

BY GENIE NOWICKI

I've worked as the designer on enough projects to know that remodeling is a fickle process. Nervous homeowners, discontinued products, and unforeseen construction obstacles are just some of the late-breaking curveballs thrown at a remodeling contractor. What happened on this job, though, was unique.

Midway through a major remodel of their home, the owners, who were happy with the plans and the progress so far, learned that they soon would have another child. The additional family member warranted an additional bathroom, and they wondered if I could work it into the plans.

I was willing to try, but it was going to be tricky. The homeowners had asked that the remodel not add any square footage to the house nor take away existing living space. They wanted to stick to that plan, and I wanted to honor their budget. Among their other requests were to have plenty of counter and storage space and natural light in each bathroom; a large shower in the master bath; a tub in the chil-

KIDS' BATH

A small tub makes the most of this small bathroom. The curved hotel-style curtain rod creates a little extra elbow room for adults who use the shower. With a Hansgrohe shower bar, the showerhead adjusts for bathers of all sizes. Photo taken at A on floor plan.

Two Baths From One

dren's bathroom; and of course, beautiful finishes throughout.

Shared wall optimizes available space

A bathroom with a standard shower-over-tub, a toilet, and a single-sink vanity requires at least 35 sq. ft. (a 5-ft. by 7-ft. room). Additional storage requires more space, and a typical master bath with two sinks, a tub, and a separate shower requires considerably more space.

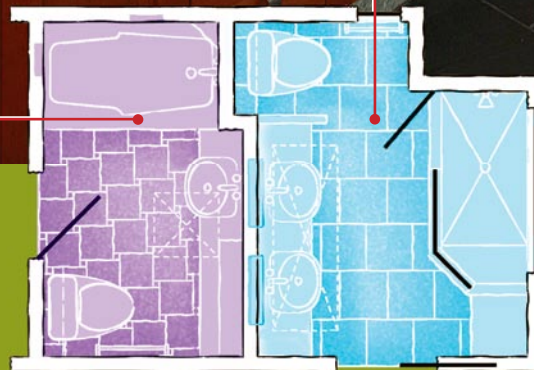
Fortunately, one of the existing bathrooms was atypically large, about 127 sq. ft. (floor plan, p. 48). If I wanted to get an additional bathroom into the house, I had to divide this space in two. To make the design work, I separated the master bath from the children's bathroom with a 2x6 wall. True, every inch counts, and a 2x4 wall would have saved floor space. But it would have been a tight fit for all the pipes required by the three sinks, the toilet, and the tub/shower that share the wall.

At a minimum, codes require 15 in. on each side of the center-line of a toilet and 24 in. clear in front of a toilet. A bit more space is much more comfortable. The toilet in the master bath was going to be a tight fit, so I created



MASTER BATH

A creative arrangement squeezes the master bath into a small space. Recessed into the wall, the 6-in.-deep medicine cabinets don't crowd the shallow vanity. The Whitehaus semirecessed full-size sinks maintain convenience stylishly. Photo taken at B on floor plan.



Born from one tired old space are master and kids' bathrooms full of style, storage, and daylight

a jog in the plumbing wall with the toilet in the master bath on one side and the tub/shower in the kids' bathroom on the other. A 60-in.-long tub fit nicely between the walls in the children's bathroom, leaving 29 in. in front of the master-bath toilet. To provide plenty of elbow room for adults who might use the smaller shower in the kids' bath, I installed a curved, hotel-style shower-curtain rod (photo p. 46).

Because the vanities share the interior wall, I was able to use the outside wall in the master bath for a sunlit walk-in shower. I angled the shower's outside corner to maintain a graceful entry into the room. The glass surround lends an open feel to the narrow space, a perception enhanced by custom-built cabinetry.

Shallow cabinets buy floor space

To maintain a reasonable amount of floor space in each bathroom without sacrificing storage, I designed shallow cabinets for the vanities and for the wall over each

toilet. In the master bath, the vanity cabinets are only 12 in. deep; an 8-in.-deep cabinet fits in the wall recess above the toilet. Next to the shower is a full-height linen closet with a vented pullout hamper at the base (see "Great Ideas," p. 20) and roll-out shelves above. In the children's bathroom, the vanity cabinet is 15 in. deep and includes pullout hampers. Shallow wall cabinets to the right of the sink and above the toilet provide more storage.

Two things make these shallow cabinets work: drawers with full-extension slides and semi-recessed sinks. Most toiletries fit in small drawers; full-extension slides let you access even the smallest items that are pushed to the back of the drawer. Although the semirecessed sinks were a challenge for the stone-countertop fabricators, their design allows a full-size sink to be installed in a shallow vanity.

When space is limited, you can look to the wall cavity for help (see "Design Gallery," p. 101). I recessed the 6-in.-deep master-

bath medicine cabinets into the stud bays of the wall so that they wouldn't overhang the narrow countertop. Because the kids' bath has plenty of storage, I was able to substitute a full-wall mirror for a medicine cabinet.

A variety of tiles enhance the countertop

Selecting bathroom finishes is a challenge for any homeowner. But again, this project presented a unique situation. The homeowners chose a single slab of green-and-black granite to be used for all the bathroom countertops. It was up to me to select tile that complemented the stone and gave each bathroom a distinct look and feel (see "Drawing Board," p. 116).

