

A BATHROOM LOSES SQUARE FOOTAGE TO MAKE ROOM FOR A BUTLER'S PANTRY, BUT THE SMALLER SPACE IS NOW A "WET BATHROOM" THAT WILL SERVE THE OWNERS WELL INTO THE FUTURE

LOOKING AHEAD

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DESIGN BY TAMMY KAPLAN, CID, ASSOCIATE ASID, CAPS



BEFORE

FLOOR DRAINED SHOWER | With the cast iron bathtub removed, the new wet bathroom accommodates a floor-drained corner shower that takes up no space when not in use and allows the room to function primarily as a powder room.

THE PALETTE | Keeping wall and floor tiles to a palette of white and Ming green visually adds space to the small room, as does eliminating unnecessary window treatments and a full-standing radiator.

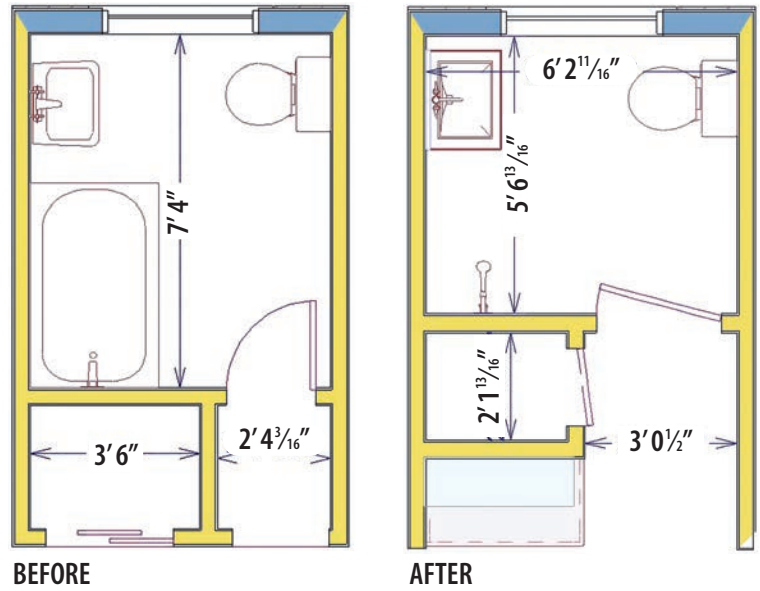
BEFORE | The original bathroom, measuring 7 feet, 6 inches by 6 feet, 3 inches, was gutted and made entirely waterproof. Removing the bathtub and reconfiguring a small hall closet changed the dimensions to 5 feet, 6 inches by 6 feet, 3 inches.

Designer Tammy Kaplan suggested another idea when her Westfield clients said they wanted to change their first-floor bathroom to a powder room and convert a coat closet and space in the hallway to a butler's pantry. "I suggested for resale value that was not a good idea," says Kaplan, a certified interior designer, associate member of the American Society of Interior Designers and owner of Images in Design/AP Design in Cranford. The designer, also a certified aging-in-

place specialist, added that a full bathroom on the first floor could be an important amenity in the future. The solution? A "wet bathroom."

Kaplan laid out an innovative plan to remove the space-taking tub, install a shower head on the wall and create a smaller but more efficient room where everything in it could get wet: the floor, walls and all fixtures, even the window treatment, heating and lighting elements.

The layout of the toilet and sink remains the same, but Kaplan chose a new Toto comfort-height toilet and a new Porcher console sink mounted on a chrome pedestal. "One of my challenges was to find a decorative



Added space gained from the renovated bathroom and reconfigured coat closet allowed for new cabinetry and a wine refrigerator under a marble-topped counter. Careful attention was given to keeping the character of the home by mimicking over-doorway moldings found throughout.



BEFORE

sconce that was wet-location-rated,” Kaplan says. “Most are for outside use or just damp-location rated.” A sealed glass sconce is now installed over a large mirror framed in green chair rail tile.

The floor is a basket-weave tile, and the wall is covered in white tiles except for a chair-rail-like strip of floral Ming green tiles bordered by coordinating pencil tiles. “We went with smaller tiles in keeping with the charm of the rest of the house,” Kaplan says. “And by using the original carpenter, we maintained the integrity of the home. No one would know this was a renovation.”

All fixtures are chrome for a unified look. And the towel bar and toilet paper holder are also grab bars. “Safety and style,” Kaplan notes.

Also for safety, the doorway from the bathroom to the hallway was widened to a full three feet, and the hallway was widened six inches.

The bathroom won a 2017 Award of Excellence for Best Aging in Place Design from the Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey.

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Just outside the bathroom, a new butler’s pantry facilitates transporting food from the kitchen to the dining room. The pantry is

equipped with a wine refrigerator and custom cabinetry in ribbon-stripe mahogany enhanced by a warm golden marble countertop.

Homeowners Donald and Elizabeth Siano, cite flexibility as having been key to the renovation. “The butler’s pantry cabinet top is fitted with a rattan organizer for grocery lists and phone,” Elizabeth Siano says. “This is quickly stowed when we have guests and the pantry is used as bar and coffee service.

“The good news about the downstairs shower is that we haven’t had to use it yet for aging-in-place reasons.” But it’s beautiful, and it’s wonderful for just the two of us or a house full of guests.” **DW**

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SOURCES: Overall: design, Images in Design in Cranford. **Bathroom:** tile, Standard Tile in Edison; bath fixtures, The Bath Connection (now out of business); sconce, Aura Lighting; plumbing/heating, through Images in Design; accessories, Invisia in Ottawa, Canada. **Pantry:** cabinet design, Images in Design; wine refrigerator, Top Line Appliances in Westfield; countertop, Stonequest in Farmingdale.

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