

Interior designer Michelle Burgess credits the large windows with bringing a sense of grandeur to the small home, where the palette, too, lightens and brightens.

Eclectic Mission Style

well crafted

A designer plays up Arts & Crafts coziness to create a vibe where home and family function as a cheerful unit.

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Nestled into an acre of rolling countryside less than a mile from beaches that offer panoramic views of Seattle from across Puget Sound, interior designer Michelle Burgess's cozy cottage is designed to live large in its idyllic setting. "We love Craftsman homes in general," says Michelle, "as they have wonderfully scaled rooms and lots of character details in their millwork and built-ins.

"But we didn't really want to live in a perfect Craftsman aesthetic," she adds, noting that she and her husband planned the scheme to be equal parts practical and diverse. "Eclectic is a good word to describe it, as it allows for the freedom to work out from several design directions. The challenge is to have it all come together into something distinctive and organic," notes Michelle.



essentials of ECLECTIC MISSION STYLE

- Built-ins you expect, like glass-fronted cabinetry, plus those you don't, like a table attached to a banquette by an arm
- Vintage or reproduction 1920s-era light fixtures, including sconces and schoolhouse pendants with milk glass covers
- Fabric patterns that pay homage to William Morris textiles, refashioned in larger-scale prints and midcentury hues for modern appeal
- Non-ornamented cabinetry and furniture, to maintain the clean lines, crafted from woods other than the traditional oak
- Punchy paint tones that play foil to modest architectural details, and a willingness to update them to grow and change as residents do

ABOVE: Michelle added this combination storage chest/banquette to provide cozy seating for her family of four. The table is anchored on an arm, so many can crowd around the table without legs getting in the way. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** A wide opening between the kitchen and the living area expands sight lines and makes both spaces feel more airy and connected to each other.



“When you can see through a home to the outdoors, it feels less confining and more open.”

function for a family

When the Burgesses bought the circa-1920 home, it was their good fortune to inherit a recent renovation that, in Michelle’s words, brought it into the modern era. To tailor it more to their needs, they removed a woodstove in the kitchen and replaced it with a built-in banquette that features storage in the seat. “You can’t ever have too much hidden storage in our house! Any part of a small, sustainable home has to be able to function in multiple ways,” Michelle says. Indeed, bedrooms and upstairs walls are lined with storage to help keep the home free of clutter that would cramp its style.

Also reworked was a loft-like space in the half story over the kitchen that’s accessed by a ship’s ladder, one of the great relics from the pre-purchase renovation. The area functions as a library and bedroom “for a teen who wanted her own room,” jokes Michelle. But what the cottage may lack in square footage it makes up for

in honest-to-goodness together time for the family and their pets. “We also love that it only takes about two hours to deep-clean the house,” Michelle adds.

the art of keeping it simple

Contributing to the spacious effect in the house are Michelle’s favorite feature: large, detailed windows. “They give the house a sense of light and spaciousness,” says Michelle, who kept treatments simple so that sight lines to the outdoors remain as uninterrupted as possible. “When you can see through a home to the outdoors, it feels more open,” she says. That was the idea behind adding a patio just outside the master bedroom; it makes

ABOVE: Deep-green French doors lead to an inviting outdoor patio, added to make the master bedroom feel like a larger-than-it-is escape. Warm-toned walls create a sense of intimacy. **OPPOSITE:** Michelle jokes that with two teenage girls in the house, the one item on their renovation wish list would be a second bathroom, but this one works, thanks to minimal clutter and maximum storage.



be inspired...
In small bathrooms, take a cue from hotel design and install wall storage to maximize vertical space



LEFT: Michelle divided the upstairs living area into two rooms to create a bedroom for her older daughter. **BELOW:** In this main-level bedroom, with built-ins to hold family games and more, the chipper paint color provides eye-catching contrast against the white woodwork and faux fur rug.

the space feel like a luxuriously large room. In the same way, removing interior walls erases any feeling of confinement that might be associated with modest homes built in the early 20th century. “Our living room is the largest space in the house, and it opens to the kitchen, so it feels very spacious and comfortable,” Michelle says.

In keeping with the eclecticism she favors, the earthy greens and browns that featured prominently in the home were ushered out and replaced by a cheerful palette that pleases everyone, since the girls were allowed to choose their own bedroom colors. “Paint is a very easy and affordable way to make a house feel intimate and reflect personalities,” notes Michelle.

But that doesn’t mean that there are no rules. Furnishings, for example, have all been carefully selected to multitask to eschew any cramping from having too much stuff. Says Michelle: “Everything has to be loved to enter the house—there are no unnecessary things here. We regularly donate items that we no longer use, and we store off-season clothing in storage bins under the bed.”

In the end, the marriage of design daring and discipline keeps this Craftsman sweet, simple and shipshape!

Editor’s Note: For more information on Michelle Burgess, visit her online at michelleburgessdesign.com.



stencil it sensational

Fashion a fast update to plain old curtains with a stencil, paint and a little patience.

materials

- Pre-fab plain curtains or fabric*
- Fabric or craft paint
- Small roller or brush
- Stencil
- Spray adhesive
- Iron
- Measuring tape, chalk

**You can create your own panels using fabric hemmed by machine or ironed-on fusible web, and then hanging them from a rod with clip-on hooks.*

1. Take down and launder (or vacuum while hanging) curtains if they’ve been up for a while and have collected dust. Remove hardware as needed.
2. Use an iron to press out any wrinkles so that you have as flat a working surface as possible.
3. Lay out fabric and measure its dimensions so you can get an idea of how to lay out the pattern you will create with your stencil to ensure that the motif is evenly spaced and centered. Based on the length and width, determine how far apart your motifs will need to be applied.
4. Use chalk and your stencil template to mark where corners will go as you move it around. It will make it easier to position stencil once you’re working, especially since, unlike a wall, the fabric is a moving surface when you start working.
5. Apply spray adhesive to the back of your stencil and place it over fabric in the first position. Smooth it on fabric to adhere so your motif will be crisp, and then use a small roller or brush to fill in with paint, being careful not to overapply; adding a second, light layer is easier than trying to mop up too much paint.
6. Remove stencil. Reposition over fabric (there may still be enough stick left that you don’t need to apply spray adhesive each time) and fill in. Continue until you have covered your curtain panel.

COTTAGE FEATURE → fabric refresher



Buying Fun Fabric Stencils

If you’re a first-time stenciler, we recommend that you choose a simple, large motif. If you are concerned that the motif will be overwhelming, simply fill it in with a very light color or a metallic. Crafts stores sell all kinds of stencils, or try browsing and buying online at fun sites like cuttingedgestencils.com.

Unlined curtains let the design show on both sides