



before

after



before



after

Remodelers Corner

BY LAURA THEOBALD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLIVE JUICE STUDIOS

When Sharon Van de North remodeled her master bathroom, she made some unusual requests.

First, she removed her luxurious Jacuzzi bathtub. Second, to fill its place she decided to wrestle a one-ton cast-iron tub up a flight of stairs. "The previous owners had this Japanese - Frank Lloyd Wright thing going on," Sharon said. "And they had a teeny bathroom and an enormous Jacuzzi tub."

The Jacuzzi consumed more than half the bathroom, which made bathing her 4- and 1-year-old grandchildren a problem. "I realized when I was giving them a bath that they were literally yards away," she said.

So she decided to go back to basics. She wanted a warm, country saloon feel, based on a chandelier she had found.

Next, she found her tub. It's circa 1920s, and though they retrofit it with modern fixtures, the tub is an original antique. It now faces the large windows and the dense trees beyond, so the bather can take advantage of the Van de North's wooded lot.

A farmhouse-style sink followed. It also weighs a ton, Sharon said.

Because the bathroom is so small, Karen Blissenbach at Design Studio B had to use all the space she could. She added a tip-back garbage, custom cabinetry and some unique lighting to personalize the bathroom for the Van de Norths. The terra cotta tile is authentic, Karen said, and blends well with the robin's-egg-blue painted walls.

"It was such a dramatic transformation," Karen said. "Without adding square footage we were able to really open up the space."

Sharon is thankful for Karen's understanding of her goals.

"She didn't think it was odd that I wanted an old tub or to build a room around a chandelier," Sharon said. "Or tear out a big Jacuzzi." §

Laura Theobald is a reporter for the Owatonna People's Press and a freelance writer around the area.

Out with the Jacuzzi, in with the antique tub.

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Contractor:

DESIGN STUDIO B

Homeowner:

SHARON VAN DE NORTH

Project:

MASTER BATH REMODEL