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From washed-out to Craftsman-style

A banal bath is reborn with contemporary function and authentic period style

By DEBORAH BALDWIN + Photographs by CASEY DUNN



↑
A custom stain and four coats of lacquer bring out the vertical grain in the woodwork.



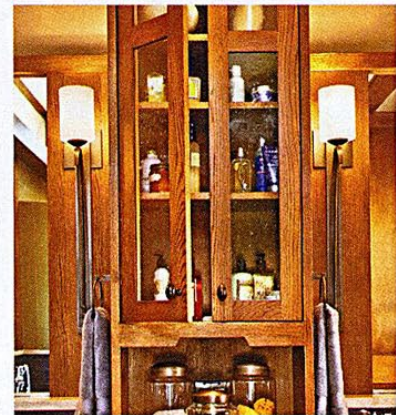
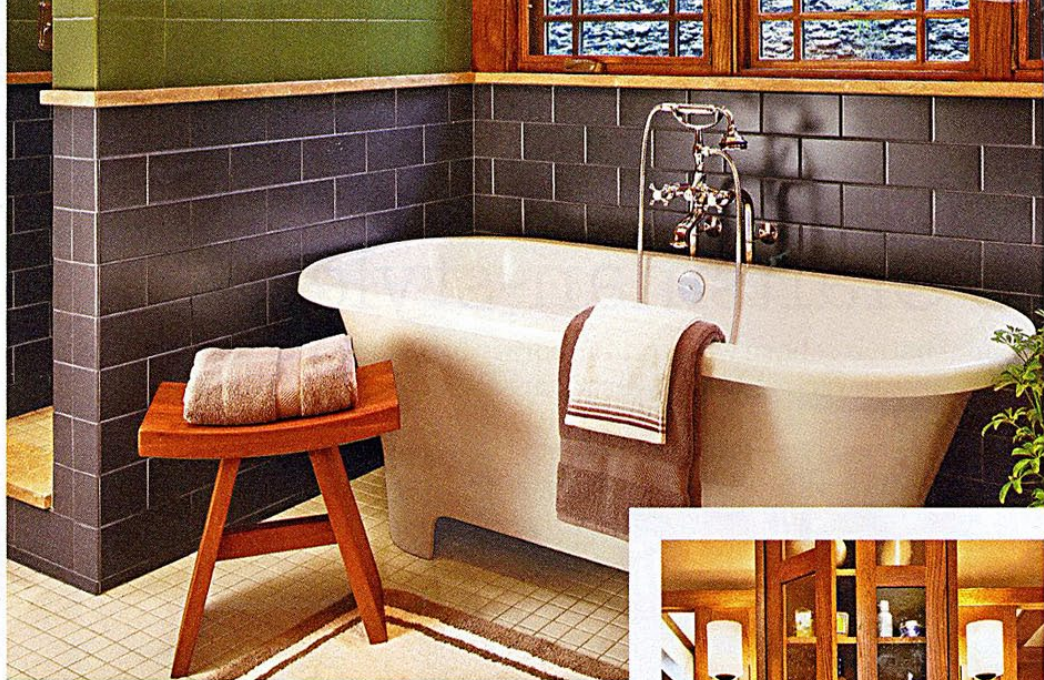
before The 1980s bath held closets and an awkward step-up-and-in tub.
after Keeping its footprint, the space gained Prairie-style casement and clerestory windows and cabinets made with rift-sawn white oak. Windows: Kolbe & Kolbe

Nothing concentrates the mind like a flood. Once Carter and Rachel Cox got over the shock of seeing their Stickley furniture up to its ankles in water—a frozen pipe had burst while they were out of town—they saw opportunity. So did CG&S Design-Build, which helped bail out the Coxes' house, in West Lake Hills, Texas. "They are passionate about Craftsman and Prairie style," says CG&S architect Stewart Davis, "so we took a fresh look at everything," starting with the master bath, where the designers incorporated period-style woodwork, hardware, and tile in colors borrowed from the landscape, and a limestone pencil ledge that suggests a wainscot by Frank Lloyd Wright. "The lines are well orchestrated without being busy or ornate," Carter says. "I'm an artist and a blacksmith, and Rachel is a floral designer, which explains our appreciation of things handmade in the traditional way." They also appreciated the team's attention to detail, including woodwork finished by the same pro who restored that soggy furniture. After the flood, Carter recalls thinking, "We could finally realize all our dreams." And today? "We couldn't be more delighted."

