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Spring Refresh

let's start anew

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clean sweep

Major Renovation Makes Laundry a Chore No More

Fairview Cottage, a Victorian home in the small foothill city of Logan, Utah, may sound enchanting—but that wasn't always the case for interior designer Ashley Wilson. "It has lots of its historic charm but was neglected after years of renters. We're so proud to bring it up to date while still respecting its history," she says.

Her home-design blog, *At Home with Ashley*, was inspired by the birth of her son during a time when she needed a creative escape. "I started writing about decorating my home and it was such a good outlet!" says Wilson, who considers her personal style *girly glam*. "I like a room to feel light and bright with lots of whimsy and touches of sparkle with brass or gold metallics. My favorite colors are pink and mint and anything pastel. I use white liberally so that the feminine touches are more grounded."

As a featured designer for the One Room Challenge, she transformed her laundry room from a dark and dated utilitarian space to an inspiring destination. "Guests have to walk through it to get to the backyard, so having it be pretty is a relief since so many people saw it (prepandemic)," she says. A floral rug protects the rainbow-striped floors she painted and introduces another decorative element.

In addition to the aesthetic updates, the space had to be practical for the tasks at hand. Wilson modernized the room with features like a tankless water heater. A mint-green cabinet for laundry soap and other must-haves keeps everything tucked away yet in reach, and color-coded hampers make for easy sorting.

"Since we designed it so carefully, it's much nicer to use. And because it's beautiful, you don't dread doing laundry," says Wilson. "I think surrounding ourselves with pretty things make the mundane parts of doing everyday chores feel more elevated."

When the ceiling was torn out and vaulted, it exposed the original transom window that now brightens the space. Another perk? There was enough height to add the brass pendant that echoes the other metal accents in the room. Shiplap covers the ceiling, while the walls feature subway tile with playful botanical wallpaper.

"I love how wallpaper pulls together a room like nothing else can," says Wilson, who chose this print as a starting point for the design. "For this space, I wanted something that blends modern and traditional while adding some fun pattern." She delineated the tile from the wallpaper with a sleek brass tile trim. "The space feels so clean now, which seems perfect for a laundry room," she adds.

Though every inch was updated, it wasn't all smooth sailing. Two weeks before the scheduled completion, an entire wall had to be removed due to rot. Now millwork adds character and depth with baseboards, crown molding, shiplap, and a wainscot cap.

Ashley's husband, Preston, built a pedestal for the washer and dryer and made the countertop for folding clothes. "I think that it'll be really nice to have so that we don't lose socks in the back; plus, it's pretty too," she says.

Other pretty and practical add-ons include custom Roman shades that let in plenty of light by day and offer privacy at night. "I love the texture the linen gives to the room and how soft and casual they feel in here," says Wilson. She enjoys adding special details like the brass and crystal hardware that capture her style.

All that sweat equity seems to have paid off. "I'm pretty happy with how colorful, textural, bright, and happy this room turned out!" says Wilson, who gives her husband a huge shout out for the hundreds of hours he spent putting in drywall, laying tile, and building whatever she proposed. "He sacrificed his weekends and recruited his friends to help too. Thank you, Preston!"

Her advice for other homeowners embarking on renovation projects is to *go for it*. "If you have a room you hate, there's always a way to update it," she says. "You don't have to live with spaces that aren't pleasant to be in. It's a gift to yourself to make your home a haven."

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Photography by Ruth Crozier Developing Bliss Photography.

For more inspiration, check out *At Home with Ashley*: www.athomewithashley.com / Instagram: @athomewithashley

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