



BEFORE AND AFTER — The bathroom sink and the shower both underwent drastic transformations in this Southwest Portland makeover.



Photos courtesy of Neil Kelly Company

Flipping a house on its head

By **LINDA COLLIER**
For Community Newspapers

Inspired by the outdoors

Janine and Val wanted to bring more natural light and luxury to their 1940s ranch style home in Southwest Portland. When they thought about remodeling their home, they envisioned knocking down exterior walls and building an addition, which they feared might break their budget.

After months of researching architects and builders, they hired Janel Campbell, a designer from Neil Kelly Company, to explore their options.

After listening to Janine and Val's wish list — a larger master bath and more natural light in their master bedroom — Janel sketched out various options and created a schematic design for a master suite addition. The plan pushed the limits of the property setbacks as well as the budget and still didn't provide the natural light the homeowners wanted, which was on the opposite south-facing side of the home.

The homeowners were forced to go back to drawing board. That's when Janel decided to get creative and play musical chairs.

"I thought, what if we 'flipped the house on its head,' and moved the master suite to the south side of the home?" she says.

The domino effect began as they turned the office, full of south-facing windows, into the master bedroom and the adjoining "Jack and Jill" bath into the new master bath. With minor changes, the existing master bedroom and bathroom became a guest bedroom and bath; and the existing guest room was transformed into an office.

The resulting master bedroom featured more natural light, two large walk-in closets and a roomy master bath. All while avoiding a complicated and costly addition.

"From start to finish Janel and the carpenters made this big remodeling project seem easy," says Janine. "They listened to our concerns and desires and created an ideal living space. Using the existing space in a different way accomplished our goals and was far less invasive on our home's structure."

Inspiration can come from many sources. For Janine and Val, it was a trip abroad.

The design for the new master bathroom was inspired by memories of an outdoor shower experienced in Southeast Asia. To recreate the feeling of openness and serenity, the master bath centers around a large walk-in shower for two contained only by short tiled walls and clear glass panels. Recessed niches offer storage and a large glass block window brings in natural light. The slate tile floors and walls, heavily veined granite countertops, and glass tile accents create a natu-

ral, calming feeling throughout the space.

The two vanities in the master bath were custom-made to look more like pieces of furniture rather than cabinets. One vanity faces the outdoor view and has a nearby medicine cabinet that can be opened to use as a mirror only when needed; while the other features a wall mount faucet and more traditional approach.

Happy homeowners

A custom designed "Tansu" style cabinet complements the vanities and creates a place to store large items. The warm reddish brown tone of the Lyptus wood vanities and Tansu cabinet are a striking contrast to the greens and greys of the tile that cover the rest of the room.

Janine and Val's new master bedroom has a smaller footprint, but they are happy to accept the tradeoff for larger walk-in

closets, a master bedroom flooded with natural light and a master bathroom with plenty of space for two. Since the other rooms in the remodel only needed simple updates, they were able to focus their budget on their master bathroom suite and achieve the original design goals with little compromise. Just goes to show that sometimes thinking "inside the box" is the key to happiness.

REMODELING TIPS FROM A PRO

■ **Pick an object or theme that is personal to you.** For this project, it was an outdoor bathroom from a treasured trip abroad. A favorite painting, a vase or even a photo can serve as a great source of inspiration.

■ **Define your budget — and stick to it.** many homeowners feel pressured to stretch beyond their comfort zone. The right design partner can suggest creative design solutions that fit into any budget.

■ **Don't be afraid to mix and match styles.** Many aren't sure how to create a space that is unique, but still respects the home's architecture. Janine and Val chose two different vanity styles, appealing to their individual preferences.



ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Who: Janel Campbell, certified kitchen and bath designer, and certified aging in place specialist with Neil Kelly Company (www.neilkelly.com).

Experience: Nine years of experience including a number of sustainable remodeling projects, from kitchens and baths, to whole house renovations and basements.

Awards: Projects featured on the ORA's Tour of Remodeled Homes. Won eight regional and local awards for interior, kitchen and media room designs from ORA, NARI and the HBA.

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