

ELBOW ROOM



PHOTO BY PAUL HUCKENHORN
Pleased with work: Linda and Gary Nimmerguth stand in the doorway of their bathroom, which they converted two years ago.



Brighter days: Lights and off-white accents brighten up displays of burgundy dried flowers, oil bottles and perfume bottles. The bathroom features a double sink, a hamper with sliding racks and two sets of outlets.

Couple opens closet to create spacious bathroom

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
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Married couples who use a small bathroom with one sink know the morning cleansing rituals all too well. Jockeying around cramped quarters to access a toothbrush or hair dryer is hardly the way to start a workday.

Gary and Linda Nimmerguth grew weary of that situation in their Plymouth Township home.

"When we each needed to use the sink, we would run into each other," said Linda. "We decided this just wasn't going to work."

Located in a corner of the master bedroom, their bathroom measured only 4-feet wide by 8-feet long. An adjacent walk-in closet was used for storing clothing for work and evenings out.

Gary thought why not convert the walk-in closet into a bathroom, then switch the bathroom into a walk-in closet. Linda perused magazines for other decorating ideas.

Contracting out.
In early 1999 the couple visited Mans Kitchen & Bath Design Center in Canton to talk to employees there about their idea.

"I showed (a clerk) a picture I liked and she said, 'we just did something like that in another house,'" Linda said. "She brought

(plans) up on a computer and printed it out for us."

The old bathroom featured the basics: a shower, sink and toilet. The Nimmerguths, the original owners of the 1955 home, looked to get going on the project. Eventually they hired Mike Painter through N.A. Mans, after they received three bids, two of which were "pretty high," said Gary.

Contractors installed a dust barrier wall with a zipper so the couple could access their bed and the remaining area of the bedroom. They removed the sink, shower and toilet and ripped out drywall.

They soon added a double sink and shower from Marble-Lite. The shower now has a solid surface that gives it a "cleaner look" than tile, Linda said.

A hamper installed between the two sinks features sliding racks for washcloths and towels. Two outlets can be used for hair dryers, toothbrushes or

razors. There's plenty of room for sundries in the cabinets. The sink now sits higher, similar to the height of a kitchen counter, adding to the room's convenience and comfort as items are now within an arm's reach without straining, stretching or bending.

A new towel holder is, of all things, a converted wine rack. Light and off-white accents brighten up displays of burgundy dried flowers, oil bottles and perfume bottles.

Changes in plumbing were minimal due to the location of the previous bathroom and the children's bathroom next door.

Efficiency is key

You would think that the old Nimmerguth wardrobe wouldn't fit into a smaller closet area, but organization and efficiency helped in storing clothing and shoes. The couple also removed and got rid of a few clothes.

"We really got as much in the new closet as the other one," Gary said.

The storage area of the closet was divided into two separate areas with two rods — one upper and one lower — to allow for even more efficient storage.

The new closet also houses a window that the Nimmerguths kept from the old bathroom. "I like the window in the closet," Gary said. "It keeps things fresh."

For the renovation, there were no structural changes, even though the closet ceiling height now measures 8 feet. "It was a drop ceiling, so there was no change there," Gary said.

Today, the Nimmerguth's new bathroom measures 8-feet wide and 9-feet,

4-inches long. With the conversion and renovations, Gary and Linda nearly doubled the floor space of their bathroom.

The job cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. "We are extremely happy that we did this," Linda said. "It really adds value to the house."

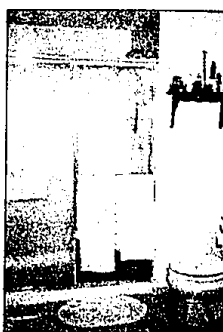
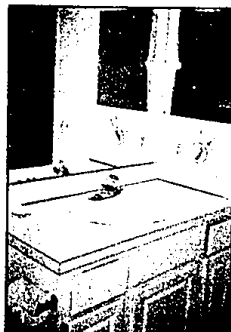
Their advice to other remodelers? "Seek out dependable people to help you," said Gary. "Get references and call people they worked with."

Got a remodeling project that has you beaming with pride? Let us know about it so we can share it with our readers.

Write up a short summary describing the project and submit it to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Edition, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net. If you have "before" and/or "after" photos, please include them as well.



New fixtures: The renovated bathroom features a double sink and shower from Marble-Lite. The old bathroom (the two photos at right) wasn't in bad shape, it just was too narrow for the Nimmerguths.



Open space: The bathroom's floor space nearly doubled in width.

MARTY FIGLEY

Walk the gardens

Attend as many garden tours as you can this summer and enjoy the flowers in full bloom.

See Gardening, Page 3

JOE GAGNON

Amana purchased

Maytag finally buys the refrigerator maker and it will be interesting to see the next line of products, says the Appliance Doctor.

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HOMETOWN LIFE:

Golden years:

Four couples celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries and talk about friendship and marriage.

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