

This Old House



**ALL ABOUT
KITCHEN
FAUCETS**
p.112

52 ways to give your kitchen a style boost

PLUS how to refresh traditional cabinets with **unexpected color**

DON'T OVERPAY!
Bamboo Floor Buyer's Guide
p.59

Budget bedroom makeover

Victorian-look bath for less

TOH TV Pros answer your questions p.121

7 CRUCIAL DIY SAFETY TIPS

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Victorian-style bath

Period-appropriate fixtures and elegant accessories make this bathing spot as beautiful as it is functional. Here's how to approximate the look in your house

By JESSICA DODELL-FEDER + Photograph by KAREN MELVIN

Thanks to their deep soaking tubs, graceful fittings, and clean tiled surfaces, turn-of-the-century bathrooms are making just as much of a splash today as they did more than 100 years ago. It's no wonder, then, that when remodeling this bath in an 1890s home in Saint Paul, Minnesota, designer David Heide retained its original layout—down to the placement of the fixtures. “Almost everything in the room is new, but it appears as if it's always been there,” Heide says. To keep the look authentic, he opted for trim tiles and flooring made of Carrara marble, as well as a leggy console sink and a pedestal tub. He also incorporated artistic touches by propping a painting over the radiator and covering the walls in blue-gray Venetian plaster, a technique popular during the Victorian period. Read on for more ways to achieve this romantic, century-old style. ■

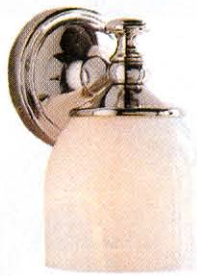
curvy iron table

A glass top helps show off the scrolling form of this slender wrought-iron accent table. \$60; pier1.com



nickel-finish sconce

Mount multiples of this simple fixture, which features a milk-glass shade, throughout the room for a soft glow. \$79; potterybarn.com



basketweave tile

A marble mosaic floor speaks to the Victorians' fondness for tiled surfaces, while an exotic Persian rug cushions toes. Tile, \$20 per square foot; cooltiles.com. Wool rug, \$399; ikea.com



PHOTOS: (TABLE, SCONCE, TILE, VASE, SEA SPONGE, FRAME) ALISON ROSA

get this look
for less

two-light pendant

Ensure you'll get a good look at yourself by hanging this brushed-nickel lamp above the vanity. \$202; rejuvenation.com



frameless mirror

Moen's beveled-edge mirror sports sleek brushed-nickel hardware that lets you pivot the looking glass where you need it. \$71; homedepot.com



wall treatment

Mimic the texture of this bath's pricey Venetian plaster walls by using a natural sea sponge to apply pale gray paint over a dusky gray-blue. (Learn how at thisoldhouse.com/sep2011.) Aura Bath & Spa in Blue Heron and Silver Mist, \$62 per gallon; benjaminmoore.com



silvery vase

Add a gleaming touch sink-side with Roost's petite mercury-glass vessel. \$15; Columbine, 415-927-8884



pedestal tub

Boasting the same shapely silhouette as the cast-iron soaker at left, this acrylic version is easier on the wallet. \$1,056; vintagetubandbath.com



gold-foil frame

Lend paintings and photos an old-world look by fitting them in this pine frame, painted to resemble an antique. 14 by 18 inches, \$30; dickblick.com



Edwardian-style tub filler

This deck-mounted faucet by Kingston Brass gets its pedigree from cross-handles and a ceramic-accented handshower. \$264; amazon.com





On the second floor, the homeowners merged the existing baths (BEFORE) and added a vanity mirror framed in barn wood and a salvaged tub refurbished with peel-and-stick silver leaf. Shower fittings: Sunrise Specialty. Sink faucets: Grohe



Then there was her prized pair of peeling corbels, which she envisioned nesting in the new opening between the dining room and kitchen. First she took them to a Victorian-millwork place, asking that it add rounded bottoms. Then, to match the old sections, “I gobbled on this crackling product and blow-dried it,” she says. “William’s guys were like, ‘What *are* you doing?’”

But who could complain about a homeowner who invested so much of her own time, sweat, and ideas? Teamwork smoothed the redo’s rough edges, and six months later the family was able to move back in.

Jenna is still counting the setbacks that turned into success stories. When a broken fumigator at the mill delayed the barn-wood flooring, she had to scramble to get the kitchen done. But this also allowed her to switch part of the order to wainscot for the master bath. Then all she had to do was honcho its installation; when the first

try looked wrong, she waited until Hom went home, then took it down, pulled out a saw, and redid it herself.

In the end, the work crew came around, Steve agreed the barn wood looked good, and Jenna’s light-filled decor helped her land a Best Living Room Redo award in *This Old House’s* 2011 Reader Remodel Contest (July).

Indeed, it’s not often that a year of dust and disruption ends so happily, with Jenna hanging out a shingle as a remodeling consultant while the rest of the family enjoys a chance to relax—at least for the moment. Other homeowners may dwell on the headaches, but not her. Pausing to sum it all up, she says, “I feel like this house is the one where all the surprises were good.” ■