

Here Comes the Sun

A photographer and her husband open their home to nature's influences with sky blues, sunshine yellows, and rustic textures.

BY SHAWN GILLIAM | PRODUCED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY KIM CORNELISON





The living room's large windows, ceiling beams, and Gothic-style brick fireplace were among the features that sold Kim Cornelison and her husband, Alfie Ferreyra, on their home. "We painted everything white to simplify the space," Kim says.

Kim and Alfie eat most of their meals in the dining room, *this photo*, so Kim wanted it to be comfortable and casual. “We mixed the seating to make it versatile when friends and their kids visit,” she says.

The couple, *opposite*, decided against cabinetry above the sink—going with a bank of windows for more light.





A primary skill for any photographer is appreciating the importance of light. For Kim Cornelison, it's a skill she brings into sharp focus at work but also understands at home. "This house gets a lot of sun—it's one of the reasons we decided to buy it," she says of the Minneapolis cottage she shares with her husband, Alfie Ferreyra.

Double-hung windows throughout the 1901 house make the most of the light. Kim decided to forgo window treatments in the living room to let in more sun. "The house sits back so much from the road, privacy isn't an issue," she says. In rooms where there weren't enough windows, such as the kitchen and master bath, the couple made way for more. They then painted walls and ceilings white to amplify light and create a simple backdrop for their furnishings. Kim's nature-inspired color palette of golden yellow, soft gray, and pale blue warms things further, as does the mix of

rustic materials—unfinished and timeworn woods, wicker, and wrought iron. "A big white box would have felt sterile," Kim says. "The wood tones and textures make it homey."

A cozy, comfortable feel in their house is an important foil to the couple's busy professional life shooting for clients such as Target, Crate and Barrel, *Better Homes and Gardens*®, and *Coastal Living*. Casual, outdoor elements—an oversize basket chandelier, bird-and-branch patterned draperies, a driftwood mirror—set that tone. Architectural features such as the beams in the living room and kitchen give the rooms weight and character. "I like a cozy and personal feel, but still fresh, clean, and uncluttered," Kim says.

To add personality and encourage a relaxed decorative mix, the couple also incorporated influences from their travels. Kim snaps photos and writes notes about what catches her eye on their trips. Inspired by a West

Kim keeps foundation pieces neutral and changes out pillows, throws, and accessories for fresh looks, as shown in the master bedroom, *this photo*.

The master bath, *opposite*, pairs mirrored metal medicine cabinets with weathered-oak washstands.



“You can shuffle all the furnishings—move them from room to room—and they all still work. **The same palette moves through the whole house.**”

Kim Cornelison



Hollywood hotel lounge area, the pair made their boldest decorative statement in the kitchen with Cuban-style concrete tile that mimics wallpaper. “We thought it would help this tiny space in the core of the house feel special,” Kim says. “And although you might think the opposite, it actually makes the space feel bigger.”

The kitchen windows overlook Kim’s freshly planted vegetable garden. Especially on the weekends, Kim enjoys working in her yard and trying new recipes with ingredients from her garden. Her pastime plays into the couple’s ultimate goal at home—to unwind. “My favorite thing to do after a lively day of shooting is to try a new recipe and sit down to a quiet dinner with Alfie,” Kim says.



INNOVATION
Musically inclined

Technology plays a big role in the couple's photography business—it also makes their life at home more enjoyable.

Both music lovers who frequently entertain friends and family at home, Kim and Alfie wanted to install speakers throughout their house and outside. But wiring an older house isn't easy. "We couldn't get into the walls unless we did some demolition," Alfie says. Instead, the couple chose the Sonos wireless speaker system based on a friend's recommendation. Among the system's perks is the ability to listen to different music in various rooms of the house. "It's just like having a whole-house sound system," Alfie says. "I really like that Sonos connects to an existing stereo or a wireless module and I can control it remotely with my iPad or iPhone." *Sonos Home Wireless Music Systems, starting at \$299 (Play:3 system); sonos.com* ■

For buying information see page 230.

The couple renovated the basement to be a comfortable hangout for watching TV and spending time with their Tibetan terrier, Walter, *above*.

Kim uses the original soapstone sink in the basement, *right*, for garden projects. A burlap skirt hides pipes and shelves underneath.

