

In a monochromatic color scheme, “the large elements in your design remain neutral, allowing you to infuse the room with texture and form,” says designer Elizabeth Tanny.

four simple rules

It was obvious that this 80's-style bath needed a dramatic overhaul. But where to start? Here's how one couple's attic master bath went from drab to fab.

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Transforming a cramped attic master bath overwhelmed by a navy tub and toilet into a light and spacious aerie would seem to require homeowners with keen vision, steely nerves, and lots of money. Not so.

Success is simply a matter of having the savvy to follow a tried-and-true set of remodeling rules. Just ask homeowners Tom and Nancy Burkly of Saratoga Springs, New York. “Decorating is not our thing,” Nancy says. “I have no vision, and we lived here five years before we talked ourselves into remodeling the bath. We really dragged our feet going into this.”

Opposite: A new base cabinet and vanity top, vintage-looking faucet and beaded board paneling reinforce the room’s cottage theme. The medicine chest provides handy storage. **Above:** Pull-down lighting mounted on either side of the medicine cabinets are well-worth the splurge. **Right:** Paneled beaded board costs less than 2-inch-wide tongue-and-groove beaded board.





Backing the shelves with beaded board keeps the cottage look consistent throughout the bath. **Opposite:** Simple accessories can be changed at whim.

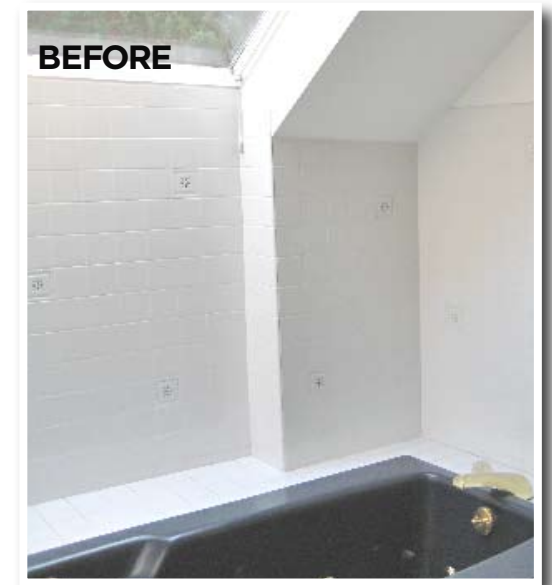
GET A TEAM

Luckily, the Burklys discovered the first rule accidentally—Get a Team. The couple knew designer Elizabeth Tanny was on their side when, Nancy says, “she walked in and said, ‘This is what I love to do.’ Elizabeth did all the groundwork for us, knew all the places to go to look for things, and saved us money, for sure.” Tanny gave the couple courage to rip out the double vanity, dated decor, and oversize tub to make room for a wider traffic area, much-needed closets, and two separate vanities.

BE PRACTICAL

Working together made it easy to implement the next rule—»Be Practical, determining how a space will function and feel when complete “Everybody seems to think they need a tub, but the truth is, the Burklys had never even used theirs,” Tanny says. “Taking it out contributed an enormous amount of floor space.”

Tanny installed furniture-style vanities that conserve floor space while giving Tom and Nancy each their own sinks and countertop. She carved space out for display shelves underneath the dormer skylight to showcase accessories or stack linens and converted the area once taken by the double vanity into two large closets. “The closets are not deep, but the storage is essential,” Tanny says. “Before, they were using a crawlspace in their bedroom to store clothing.” High-fashion doors were compromised for bifold space-saving doors, she says, “they made sense because they don’t swing out from the closet and take up more space.”



Ways to Splurge and Save

SPLURGES

- Updating the glass shower door
- Installing radiant-heat floor
- Adding classic sink faucets in brushed nickel
- Installing medicine cabinets with beveled glass
- Selecting furniture-style vanities

SAVINGS

- Keeping the existing fiberglass shower
- Installing inexpensive 12-inch square porcelain tile
- Buying a standard adjustable showerhead
- Shopping for crystal doorknobs off Ebay
- Opting for countertops reminiscent of marble
- Going with beaded-board paneling
- Adding standard closet shelving
- Selecting fluorescent strip closet lighting



The Burklys updated the existing fiberglass shower stall with a new door framed in brushed nickel. **Opposite:** Do you need a caption??



MAKE COMPROMISES

The team employed decided to Make Compromises, the third rule, throughout the project. “Hearing what’s important from the client tells me where to put the dollars,” Tanny says. The fiberglass shower stayed—“they weren’t up for the expense of ripping it out and installing tile”—but they updated the shower door. They also splurged on the vanities, classic faucets, and radiant-heat under the flooring, but saved on inexpensive tiles, a standard adjustable showerhead, and brushed-nickel track lighting on the ceiling.

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS

As with most designers, Tanny is a master of the fourth rule: Pay Attention to Details. Initially, Tom and Nancy were stymied by the unlimited choices on everything from tile to toilets—all they wanted was a functional, attractive bath. But Tanny convinced them that details, such as crystal doorknobs from the same period as their 1930s cottage, beaded-board wainscoting to match the cabinet doors, old-fashioned medicine cabinets, were key to pulling off the easy aesthetic desired. “They’d say, ‘You’re thinking of every small detail,’” Tanny says with a laugh. “In the end, however, they realized that all those small things lend themselves to a well-thought-out bath.” **D**

Resources begin on page 108.



budget breakdown

HARDWARE & LIGHTING

■ Mirror	00
■ Light Fixtures	00
■ Towel Ring	00
■ Crystal door knobs	

FIXTURES

■ Toilet	00
■ Bathtub	00
■ Faucets	00

SURFACES

■ Tile on floor	00
■ Beaded board wainscoting	00
■ Countertops	00

TOTAL **\$0,000**