



THIS PHOTO: The angle of the eave prevented each vessel sink from having its own lighted mirror, so Tricia Wick centered a lone mirror then mirrored the wall behind it to enhance the room's feeling of spaciousness.  
OPPOSITE: A pocket door between the master bedroom and bath frees up additional space.



## Suite Efficiency

A well-planned master bath proves that even a small footprint can make a big impression.

When Tricia and Michael Wick remodeled their Maryland home, constructing a two-story addition to meet the needs of their expanding family took top priority. But Tricia, an interior designer, could not help but also address the existing master bath, where linoleum, cheap builder cabinets, strip makeup lights, and other aesthetic atrocities exacerbated a lousy layout and assailed her professional sensibilities. The space was divided into two rooms, with a sink in each ("I think it was supposed to be a his-and-her setup," she speculates), and closet spaces too small to be useful cramped the awkward quarters even further.

With most of their resources devoted to the addition, Tricia had to limit the scope of the bath renovation. She carefully considered their requirements, routines, and tastes, then gutted and completely reconfigured the two rooms into a single 16x11-foot bathroom, packing in as much style and function as she could into the original footprint.

WRITTEN BY CARRIE BEBRIS PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIK JOHNSON

August/September 2006 Remodel 105



**THIS PHOTO:** Every rock goes to work in the Wick's redesigned master bath. Custom laminate cabinets and concrete countertops create clean lines and energy.  
**OPPOSITE TOP:** By sacrificing an underemployed tub, Tricia gained enough space to incorporate a dressing table.  
**OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** Tricia put a potentially dead corner to use with a freestanding linen cabinet undermounted with a night light. The decorative boxes on the wall hold spare toiletries.  
**OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** To soften the bath's modern edges, Tricia incorporated organic materials, such as river stone for the shower floor, beige ceramic tile designed to resemble natural stone, and bamboo window shades.



The improved space holds everything the couple needs and nothing they don't. A new custom vanity with dual sinks fits perfectly under an eave. To create the illusion of spaciousness, Tricia mirrored the whole vanity wall to reflect light and added another window to the room. A round lighted mirror hangs between the contrasting square sinks, a matching one hangs above a dressing table that cleverly employs an odd corner. Because the couple "are not tub people," Tricia opted to forgo a tub in favor of a generous 3½x6-foot shower.

Clutter crowds, so Tricia incorporated as much storage as possible. Hand towels hide on round bars inside the vanity doors. A tall, freestanding cabinet holds linens. High-mounted black square cabinets create visual impact while concealing spare toiletries. "They're like wall art you can use as storage," Tricia says. A 5x10-foot walk-in closet organizes clothes and accessories, displaying everything in full view for easy retrieval.

Though the master bath project began as something she did for herself, Tricia reveals that it has unexpectedly met the family-focused goal of the overall remodel. She has discovered that, in a pinch, the shower is large enough to accommodate her three young children along with her. "Sometimes it's just easier," she says with a laugh. It's certainly more efficient.

FIELD EDITOR: EILEEN DEYMIER RESOURCES ON PAGE 120



#### The Change

A master bath burdened by clunky compartments and squandered space is streamlined into a sophisticated retreat.

#### What It Took

- Combining separate vanities and relocating them to former closet space rendered inefficient by an eave.
- Eliminating an underused tub and replacing it with a spacious 3½x6-foot walk-in shower.
- Consolidating separate closets into a single 5x10-foot walk-in with organizers.
- Creating privacy walls instead of a separate compartment for the toilet.

#### Mastering Limited Bath Space

To optimize modest square footage, interior designer Tricia Wick advises homeowners to "think of what you use," then draft multiple layouts until you come up with one that works. When seeking space, don't forget to look:

- **Up.** Store infrequently needed items on high shelves and cabinets; gain light and ventilation without losing wall space by adding a skylight.
- **Down.** Mount night-lights or install shallow drawers at toe-kick level.
- **Within.** Put between-stud space to work with a pocket door and/or recessed shelves.
- **Around.** Tuck extra shelves or custom storage units into odd niches.
- **Out.** Make the room feel bigger: Windows annex the outdoors; mirrors reflect light.