

# bath magic

Witness the magical transformation of these small, stuck-in-the-Dark-Ages bathrooms. Three designers with different budgets conjured up new efficient and stylish baths—without moving any walls or adding on any space. You won't believe your eyes.

## abracadabra!

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Interior designer Sherry Hitt and her husband David Higgins began the bathroom remodeling with the idea that they could just get rid of the old square-tile tub. But once they demolished the walls with sledgehammers, they discovered there wasn't anything worth saving in the cramped, 6-foot-tall bath. Luckily, the pair had a few tricks up their sleeves.

**THE TRICK:** First do-it-yourselfers, Sherry and David knocked out the tub and gamed the room down to the studs. A contractor replaced the old plaster walls with drywall, filled in the window by installing studs and drywall (the closer of the master bedrooms is now on the other side of the wall), and put up waterproofing.

Sherry and David saved money by shopping at a home center for basic white fixtures, including a toilet, a wide-leg pedestal sink, and earthy tub/shower floor tiles. They swapped the old tub in favor of a white-tiled tub-and-shower combination.

What started as white walls soon blossomed into a sharp, eye-catching contrast. An artist fluted down the diamond in pencil on the white walls, and

Sherry tackled the free-hand painting, creating a diamond pattern in two shades of beige. She added wood trim over the paint with an old T-shirt to impart an aged effect; sledgehammer ticks polish the finish. "Everyone thinks it's wallpaper," Sherry says.

She also put her flea-market shopping skills to work to accessorize the bath with storage shelves, accessories, and a mirror. "We didn't spend a lot of money on the toilet and sink," Sherry says. "What's most noticeable is the decorating, the cosmetics. The shower curtain adds to it, too."

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**LEFT:** What started as a project to remove the old square-tile tub from the bathroom turned into a complete gut job for Sherry Hitt and David Higgins. **OPPOSITE:** A mix of demolition also is the pre-determined shower compartment's custom shower curtain—see page 134 for the cost breakdown project. **BELOW:** Sherry applied sledgehammers to every other diamond on these walls, then followed up with a coat of wood floor stain to give them an aged, weathered look. A vintage hook light fixture complements the effort.

## project expenses

Drywall and installation	\$600
Tub	\$600
Tile installation	\$320
Light fixture	\$600
Shower/tub unit (including plumbing fixtures)	\$300
Floor tile	\$210
Mirror	\$300
Shower curtain	\$300
Sink	\$150
Toilet	\$150
Sink faucet	\$100
Waterproofing	\$100
Botanical print	\$100
Iron towel bar	\$80
Chrome towel bar	\$75
Antique hand towels	\$75
Paint, miscellaneous	\$30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,990</b>

