

COOKIE CUTTER FROM 8

duced drawer pulls in favor of uncoated brass handles “meant to age beautifully.”

Go for color and texture

Vibrant color can give a generic or relatively simple structure a more tailored look, says Rill, who is a fan of the inky colors of British cult paint brand Farrow & Ball (he recently used a slate gray on a project in Franklin, Tenn.).

Dallas designer Bonnie Achariyakosol agrees, saying that paint and wallpaper are the easiest way to warm up a space. It doesn’t need to take over the entire room; you can paint the lower cabinets in your otherwise white kitchen an unexpected color, or hang wallpaper with a subtle graphic motif in the powder room.

Nozawa achieved a bespoke feel for two Bay Area clients with modern farmhouse-esque homes by bringing in riots of color in the rugs and furnishings, and installing dramatic light fixtures.

The same goes for interesting textures. “I think a lot of modern farmhouses are lacking warmth and texture,” Achariyakosol says. Some of her textural go-to’s: handmade zellige tiles that are intentionally imperfect, lime-washed or grass cloth walls and plasterwork vessels with patina. “Texture is the gateway drug to a warm home, and I love it!” she says.



STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Pay attention to details

When Houston-based designer Paloma Contreras, author of the new book “The New Classic Home,” was working on a farmhouse presiding over significant acreage in rural Texas, she employed authentic finishes: reclaimed Texas white oak here,

French limestone there. The result feels genuine and timeless, not trendy.

Outside, sometimes it’s the littlest touches that add up to a lot. Even painting your window trim and shutters a fairy-tale hue can be transformative, Eckstrom says, noting that he loves the

verdigris color of Farrow & Ball’s Arsenic.

“We love the whimsy of a decorative Pennsylvania Dutch-style Hex sign adhered below the gable end of a roofline,” says Eckstrom. He is installing them on the upper floor of a project client’s classic American four-square with a



AIMÉE MAZZENGA



STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Wallpaper is one of the easiest ways to add personality, such as in this bathroom, left, by Winn Design + Build. Copper roofs can lend a feeling of storied authenticity to an exterior, such as the one above, also by Winn Design + Build. For Houston-based designer Paloma Contreras, curated details such as local white oak flooring and custom windows have a genuine and timeless effect.

green metal roof, which was inspired by Russian dachas. “Choose a star or sun motif in bright or complementary bold colors — it will become something to wish and smile upon daily.”

And we can practically guarantee that it won’t look anything like your neighbor’s.

Kathryn O’Shea-Evans is a design and travel writer in Colorado.

Chat Thursday at 11 a.m. Erin Lageman-Louies, senior manager at Glidden, joins staff writer Jura Koncius for our online Q&A on decorating and household advice. Submit questions at live.washingtonpost.com.

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