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MASTER BATHS FOR TWO
More Space, Less Stress p. 110

shared legacy

A bath in a 1920s home is remodeled to serve the needs of two teen girls, leaving them an inheritance of traditional style.

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Salle de Bains



THIS PHOTO: Shareable space and sophisticated style meet in a bath used by two teen girls. The double vanity offers lots of room to groom.

OPPOSITE: Marble and tile provide subtle color and pattern throughout.



Honoring the traditional style of a 1920s suburban Minneapolis home while creating a bath for two teenage girls to share is a tall order. But architect Jean Rehkamp Larson and designer Carol Belz did it in short order by reallocating space and relying on a sophisticated look.

Annexing a bedroom closet let the team expand an existing bath without adding on. The new layout includes a long double vanity, a tub alcove, and a walk-in "snail" shower that protects privacy and eases maintenance. "There's no glass door to clean," Belz says.

Storage space, an important issue in a shared bath, was calculated right down to the dimensions of toiletries, which are stowed in two sets of graduated-depth vanity drawers. "We talked about the preferences of the girls and what they wanted," Belz says. "We liked that spa feel and knew we had to make it accessible as a shared bath."

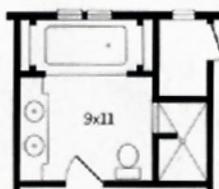
But the biggest challenge was imbuing the bath with the same grace and architectural detail evident in the rest of the home. The use of built-ins,

furniture-style cabinetry, and moldings goes a long way toward achieving that goal. The crowning glory is the arch over the tub. "The two windows above the tub were existing," Rehkamp Larson says. "We introduced the arch around the tub and tucked in shelves at each end of the tub to give it the detail an old house would have. The arch centers the very luxurious tub and creates the look that the tub was original to the home."

Crema Marfil marble, a beige stone, was chosen for the vanity countertop, tub deck, and floor. "The marble gives a light touch to the room, with subtle veining to add depth but not pattern," Belz says. Subway tile on the backsplash and shower walls conveys a 1920s feel.

The result is a simple yet sophisticated space that its users won't outgrow. "It's a traditional bathroom with the faucets, sconces, and cabinetry details all based on an English-style bathroom but simplified." **KD**

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Mirror-mount sconces supplement abundant natural light. Recessed shelves at either end of the tub boost storage. The shower's "snail" design provides privacy without the need for a door. Traditional English style influenced the look of the bath, including the Edwardian tub filler. OPPOSITE: Architect Jean Rehkamp Larson and designer Carol Belz created an alcove for the tub, incorporating two existing windows.



Take-Home Tip
Use paint, fabric treatments, and decorative grille inserts to inexpensively transform old bath windows.