

## In character

An all-new master bath preserves the vintage appeal of a 109-year-old house

BY KATE WOOD • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA RUGG

➔ **OLD-HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS** Yvette Soignier and Caroline Schnieders knew they wanted a forever home with a sense of history. They quickly found a 1908 foursquare in St. Paul that had the character and quality of the workmanship they prized—but only one bathroom on the bedroom floor. Getting more space for their growing family had been a factor in the couple’s decision to relocate from Berkeley, California. While their new place had plenty of square footage, they knew that undersized bath wouldn’t be enough for long.

So before making their cross-country move, Yvette and Caroline chose to convert a fourth bedroom to a master bath. “We’ve lived in houses during renovations, so removing that whole aspect was actually a relief,” Yvette says. “And our second child was born during the planning phase, so we had plenty of other things to worry about!” Fortunately, they had tremendous confidence in their design-build contractors, Zoe Kardasis Sturtz and Ryan Sturtz. Technology facilitated the cross-time-zone collaboration, with constant communication by Skype, text, e-mail, and phone. By the time the family packed for the road trip to Minnesota, the bath was nearly ready for the big reveal. “When we finally saw it,” Yvette says, “we were thrilled with the result. It’s beautiful—and spacious!”

**BEFORE:** Looking ahead to their sons’ teen years, the homeowners opted to lose a fourth bedroom rather than update the second floor’s existing bath. The original doors and hardware were reused in the new space.

**AFTER:** Vintage-style details, including pedestal sinks, chrome faucets, wood medicine cabinets, and a black-and-white tile scheme give the bath a classic feel. *Paint: Benjamin Moore’s Palladian Blue (walls)*

Hex-tile floors with floral accents are frequently found in the neighborhood's period homes. Another Minnesotan must-have? Radiant-floor heat. Floor tile: American Olean



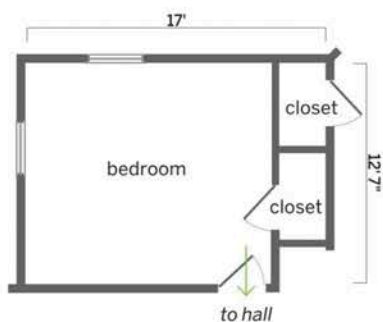
Bringing the bath's vintage-style details into the modern era: a steam shower finished with a frameless glass door and glass shelves in the storage niche. Shower fittings: Kohler. Wall tile: Daltile

## after

Moving an interior wall and closing up an entry allowed for a master bath with ample storage and comfortable flow

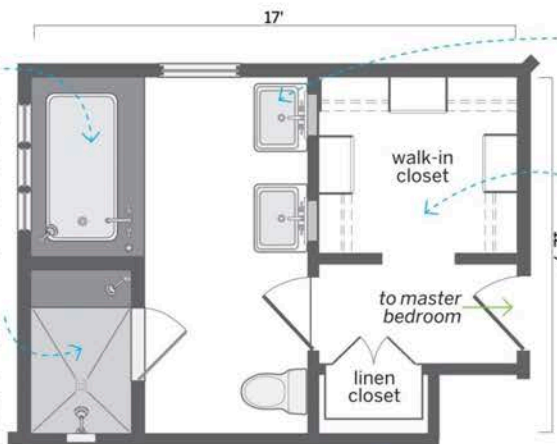
## before

A spare bedroom had plenty of square footage for the planned master bath



1] Put the tub in the far corner, swapping one window for three smaller ones installed higher up for privacy.

2] Placed the shower across from the entry, continuing the floor tile into the shower to create a spacious feeling.



3] Added twin pedestal sinks for a light, airy look.

4] Created one large walk-in closet where two had been; it is open to a vestibule that has doors to both the master bedroom and bath.

5] Closed up an entry door to add a linen closet.



The tub's honed-granite deck complements the room's black-and-white palette. Three small awning windows replaced an existing double-hung, letting in lots of light while preserving privacy. *Windows: Marvin*

Along with the new linen closet, custom medicine cabinets recessed into the wall help make up for the lack of vanity storage. Milk-glass sconces with black pinstripes echo the tilework. *Sconces: Schoolhouse Electric*



Caroline Schnieders and Yvette Soignier originally met in the Twin Cities and knew the area had what they wanted: less noise, kid-friendly spaces, and, of course, old houses.

# directory

JUNE 2017

**COVER** See the listing for "Bright Ideas."

**HOME SOLUTIONS** (pp. 11–14) **Ants! There oughta be a law** > Thanks to Michael Burkett, MGK, mgk.com; Dr. Jim Fredericks, National Pest Management Association, npmapestworld.org. **How to mix wood and tile** > Thanks to Sheoga Hardwood Flooring & Paneling, sheogaflooring.com; Cleveland Hardwood Restoration, clevelandhardwoodrestoration.com; All State Remodeling Ltd., allstateremodeling.net; SuzAnn Kletzien Design, suzannkletzien.com.

