

# this is what a shared bath should be

A bathing suite outfitted with a double vanity and a separate tub-and-shower room proves two teenage sisters really can (happily) share a bath.



*Space was at a premium in the bath. So rather than adding shelves, interior designer Pat Moreinis Dodge installed hooks for robes and towels.*

A HOUSE THAT'S NEARLY 200 YEARS OLD WILL NEVER HAVE ENOUGH BATHROOMS, so when interior designer Sue Bartlett and her husband, David, bought a Colonial farmhouse near Concord, New Hampshire, they eyed an upstairs bedroom as a likely candidate for conversion.



Idle plans turned to action shortly after moving in-when Sue agreed to open the 1807 home as a showhouse sponsored by the New England chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers.

With tours to begin in a few months, Sue quickly worked out space requirements and floor plans for reconfiguring a 1x16 bedroom into a bath suite for the couple's teenage daughters, Allyson and Kristen, plus a half bath for guests.

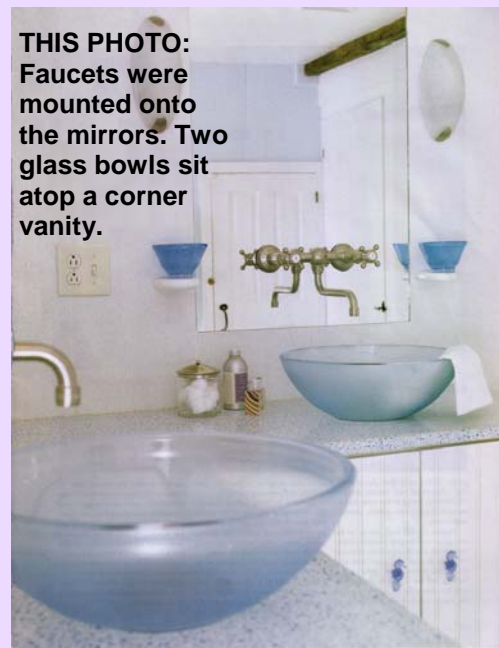
With a rough floor plan in hand, Sue collaborated with Interior designer Pat Moreinis Dodge to fine-tune the layout and choose colors, surfaces, cabinets, and fixtures.

Because the full bath was to be for teenagers-and the girls would inevitably want to use it at the same time-Sue and Moreinis divided the space into two functional rooms. One room is for bathing and has a wall-in shower and tub; the other is for the toilet and a double vanity, which is set in a corner to allow each daughter to have her own washing and grooming station.

Moreinis suggested adding transom-like openings at the top of the shower wall that divides the two rooms. The square portals allow natural light into the vanity area, while still maintaining privacy in the shower-and-tub room.

Borrowing space from one leg of the L-shape bedroom, the Bartletts added a guest half bath with access to the girls' bathing room. Privacy is protected by a two-door system installed between the guest bath and tub-and-shower room, allowing the doors to be locked from either side.

**THIS PHOTO:  
Faucets were mounted onto the mirrors. Two glass bowls sit atop a corner vanity.**



As design details tool: shape, daughters Allyson and Kristen were key contribution. "They had definite ideas about how it should look," Sue says. "We've spent most of time at the ocean, and they like water." Sue and the girls wanted the room to be reminiscent of an old beach cottage but have a clean, modern feel. Moreinis outfitted the bathing room with a floor-to-ceiling sweep of mosaic blue-glass tiles. In keeping with the seaside theme, the shimmering tiles conjure up images of a swell of blue water, beach glass or the pebbled bottom of a lake.

In the vanity room, the walls and floor are covered with 12x12 white-glass tiles. Frameless mirrors set into the tile create a sense of spaciousness. "They look like pools of still water," Moreinis says. Shell sconces, seahorse drawer pulls, and a blue glass-agglomerate counter bring home the beach theme. Two up-to-the-minute turquoise, seeded-glass vessel sinks mimic a traditional pitcher-and-bowl motif when placed atop the beaded-board cabinets. "There are old-fashioned elements, but overall, it's eclectic," Sue says. It's a style that even two teenage sisters can agree on.



#### just add water

There are special challenges for turning a bedroom into a bath, including access to plumbing and natural light.

Water pipes require a proper pitch, and waste pipes-with their larger diameter-need a generous amount of space. These conditions limit where sinks, stools, and tubs can be located, especially in houses with post-and-beam construction. New pipes must come down the walls through the main floor, which can require building chases or artful boxing around the plumbing lines.

In the Bartlett house, the bedroom being converted had only two windows. One was given to the new half bath, leaving just one for the girls' full bath.

The transom openings between the shower and sink areas help channel natural light to the grooming area, as do the reflective qualities of the white tiles on the walls and floor. Sconces and recessed lights in the ceiling also help brighten the room.

## ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS

*PREVIOUS PAGE:* Moreinis designed the tile-covered shower bench and steps alongside the tub. Copper aggregates in the Italian glass mosaic give the tile its shimmering qualities.

*AT RIGHT:* Clear-glass shower doors contribute to the room's open feel. Rather than adding crown molding, Moreinis opted to leave the original beams exposed. The tub now sits under a window in the former bedroom. The old bath is now a laundry room.



## FLOOR PLANS

A bedroom was converted into a two-room bathing suite for the Bartletts' daughters and a half bath for guests. The original bath became a laundry room. Doors between the half bath and tub-and-shower room allow guests to use the bathing area.

