

Three smart plans for small baths



1 BATH COLONIZES ATTIC

My clients hired me to reconfigure the upstairs bathroom in their 80-year-old house in Alameda, Calif. The bath suffered from the usual old-house drawbacks, such as low ceilings, a small window, and a toilet of great prominence.

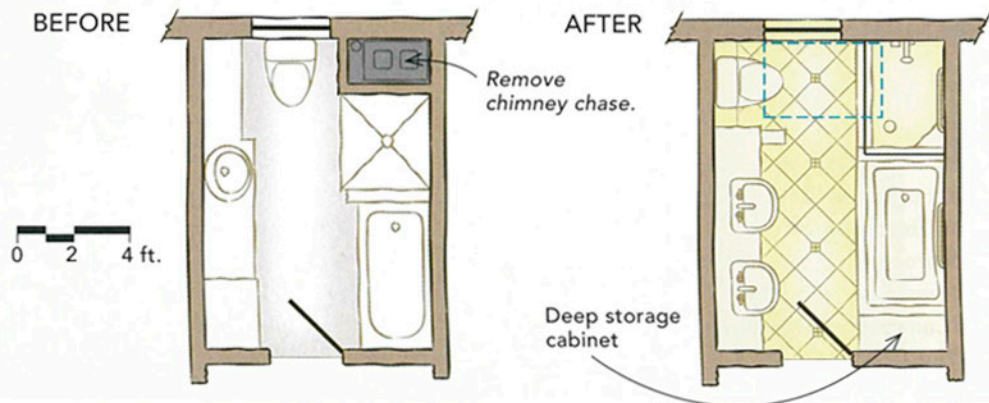
The homeowners wanted a larger bath, but I couldn't move the walls. They wanted more daylight, but local design restrictions forbade window changes. They also wanted more storage, but they disliked the number of cabinets already in the bath. The plan drawings and the photo show how I solved all these problems.

I started by removing the chimney and its chase in the corner of the old bath. It served the water heater, which was replaced with a through-the-wall direct-vent version in the basement. Then we took the ceiling upward into the attic, with a curving, barrel-vault shape that is a big hit with the 6-ft. 7-in. man of the house. A skylight in the barrel vault floods the shower with daylight. To solve the storage challenge, custom cabinets under the sinks and a deep cabinet with full-extension slides in the hall-side corner fill the bill. —Kurt Lavenson

Design: Kurt Lavenson, Oakland, Calif.

Construction: Marco Fortier, Fortier Builders, Oakland, Calif.

Photos: Charles Miller; Kevin Milroy (before)



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