

## corner-pocket micro move

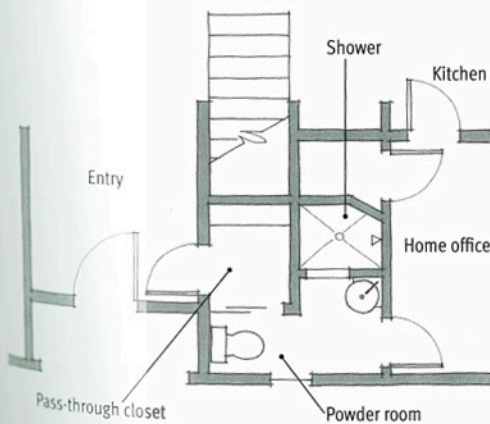


**A**lthough architect Kurt Lavenson and his wife, designer Lesly Avedisian, often work on large, elaborate projects, they consider themselves minimalists. When they turned to the tiny space under the stairs in their own 1920s house in Oakland, they intended to practice what they preach. Under the stairs already was a full (if tiny) bath, with a commode and sink used by guests as a powder room. Kurt and Lesly focused their attention on an 18-in. by 18-in. pocket of space beside the shower. They removed a rusty metal sink and a medicine cabinet with flaking silver and proceeded to outfit the little corner with the charm of the diminutive bathrooms on vintage European trains.

They chose nice but mid-priced fixtures and plumbing components and didn't try to hide them. Nearly all the items are standard, from the mirror to the faucet to the sink. The exception—albeit a modest one—is the custom stainless-steel countertop bracket that supports the sink. (The bracket almost had to be custom because the corner is so out of square.) For guests, the corner sink is a delightful surprise that puts a smile on their faces. Kurt says the corner remodeling gets more comments from visitors than some of his projects that are 100 times its size.

Tucked behind a door under the stairs is just enough space for a Hobbit-sized sink that stops visitors in their tracks. It's not the quantity that counts but the quality. In fact, people often delight in the diminutive.

Guests reach the powder room from the entry hall through an arched door that mimics the front door in miniature. They pass through a closet space and open a pocket door to discover the little sink. So they're doubly surprised: first, that there's a powder room at all beyond the closet, and then with the Lilliputian scale of the vanity area.



Sarah Susanka and Marc Vassallo



# not so big remodeling

Tailoring Your Home for  
the Way You Really Live

From the author of *The Not So Big House*

# not so big remodeling



KURT LAVENSON

In *NOT SO BIG REMODELING*, best-selling author Sarah Susanka reveals that with small, thoughtful changes the home you live in can be the home you love. Susanka, along with co-author Marc Vassallo, challenges conventional remodeling

wisdom by offering solutions beyond mere square footage. Instead of thinking “bigger” with a vast addition, Susanka encourages us to think “better,” revealing a more sustainable process that evaluates existing space to determine your true remodeling needs.

Rather than gutting a kitchen, consider removing a wall to connect it to the surrounding spaces and create a more open floor plan. Instead of adding on a new family room, see how a modest “bump out” and a little interior reconfiguring can solve your space challenges in a more attractive and cost-effective way. *Not So Big Remodeling* guides your project with an architect’s eye so you get the most out of the home you love by tailoring it to fit the way you *really* live.