

Real-Life Kitchens & Baths

**BEST
BLOGGERS'
TIPS**
p. 30

remodel for less!

SPLURGE:
*upgrade to
glass tile*

SAVE:
*keep appliance
placement*

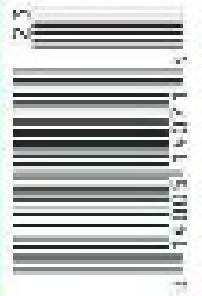
SAVE:
*customize with
beaded board*

Storage ideas for small baths

DISCOVER BUDGET-STRETCHING SECRETS

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editor's note



Bringing you pretty, idea-filled kitchens and baths—and info on how to get them—is our focus.

And we never tire of searching for them. It's always inspiring to see how homeowners get a great, custom look on a double budget. But whether they're investing \$2,000, \$20,000, or more, homeowners want to make sure they spend their hard-earned money wisely. Often, they hire a

pro. An interior designer or architect can help homeowners make smart choices.

In fact, of the 15 kitchens and baths in this issue, 12 used a designer or architect. (Three of the locations are the designers' own homes.) All locations are filled with custom details and packed with ideas for stretching your budget.

Remodels are all about customization. Mark Duren is 6-foot-6 and his wife, Diana, is a foot shorter so they needed to find the best height for their mirrors and showerhead. See how they got their impressive master bath in "Privacy, Please!" on page 94. In Atlanta, designer Mark Williams took an '80s-era bath with a tiny corner tub and a bitzy corner shower and installed a roomy walk-in shower. The small room looks much larger than it is thanks to a floating vanity and great-looking under-mount stainless-steel sinks, in "Contrasting Ideas" on page 98.

Gray is one of the color trends at *Better Homes and Gardens*® this year. And the Nashville kitchen of Lesley and Art Gill gets a fresh new look with various hues in "Nifty Shades of Gray" on page 48.

In the Twin Cities, blogger and pastry artist Eileen Tronel worked with an architect to plan her kitchen so everything was in just the right spot for her to whip up her favorite French treats. Open shelving and copper pots within easy reach in her kitchen show how personalization makes a huge difference. Turn to "French Connection" on page 72.

From tambour doors hiding coffeemakers to molding enhancing stock cabinets to liber-organized spice drawers—this issue is packed with ideas and inspiration to make your dream kitchen or bath a reality.

Best,

Marie

Marie McCartan
Editor, *Real-Life Kitchens & Baths*™

budget bath

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR LISA MOWRY • PHOTOGRAPHER EMILY J. FOLLOWILL



true blue

Bold color and rustic-chic elements give a powder room a cool and collected vibe for under \$1,500.

RIGHT: "Keeping the bathroom white just wasn't going to cut it," designer Julie Holloway says. Soothing blue walls, rich espresso floors, and a weathered vanity warm up this tiny powder room.

"SAVE AND SPLURGE" IDEAS

Like the one below (see story on page 54) appear throughout this issue. Designers at Milk & Honey Home in Atlanta accented barstools with dressmaker-style ties wrapped around the legs of the stools.



“An interior designer or architect can help homeowners make smart choices.”



budget bath

Big ideas—not a big budget—

made this small suburban Atlanta powder room come alive. Tired of the bath's dated look, homeowner Monika Ippolito asked her designer friends Julie Holloway and Anisa Darnell to help her brainstorm quick-and-cheap makeover ideas.

Color perked up the room right away. "The blue for the walls was inspired by pillows in Monika's family room, as well as her eyes," Holloway says. As an earthy contrast to the walls, new oak flooring stained an espresso-color finish replaced white tiles. White baseboards provide separation between the two darker surfaces.

With little budget for a new vanity, the two designers decided to repurpose a favorite old desk of Monika's. After finding an above-counter sink online for about \$100, they negotiated a good installation cost with a local contractor, who also shaved a little off the desk's top and tamed legs to fit the tight space.

Wanting to maintain the wood's patina, the designers didn't coat the vanity top with polyurethane. They added other rustic accessories, including a galvanized-steel sconce. The room's biggest surprise is a small ladder.

Accessories such as baskets and apothecary jars serve double duty as storage vessels and decor in a small bath.



ABOVE: To break up an unbroken wall, a casually propped ladder serves as both sculpture and shelving. By keeping the room's existing configuration, the design team could concentrate on cosmetic upgrades.



ABOVE: An old desk belonging to homeowner Monika Ippolito now serves as a vanity, with the addition of a vessel sink and single-lever faucet. Holloway left the surface untreated for a weathered look, but sealing a repurposed wood vanity would protect the finish. **RIGHT:** Holloway often buys outdoor lighting, such as this galvanized-steel light from a home improvement center, for an industrial look.



