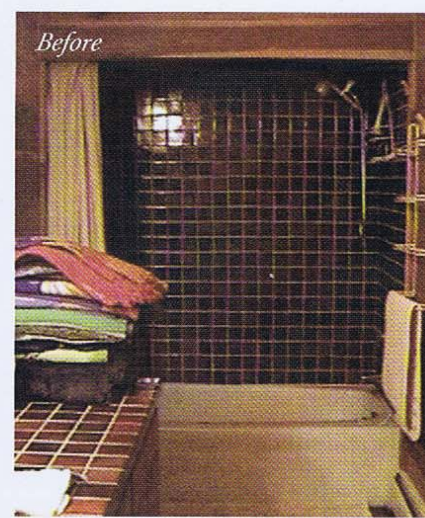


Cedar paneling darkened the space.



The tub was removed in favor of a walk-in shower.

Remodelers Corner

BY KIMBERLY VAN BRUNT

After

Sharon Van de North didn't want to just "brighten up" her dark, dated bathroom. "I wanted the feeling of walking on the beach, and walking into the ocean."

Previously, the bathroom was anything but inspiring. The cedar paneling on the walls and lack of sufficient light made the narrow space seem enclosed, dark and uninteresting.

An authentic hand-painted sink (hand-carried home from Mexico) served as the primary inspiration for the floor-to-ceiling remodel. Karen Blissenbach of Design Studio B, the designer and general contractor on the project, incorporated the bright blue and terracotta colors from the sink bowl into the wall color and mosaic tile in the shower enclosure and sink backsplash. "We had the one-inch blue mosaic tile custom-color-blended, so that it isn't all the same color blue – there are a few

shade variations," says Karen.

The unique details don't stop there. The floor is vertical-carbonized bamboo. The custom cabinetry looks more like free-standing furniture, and inset in the cabinet panels are translucent onyx tiles that are lit from behind. "The tiles are really organic-looking, so you get this really warm light," Sharon says.

Blissenbach countered the use of the deep colors with plenty of light to keep the space bright and inviting. "There are a lot of layers of light in this bathroom," Karen says. "There's the light over the vanity sink, the accent lighting in the onyx panels, the overhead light and the shower light."

The shower is Sharon's favorite feature of the renovated room, and it accomplishes her original goal: "I love walking into this brilliant, blue shower," she says. "It feels like you're walking right into the sky."

- Subcontractors & Suppliers:**
Cabinetry – Nigon Woodworks
Carpentry – Terry Flowers
Electric – Winkles Electric
Glass Shower – K & M Glass
Grab Bars – Barrier Free Access
Light Fixture – Northern Lights
Painter – Gary Michaels
Plumbing – Roger Eink Plumbing
Plumbing Fixture – Ferguson Enterprises
Tile – Dal Tile
Tile Setter – Howard Finely
Wood Floor – Hiller's Flooring America

Contractor:

DESIGN STUDIO B
 (KAREN BLISSENBACH,
 DESIGN PRINCIPAL)

Homeowners:

SHARON VAN DE NORTH &
 LEE KNIGHT

Project:

BATHROOM REMODEL

Before photos courtesy of Design Studio B. After photos by Ellington Miller Bandel.