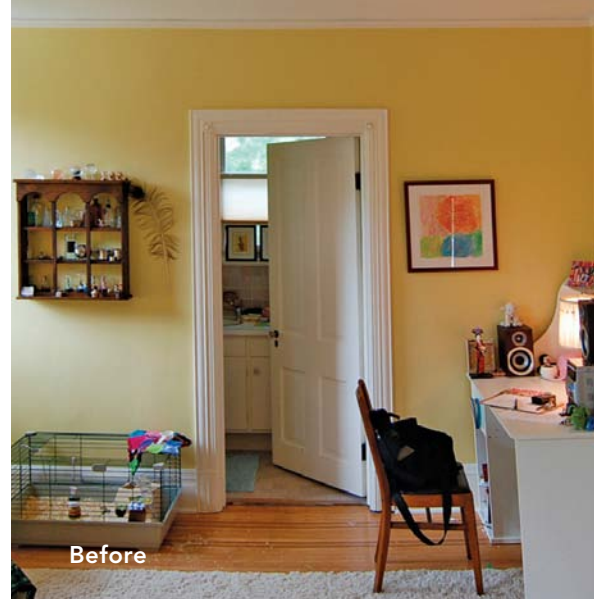


The See-through Bath

Pocket doors allow a view from the bedroom, through a beautiful bath, to the outdoors



BY EDIE SEBESTA

In 2007, a family of five moved into this historic home. Content to leave it as it was, they added only a few personal touches. During a harsh winter, however, a pipe burst, which led to their decision to remodel this bathroom, a full bath off one of their daughters' bedrooms, that was overdue for an upgrade anyway.

The existing bathroom was shoehorned into a small rectangular space. It was dark, had little storage, and was interrupted by an obtrusive in-swing door. A 1950s tub took up lots of space but provided little functionality, and it had no shower. The laminate vanity had a stainless-steel drop-in sink and a faucet similar to what you might find in a 1980s kitchen. Finally, the lighting was insufficient and unbalanced.

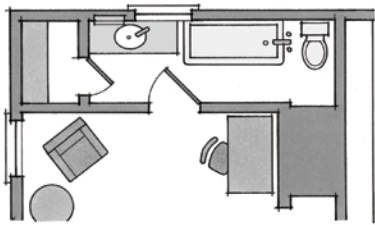
The biggest impact on the bathroom was our decision to replace the swinging door with double pocket doors. The pocket doors open the bathroom to the bedroom in a much bigger way, offering better circulation into and inside of the bath while keeping the bedroom wall outside the bath clear for furniture. They also allow the vanity to be seen from the bedroom, offering a shimmering view of the backsplash and the tall mirrors flanking the window and the decorative vessel sink below it. On one end of the bathroom is a toilet room with its own door, and on the other end is a new walk-in shower. Unlike the vanity, both are hidden from the bedroom. The spaces now share natural light, and the bath feels much less claustrophobic.



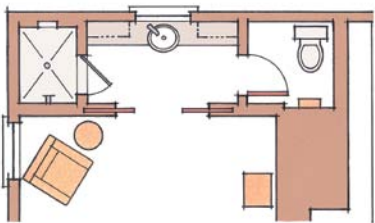
"Before" photo: courtesy of the author. Floor-plan drawings: Martha Garstang Hill.

The bath provides a fresh, youthful look while keeping with the traditional style of the historic home. Hexagon floor tiles, traditional millwork, and new trim all tie into the home's original character. Blue glass tiles for the shower and backsplash give the space texture and a personal, contemporary touch. The lighting is a combination of recessed cans and sleek pendants. The cans provide general illumination for the space, and the pendants add soft and warm light at the mirrors. The pendants' style and brushed-nickel finish (the same finish used for all of the fixtures), along with the light-colored painted surfaces, enlivens the new bath.

The white subway tiles used on the walls and the hex tiles used on the floor are simple, quintessentially traditional, and readily available at any budget. With



Before



After

these as the general field tiles, we were able to splurge a little on the blue mosaic tiles for a splash of color at the most visible walls. The simple pendants, manufactured recycled countertop, and vessel sink were also reasonably priced and allowed us to focus some of our budget on infrastructure—new plumbing and insulation at the exterior walls to prevent the same frozen-pipe disaster that brought us to this bathroom remodel to begin with. □

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Mutually beneficial. Opening the bath to the bedroom with double pocket doors improves flow and benefits both rooms with a feeling of spaciousness and shared natural light. Pushing the toilet to one end of the bath and the shower to the other allows the bedroom to benefit from a view of the vanity and through the bathroom windows to the trees beyond.

DETAILS

Counter Icestone Sky Pearl

Shower glass DreamLine

Showerhead Moen

Sink Mansfield Monet

Faucet Fontaine Vessel Sink Filler

Light fixtures Westin Lighting