



Anatomy of a Master Bath ...

Bringing Inspiration to Life with Smart Choices

A custom tiled shower with glass doors and a sleek toilet provide functionality with style. Courtesy photos

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We've all seen examples of inspiring home design—only to discover the looks we love are beyond our budget.

But with creative design choices and the right professionals, you can get high-end design without breaking the bank.

In a recently completed master bath renovation (See photos above and below), I teamed with local contractor David Johnloz to turn an outdated and ill-configured master bath into a beautiful, functional retreat that's fresh and innovative, yet timeless and elegant. Here's how we did it:

IMPROVED LAYOUT

The first step was redesigning the entire space.



After fully gutting this master bathroom and removing a wall, we reconfigured the space with a soaking tub at one end and a fully tiled shower fronted by a glass wall on the other. Next, we tackled the room's elongated footprint. By designing ceiling height linen towers and extra tall vanity mirrors we brought verticality to a horizontal space.

MIX OF MATERIALS

Instead of using only high end materials like marble throughout, we used a mixture of materials with varying prices. A beautiful herringbone marble mosaic was sparingly used on the focal wall over the vanity where it made the biggest impact. We continued the high-end look by cladding the shower with a more affordable, easy to clean "Carrara" porcelain

tile that mimics marble.

We also economized on the vanity countertop and floor tiles. We found a bright white affordably priced counter-top solid surface that is both attractive and durable as well as a contrasting dark porcelain floor tile that is well-priced, stylish, and easy to clean.

CUSTOM CABINETRY

Painted cabinetry is a fresh alternative to wood tones. Our choice of a tonal pale blue-gray paint color opened up the space and provided a serene, spa-like vibe. The cabinets were custom designed to provide a long and narrow space with abundant storage and functionality. The idea of using custom cabinetry often scares people, but it can be an affordable choice,

adding value to your space. There are many local cabinet builders that produce high-quality work at reasonable prices.

FREE-STANDING SOAKING TUB

The glamorous, stand-alone tub has become more affordable with models like this one (See photo below) from American Standard which includes the tub filler (faucet) in its price. The sleek toilet we selected was also manufactured by American Standard for their retail market and purchased locally at Lowe's.

SPECIAL TOUCHES

The sparkly chandelier over the soaking tub is a feature that makes this bath truly special. The homeowner found this fixture online at a fraction of the price of costlier versions. A durable vinyl wallpaper in a timeless trellis pattern is used sparingly just behind the soaking tub, while paint in a complementary gray covers the other walls. Crystal knobs, towel rings, sconces and crisp white hand towels complete the look.

Smart choices plus creative placement add up to a high-end look—without high price tags—that makes the homeowner happy and will no doubt inspire others!

Smart choices plus creative placement add up to a high-end look

A soaking tub, tall cabinetry, and mosaic wall tile add drama to a newly renovated Master Bath.

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