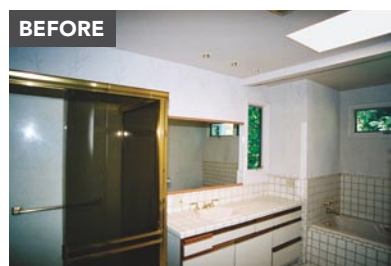
In the master bath, I used 12-in.-square Ming-green, polished-marble tiles for the shower, with the same stone cut to 4-in.-square tiles for better traction on the shower floor. As an accent in the shower and at the vanity backsplash, I used black polished-granite tile in a running-bond

(offset) pattern. This pattern repeats in the 16-in.-square matte-black slate tiles used on the floor. The backsplash and floor tiles not only complement the countertop granite but also highlight the rich cherry cabinetry.

In the kids' bathroom, I used 8-in. by 10-in. white ceramic tiles as a wainscot around the room and for the tub/shower surround. A band of 1-in.-square glass tiles in three different colors repeats the greens and grays found in the countertop. The three colors were placed randomly to accentuate the room's playfulness. The floor is set in a pinwheel pattern, using 12-in.-square matte-gray ceramic tiles and 2-in.-square black tumbled-marble inlays. With the light palette of tile and cabinetry, this interior bathroom stays bright and cheerful, particularly when sun shines through the skylight.

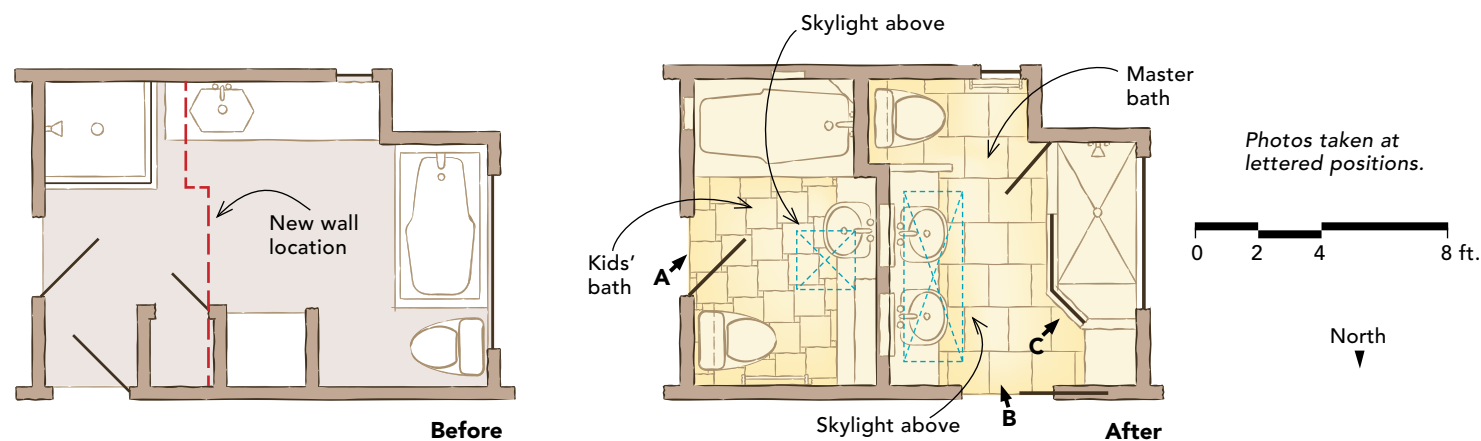
Skylights wash the rooms in sunlight

Getting natural light into the master bathroom was no prob-



A JOG IN THE WALL, AND EVERYTHING FITS INTO PLACE

Although the original bathroom was particularly large, about 127 sq. ft. (photo left), there was little room to spare when it was split in two. Dividing the space with a straight wall didn't work, but with a slight jog, a tub fit perfectly in the new kids' bathroom and left adequate clearance for the master-bath toilet. Squeezing the plumbing for three sinks, a toilet, and a tub/shower into one wall was another feat accomplished with detailed schematic drawings and good communication with the plumber.





MASTER BATH

lem. We updated the two existing windows and modified the existing skylight to wash the room in sunlight. When night falls, recessed cans provide ambient lighting, and halogen sconces above the vanity soften shadows and provide task lighting.

Without exterior walls, bringing natural light into the children's bathroom was more challenging. Because of intricate roof framing in the attic above, a traditional skylight was

out of the question. The solution was a modified Sun Tunnel tubular skylight (sidebar right). Halogen sconce lights mounted on the mirror above the vanity and recessed can lights in the ceiling brighten the space even more. □

Genie Nowicki is a certified kitchen, bath, and interior designer for Harrell Remodeling in Mountain View, Calif. Photos by Brian Pontolilo.

In the sunlit walk-in shower, you can choose the type of showerhead you like best. The glass surround creates an open feeling in the narrow bathroom. Photo taken at C on floor plan.

KIDS' BATH



A hybrid skylight brightens a windowless bath

To capture the open feeling of a splayed skylight well without the expense of installing a traditional skylight, a Sun Tunnel tubular skylight (www.suntunnel.com) was installed in a splayed well. The Sun Tunnel's flexible tube bends around existing roof framing to bring natural light into this interior bathroom. The tube terminates inside an 18-in.-deep by 30-in.-wide opening. For more on tubular skylights, see *FHB* #180, pp. 50-54.

