

before retro

The bathroom as it was meant to be.

by David Anger

Bathroom designers and suppliers have noted a growing demand for antiquity in the bath: For every ultramodern vanity you see in today's showrooms, there are two or three stately pedestal sinks. And whirlpools are moving over to make room for claw-foot tubs.

What's special about this bathroom is that its design is original to the 1914 house. It hasn't always looked this way, though. When Frank Fairman and Jill Harmon took possession of their Crocus Hill home, the bath was a design emergency. Taupe carpet, blue trim, and colonial wall sconces all screamed "Remodel!" Designer David Heide, who specializes in the preservation and restoration of historic properties, was called in.

Heide kept the original sink, toilet, and tub, adding new tilework and eliminating a walk-in linen closet to make room for a spacious shower stall with three heads. Additional space was gained by placing the radiator perpendicular to the wall between the sink and toilet, where it also functions as both privacy screen and towel warmer.

Against this pristine backdrop, accessories shine. The silver cup and baby brush are family heirlooms, while the pressed-glass vase and art deco candlesticks are recent acquisitions. A woven rug from the 1920s warms the scene.

The couple's only complaint? So charming is the new bath, Harmon says, that everyone wants to use it. "We can't keep the kids out of here," she exclaims with a sigh. ■

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SPIFFY BIFFY (RIGHT): Designer David Heide, a restoration specialist, preserved old fixtures like the pedestal sink in this 1914 Crocus Hill home, but updated the wall and floor tile and added a three-head-shower stall and marble trim.

