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BED/BATHROOM RENOVATION

A bedroom/bathroom sanctuary, created in an historic log home that was transferred to a site just south of Uxbridge, Ontario, is part of an ongoing restoration labour of love.



By Catherine Daley
Photos by Miguel Hortiguela

The main floor bathroom was always a free-for-all for those looking to brush their teeth, use the toilet, or wash their hands while I was trying to eek out a few quiet moments in the shower. But two things have changed in our house recently. I can now luxuriously soak in a deep air jet tub in my bedroom, and secure locks have been added to the bedroom doors.

A little more than eight years ago, we cleared ten acres just south of Uxbridge, Ontario. We then moved and lovingly restored an historic log home from Toronto on the property. The entire project was bigger than my husband, our two children, and myself, but we persevered with the help and expertise of many. We possessed the vision and drive, but we didn't have funds, or a line of credit, available to do the entire restoration all at once. We lowered our expectations and decided that our labour of love would stretch over a conservative estimate of ten years. In the summer of 1996, when we moved in, all four of us bunked in the bedroom that is now the topic of this article. At the time it was the most finished portion of the house, with drywall and a plywood sub floor. We lined up our beds and shared the three-piece bathroom, accessed by a small hallway on the main level. Oh-so-slowly we took over other parts of the home. We washed dishes in the laundry tub until the kitchen cabinets and sink were installed. We hosted Thanksgiving dinner for 20 people

that year and insisted that everyone bring their own dishes and take them home dirty. Kitchen flooring only went down two years ago.

We added two 10X20-foot timber frames to the original 20X36-foot, storey-and-a-half log home. One timber frame was incorporated into a large kitchen area and the second included windows on three sides and a door leading to a rear deck. This was our oasis, and from day one I envisioned the tub in the bedroom. Not everyone shared my vision, least of all my husband, but I pictured it as our little piece of heaven. So, seven years after we all moved into the room, I chose my tub, reconfigured the room, added cabinetry, painted the walls, installed trim and carpet and after a few weeks took over MY domain. Okay – our room.

My vision included candles lining the sill around the tub, dark walls and flooring in deep earthy tones. This complements the woods we live in, which are surrounded by a carpet of trilliums in the spring, green foliage throughout the summer, and brilliant leaves in the fall that shrivel up and are composted by the snow of winter.

To fulfill my dream, I chose a dark, moss-green Crossley commercial-grade carpet. The tight weave, deep tone and hardwearing fibres seemed fitting for an area that has access to the outdoors, and welcomes our country-roaming chocolate Labrador, who has strongly enforced limitations throughout the rest of the house.



The Venetian Bronze Victorian faucet collection from Delta Faucets helped to dictate the theme of the room.



Two 10X20-foot timber frames were added to the original log home. One was incorporated into the kitchen area and the second (our bedroom) included windows on three sides and a door (see below) leading to a rear deck.



Contractor, Joe Lawson, pushed an additional closet into the room, accessed from the hallway, added a tower of shelves next to the tub and installed a corner cabinet to accommodate a TV that can be viewed from the bed and the tub.

For the walls I chose dark, grey/blue. The name on the Sherwin Williams paint chip was Storm Cloud. It's hard to get more moody than that. I lightened the trim paint by 25 per cent and opted for a tone-on-tone contrast between the semi-gloss trim and flat walls. This framed the windows, without creating a jarring effect.

I chose three-inch-square porcelain, slate-like tiles in hues of blue, green and brown for the sill around the tub and the floor directly in front of it. The tile came in 16-inch sheets and allowed flexibility when rounding corners. The elegant finishing touch was set off by the Venetian Bronze Victorian faucet collection from Delta Faucets. After touring Delta's plant in Jackson, Tennessee, on a media visit, I was so taken with this style and finish that it helped to dictate the theme of the room. Progress Lighting created light fixtures to match this unique finish. We ordered three single wall lights to illuminate select



Three-inch-square porcelain, slate-like tiles in hues of blue, green and brown are used on the sill around the tub and the floor directly in front of it. The tiles come in 16-inch sheets, allowing flexibility when rounding corners.



The walls are a flat, dark, grey/blue with the semi-gloss trim lightened by 25 per cent for a tone-on-tone contrast. A dark, moss-green carpet provides a hard-wearing surface for an area that is accessible to the outdoors.

areas of the room for clothing access and to add to the overall ambiance.

Contractor, Joe Lawson, pushed an additional closet into the room, accessed from the hallway, added a tower of shelves next to the tub and installed a corner cabinet to accommodate a T.V. that can be viewed from the bed and the tub.

We still have old trim to add to other rooms throughout the house, and many authentic finishing details particular to the original home.

Unlike the rest of the house, our bedroom contains all new products and we mimicked the styling of the old trim. Dressers didn't seem appropriate for this space and, while storage is limited, a bank of built-in drawers and cupboards are envisioned on either side of the bed. I still have three years before my ten-year prediction is up, but I can happily declare this room FINISHED – well, almost. ■

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