





WHITE (done) RIGHT

## PURE COUNTRY

Think a new build—particularly an all-white new build—will lack heart and soul? Think again. Filled with storied antiques, rough-hewn texture, and farmhouse-inspired details, this Tennessee home proves you can lighten up while staying grounded.

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any people dream of building a brand-new house. Not Mandy Reeves. "I've always preferred an older home. There's a certain magic you can feel the moment you walk in." But after looking at dozens of real estate listings in their desired Franklin, Tennessee, school district, Mandy and husband Randy decided building from the ground up was the best option for their family. (Son Beau is 4, and daughter Lizzie is 1.) To capture the enchanting, age-old quality she craved, Mandy enlisted Nashville architect Betsy Pogue (elizabethpogue.com). First step: ditching the ubiquitous open floor plan. "They're all the rage," says Mandy. "But we wanted to be true to the spirit of an old home with separate cooking, dining, and living spaces." Next up: letting the home's classic architecture shine with a predominantly white palette. (Yes, even with two young children.) "Houses are meant to be enjoyed. Ours may be white, but it's not too precious. We truly live in every inch," says Mandy. Here's a behind-the-curtain look at how Mandy and Betsy gave a new build heaps of character with neutrals, texture...and a little practical magic.





## **KITCHEN**

To reinforce the home's lived-in feel, Mandy outfitted the farmhouse-style kitchen with shiplap paneling (see bottom left for more info). "The wood walls keep things from feeling sterile," says Mandy, who also introduced an assortment of honey-hued wooden accents (barstools, cutting boards, and an antique high chair passed down from her father) to warm up the look. Strategic pops of black (globe pendants above the island, silhouette portraits above the range) add graphic interest.

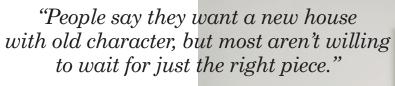




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-Mandy Reeves

## BOY'S ROOM

Son Beau may only be 4, but his bedroom is nearly a decade in the making. "I bought the poster twin beds [second one not shown] long before I had a son. I knew they'd be perfect for a little boy's room one day," says Mandy, who painted them a handsome shade of gray-green (Rosemary by Sherwin-Williams) that will easily transition from tot to teen. For now, they're right at home alongside a fabric reindeer bust and dapper dog prints (enlarged notecards from Rifle Paper Co.; riflepaperco.com).





## **POWDER ROOM**

The home's powder room was a practice in patience. "A lot of people say they want a new house with old character, but most aren't willing to wait for just the right piece," says Mandy, who let the bathroom go mirror-free for months before scooping up the room's curvy pistachio-green piece at a local antiques shop. The trio of framed vintage bookplates adds another touch of color to the walls.

