

# Home Completed

**OPPOSITE:** The centerpiece of this bath is an angled vanity with two undermount sinks and a green-marble top. The mirror reflects a 5-foot chest that makes the room function as a dressing room as well as a bath. Sunshine pours in through the new skylight and an awning window made of patterned acrylic.

**COZIED UP AGAINST A LANDSCAPED COURTYARD**, this 2,000-square-foot white stucco house had nearly everything its busy owners wanted: three bedrooms plus a loft-style office within barking distance of the Pacific Ocean in Seal Beach, California. What it lacked was a master bath that looked or worked as the owners desired.

They needed designer Dana Jones, of The Kitchen Consultant in nearby Long Beach, to address some major issues. Among these were that the tub was too big and the shower too small. They also regarded the middle of the room as so much wasted space. Jones soon realized the solution was to gut the space; to start all over and work within the existing space to bring the bathroom up to par with the rest of the home.

One of the key design moves, and the first one Jones made, was relocating the bathroom door. It had been on the wall directly across from the bed, which meant that a nighttime bathroom visitor flicking the light switch delivered a blast of light to the person trying to sleep—or worse, to the person already sleeping. The new sleeper-friendly doorway is positioned where the shower stall was in the old design. Jones created a vestibule by shifting the entryway about 6 feet to the left.

The new shower enclosure, twice the size of its cramped 3x3-foot predecessor, is angled behind the vanity in the center of the room. The tub and toilet stand in their original

locations but have been significantly upgraded: The tub is now a whirlpool model that's surrounded by an elegant marble deck; the toilet occupies a room of its own, with a door for privacy.

Because the bathroom is so often bathed in sunlight, Jones chose soft colors: a cream tone for the painted walls, beige marble for the floor and tub backsplash. The only strong color is the green on the vanity counter, the tub deck and the diamond-like dots in the beige flooring.

The custom cabinets Jones specified for the bathroom are in keeping with this soothingly monochromatic scheme: traditional in style and warm in tone, with an elegant glazed finish. Doors and drawer fronts have raised panels, as does the front of the tub deck.

Raised paneling also highlights four of the 10 drawers on the 5-foot-tall chest that stands directly beyond the double vanity. Having an auxiliary chest

**BELOW:** The seashell-shaped drawer pulls on the chest and elsewhere in the room are brass with a faux-iron finish.





makes the space useful as a dressing room as well as a bath. This is especially helpful as the couple did not want to crowd the bedroom with dressers.

The husband said that although all of their home projects have turned out beautifully, for him, the bathroom was the real revelation. "It never occurred to me when I looked at the drawings that it would turn out so well."

## WHAT MAKES IT WORK

**THE DOORWAY** was positioned so that a nighttime bathroom user doesn't disturb the bedroom sleeper.

**THE OVERSIZE TUB** and undersize shower were replaced with more modern models; the new tub is a standard whirlpool, and the marble-lined shower has a tile bench and ample elbow room.

**BEIGE MARBLE** flooring and tub backsplash replace milky-blue tile from the 1970s.

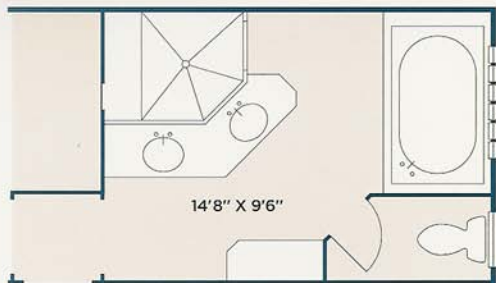
**AN AWNING WINDOW** over the tub replaces a hard-to-reach slider; the new window is translucent acrylic that provides privacy without cutting out natural light.

**THE TOILET** occupies a room of its own, closed off by a door to ensure complete privacy.

**A 5-FOOT-TALL CHEST**, opposite the vanity, eliminates the need for dressers in the master bedroom.

**ABOVE:** The marble-lined shower angles behind the vanity. Because of the placement of the spout and the height of the threshold, no protective door or curtain is needed to contain splashes.

**RIGHT:** Separating the shower and bathtub gives this space maximum flexibility when it comes to function.



**RIGHT:** The new toilet is exactly where the old one was, but now it is enclosed in its own room. The angle of the door echoes one section of the vanity.

**BELOW:** A band of wave-patterned mosaic ceramic tile, a reference to the nearby Pacific Ocean, was set into the beige marble backsplash that rises behind the sink faucets.



**ABOVE:** The awning window that replaced a slider provides easy-to-access ventilation. The patterned acrylic panes obscure the view of an alley without curtailing sunlight.

**RIGHT:** The tub features a handheld showerhead and a standard spout. The marble backsplash has a bullnose edge that's aligned with the line of the countertops.



