

Better Roof,

BY LISA CHRISTIE

Jan and Tucker Mayberry's home has gone through a lot of changes since 1925. Originally a carriage house for a large estate, it was enlarged and reconfigured as a dwelling when the estate was sold. The bathroom ended up under a clumsy, flat-roofed dormer that poked through an otherwise lovely steep cedar roof. This bath housed a sink, a small dressing area, and a couple of closets. The toilet and shower were adjacent to the dormer in a dark space under a low roof.

The Mayberrys have been fixing up their house one space at a time, and that's given them time to decide exactly what they want the new spaces to be. General contractor Jay Lane, of Jack of the Woods Inc., has worked on numerous projects at their house over the past five years. When the time came to remodel the bathroom, Jay called my office. He knew our firm's experience would be a perfect fit.

The Mayberrys' goal for the bathroom was to make the most of its 10-ft. by 12-ft. size by bringing in more natural light, by adding another sink, by upgrading closet storage to accommodate two people, and by creating an attractive area for the toilet and shower. The



Bathroom heaven, and the stairway to it

With a new roof reaching to the ridge and more windows overlooking the garden, the revamped dormer looks as good outside as it does inside. However, the Mayberrys weren't excited about living through four months of dust, debris, and subcontractors tramping through their home. General contractor Jay Lane solved the problem by erecting scaffolding on the exterior for the duration of construction. All materials and workers entered and left the house straight through the front window-wall of the dormer. Additionally, the scaffolding served as a great workspace and staging area. Photo taken at A on floor plan.



Better Bath

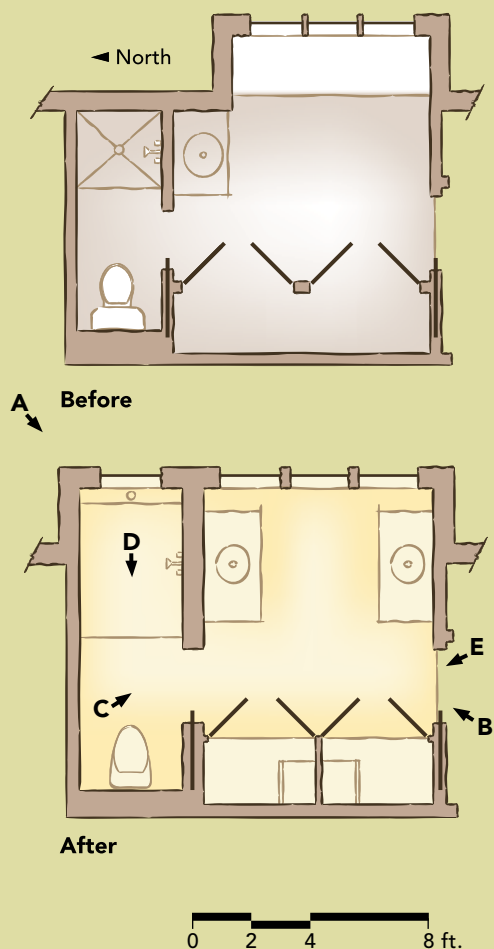
Enlarging an existing dormer improved the roofline and made space for twin vanities, a curbless shower, and a generous closet for two

Part bath, part dressing room

The original bath didn't quite fit the style of the house (photo left). Now, furniture-grade vanities face one another, daylit by big windows overlooking the garden. The west wall is all closet space, and the travertine-tile floor is heated with an electric mat. Photos taken at B on floor plan.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG PAYOFF

The new bathroom has the same layout as the old—toilet and shower in one area, sinks and closets in another—but two small improvements worked significant wonders. Widening the dormer by 4 ft. increased head height in the toilet/shower space, and adding another window brought in more natural light.



Photos taken at lettered positions.



