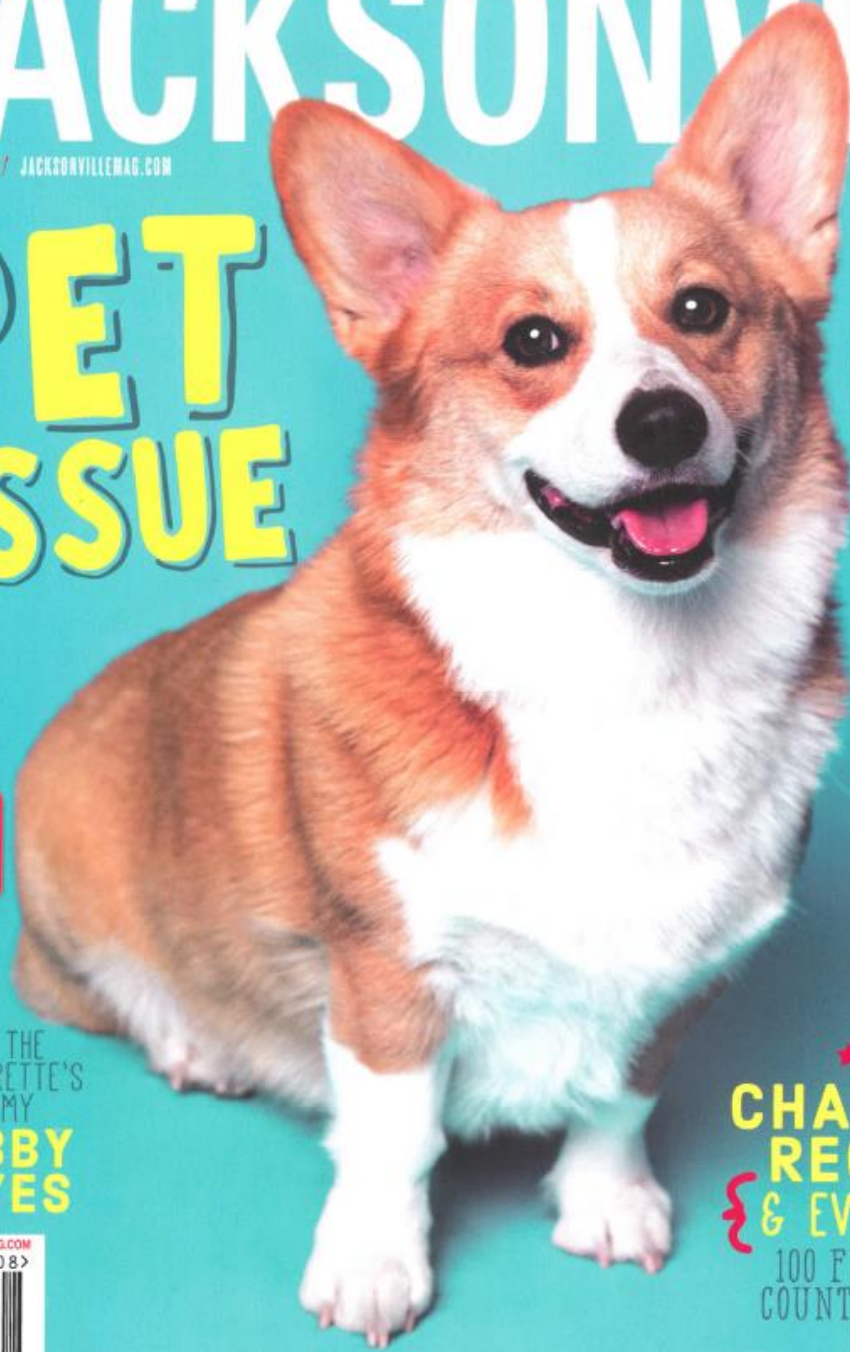


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The industrial look is in. The **Avalon tub**, made of natural jute fiber and concrete, has thick, insulating walls that retain heat—perfect for long soaks. Native Trails, the company that produces the tubs, seeks to use fair-trade and sustainable materials for its products. Find it in ash, slate and pearl finishes as well as two sizes—62 and 72 inches (\$7,495–\$8,795). It's available at several local retailers including Hollingsworth, RayWare Hardware, and Ferguson. *

—DANAE LEAVE



Floor Plan

Steps to take before you let that sledgehammer fly

BY STELLA KATSIPOUTIS

IF YOU'RE TOYING WITH THE IDEA of sprucing up your home, you're not the only one. The money you'd be shelling out would contribute to the nationwide 8.6-percent increase in spending on remodeling and repairs that's forecasted for 2016. According to recent predictions by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, this year Americans will spend an estimated \$310 billion on renovations—nearing the previous record of \$327 billion.

"With the current stability of the economy, more homeowners are feeling financially secure,

so they are deciding to invest in their own homes," says Candace Glosson, interior designer with Troy Spurlin Interiors.

Because remodeling a home requires a lot of work, time and cash, you'll first need to do some planning. So before you start tearing down walls, use these key steps as your kickoff point.

Define Your Scope.

"We advise people to separate everything into three lists: a 'must have' list, a 'need' list and a 'wish' list," says Katrina Hosea, president and founder of BeeTree Homes Inc.