

A Dormer Makes the Difference

A better master bath is possible thanks to additional head room

BY MAIRI KIDD

DETAILS

Cabinets Caramelized bamboo plywood

Counter Caesarstone Blizzard

Tub Victoria & Albert Barcelona

Wall tile Porcelanosa Bamboo Blanco

Floor tile Gray slate

Sinks Duravit Architec

Plumbing fixtures Waterworks

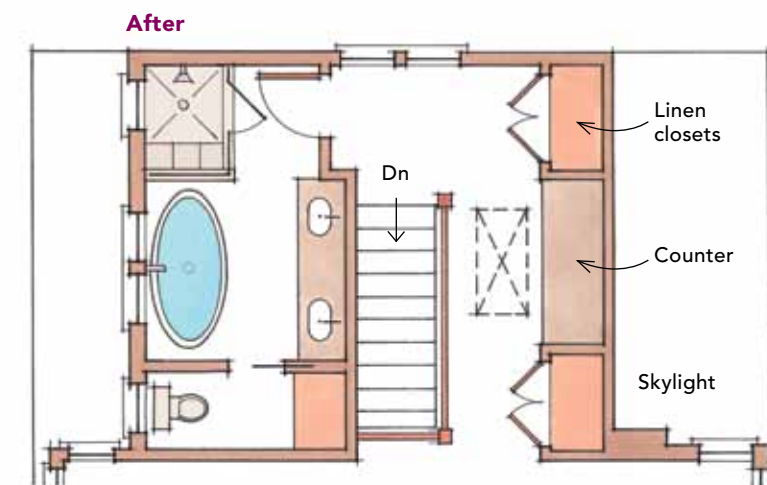
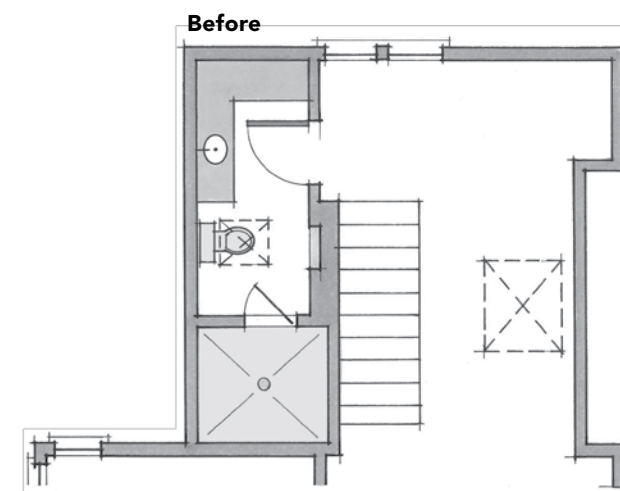
Sconces Ginger Company

Builder Greg Palin, GPGC

Drawings: Martha Garstang Hill

RAISING THE ROOF

The magic moment in this design came when the architect decided to add a dormer to the second-floor master suite. The shed dormer turned the narrow and dark master bath into a spacious and light-filled room. A freestanding tub is at the heart of the four-piece bath that also includes a shower stall, a water closet, and a double-sink vanity. Along with adding head room, the dormer wall has four windows that provide treetop views.



Having sent their youngest child off to college, Joe and Karen Guth decided it was time to remodel the outdated master suite in their 1916 bungalow. While walking around their Portland, Ore., neighborhood, they saw my firm's sign outside another project and gave us a call.

The Guths' second-floor master suite had plenty of height along the ridgeline, but the steep roof pitch made for a long, narrow bath with little usable area. The existing bathroom was windowless and had been crammed into the eave so that only half the room was tall enough for standing. The Guths wanted to improve the layout of their master bath, they wanted better storage, and they wanted us to respect the original character of the home.

Adding a shed dormer created a tall sloped ceiling and allowed us to add four windows to the bathroom. Bringing natural light into older bungalows and improving the connection to the outdoors are always priorities. The bathroom windows face north for clear, indirect sun. The vanity is opposite the soaking tub and windows so that the mirrors reflect the trees and sky. The new bathroom occupies the same footprint as the previous bath but now has enough space for a separate tub and shower. The freestanding tub is the bathroom's feature element and is flanked by the shower and the water closet. We chose simple finishes and fixtures to make the room inviting and relaxing in the hopes that the Guths enjoy it for years to come.

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Light on the eaves. Taking advantage of the unused eave space across the hall and relieving the bath of some storage duties, two linen closets frame rows of drawers and a large counter lit by a skylight above.