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# MONEY MATTERS SMART SUBSTITUTIONS

### BEDROOM FEATURE WALL

**THE DREAM:** A weathered cement feature wall in the principal bedroom that looks authentically aged, \$800 to \$1,000.

**THE REALITY:** A painted grey feature wall, \$50 for a gallon of paint.

## CHECKERBOARD FLOORS

**THE DREAM:** A château-style marble checkerboard floor in the foyer and laundry room, approx. \$26 per 24" sq. tile.

THE REALITY: Ceramic tile, \$8 per 24" sq. tile.

### PATTERNED SHOWER TILES

THE DREAM: Patterned cement bathroom tiles in the principal bathroom shower, \$6,900. THE REALITY: Printed ceramic bathroom tiles, \$690.

# A STAND-ALONE TUB

THE DREAM: A designer-brand spa-like tub, such as Victoria & Albert's volcanic limestone model, \$2,500. THE REALITY: A floor-model acrylic tub, \$650.

**ABOVE:** When a designer-brand tub turned out to be too expensive for the principal bathroom, a floor model and fixtures were a budget-friendly compromise. The porcelain honeycomb floor tile mimics marble but is only \$10 per square foot. **Vanity fabrication**, Armoire Ébénisterie Rino; **vanity colour**, Coventry Gray (HC-169), Benjamin Moore; **lantern**, RH Restoration Hardware.

**RIGHT:** The big savings in the principal bathroom came from the star-motif ceramic tiles that line the shower. Mélanie admired the print's slightly aged look. "They were inexpensive, but they don't look it. The print is really well-done," she says. The schoolhouse globe light was a steal at \$17. Mélanie designed the Louis XV-style custom vanity to look like an antique French furniture piece. **Mirrors, stool,** RH Restoration Hardware; **sconces,** Circa Lighting; **hand towel,** HomeSense; **soap pump, brass tray,** Beige.

**OPPOSITE:** Karine initially wanted an aged-cement application on the wall behind the bed to warm up the principal bedroom, but the estimate was too high and would have meant a four-day delay. Instead, grey paint highlights the wall, blending into the tonal headboard and subtly contrasting with the light-coloured chandelier. Perforated blinds are tucked up under the window valances for a clean look. **Bed, chandelier**, RH Restoration Hardware; **throw pillow** (on armchair), Blanc Marine Living; **rug**, Tapis H. Lalonde & Frère; **throw, boxes** (on nightstand), Pottery Barn.

