

When he couldn't find quality light fixtures for the old homes he restored, Brian Faherty started making them—turning his need into a company that's bringing back iconic designs. Step inside the home of the Schoolhouse Electric founder to see what other flashes of inspiration drive him.

Old School

New ideas



Brian and Jill Faherty's home is a mashup of midcentury modern—vintage pieces and reproductions—and a few quirky finds, such as the flashlights Brian hung as art. "Our house is somewhat of an incubator for our business," says Jill, *opposite*, with Brian and kids J.P., Audrey, and Greta. "We bring things home to see if they work in real life."



AN EYE FOR TUNES
A 1970s cabinet holds Brian's vintage turntable and receiver.

It's easy to see why Brian and Jill Faherty don't mind bringing work home with them. The brass pendants above the kitchen island, the buffalo plaid chairs in the living room, the classic classroom clock above the built-in desk—that's "work."

The couple's 1955 Portland, Oregon, home is part showhouse and part photo studio for the iconic midcentury home accessories, furniture, and hardware from Schoolhouse Electric, the company Brian founded in 2003. But it's a family home first and foremost. "We don't live in a museum here," Brian says. "We're not tiptoeing around things." That means, catalog photo shoot or not, life with three kids and a dog doesn't skip a beat in the opened-up one-story. There's usually a kid or two sitting at the kitchen island for morning pancakes or someone roosting at the built-in desk in the family room. Twelve-year-old Greta, below, has a newfound appreciation for Brian's vinyl collection. The sound of Nat King Cole or Carole King—Greta's pick—is music to Jill's ears. "This house has changed the way we connect with each other," Jill says. "It has enabled us to spend a lot more time together."



COOL CORDS
Twisted fabric cords add style to a light fixture.

CHAIR MAN
Brian has a thing for midcentury modern chairs, hence the 1950s Paul McCobb set and the art on the wall.



HISTORY Brian uncovered the cast-iron molds used to make schoolhouse-style light shades in an abandoned New York warehouse.

HEADQUARTERS A 1910 four-story brick structure built by Pacific Steel and Hardware, above, now houses SEC's offices, design and photography studios, manufacturing space, a retail store, and a coffee shop.

BONUS TENANT Egg Press studios, makers of handcrafted letterpress greeting cards.

BEST SELLER The Ion Lamp—Inspired by the base design Edison used to test his lightbulb.



Seven-year-old Audrey, above, is the family fashionista, donning dresses (and fake pearls and heels) even outside or at one of J.P.'s ballgames. An island made from old beams, right, gives the kitchen character. "I wanted the house to have some soul—not be all new and shiny," Brian says.



“Style isn’t about just buying things. It’s about **BLENDING THINGS** and feeling like there’s a sense of belonging.”

Brian Faherty

FAMILY CATCHALL
Nail-friendly barnwood in the built-in desk serves as a bulletin board.

TRY THIS
Black-painted sashes are like eyeliner for windows—emphasizing and framing the view.

The open layout’s lounging and work areas keep the family together without being on top of each other. “The sectional in the living room gets used and abused the most,” Jill says of the IKEA piece the couple made their own by swapping out basic legs for brass and walnut.

BRIAN'S FAVORITE

"The Factory Light's simple shape makes it easy to use anywhere," he says.



"We use every square inch of this house," Brian says. That includes the backyard patio, where the hefty, set-in-concrete picnic table offers space for meals, crafts—even trumpet practice. In the master bedroom, the vintage dinette in the bumpout is a favorite homework spot for 13-year-old J.P. The master bath formula: pillow tiles for dimension, a "floating" vanity for openness, and bright yellow sconces for fun. Cubbies off the garage are a popular spot for sports gear and for Penny, a terrier mix. ■

