

## 'UGLIEST' bathroom gets a beautiful facelift

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
STAFF WRITER  
kabracyk@oe.homecomm.net

When Pamela Hass of Westland entered the Ugly Bathroom contest earlier this year, her finances were tight, as she was going through a divorce.

"I wanted to remodel the bathroom, but I just couldn't afford it," Hass said.

But Hass filled out an entry form, took photographs and mailed them in. Out of 700 entries, her bathroom was deemed by judges as the ugliest in the Original Ugly Bathroom contest, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WJR-AM 760 Radio, Mathison Supply of Livonia, Canton and Garden City, and the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan in Farmington Hills. Hass won a remodeling job on her bathroom worth approximately \$10,000, installed by Complete Home Improvement of Livonia.

Judges reviewed Hass's photos, which showed how water damaged a wall near the tub and created a hole, exposing pipes. That hole was covered with plastic.

"The bath tub had rust stains," Hass said. "The toilet always ran." The yellow tile also was dirty and deteriorated from years of use.

"I took the 'worst' photos I possibly could," said Hass.

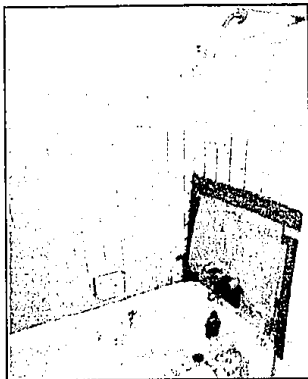
Homeowners entered the contest at Home Improvement shows conducted throughout metro Detroit in February and March.

Judges examined the entries last spring. (Judges included Frank Mathison, Mathison Supply; Richard "Lefty" Frizzell and Mark Roberts of Complete Home Improvement; Joe Gagnon, WJR's Appliance Doctor and Observer & Eccentric columnist; Denise Rosenthal, public relations assistant; Rosalie Lund, show manager for the BIA of Southeastern Michigan; Joe Fisher of Elect Sales, a sales manager for Jason; Mary Klemic, editor of the Eccentric's At Home section; and Ken Abramczyk, editor of the Observer's At Home section.)

Frizzell, Roberts and Lefty's son, Rich, worked on the bathroom. They ripped out the vanity and the yellow wall tile. They replaced the old tub with an air-massage massage bathtub by Jason. Other suppliers included cabinets by Berch, faucets by Hardon, and an Ultra-Flush toilet by Gerber.

"We put in a new tub, new (wall) tile, a new vanity, new faucets," Frizzell said. A countertop sink by U.S. Marble was installed, along with new white tiles.

"We also had to fix the walls before we tiled,"



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRIAN MITCHELL

**A bad bathroom:** Pamela Hass's bathroom had a hole in the wall, exposing pipes and just looked, well, ugly.

Frizzell said. "There was also a hole there where you could see the pipes."

"They did a good job," Hass said. "The company that did the remodeling were all very nice and answered any questions we had."

Hass's children - Andrea, Erica and Adam - enjoy the new bathroom, too. "They love it," their mother said. "They're excited. They couldn't believe we were picked."

Frizzell enjoyed helping Hass. "When you help someone who needs it, it's nice," Frizzell said.

Hass expects to enjoy her new bathroom for a long time. "I love it," Hass said. "Somebody was looking over me."

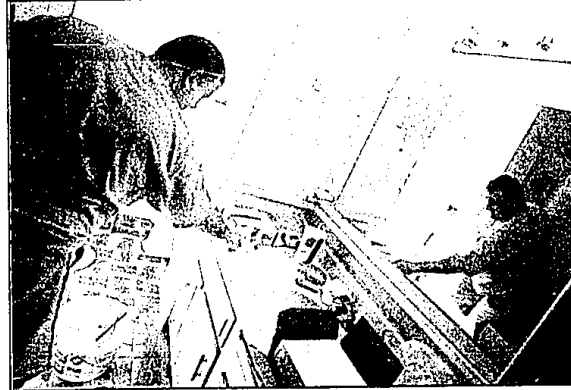
If you think your bathroom is the ugliest, you don't have to wait until next year to enter next year's contest. Entries and accompanying photos will be accepted for the 2002 Ugliest Bathroom contest, which officially begins at the Fall Remodeling and Furniture Show Oct. 11-14 at the Novi Expo Center. That contest will run through late March 2002.



**Brand new look:** Pamela Hass won a remodeling job on her bathroom in her Westland home worth approximately \$10,000, installed by Complete Home Improvement of Livonia. The Original Ugliest Bathroom contest was sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WJR-AM 760 Radio, Mathison Supply of Livonia, Canton and Garden City, and the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan.



Fix it up: Richard "Lefty" Frizzell first drywalled, then installed new tile.



From bad to good: Frizzell also installed a new sink and countertop as part of the remodeling project.

MARTY FIGLEY

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JOE GAGNON

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