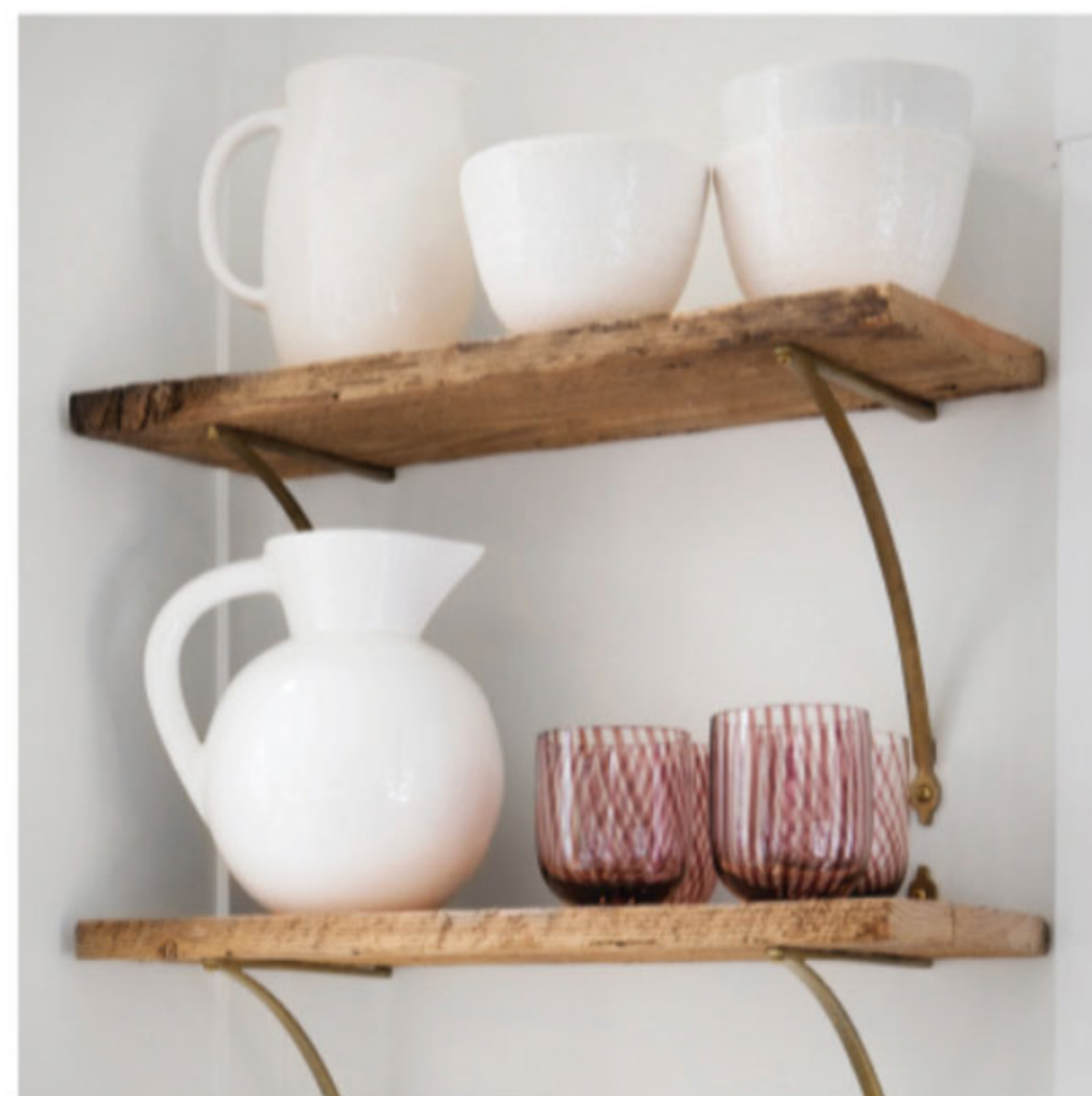
DESIGN TIP

Whitewashing exposed wooden beams softens and brightens these eye-catching structural supports without masking natural wood grain.

THIS PHOTO Homeowner and designer Laura Williams Ulam avoided a bland, sea-of-white vibe by deploying various shades for the space—a crisp version for the cabinets and a more buttery hue for the walls. Textiles, including faux-fur chair covers and rough linen barstools, add further interest to the monotone color palette. The distressed bases of the stools channel a classic old-world look into an otherwise modern space. A sprinkling of warmer accents, such as brass hardware, sand-color backsplash grout, and light oak flooring, keeps the all-white kitchen cozy.



ABOVE The large window—and the ample sunshine it lets in—is one of Laura’s favorite features of her home. A freestanding cabinet in the alcove makes the space usable. An unobtrusive glass chandelier provides light in the evening yet doesn’t overwhelm the window during daylight hours. **TOP RIGHT** A polished nickel, high-arc faucet allows for more usable work space in the sink when filling and cleaning large pots. The manufactured marble countertop lends an upscale look that resists etches and stains, unlike the real thing. **MIDDLE RIGHT** A combination of bar pulls and knobs adds visual interest to uniform cabinetry. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Salvaged boards paired with brass shelf supports infuse a rustic touch to the kitchen. A grouping of mismatched bowls and pitchers in the same color palette lets the display still feel collected.



BEFORE A tiny closed-in kitchen was comfortable for only one person. **THIS PHOTO** Replacing a wall with a large peninsula makes the same-size footprint live larger while letting natural light flow into an adjacent living space. A paneled refrigerator blends seamlessly into surrounding cabinetry for a streamlined look.

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