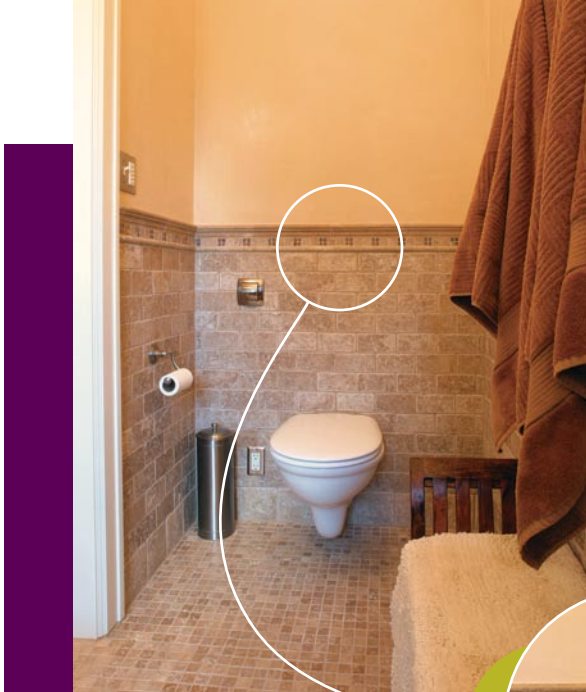
Curbless shower with a view. Without the typical divider between the shower and the room, curbless showers make spaces seem larger. They are easier to clean and are safer than traditional showers because there is no curb to step over when the floor is wet and slippery. Photo taken at C on floor plan.

Warmed by radiant-heat elements underneath, the floor is paved with **tumbled travertine mosaics**, balancing texture and scale with the larger wall tile.

GREAT IDEA

HIDDEN ACCESS PANEL

By mounting three tiles on a piece of plywood, contractor Jay Lane created a removable access panel that blends in with the tile wainscoting behind the toilet. Metal clips on the back of the panel stick to a pair of magnets mounted to the wall framing. The magnets secured the panel while Jay “grouted” it in place with silicone caulk followed by a thin layer of the sanded grout used throughout the bath. You can’t tell the panel apart from the rest of the wall; but if access to the toilet tank is ever needed, the sealant can be cut with a utility knife and the panel popped out without disturbing the rest of the tile. Photo taken at D on floor plan.



1



2



3



solution came by way of a new dormer and an opportunity to enhance the traditional architecture of the house.

Take the roof to the ridge

The new plan kept the original bathroom layout intact: toilet and shower in one area, sinks and closets in another (floor plans, facing page). Our decision to widen the dormer by 4 ft. and add a fourth window gained much-needed head height for the toilet/shower space, and flooded the bathroom with natural light. The new dormer has a much steeper roof, in keeping with the aesthetics of the house.

Next to the windows, two vanities face each other under a vaulted ceiling. The wall space above each sink is wide enough to accommodate large mirrors that conceal the medicine cabinets. Each one is flanked by wall-mounted sconces.

The other section of the new bath features a wall-mounted toilet by Duravit (www.duravit.com). Floor tile slides underneath the toilet with no interruption, making the area seem a bit larger; it’s also easier to clean. The toilet tank is concealed in the wall. Typically, access to the tank is through a plastic panel mounted behind the toilet. However, such a panel didn’t contribute to the traditional Craftsman feeling we were after. The contractor had an inge-

nious alternative: removable tiles (“Great Idea,” above).

Mahogany and travertine set the tone

Like other Craftsman homes of its era, this one has tile and stain-grade wood detailing throughout. We used similar materials in the bathroom but stepped it up a notch with tumbled travertine subway tile for the wainscot; stone mosaics and tile chair-rail molding create a warm band of color at the top. The tile continues into the shower/toilet space, where it nearly reaches the ceiling in the wet area.

The floor is tiled with tumbled travertine mosaics, balancing texture and scale with larger wall tile. The Mayberrys wake up to a warm floor courtesy of radiant-heating elements (www.nuheat.com) under the tile.

To re-create the look and feel of a traditional Craftsman room, we designed custom-made sink vanities, medicine cabinets, and closet doors of Honduras mahogany. Like furniture from the Craftsman era, the vanities have flush inset doors and drawers. Although less expensive, overlay doors and drawers just wouldn’t look right in this context. □

Lisa Christie is a principal at Prototype Architecture LLC (www.prototypepdx.com) in Portland, Ore. Photos by Charles Miller, except where noted.



A wall of closets. Behind bifold mahogany doors with full-length beveled-glass mirrors, the entire west wall of the bath is given over to storage. The combination of the new windows, the mirrored doors, and the vanity mirrors can make the whole room seem like it has windows everywhere. Photo taken at E on floor plan.