

Master Bath Flip-flop

A simple mistake turns a modest fixture upgrade into a more spacious bathroom

BY GREG SCHMIDT

When their shower started leaking, Minneapolis residents Jessica and Rich took it as an opportunity to upgrade their narrow, L-shaped master bath. At the very least, they wanted to replace the room's 1950s-era fixtures with some that would match their Craftsman home.

When a nonbearing wall behind the toilet was removed inadvertently during demolition, a 9-sq.-ft. void was revealed under a portion of the roof—and the possibility of gaining a little more room in the 45-sq.-ft. bath emerged. Jessica and Rich quickly decided that the best use for the new space was an expanded shower, which would mean flipping the locations of the existing shower and toilet.

The first challenge was a large window in what would become the exterior wall of the shower. Rather than disturbing the house's stucco exterior, we installed glass block inside the window and refitted the existing storm window with frosted glass for privacy. The second challenge was that the new position of the toilet required running a 3-in. waste line through several joists. We handled this by reinforcing the affected joists with plywood gussets to the inspector's satisfaction.

In the expanded space, we built a shower measuring 3 ft. wide by 6½ ft. deep that features a 17-in.-wide bench, a niche for shampoo, and a rainhead shower with a detachable handheld wand. Additional improvements included spray-foam insulation, electric in-floor heat, a 100-cfm fan, and enough lighting to show off every corner.

Greg Schmidt is president of Home Restoration Services Inc. in Minneapolis. Photos by Troy Thies, except where noted.



Period perfect.
A tall vanity maximizes drawer space. Its traditional base, marble top, and surrounding subway tile match the architectural qualities of the early 1900s home.





A more spacious shower. Relocating the shower where it could be extended under the roof meant a larger, better-lit showering space with room for a niche and a bench.

DETAILS

Sink Porcher Petite Marquee undermount, porcher-us.com

Faucet Jaclo Roaring '20s widespread with lever handle, jaclo.com

Toilet Toto Guinevere, totousa.com

Showerhead Hansgrohe 28471001, hansgrohe-usa.com

Hand shower and other shower components jaclo.com

Sconces Hudson Valley Lighting Abington, hudsonvalleylighting.com

Ceiling fixture Hudson Valley Lighting Chandler

Floor tile Minnesota Tile and Stone Blanco venatino honed marble, mntile.com

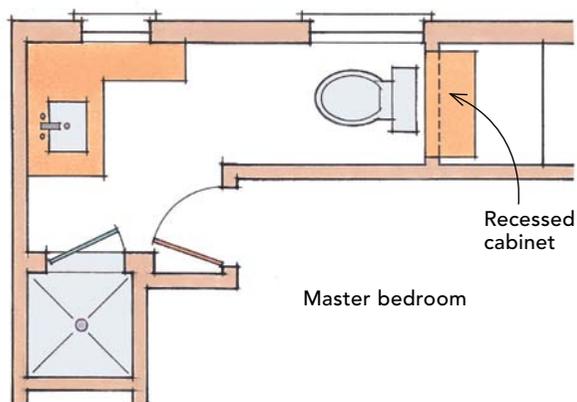
Wall tile Streamline Arctic Field 3x6 subway with marble cap, mntile.com

Ventilation Panasonic FV11VQ5 100-cfm fan, panasonic.com

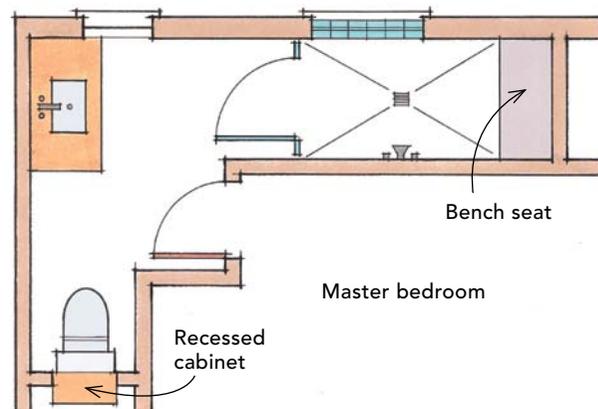
Location Minneapolis

Designer Greg Schmidt

Builder Home Restoration Services Inc., homerestorationinc.com



Before



After

0 2 4 8 ft.