

FIX



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2 save-and-splurge renovations

By **Shaila Wunderlich**
TRIBUNE REPORTER

People sometimes do it with food, eating a salad at lunch so that they can cut a steak at dinner. They do it with wardrobe, pulling an old dress out of the closet but pairing it with the latest designer boots. Home

renovations are often approached in this same way: Save here to splurge there. Especially bathrooms, where luxury options abound, and homeowners hold out for that to-die-for showerhead or tile they cannot live without while other materials they're happy to find cheap.

Even the most high-end designers will admit that every space presents at least one opportunity to be frugal. "I like repetition in design, and that does afford you a bit of savings, because you're buying quantity," says Chicago interior designer Todd Haley. "Also cost-effective, and beautiful, is to let the

natural architectural soul of the space stand out. Less is more in many cases."
Professional guidance can be invaluable in bath remodels. A pro's knowledge of the market can be key in determining which materials and fixtures require money to deliver on quality, and which are

just as reliable and good-looking as they are affordable. Here we share two stylish bathrooms that found success in the splurge-and-save approach—thanks, in some regards, to a pro's input and, in others, to the homeowners' ingenuity.

swunderlich@tribune.com



The splurge-and-save master bath in Amanda Love and Brian Fuller's home. The antique Parisian light fixture was definitely on the splurge side. But it was one thing Love had to have. "It really finishes the whole room," she says. (NOTE: Prices are approximate.) ALEX GARCIA / TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Shoestrings and serendipity

Were it not for some last-minute bargains, Amanda Love and husband Brian Fuller today may not have a bathtub in their master bath. "We were on such a shoestring budget," says Love, who lives in Wicker Park. Hundreds of dollars were saved when Love bought a floor sample instead of ordering now—thanks to builder Chris Carey's tip. Leading the way to other frugal finds were interior designer Rachel Russ, architects Wilkinson and Blender, and feng shui expert Danielle Engstrom.

Of course, more dollars could have been spared by foregoing such luxuries as an antique Parisian light fixture. But it sent Love's heart swooning. "I saw that light hanging in the window at Pavilion [in Bucktown] and I just stopped," Love says. "It really finishes the whole room."

Splurge: Duravit Vero washbasin, Duravit Walnut console and support towel bars, \$2,200 at Community Home Supply, 3924 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-281-7010.

Splurge: Two Dornbracht LuLu faucets, \$2,459 total at Community Home Supply.

Splurge: Custom fabricated stone tub deck, \$600, Becker Works, 4312 W. Chicago Ave. 773-395-0532; beckerworkslltd.com.



Splurge: 1960s French pendant light, \$1,700, Pavilion Antiques, 3165 N. Damen Ave., 773-645-0924; pavilionantiques.com.

Save: Beveled mirror, free (Amanda, a book-binder, did a printing job/mirror swap), MCM Fine Framing, 2019 N. Damen Ave., 773-252-7525.

Save: Kohler Tea-for-Two tub, floor sample, \$500 (normally about \$1,600), Community Home Supply.

Save: To-be-discontinued marble subway tile, \$3 per square foot, The Fine Line, 209 W. Illinois St., 312-670-0300.

Save: Toilet from former bathroom, free.



Paul Zurowski and Bill Hiscott added the commercial sink to the master bath. (NOTE: Again, prices are approximate. Check for updated pricing on the products featured in this bath, which was completed in 2002.) ALEX GARCIA / TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Adding the 'finishing touches'

"I can't put into words how much I enjoy this bathroom," says Paul Zurowski. Two big reasons for that unbridled passion: his shamelessly humorous steam shower and whirlpool tub. "You could host a cocktail party in that shower," says interior designer Todd Haley of Todd M. Haley Inc.

By the time Zurowski and Bill Hiscott (owners of Sawbridge Studios stores), moved into their West Town loft in 2006, Haley had completed most of the home's major renovations. Having been given a carte-blanche budget from the previous owner, many of Haley's product and material selections were high-end. But there are thrifty ideas to be excavated in the form of Zurowski and Hiscott's clever "finishing touches," and a masculine-looking commercial sink. "I wanted to do something special with the sink," Haley says. "Had we done a sink like this custom, it would have been \$8,000. But I knew an \$8,000 sink wouldn't fly."

Splurge: Kohler Vintage whirlpool tub, \$5,700, J&D Whirlpool, 2730 N. Elston Ave., 773-252-6886; www.jdwhirlpool.com.

Splurge: Kohler Vintage tub faucet, \$1,030, J&D Whirlpool.

Splurge: Black Honos slate tile on floor and



wall, \$15 per square foot, Bel Stone & Tile, 1430 W. Hubbard St., 800-321-6007; belstonechicago.com.

Save: Granite slab C-shaped counter top, custom-made from remnant, \$350, Roman Marble, 1650 W. Kimzie St., 312-550-9318; romanmarble.com.

Save: Iron shelving from Container Store (\$35 each) with custom-cut glass shelf inserts (\$15 each). The Container Store, 908 W. North Ave., 312-654-8460. Glass cut through private vendor.

Save: Elkay industrial trough sink, \$2,000 (vs. \$8,000 custom sink), J&D Whirlpool.