

# Growing Up

A ROOFTOP DECK WITH SQUARE FOOTAGE TO SPARE RESCUES THE SPACE-CHALLENGED LOCATION FOR AN UPPER-LEVEL MASTER BATH AND ADJACENT DRESSING AREA.

## Project Goals

- Carve out space for a bath to complete a new master suite.
- Incorporate all the features on the homeowner's wish list into the room's compact footprint.
- Allow access from the bath to an inviting rooftop deck.
- Illuminate the space with natural light.

## Project Steps

- **Converted** a sewing room into a master bath.
- **Commandeered** 60 square feet from an adjacent rooftop deck for space in the new bath to accommodate all the desired amenities.
- **Developed** a floor plan that provided a wide path through the center of the bathroom for reaching the deck.
- **Included** generous windows, a skylight in the shower, and a large glass-front cabinet to reflect light.



### SECRET TO SUCCESS

Striking cabinetry bears a traditional appearance, and its clever kitchenlike storage components behind the doors and drawers maximize the functionality of the vanity area.

Left: Recessed flat-panel cabinets are a fitting touch for a bathroom in an old home. This pullout under the sink makes grabbing necessary bath items easy.

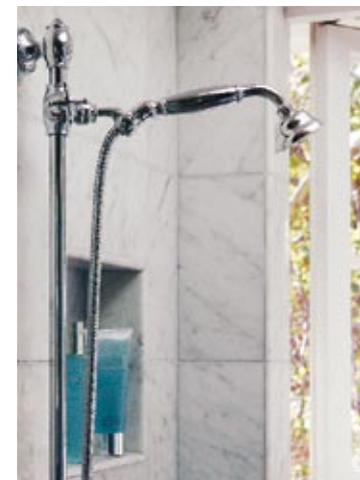
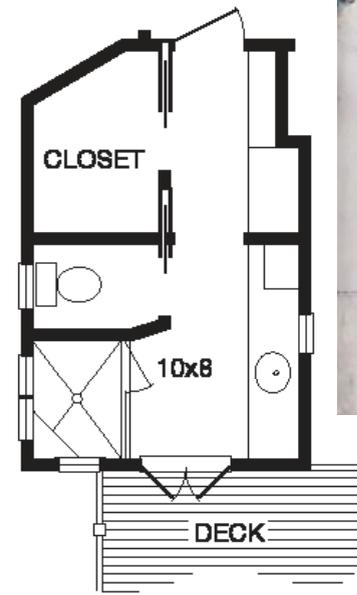
Above: Beyond the vanity, casement windows resembling French doors provide access to the rooftop deck. Because the deck sits higher than the bathroom floor, the windows were installed in place of traditional doors, which would have been too tall.



Opposite left: The bath's classic decor suits the home's 1930s roots.

Opposite right: Beneath the vanity countertop, a pullout hamper provides a spot for stashing dirty clothes. The canvas liner is removable for easy transport on laundry day.

Right and below: Windows and a sun-catching skylight evoke the sensation of alfresco bathing in the walk-in shower, afforded privacy by its upper-level location. Mildew-resistant paint protects the wood window sashes from water damage.



## Plan It

### Making a Wish List

This master bath turned out exactly how the homeowner envisioned—in part because she knew what she wanted long before the remodel began. The designer determined how to make those dreams a reality. Whether you're tackling an addition on your own or hiring professionals to help, here's where to start:

- Create a wish list.** This first step is fun. All you have to do is close your eyes and envision your ideal space. What size is it? What amenities does it include? What colors do you see? Furnishings? Fabrics? Go ahead and dream big with your initial ideas.

- Determine your budget.** Think hard about how much you can realistically spend on your addition. Remember that unexpected expenses can occur after construction begins, eating up more funds than budgeted. Reserve some of that figure for costs that pop up later.

- Figure out what you can do.** Once you create a workable budget, you can determine what you're actually able to include in your project. Divide your original wish list into two columns. In the first, write down everything that's essential for your new space. The extras—amenities you'd like to have if there's money left—go on the second list.



Successfully designing this upper-level bath addition involved a large dose of creativity and a bit of thievery. But don't worry—no laws were broken.

The upper level of the 2½-story house built in 1939 contained a relatively unused den and a curious cubbyhole outfitted as a never-used sewing room. But homeowner Catherine Coquillard had other ideas for the space: converting the den into a master bedroom and the sewing room into a master bath.

Transforming the sewing room into the bath was a great idea in theory; in reality the space wasn't large enough to accommodate all the amenities Catherine hoped to include. The solution? Stealing a 6×10-foot area from the rooftop deck located adjacent to the new master suite. By pilfering a portion of the deck, architect Bethany Opalach eked out just enough space for the requested amenities and still left an area outdoors for enjoying treetop views. "The design came down to inches," Opalach says, "and sometimes to the half inch."

Inside the bath, seemingly contradictory goals reached fruition. Catherine wanted to squeeze plenty of attractive storage into the compact space. So the passageway between the bedroom and bath became a tidy dressing area, with a built-in dresser and shoe rack on one side and a walk-in closet on the other. The same

crisp white cabinetry found in the passageway continues in the storage-packed vanity base.

The next challenge was maximizing light and views while still offering privacy. "The joy of this space is that it has completely unobstructed sun," Catherine says. To exploit that sunlight, Opalach loaded the room with windows—even including two windows and a skylight in the shower. She enclosed the shower in glass to allow the flow of light throughout the space.

Aware that people would use the bathroom as passage to the deck, Catherine had the toilet positioned in a separate compartment. And the large casement windows that provide access to the deck in lieu of traditional doors are outfitted with curtains for privacy.

Now the rooftop deck located outside the addition is the perfect spot for relaxing day or night. "The best thing is to get a cup of coffee and go out on the deck and read the paper in the morning," Catherine says. "But I've even had cocktail parties out there. It's a wonderful place to sit in the sun and sip margaritas." \*

**Resources begin on page 106.**

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