

Winning Baths from our Readers

By Doree Armstrong

Ingenuity on a Budget

A CABINETMAKER BY PROFESSION, DAN ALLEN devotes much of his free time to remodeling his 1909 Green Lake-area home. Serving as his own designer, builder, plumber and electrician, he recently tackled the up-

stairs bath. The resulting project cost just \$10,600—but looks like it cost three times as much—earning praises from the *Seattle Homes and Lifestyles* judges and top honors in our first Bath of the Year contest.

A heated slate floor with automatic timer keeps Allen's feet toasty at daybreak and bedtime. He takes particular pride in his handmade bull-nosed cement counter top, wall sconces of handblown glass from Italy, and wall panels and vanity of quartered, slip-matched anigre veneer with mitered corners. An oblong slate-tile shower with glass enclosure has

a glass door that swings open either way.

Allen concealed two stereo speakers inside a "light cloud" ceiling that is convex and slanted. To make the 51-square-foot room appear larger, he panelled the walls so the wood grain runs horizontally, and extended the slate and wood past the light cloud to the original 9-foot ceiling height.

But it is the 5-by-6-foot obscure-glass window extending into the glass-enclosed shower that brings the room together. Allen planted bamboo outside, causing leafy silhouettes to brush against the glass. This blending of interior and exterior imbues the room with a quiet peacefulness.

Until the phone rings. Allen and roommate Corey Kjolso are so busy with their many jobs that they have a two-line phone next to the toilet. Laughs Allen, "You never know when Ed McMahon's gonna call."

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Function with Finesse

THE EDMONDS HOME OF DOUG AND DEE DEE GRIER had what Doug calls "that frightening '70s look to it." But it sat on a cliff overlooking Puget Sound and Whidbey Island, so three years ago the Griers moved in and started remodeling. By the time they got to the powder room—with its mud-colored tile, burgundy walls and chocolate tub—Dee Dee was pregnant with their first child. They had to act fast.

"On the one hand, it's the kid's bath every night, and on the other hand it doubles as the guest powder room, so it had to be very functional," Doug explains.

Redmond designer Alanna Ponder combined the powder room with an adjacent closet, bringing the space to 91 square feet. A skylight now



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introduces much-needed light to the windowless room. Large slate tiles

match the floor in the remodeled living room. Iron legs support a slate counter top with a white Kohler bowl sink perched on top. Two large, recessed medicine cabinets hide behind the vanity mirrors, flanked by Italian frost-

ed-glass sconces on walls of Venetian plaster. The Douglas fir door was custom made, and will be copied throughout the house in future remodels. An 18th-century *bonnetière* (armoire) acts as linen closet and toy chest.

But the Griers' pride and joy is their Philippe Starck toilet. Designed to look like a wash pail, it floats slightly above the floor, with the tank hidden inside the wall.

The remodel took about three months, cost \$35,000, and was worth every penny to the Griers. Doug's one reservation: "Now the bathroom is the nicest room in the house!"



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