

Kitchens + Baths

HOUSE & HOME
SPECIAL ISSUE

ONE-DAY
BATHROOM MAKEOVERS

***“What I
Learned”***

Real-Life Reno Stories

50 Dream Kitchens

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Bathrooms • BEFORE & AFTER

Contracting, Terris Lightfoot Contracting; **shower system, faucet, toilet, Kohler; tub, sink, Duravit; sconce** by George Kovacs, Minka Group; **floor tile, wall tile,** Creekside Tile; **basket,** Nineteen Ten; **rug, shower curtain, planter, Urban Outfitters; wall and ceiling colour,** Cloud White (CC-40), Benjamin Moore.



Dark grey grout emphasizes the shape of on-trend hex tiles

THE MAKEOVER

Shower + Tub

Tanya and Nichole sourced a standard tub but had a teak apron applied to the front for a custom look. (They sealed the panel to protect it from water and moisture.) The pair also removed the unsightly heat register above the tub, replacing it with in-floor heating. While the bulkhead couldn't be removed completely, it was slimmed down and pushed closer to the exterior wall. This allowed the designers to mount the showerhead a little higher

Tile

The designers chose inexpensive subway tile to cover the length of one wall and the wet zone. To keep the space looking edgy and less traditional, they installed it in a 90-degree herringbone pattern. (Herringbone tile can be more expensive to install than a typical running bond pattern, so budget accordingly.) Tanya and Nichole opted for white grout, instead of the dark grey they used for the tile flooring, to keep the bathroom feeling peaceful and serene.

Vanity

Owners Ryan and Leanne had their hearts set on converting a mid-century sideboard into a vanity, and came across a teak cabinet on Craigslist. "But upon inspection, our carpenter realized the sides and top were a thin veneer that couldn't be refinished," says Tanya. "He ended up removing the top and gables and replacing them with solid teak. In the end, it looks fantastic and definitely has the character we were after."

RENO IN REVIEW



Tanya McLean

BIGGEST COMPROMISE

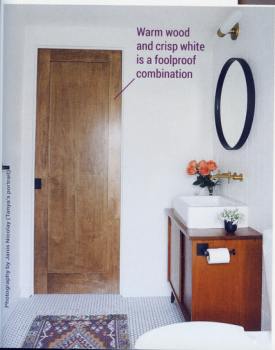
"We had originally specified a flat-grain, black walnut door, but because the doors had to carry throughout the entire basement, the cost was prohibitive. We ended up using birch and staining it to try and get the depth and tone of walnut."

LESSON LEARNED

"Using found furniture as a vanity is not always the easiest process. Try to find the piece of furniture you want to use ahead of time, and design or build the space around it. And don't think that converting a vintage piece of furniture is necessarily going to save you money — think of it as a cool, reclaimed statement piece."



A wall-mounted faucet frees up space on a shallow vanity



Warm wood and crisp white is a foolproof combination

Go the distance and spend a few bucks more for what you really want. So, brushed gold in the basement? Oh, yeah!

— Tanya McLean, designer



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West-Coast Classic

EMBRACE WARM WOOD

The stools were refinished to complement the driftwood-toned floors.

Meet the Owner

Corinne Isherwood, pictured with son Jay

WHAT SHE DID:

- Turned her kitchen into an open-concept, family-friendly space by opening up the back of the house (previously, the kitchen was closed off by a bathroom, office and hallway)
- Removed ornate cream-coloured Tuscan cabinetry and brick accents, and embraced a fresh, clean palette
- Installed all-new appliances

WHAT SHE LEARNED:

Make room for a crowd. With four teens, two pets and grandparents living nearby, Corinne and her husband Jamie find their house is in constant motion. A long table (not shown) and large island offer ample space for dining and hanging out. "It's low-key and relaxed," says Corinne, then adds, "It's very West Coast."

"It's a traditional home, so we kept that style on the outside and combined those touches with a modern aesthetic on the inside."

— Corinne Isherwood, designer and homeowner

Design, Corinne Isherwood, James Bussey, and Joel and Xavier Massey.



10 Ways to Update Your Kitchen

Update a banquette with playful pillows

Refresh your seating area with an array of throw pillows in crisp, summery patterns. If you have a busy household, consider selecting pillows covered in indoor-outdoor fabric so they're easy to wipe clean.

Design, Kenny and Michelle Gemmill.