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family affair

An upgrade for Mom and Dad means more privacy for the kids

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI



in the details

FLOORING Worn old ceramic tile was removed in favor of 16x16-inch cream-colored porcelain tiles, which were placed on a diagonal to add visual interest.

MAKEUP TABLE Connected to the vanity, a new makeup table was a personal request from Nadine. "My daughter and I can sit and do our hair and makeup together."

WALL COLOR The walls of the renovated bath are painted a soft, pleasing yellow. The ceiling is painted in an off-white color that visually raises the height of the space, making the bathroom seem especially bright and airy.



BEFORE: The old 120-square-foot bathroom had only a simple shower/tub combo unit and 1950s-era look.

AFTER: Special touches give this bathroom personality. "We found the towel hooks by the shower at a flea market," says Nadine.

For Lyle and Nadine Levin of Glencoe, Illinois, remodeling their master bathroom gave them a chance to please the entire family. "We used to have Jack-and-Jill style bathrooms, with a sliding door between our master bath and the kids' hallway bath," says Nadine, mother to 16-year-old son Nik and 13-year-old daughter Sydney. The couple turned to general contractor Brad Ashman, president of Chicago Renovation & Development of Glencoe. "They told me they wanted a really nice shower and killer whirlpool tub, and more privacy for the kids," says Ashman.

In order to meet these goals, the original master bath had to be demolished. Ashman utilized empty space above the

bathroom to create a cathedral-style ceiling with a skylight. A spacious new shower with an extra-thick glass enclosure is another key addition. "The porcelain tiles on the shower walls have a nice cream color and the insets are hammered pewter," says Nadine. The shower also includes a built-in seat and a shampoo niche. The adjoining whirlpool tub has a gray and taupe granite deck with specks of royal blue. The same granite was used for the top of the custom vanity. Crown moldings with rope trim add a touch of elegance.

The result is an inviting bath that Lyle and Nadine enjoy spending time in. "We got what we wanted: a relaxing spot where we could start and end our day," says Nadine.





clean and simple

A simple makeover brightens a tiny guest bath



in the details

LIGHTING A three-lamp sconce above the vanity and a recessed fixture in the shower provide just the right illumination for this diminutive bath.

VANITY The white vanity has a cultured marble sink, raised-panel doors and a storage drawer in the cabinet's toekick. "We really searched for that vanity," says Julianne Arvizu. "Space was limited by the location of the toilet. The bottom drawer holds a blow dryer."

STORAGE Above the vanity is a medicine cabinet with a mirror. There's also a storage cabinet over the toilet with open and closed shelves.



BEFORE: With worn plastic tiles and bad plumbing, the old bathroom was desperately in need of a makeover.

AFTER: Replacing an old radiator with a baseboard heating unit freed up floor area in a bath that suits family as well as guests.

The renovation of their kitchen and a nearby staircase forced Jamie and Julianne Arvizu to give the green light to another important project: the remodeling of their small, 35-square-foot second-floor guest bath above the kitchen. "We have plenty of guests who come to visit and we wanted to create a bathroom we could be proud of," says Julianne. At the time, the Skokie, Illinois, couple were also expecting their twins, Ben and Evie. "We needed a bathtub for the babies and we wanted a cheerier space," says Julianne. With a limited budget in hand, the young couple turned to Ashman. "They wanted something simple, clean and nice," says Ashman, "nothing fancy."

After the bath was gutted, the plumbing was rebuilt and the room was rewired. A new sub-floor was installed and the ceiling was raised in a vaulted style. An exhaust fan improves ventilation for the new shower/tub combo, which has chrome fixtures, a diverter and a hand-held shower unit. "We love the hand-held—it's great for bathing the kids," says Julianne. The white-tiled shower includes two rows of colorful decorative tiles made by Julianne's mother. For the floor, the couple chose 6x6-inch white ceramic tiles. A cheery yellow was chosen for the walls, helping to brighten the space. "I'm not sure that there is much I would change, even if I had an unlimited budget," says Julianne. ♦