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# Bathrooms en Suite

IT'S THE RAGE IN TODAY'S CONSTRUCTION: MASTER BEDROOM AND BATH AS A SUITE. HERE'S HOW TO DO IT, WITH PERIOD DETAILS, IN A VINTAGE HOUSE. **BY MARY ELLEN POLSON**

**H**OUSES BUILT BEFORE about 1880 were lucky to have indoor plumbing, much less a bathroom exclusively for the “master” of the house. Fortunately, those with older houses have discovered many ingenious ways to include en suite baths, whether sumptuous or modest, in their homes.

Two options present themselves: conversion of existing space, or building an addition. While some conversions do indeed swallow an entire bedroom or even a full floor, other baths

are chiseled out of “found” space, as under the attic eaves, or from closets, even placed in hallways.

Whether it's tucked in or added on, treating the bathroom as an extension of living space makes the transition from the bedroom seamless. Use a complementary wallpaper pattern or related paint colors, don't skimp on trim details, add a sconce (or chandelier), and hang pictures.

### ADD ON OR EXPAND

In an 1892 Queen Anne with three and a half stories, David Heide De-



**ABOVE:** A collection of photographs gives even this “sanitary” surviving bath in a 1914 Craftsman a furnished quality. **TOP RIGHT:** Part of an expansion of a Shingle Style house on Cape Cod, this bath makeover created rooms within rooms with decorative sliding doors that don't block sunlight. Design by Hutker Architects. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Period-friendly, well-furnished details include wallpaper, a Roman pedestal tub, and built-in storage.





In an 1892 Victorian Queen Anne, quarter-sawn oak paneling and a basketweave tile floor with inlaid borders are period details in a new master bath by David Heide Design Studio.



sign Studio enlarged the area adjacent to the master bedroom with a period-style bath and adjacent dressing room. Details include a roll-rimmed Roman tub, dual pedestal sinks, and a his-and-hers dressing room (shown on this page, above).

As part of the renovation of a Shingle Style house in coastal Massachusetts, the owners created a master suite filled with period details that meld effectively with the age and style of the house. Like a window seat, a Roman pedestal tub is recessed into the light-filled alcove, and built-in drawers, cubbies, and cabinets abound. Next to a marble-topped vanity with double sinks, a pair of sliding doors with leaded glass insets admit natural light from an adjacent hallway (shown in the two photos, center).

**PUT IT IN A HALLWAY**

In a historic 1913 building with Tudor details that had been converted to condominiums in the 1970s, the goal was to return architectural integrity to the interior spaces (which included a later wing addition) while restoring period details. In remodeling the wing to cre-