**BEFORE + AFTER: BATH** **In character** (pp. 17–19) **Design-build contractors:** Zoe Kardasis Sturtz and Ryan Sturtz, Edit Design Build Studio, Minneapolis; editdesignbuild.com. **Plumbing:** Genz-Ryan Plumbing & Heating, Burnsville, MN; genzryan.com. **Electric:** Brothers Electric Co., Minneapolis; brotherselectricinc.com. **Tub:** Tea-for-Two 66×36-inch drop-in bath; kohler.com. **Tub deck and shower bench:** Honed granite in Absolute Black, Minnesota Tile & Stone; mntile.com. **Sinks:** Promenade Pedestal Lavatory; totousa.com.

**BUDGET REDO** **Welcoming front porch for \$286** (p. 20) **Homeowner's blog:** creativelylivingblog.com.

**PAINT IDEAS** **The henna treatment** (pp. 23–24) **Designer:** Brittany Bailey; prettyhandygirl.com.

**PHOTOSHOP REDO** **Reinventing a split-level** (p. 40) **Thanks to** Brad Sechrist, Helman Sechrist Architecture, Elkhart, IN; helmansechrist.com.

**BUILD IT** **Make a cedar planter** (pp. 42–46) **Jig:** Kreg Jig K5; kregtool.com.

**WEEKEND REMODEL** **Build a fire pit patio** (pp. 48–51) **Landscape contractor:** A. Bonadio & Sons, Waltham, MA; abstoday.com. **Landscape design:** Nawada Landscape Design, Boston; nawadalandscape.com.

**ASK THIS OLD HOUSE** (pp. 53–58) **Get the rust out** > Thanks to Scott Harmon, Aquion, aquion.com; Lars Erikson, Premier Water Technologies, premierwatermn.com. **Fix for cracked concrete steps** > Thanks to Mark McCullough, MJM Masonry, Arlington, MA, mjmmasonry.com.

**BRIGHT IDEAS** (pp. 62–69) **Architect:** Robert Baumann + Associates, Sonoma, CA; robertbaumann.com. **General contractor and cabinetry:** Horizon Builders and Home Renovation, Sonoma, CA; horizonbuilders.us.com. **Interior designer:** Kim Browning, Sonoma, CA; kimbrowningdesign.com. **Kitchen** > **Wall tile:** Interceramic; interceramicusa.com. **Dishwasher:** kitchenaid.com. **Range, oven, and microwave:** vikingrange.com. **Upholstery fabric:** sunbrella.com. **Cabinet pulls and knobs:** rejuvenation.com. **Ceiling light above sink:** slamp.com.

**SMALL WONDER** (pp. 70–77) **Lightning-bolt finial:** Mark Griffis, Buffalo, NY; 716-364-4466; murliman@hotmail.com. **Glass plate flowers (near garage):** ArtGlassAndMore, Orchard Park, NY; etsy.com/shop/artglassandmore. **Ceramic totem fountain (in kitchen garden):** Peter Goergen, JPG Pottery, Allegany, NY; 716-951-0172.

**FRESH START** (pp. 78–81) **Architect:** Steve Swarengen, The Architects Office, Berkeley, CA; thearchitectsoffice.com. **General contractor and custom cabinetry:** Jeff King & Company, San Francisco; jeffkingandco.com. **Paint:** Bryant Gold (walls), Swiss Coffee (cabinets and ceiling), and Briarwood (island); benjaminmoore.com. **Backsplash:** Hamptons tile in Reed; bedrosians.com. **Barstools:** roomandboard.com. **Dishwasher:** bosch-home.com. **Microwave:** sharpusa.com. **Range, vent hood, ovens, and refrigerator:** subzero-wolf.com. **Pendant lights:** bellacor.com. **Cushion fabric:** Boundary in Seagrove; maharam.com. **Custom table:** sfreclaimedtable.com. **Main sink:** kraususa.com. **Bar sink:** kohler.com. **Faucets:** grohe.com.

**READ THIS BEFORE YOU REDO YOUR ROOF** (pp. 82–87) **Thanks to** Bonnie Krims, Bonnie Krims Color Studio, Concord, MA, bonniekrims.com; Chad Collins, Bone Dry Roofing Company, Athens, GA, bonedryroofing.net; Myles F. Kelly, mylesfkelly.com.

**SAVE THIS OLD HOUSE** (p. 98) **Thanks to** Todd Zeiger, Northern Regional Office Director, Indiana Landmarks; indianalandmarks.org. 🏠

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