"We needed a prop, something that was both form and function in such a tiny powder room, and a ladder just seemed to fit," Holloway says. After spotting this steal for \$25 at a local antiques market, the three offered their ideas for what color to paint it. "I had wanted to play it safe and use white paint, but Anisa and Monika both wanted pea green, which was a great idea," she says. It now can hold towels, toilet paper, or other accessories, proving that even a tiny bathroom can work hard and still have plenty of personality.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 110.

budget

Plumbing

Faucet	150
Sink	105

Surfaces

Flooring	1,000
Paint	30

Miscellaneous

Basket	30
Ladder	5
Mirror	50
Rug	30
Sconce	50

Total **\$1,440**

Costs do not include labor unless noted.

storage solutions

Store more in a small bathroom with baskets. Visit BHG.com/BathroomBaskets for inspiration.



yin & yang

Opposites attract in this kitchen and keeping room, where complementary elements come together for a sophisticated vibe.

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR LISA MOWRY
PHOTOGRAPHER EMELY A. FOLLOWELL



THIS PHOTO: A slide-in range and subway tile backsplash with contrasting granite create a sleek, transitional look.



THIS PHOTO: Pendant lights made from old baskets show that country and modern touches can mix successfully. Metal stools get a fashionable look with decorative ties and matching cushions. **OPPOSITE:** The gray sectional links the keeping room with the kitchen, but fun accessories give it a distinctive personality. The lantern is from a home-supply warehouse.



no froufrou

and a budget of about \$7,000 were the parameters Monika and Michael Ippolito set to redo their suburban Atlanta kitchen.

Enter Julie Holloway and Anisa Darnell with Milk & Honey Home, a design firm dedicated to repurposing and bargain shopping. "This kitchen needed a major facelift," Darnell says, "but fortunately it had a decent floor plan and usable cabinets." Because of the good layout, the design team could focus on affordable changes that would make the space more inviting for Monika, Michael, and their son, Enzo. The designers went for a lighter color palette, fresh lighting, and an updated countertop and backsplash, plus a new range, microwave, and dishwasher. To make the cabinets easier to use, they added slide-out trays in some base units.

Painting the traditional cherry-stained cabinets a warm, pale gray brightened the room and also subtly distinguished it from typical white kitchens. New cabinet hardware in two types—glass knobs (a tad feminine) on upper cabinets and metal pulls (a bit more masculine) on lower cabinets—adds visual interest.

"We also added ballerina-style ties on the barstool cushions as a feminine touch, but then we mixed in a more rustic look with the basket-style pendants and farmhouse sink," Darnell says.

New granite countertops in a speckled creamy white were a splurge at \$3,000, but they contribute an elegant surface to the U-shape kitchen. Installing a backsplash made of 2x8-inch tiles brought more definition to the room than the previous plain walls, and its dark grout references vintage kitchens. "The dark gray grout makes the tile stand out, but it's also practical for cooking because you won't see food splatters on the grout," Darnell says.

The kitchen's subdued tones give way to an exuberant keeping room. Modern pillows in rich colors, chevron-pattern draperies, and groovy lamps spruce up the entire package. "We love the whole look now," Monika says. "It's so visually stimulating and yet calming to the soul."

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 20.



about this makeover



Because the cabinets were in good shape, the Ippolitos painted them and added slide-out trays. The sink location stayed the same but the style changed. Stainless-steel appliances added an upscale touch, as did granite countertops.



budget

Appliances

Dishwasher	450
Microwave	350
Range	1,000

Cabinetry

Hardware	475
Paint	100
Slide-out shelves	260

Plumbing

Faucet	75
Sink	200

Surfaces

Backsplash tile	350
Countertops, includes labor	3,000

Miscellaneous

Pendant	100
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Total **\$7,020**

Costs do not include labor unless noted.

OPPOSITE: A small desk area allows family members to stick close to the kitchen while using the computer. Continuing their philosophy of mixing materials, the designers chose a white acrylic desk that almost disappears alongside a weathered chair and rustic bins. **ABOVE, FAR LEFT:** A roasty farmhouse-style sink anchors the peninsula. **ABOVE LEFT:** Subway tile gives the room classic style. **FAR LEFT:** Twine on the metal pendants warms up the industrial look. **LEFT:** No-nonsense metal pulls work for the base cabinets, while wall cabinets sport glass knobs.

Wall files keep the desk area organized.

