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Reverse Migration

Suburban homeowners who have profited from the urban exodus during the pandemic are leaving small-town life behind.

By DEBRA KAMIN

Kelly Shoul and Alex White spent years trying to get out of their house in York, Pa., only
to be told repeatedly by real estate brokers
that their only option was to sell at a loss.
But when Covid-19 hit and upended the
market, they were able to not just sell their
home, but also make \$30,000 in the process.

Ms. Shoul, 30, and Mr. White, 32, bought their three-bedroom, two-bath house in 2016 for \$132,000. The headaches of horse-ownership began almost immediately. A blocked septic ple flooded their basement. The water heater broke. They discovered not one but two layers of borched linoleum tiling beneath their floor/boards. "Within the first year, we realized we

wanted to sell," said Mr. Shoul, who estimates that in addition to sacrificing most of his weekends to home repairs for the past four years, the couple also spent \$10,000 to 15,000 on fixes, not counting nearly \$35,000 in damage that was covered by home insurance.

The pandemic has created a frenzied de-contribute no PAGE 12



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SHOPPING GUIDE

RANGE HOODS

Whisk Away Smells With a Sense of Style

Every range hood vacuums up steam, smoke and odors from the kitchen. But when it comes to style, designs vary widely: Some are kitchen-defining statement pieces, while others almost disappear.

"Oftentimes, the inclination is to have some beautiful sculptural element over the cooktop," said Melissa Baker, who founded the New Yorkbased architecture firm Pulltab with Jon Handley. "But we usually try to hide them instead."

One of the firm's favorite approaches is to install a slide-out hood that is mostly concealed in a cabinet above the range, with a retractable shield that extends while you're cooking. But for homeowners who prefer the look of a professional chef's kitchen, Pulltab sometimes specifies big stainless-steel models that look as if they were pulled out of a restaurant.

Regardless of your preference, the most important part of owning a range hood is remembering to use it.

"If you don't have extraction," Mr. Handley said, "the apartment will still smell like fish for two days." TIM McKEOUGH



Faber Cylindra Isola ss-steel hood | \$1,699 at AJ Madison; 800-570-3355 or aimadison.con



Range hood internals for custom enclosure \$329 at GE Appliances: 800-430-1757 or







Under-cabinet slide-out hood | From \$579 at Build with Ferguson: 855-719-0658 or build.com

■ Will your hood vent to the outside or reci late air through a filter? An exterior vent is bet-ter, Ms. Baker said, but not always possible, especially in apartments. Many hoods can func-tion either way, but may require a conversion kit

Chimney-style wall-mount hood available in a range of colors | \$1,299 at Perigold: 844-248-0909 or perigold.com

■ Does it provide the right light? The light from a hood should be bright enough to illuminate saucepans and have a color temperature similar to that of your under-cabinet lights. "You really don't want terrible lighting above the range," Ms. Baker said.

Ahbaka Atlas

Abbaka Atias
Professional-style hood available in a range of colors | From \$4,595 at BlueStar: 610-376-7479 or bluestarcooking.com

■ How wide should it be? At least as wide as the range, she said, but for peak performance, some manufacturers recommend choosing one that is at least three inches wider on each side.



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