

Glossy, elegant Carrara marble countertops are coupled with clean lines of custom cabinetry.



The Rest is History

By Hilary Daninirsch

The master bath and kitchen in a Hollywood bungalow receive a fresh look and leave their former designs behind



"The idea for the whole house was to make it warm and inviting – a little jewel box – using very high-end finishes for a home of this size," said Chambers. "The developer wanted to make it special and set it apart."

To that end, between March and October of last year, Chambers combined a mix of modern and traditional elements, and the entire house underwent a complete cosmetic facelift, including new siding, new hardware, plumbing, paints, molding – the works. Two standout rooms are the kitchen and master bath.

No More Country Kitchen

The kitchen is where family life happens and where guests congregate. To achieve that welcoming feeling, the former space needed to undergo a head-to-toe renovation.

Restoring a home in a historical district can present many challenges, particularly when there are restrictions regarding changing the footprint and envelope of the house. Despite those constraints, Lindsay Chambers, principal and lead designer at Hazel.Wood Design Group in Los Angeles, managed to transform a circa-1920 Craftsman-style bungalow into a fresh, hip and welcoming space in Hollywood's Spaulding Square.

Chambers and her crew gutted the entire house, making sure to leave the windows and the building layout intact in accordance with the restrictions.





"It had a country feel, and the client wanted it to be much more transitional and updated so that everything felt brand new on the inside," said Chambers, who describes the new look as a modern take on country – or transitional country.

The former kitchen had fake wood overlay cabinet panels with white porcelain knobs and a cream porcelain tile countertop. It also had wood laminate flooring and peeling, stained wallpaper. Because there was nothing reusable in the kitchen, Chambers' team gutted the space, reworked the plumbing and electrical wiring, updated the foundation and replaced the flooring and cabinetry.

One of Chambers' main challenges in the kitchen was an awkwardly shaped island that jutted out at a 45-degree diagonal angle, which he replaced with a rectangular island to give the whole space simple

and clean lines. She also needed to create more cabinetry space and relocate appliances so that they were in a more functional location. Chambers installed a floor-to-ceiling cabinet pantry, a lazy Susan and cabinetry with a modular shelving system.

The new kitchen is almost unrecognizable, having undergone a transformation from an outdated country look to a transitional Craftsman look. The stainless steel and polished chrome appliances and fixtures are modern and sleek, as are the Carrara marble countertops and subway backsplash. The space now has plenty of workspace, as well. Seating includes a small table in the corner along with bar stools at the island peninsula.

"When you redo a kitchen, it's better to start from scratch rather than trying to work from old, dated materials and appliances past their time," said Chambers. "It doesn't save money in the long run by holding on to and refurbishing old appliances."

Master Bath Bliss

The client wanted a soothing, spa-like, modern atmosphere in the master bath mixed with a "transitional country" feel. Like the kitchen, the entire space had to be gutted and reframed; a leak in the tub resulted in wood being rotted out.

The original master bathroom had been designed with a Venetian grotto in mind, and the overall style did not meld with the house's Craftsman architecture. In addition, the layout was poor and the space small.

"They used poor-quality travertine tiles and slabs, as well as a peach stone and an ornate bathroom vanity that was not cohesive with the rest of the style in the house," said Chambers. "The shower glass was tinted gray/black with brass accents. It was quite a bathroom!"

The only elements recognizable from the former bathroom are the window and the roofline, the former of which has been repainted. Other than being required to keep the window in place, the other difficulty Chambers faced was the tight space. Rather than a shower/tub combo, she placed a standalone tub next to a zero-entry rain shower, giving the room an open and airy configuration. Plus, this zero-entry rain shower is a universal design element that will allow the future homeowner to age in place, whereas the former space had steps leading up to the tub.

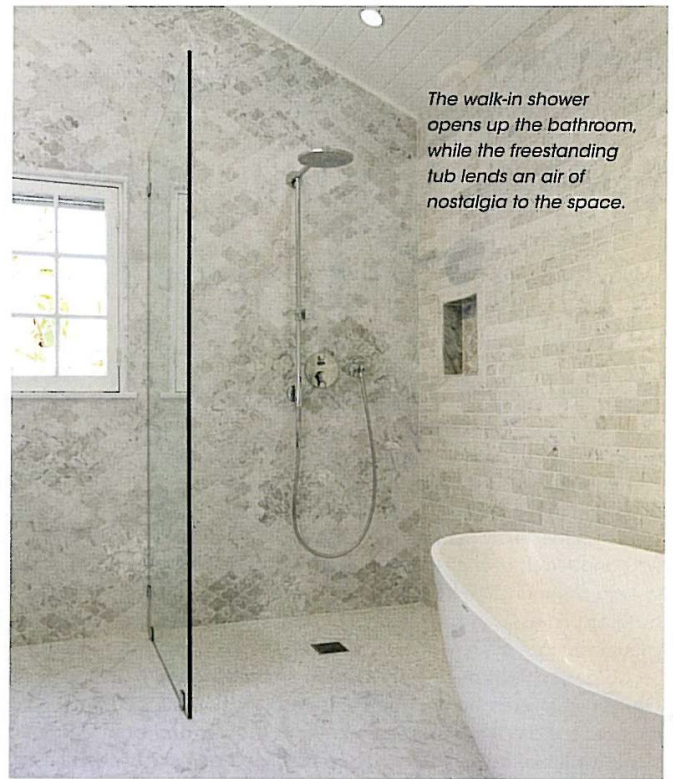
In keeping with her design aesthetic throughout the home, Chambers mixed and matched elements in the master bath, which is predominantly gray and white. The vanity is made of reclaimed wood – giving it a weathered look – and it contains dual sinks. She also combined the rustic vanity with an elegant Moroccan Carrara tile for the back wall and accent wall, and her choice of sconces are a polished nickel – inspired by industrial, early-American lighting design.

Chambers, whose business has won its share of design awards, has some advice for designers who are working with open shower systems.

"Make sure you have enough drainage sloping so that the water only goes in the drain like it's meant to, and not all over your room," she advised. "This project was successful, but we needed five feet to make it work. The showerhead should be at a 90-degree angle, so it is directing water directly down," she concluded, noting that most showerheads are at a 45-degree angle.

Final Thoughts

Notably, the two-bedroom, two-bath 1,845-sq.-ft. home sits a few houses away from the house that was featured in the classic horror movie "Nightmare on Elm Street." In a neighborhood with such character, the renovations to this home will be a dream come true for a future owner.



The walk-in shower opens up the bathroom, while the freestanding tub lends an air of nostalgia to the space.

The interior of the home now melds with the character of the neighborhood, which abuts a trendy design district. "It's a design-savvy neighborhood, so people appreciate a fresh, crisp look for a Craftsman home," said Chambers. ■



Angular ceilings help usher in more light into a cramped space, while the gray tile adds a touch of elegance.

Sources

Design: Lindsay Chambers, Hazel Wood Design Group;
Photography: Jill Padair

Bathroom

Countertops: Carrara Marble; **Lighting:** Hudson Valley; **Plumbing Fixtures:** Hansgrohe and Newport Brass; **Tile:** Walker Zanger & Waterworks; **Tub:** Duravit; **Vanity:** Restoration Hardware

Kitchen

Countertops: Carrara Marble; **Dishwasher, Hood & Range:** Viking; **Flooring:** Du Chateau; **Lighting:** Ameico; **Plumbing Fixtures:** ROHL; **Refrigerator:** LG; **Tile:** Sonoma Tile Makers