

MidwestLiving®

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SWEET TASTES OF SUMMER

New dishes starring just-picked corn & peaches

FAST, FUN GETAWAYS

5 lakes, an epic road trip and one hotel with a moon on top

WHERE IS THE
MIDWEST'S
GREATEST
TOWN?

HINT: *We're Goin' Coastal*



TAKE THE PARTY OUTSIDE

Secrets of perfect evenings in your yard

WHAT PRESSURE?

A tumbledown farmhouse gave two design pros a chance to experiment without spending big bucks, finishing quickly or stressing over a grand vision.

John "Nick" Nichols cut leftover countertop marble into shelves and hung each on wood cleats.

A pot rack tops Rebekah Zaveloff's list of kitchen must-haves. "It adds visual texture and frees up storage space."

Rebekah chooses grout color according to a room's size and the look she wants. "For instance, dark shades are best in large spaces or with tighter grout lines."



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EXPERT ADVICE
PLAY TO PEDIGREE

Let the quality of your home inform the decor, Rebekah says. Stained pine windows, a calm palette and old wood floors speak to the farmhouse's humble origins. A deft mix of eclectic artwork and furnishings appears as though carefully accumulated over time.

John “Nick” Nichols and Rebekah Zaveloff were on their way to dinner

with friends in southwest Michigan when the inexplicable happened. Nick got lost.

“Nick,” Rebekah says, “never, ever gets lost.”

Fortunately, his lapse landed them on a dead end in front of a dilapidated 1905 farmhouse with a for-sale sign beside its falling-down barn.

For Nick and Rebekah, owners of Chicago’s KitchenLab design firm, the property ended years of searching for a weekend getaway. The disheveled state? A plus.

“It was an opportunity to work on an old house without high expectations,” Rebekah says. “We didn’t want to overinvest financially. We were more interested in the process.”

Nick worked 2½ years on DIY renovation; Rebekah joined on weekends. Top priorities included a more open floor plan, an updated kitchen and time to mess around creatively. “My art background taught me to experiment and make my work less calculated,”





Four inches of pea gravel top a base of landscape fabric and larger rock. "I like its texture, and we've only had to add to it once in 10 years," Rebekah says.



Rebekah says. "It can take 15 steps to get an image on canvas. It also takes time and layers to give a room depth."

Layering really came into play as the couple added a sense of warmth with comfy seating, ambient lighting, playlists, a wine cellar and the aroma of Nick's signature roast chicken. ("People will remember how they felt in a space longer than they'll remember its style," Rebekah says.) Likewise, new kitchen French doors open to the yard to create easy flow for daughter Hannah, friends and food—a combo that happens all summer.

"We basically run a B&B May to September," Rebekah says. "For 10 years, we haven't missed a weekend."

For buying guide, see page 76.

KICKBACK STYLE

Find more farmhouse decorating ideas at midwestliving.com/farmhouse.

**REBEKAH'S FAVES
MAKE IT HAPPEN**



NIGHT LIGHTS "Tiki torches with citronella are a must for mosquitos," Rebekah says. Set of 6-inch-tall glass table torches from Wisconsin. \$18 (tikibrand.com).

NOW SERVING Minnesota artists hand-turn felled wood into food-safe bowls then apply charring to highlight the grain. \$130 (wooddesigngroup.etsy.com).

TOP NOTES Rebekah and Nick take their portable Sonos speakers inside and out to share tunes on their playlist. Six-inch-tall Play 1 in black or white, \$199 (sonos.com).

ON BOARD Your choice of nine colors of rubber handles accents the solid-walnut 8x21-inch cutting-serving boards from Minnesota. \$62-\$69 (willfullgoods.com).

GRAPHIC CONTRAST A fan of anything black and white, Rebekah likes this combo's ability to be dramatic yet humble. Ceramic black-and-white cup, \$10 each (jaysonhome.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: (PRODUCTS) RICK LOZIER