

# Features

## Old·House JOURNAL®

November/December 2007

Volume 35/ Number 6

Established 1973

### 36 Making Sense of Chimney Liners

BY MICHAEL CHOTINER

Regular maintenance is critical for the safety of your chimney, but even more important is making sure it has a proper liner. This buyer's guide explores the best options for a variety of old houses.

### 42 Learning Curves

BY DEMETRA APOSPOROS

When walls throw curves at you, creating mouldings to fit them is impossible without some specialized, time-tested carpentry. We visit an Italianate building in Michigan to learn how it's done.

### 46 Getting to the Bottom of Sagging Floors

BY STEVE JORDAN

Unlevel floors aren't simply a fact of life in old houses—they're often a symptom of more serious conditions. Here are the basics on determining their cause and finding the best solution.

### 48 Lie Like a Rug

BY JANE POWELL

The linoleum craze of the early 20th century also ushered in a popular spinoff: the linoleum rug. An authority takes a look at the early appeal of linoleum rugs and offers tips on collecting and caring for them today.

### 54 Plaster Repair Options

BY GORDON BOCK

Flat wall plaster is one of the most defining features of old houses—and one that often needs the most work. This crash course on the make-up and methods of historic plaster will get you started on its repair.

### 58 In Step with Coming Unhinged

BY NOELLE LORD

Keep your doors swinging freely with these simple fixes for worn hinges.

### 60 Old-House Living: Restoration Lessons

BY ALICIA CAMPBELL

Putting old-house experiences into context helps one couple streamline ongoing repairs to their Greek Revival house.

### 64 The Architectural Alchemy of Columns

BY JAMES C. MASSEY AND SHIRLEY MAXWELL

The column is the most enduring ornament in American architecture, spanning from colonial Georgian houses to the post-Modern structures of the last century. Our architectural historians explore the many forms of this timeless feature.



**ON THE COVER:**  
The prominent entry portico supported by four evenly spaced columns on this 1810 house in Louisville, Kentucky, is typical of buildings designed in the Early Classical Revival style. Photo by Kevin R. Morris.

