

Meeting More Than Halfway

A design-build duo gives their pantry a simple yet striking two-tone paint treatment

By Nina Malkin

Photographs by Chris Mottalini

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Paint It

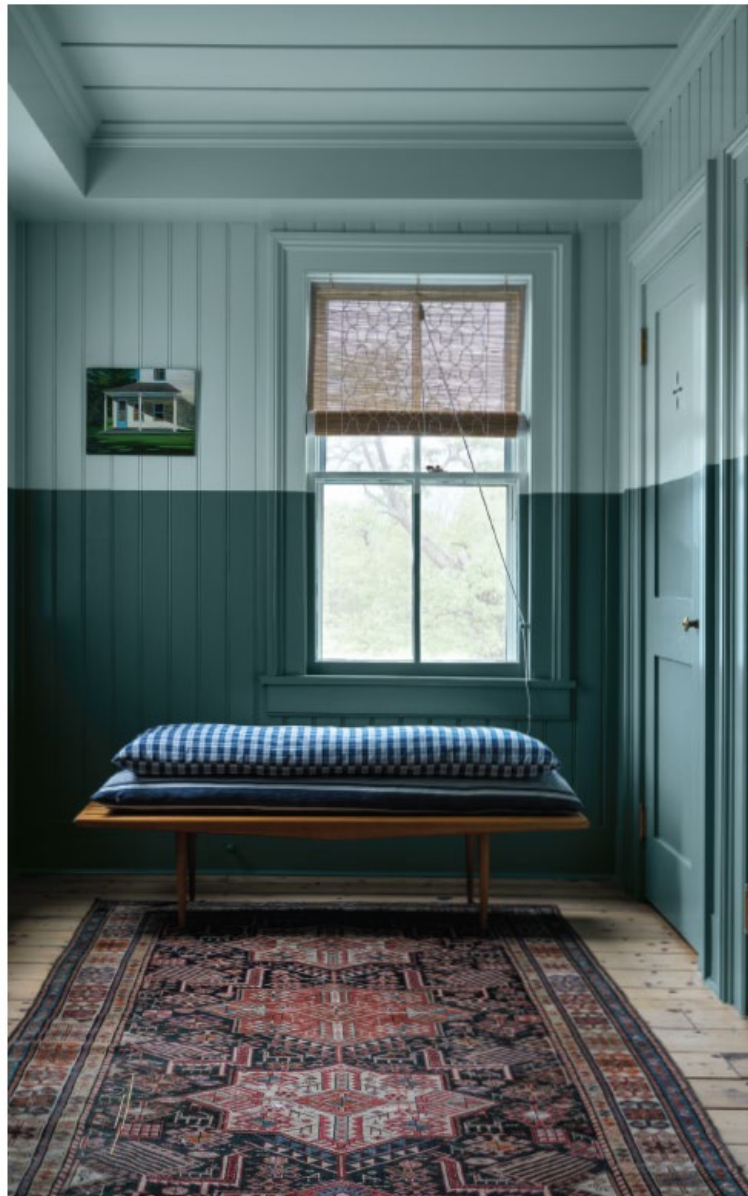
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BY NINA MALKIN

When working with a medium as fluid as paint, why not allow yourself some extra creative freedom? That philosophy is put into practice here by the team of Hendricks Churchill—the proof is in this pantry in the couple's renovated 1871 house, which is the subject of their new book, *Our Way Home: Reimagining an American Farmhouse* (Rizzoli). The room's inviting two-tone scheme wasn't planned; at first, in fact, they had covered everything—walls, ceiling, and trim—with the paler shade of blue. But while interior designer Heide Hendricks liked the cool color, her husband, designer/builder Rafe Churchill, wanted to warm things up. As a compromise, they opted to "spill" the darker blue of the kitchen cabinets slightly more than halfway up the walls. "It creates a whimsical waterline effect, as if the space had flooded and the water since receded," says Hendricks. Her advice: Take risks with paint, don't be bound by too many rules, and think about the mood you're going for. She adds: "If colors feel right together, they often are." ■

The pantry holds three food-storage closets and connects to the kitchen, a powder room, and—through a door to the left of the bench—a terrace. Paint: Farrow & Ball's pale Borrowed Light and deep De Nimes.



Hendricks Churchill



HENDRICKS, JEFF HOLT



EXPERT ADVICE

"Treat every room in a house as equally important. You may not be in a utility space for long, but you're in and out of it a lot. Why not paint it in an interesting way?"

HEIDE HENDRICKS, interior designer



TOP LEFT: Staples are kept on shelves behind closet doors that feature a cutout design for airflow. The vertical lines of the beadboard create a dynamic interplay with the horizontal waterline.

BOTTOM LEFT: The grays of the powder room pair nicely with the two blues. To tie together different colors in connected rooms, Hendricks uses ones similar in tone, hue, and saturation.

ABOVE: The colors in the pantry make it feel like an extension of the kitchen, Hendricks says. "The goal is to draw the eye gently from one space to the next, avoiding stark contrasts that interrupt the flow."