

# respectfully yours

With careful attention to historical detail, a 19th-century bath gets a 21st-century makeover.

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**RENOVATION  
STYLE**

*Before  
& After*

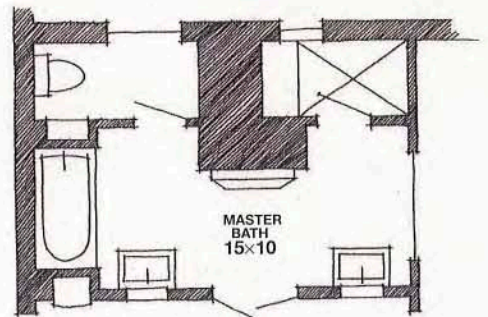
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A Renovator's Guide to LA





The assignment—a master bath renovation in a Victorian Era, Cass Gilbert mansion on magnificent Summit Avenue in St. Paul—came with two distinct challenges. The first was strictly logistical: to create something big and luxurious from a cramped, spartan, and dark space. The second—well, that was harder to define.

“Everything had historical precedent,” says designer David Heide, who specializes in such projects and was undaunted as he drew up the plans. “You have to be thoughtful when you work on a house with a pedigree like this. You want to show respect.”

**OPPOSITE: Designer David Heide duplicated patterns and materials found elsewhere in the house for this master bathroom renovation. Windows are made of replicated leaded glass; arches recall a large stone arch at the Victorian mansion’s entrance.**

**ABOVE: The bathroom, part of the master bedroom suite, is across the hall from a sitting room. A large mirror adds depth and a sense of spaciousness to both rooms.**

So that’s what Heide did. To give the room scale to match that of the house, he borrowed space and—with an arched window in a new interior wall—light from the adjacent master bedroom. Heide added art glass, which is used in other parts of the home.

Opposite the window, over the tub, he built another arch, this one with a mirror. The two arches are the same size and proportion as several others Gilbert designed into the original structure. Here, they “act as bookends,” Heide says, providing symmetry to a space now calm, open, and bright.

A second large mirror, opposite a set of tall French doors at the entrance, was hauled in from another room. Heide and his team painted and stenciled the frame, employing a theme that nicely complements both the pattern on the floor and the ice-gray tones of the bathroom’s new walls. Carrara marble is prominent throughout the space, with the walls wrapped in honed tiles and the polished marble floor designed in an intricate basket-weave pattern.



## voice of experience

### Paint Color Choices

Picking a color for a bathroom of this scale and age can be tricky, designer David Heide says. One option is to go with the original (likely white, which has always conveyed cleanliness). Heide chose a light-enhancing yellow for this job. "You don't want a saturated green if it's a place where you'll be putting on makeup," he says. "But beyond that, go ahead and express yourself."

➔ For a step-by-step guide on how to paint a room, visit [RemodelingCenter.com/remstyle](http://RemodelingCenter.com/remstyle).



As homeowner Nancy Nicholson's relatives once owned the company responsible for the original plumbing, the Crane & Ordway toilet and tub stayed. The shower, on the other hand, had to go. While the original was above the tub, the new space begged for something more elaborate. Heide's move? A totally separate shower stall of marble and glass. He also installed, on either side of the bathroom's entrance, matching sinks—"more suited to modern sensibilities," he says.

To add to the vintage feel of the room, Heide added nickel towel bars in a long horizontal row, used antique and custom lighting, and installed medicine cabinets with the arched motif. Another sensitive touch—the crystal doorknob on the shower door.

Nancy is happy with Heide's work. "The old bathroom was pitiful," she says. "Before, it was a single hallway with a bathtub, shower, sink, and toilet at the end. There was hardly any turnaround room. Now we've got the old, but we're a 21st-century family, so we've also got the new. I love it. It's shiny, usable, and gorgeous." ■

For more information, see Resources on page 118.

**OPPOSITE:** Homeowner Nancy Nicholson had two requests: dual sinks and a shower separate from the tub. Now, she says, the room is so luxurious she "could curl up and sleep on the floor." **ABOVE LEFT:** The toilet, like the shower, has its own nook. Recessed shelves hold all the essentials. **ABOVE RIGHT:** "Marble," notes designer Heide, "is enduring." Here it lines the shower from floor to bench to ceiling.

### Mixing Wall Surfaces

Designer David Heide offers these tips for blending materials on bathroom walls:

- If you want to use tile on the walls, use more tile than sheetrock. "When the tile reaches higher, it feels richer and conveys more of a finished look," Heide says.
- Never divide the wall in half. "If you split it in the middle," Heide says, "it never feels right."
- In wet areas, go with all tile. You can splash away, and it will last. In this bathroom, Heide used honed carrara marble. Be sure to seal the grout.
- For trimwork, look for continuity of scale from one room to the next. In this case, Heide took his cues from other rooms in the historical home.