

# homes



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Featured home of the week See page 3



Note how the back of the new vanity for the master bath rises over seven feet high to be in proper proportion to the high slanting ceiling. Photo by Carrol Krause

## Remodel puts a shine on bathroom

Mary H. found her ideal contractor as a result of two calamitous basement floods in recent years. Glenn Harris of Harris Services was able to match carpet, stucco, trim and paint so carefully during renovation that no trace of damage could be detected afterwards. In addition to his team's careful finishing work, he brought in outside professionals to assess the foundation and examine the guttering.

"Our company started by doing catastrophe cleaning, restoration and insurance work," Glenn explained. "Following a water or fire loss, insurance companies only pay to put a home back to pre-loss condition. Our niche is that we'll go to great lengths to repair a home and make it look as if nothing ever happened, even if we have to custom-mill new trim to match existing trim."

The experience forged a relationship of

**REMODEL,**  
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The bathtub stayed in place, but the old tiling was replaced by sleek cabinets that coordinate with the new vanity. Access panels to the plumbing are disguised beneath the cabinetry. Photo by Carrol Krause

## REMODEL

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great trust between homeowner and contractor. So when Mary recently contemplated updating her master bathroom, which was original to her 20-year-old home, she asked Glenn if he would like to branch out from flood repair to bid on the project. He was indeed interested.

Mary observed sagely, “Renovation is very daunting: the idea that you might make a mistake, hire the wrong guy. That fear keeps many people from renovating.” But she felt no such fear with Glenn and his team.

Both Glenn and Mary knew that such an important remodeling job could not be spontaneously improvised. The project needed an interior designer, and Mary knew exactly who she wanted for the job. Her good friend and neighbor, Yamini Hingorani, happens to be a professional interior designer, certified with the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ).

“Yamini has done lots of work for the hospitality industry (hotels and restaurants), so she has that aesthetic,” Mary observed. “I thought at first, do I want my bath to look like a hotel? But when you go away and sleep in a hotel, you feel great. And what’s wrong with that?”

Yamini is skilled at taking a client’s ideas and knitting them together into a cohesive whole, based on the available budget.

“Mary knew the look that she wanted, but she simply needed advice on how tall, how wide, what color,” Yamini noted.

“With a computer you can find the world’s resources for rugs, tiles, whatever. But they might not look

good together in your space. That’s how I can help.”

Although many contractors would automatically say “Bathroom update? We’ll tear every-

thing out and gut to the studs,” Glenn and Yamini felt that there was no reason to begin this way. Only the vanity, the floor, the wall colors and the exterior cladding of the tub

needed to be addressed; the bathtub, shower and toilet were still completely serviceable and quite attractive.

“Mary probably saved \$20,000 by not gutting,”

Glenn observed with approval.

“Why should I put this tub in a landfill?” Mary agreed.

Yamini’s new design was necessarily influenced by the asymmetrical shape of the sharply sloping bathroom ceiling. The original vanity and fixtures had been

dwarfed by the 11-foot high wall that rose above them.

She designed a new vanity that would extend sufficiently high (7’8”) to properly fill the space. The old cabinets had been pale wood with a pink-

balance in the room, the tub was clad in coordinating dark wood paneling, with hidden doors concealed in the panels that provide access to the plumbing.

Glenn asked one of the experts he relies upon to construct the elegant new cabinetry on both sides of the room:

Mark Hewins of the Hewins Cabinet Company. The drawers with their sleek brushed metal pulls incorporate full-extension self-closing hardware.

Mary loves the sea so the new bathroom includes sea motifs. The carpet patterns resemble anemones, and the focal point on the far wall is a photograph taken from the center of a huge curling wave.

The result: a glossy, sleek, contemporary bathroom with a hotel feel, which was done in a way that saved the homeowner an enormous amount of money.

Glenn and Yamini developed such a good professional relationship during Mary’s project that they are planning future collaborations.

“Kudos to Glenn and his operation!” Yamini said approvingly. “They executed my design and vision for Mary’s master bath seamlessly.”

“Why shouldn’t people have something fresh and new, even in this economy?” Mary said. “I’m so glad I had good people to help me stretch my dollars. I’m so pleased.”

Contact contractor Glenn Harris of Harris Services at 812-824-5055 or see [www.callharrisservices.com](http://www.callharrisservices.com). Contact interior designer Yamini Hingorani, ASID, at 812-335-1915 or 773-680-0999 and see her web site at [www.yaminidesigns.com](http://www.yaminidesigns.com).



**Top of the page:** Yamini’s master design included small decorative touches that have a big impact. Photo by Carrol Krause; **above:** Before the remodel, the 20-year-old bathroom had pink countertops and pale wood cabinetry. Courtesy photo; **left:** Even the vanity adjacent to the bathroom got a makeover; **right:** A still life in the corner of the tub. Photos by Carrol Krause

ish countertops, but the new look would be quite different: ! ” solid wood with inset mirrors, a dark finish and a high gloss; crystal sconces; crisp porcelain tile; coordinating granite countertops and muted wall colors.

To ensure a sense of