before+after: **bath**

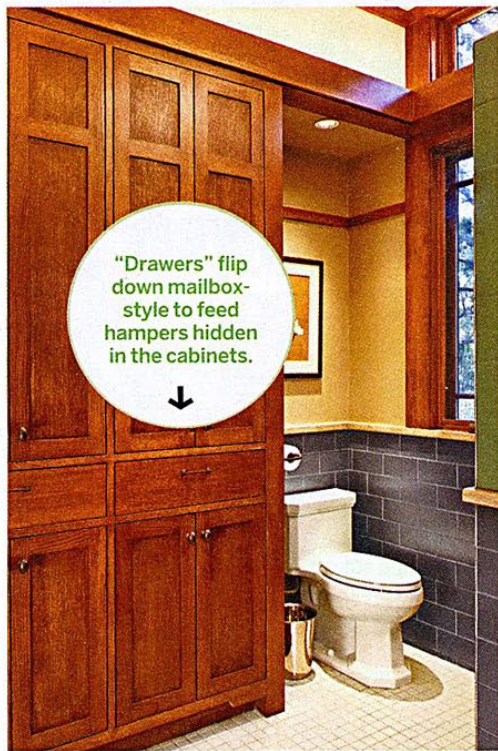
• the key details

→ **Tile in three sizes and colors** provides subtle contrast, while the tub pairs period-style fittings and a rolled lip with stylishly unclawed feet. *Tub: Victoria + Albert. Fittings: Strom Plumbing by Sign of the Crab*



↑ **Craftsman-style sconces** flank a display cabinet with seeded-glass fronts. *Sconces: Hubbardton Forge. Cabinets: Amazonia Cabinetry*

← **The shower** is lined with matte tile and flooded with light from the clerestory windows. *Tile: American Olean*



"Drawers" flip down mailbox-style to feed hampers hidden in the cabinets.

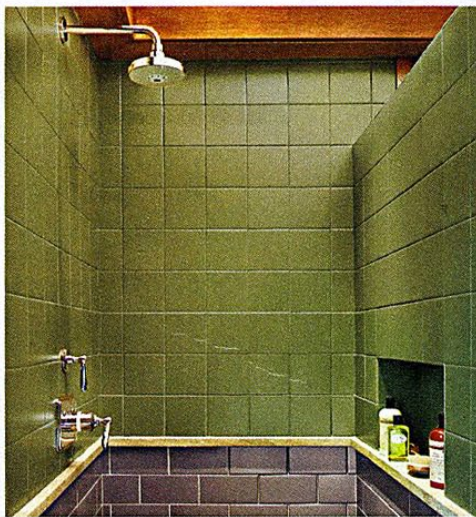
↑ **Black hardware** brings out the grain of the oak, which was finished with a custom walnut-ebony stain. *Knobs: Emtek. Stains: Minwax*



pro tip

STEWART DAVIS, ARCHITECT,
AUSTIN, TEXAS

"We used a limestone pencil ledge to cap the tile wainscot, serve as a window stool, and unify the room."



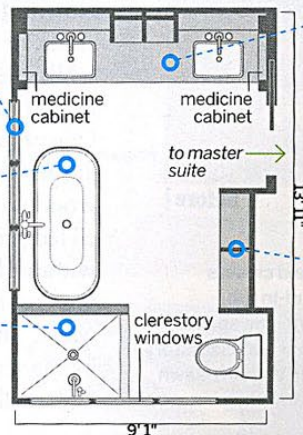
• before + after

Closets gobbled up space in the 126-square-foot bath, and taking a shower meant climbing up and into the tub. The footprint stayed the same, but the closets were exiled and the doorway shifted to make room for the shower and storage.

1 Installed large casement windows to frame the view and increase cross-ventilation.

2 Replaced the drop-in tub with an updated version of a claw-foot tub.

3 Removed the closets flanking the tub and added a shower that's open on one side.



4 Built in a double vanity with ample storage and recessed medicine cabinets, freeing the glass-front countertop cabinet for display.

5 Added a bank of cabinets, which creates a niche for the toilet and holds linens and hampers.