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hen food photographer and blogger Eva Kosmas Flores and her husband, Jeremy Flores, left Los Angeles for Portland three years ago, they dreamed of setting up a homestead where they would tend to vegetables and a sisterhood of hens. When they couldn't find the countryside digs they sought, however, they refused to write it off as anything but good fortune.

"We were lucky to find this 1937 English Tudor," says Eva, who blogs at adventuresincooking.com and recently published her first cookbook, *Adventures in Chicken* (Houghton, 2016; \$30). The house was in the suburbs, and its patchwork of eras and glaring colors hardly squared with the couple's down-to-earth sensibilities. "It needed a lot of elbow grease, but I loved every ridiculous square inch of it."

With Eva's cookbook deadline looming, she and Jeremy dove into kitchen renovations first. A contractor installed the Shaker-style cabinets and white oak floors, while the couple added their own one-of-a-kind touches, including a vintage Roper gas range they snagged on Craigslist and a pot rack they made out of a dead birch tree from their yard. "I'm very inspired by the Pacific Northwest landscape," says Eva. "I definitely pulled from it in every room."

As time went on, the two got more ambitious with their DIY improvements. Jeremy, an independent filmmaker, turned to—where else?—YouTube to learn how to work with reclaimed wood, building shelves and countertops from aged slabs that Eva uses as a backdrop for her moody food photography. Meanwhile, Eva spent days with a trowel, applying three layers of tinted plaster to walls throughout the home. "Doing DIY projects for the first time can be a little scary," says Eva. "There's a lot of room for human error, but that also means a lot of room for creativity."

Two years later, they felt confident enough to take on the attic, knocking out the walls to expose the original ceiling beams and create an open and airy master suite. "Even though it was a long journey, I'm happy we did most of the renovations ourselves," says Eva. "Breaking down each wall told us a new story about our home, its owners, and its evolution."

CLEAR THE WAY

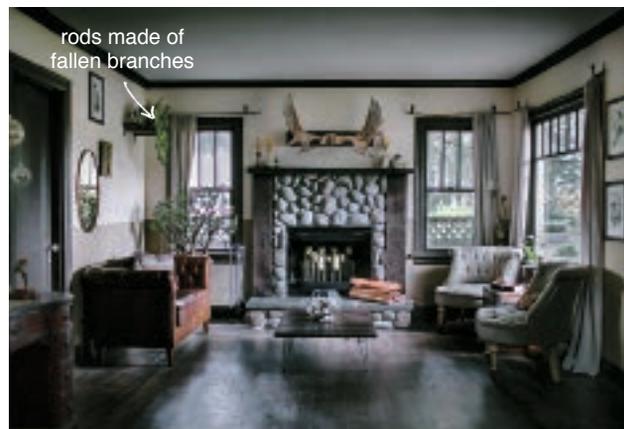
By eliminating a breakfast nook, Eva and Jeremy opened up the kitchen and made room for the vintage range. "I like to think about all the food that's been prepared on it over the years," says Eva, who learned to cook at her parents' Greek deli. "I hope that all the good food karma carries into what I cook on it too." The improvised birch-branch pot rack offsets the darker wood used elsewhere in the kitchen.

PUT YOUR BEST STUFF FORWARD

Open shelving shows off Eva's collection of copperware and handmade ceramics, while more utilitarian-looking items are hidden away in cabinets. Copperware from *Falk Culinair*, falkusa.com. Ceramics, farmhousepottery.com and susansimonini.com.au. Sinkology *Rockwell Farmhouse*



reclaimed wood masks a support beam



rods made of fallen branches

Double Bowl kitchen sink, \$630; home depot.com

EMBRACE IMPERFECTION

"I wanted to be able to photograph [for my blog] on the countertops, so wood was the perfect choice," says Eva, who teaches food photography workshops around the world. But the material wasn't without its challenges—because the wood wasn't completely straight, Jeremy had to plane it from the sides to level it out. He intentionally left the top surface rough, though, to give it a rustic look. Reclaimed

wood; salvageworks.pdx.com and rebuildingcenter.org.

MIX IT UP

Eva's vision for the living room? "Cozy and Old World, kind of like an antiques dealer's lodge," she says. That meant pairing classic elements like a Chesterfield sofa and a pair of tufted armchairs with moose antlers found at a garage sale. Eva used two shades of tinted plaster to create a subtle framing effect in the room. A mason built the fireplace surround of cast river rocks, while Jeremy constructed the

reclaimed wood mantel. Chesterfield leather sofa loveseat (similar to shown), from \$2,899; potterybarn.com. Linen Bixby chair (similar to shown), \$898; anthropologie.com. Barn Walls Winter Mix coffee table with black hairpin legs (similar to shown), \$142; houzz.com. Orkney Linen Curtains, from \$145; roughlinen.com. Paint in Casa Blanca and Windsor Greige; sherwinwilliams.com. 🏠

S DIGITAL BONUS
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